

Speech Extract  
Cllr Nasiphi Moya  
Executive Mayor of Tshwane

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## **Dr Nasiphi Moya's Keynote Address at Tshwane's Inaugural Investment Summit**

**Note to editor:** *These were the remarks made by the Tshwane Executive Mayor, **Dr Nasiphi Moya**, during the Inaugural Tshwane Investment Summit held at Menlyn Maine today.*

Programme Director,

Honourable MECs,

Members of the Mayoral Committee,

Business leaders and investors,

Diplomats,

Colleagues in government,

Community representatives, labour partners, and the people of Tshwane.

Good morning.

It is my honour to welcome you to the inaugural Tshwane Investment Summit.

We gather today with a clear purpose, to activate a vision for 2029 of inclusive growth for our capital. That vision is anchored in shared objectives. To build confidence in our economy. To attract investment that expands opportunity. To create work for our people. And to strengthen the partnerships that will carry Tshwane into the future.

This summit is about turning that vision into action. By 2029 we aim to grow Tshwane's economy by 3.9% each year. We aim to attract between R17 and R26 billion in new investment. And we aim to create at least 80,000 jobs for the people of our city.



Today we begin that journey with a clear target. To secure at least R5 billion in new projects this year. This is the benchmark against which we will measure the success of this gathering.

This summit is the moment where Tshwane sets a new course. It is where we open our doors to the world and invite investors,

entrepreneurs, and partners to join us in building a stronger economy. And it is where we affirm that our progress as a city must be shared by all our people.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Tshwane is a city of remarkable character. Socially, it is home to more than four million people whose resilience and ambition give this capital its soul. From Hammanskraal in the north to Bronkhorstspuit in the east, from Centurion to Soshanguve, our city stretches across vast distances and diverse communities.

Within this geography live sharp contrasts. Families in some areas enjoy reliable services and steady work. In other areas, residents still face water delivered by tankers, power cuts, and long waits for decent housing.

These inequalities are real, yet they also point us towards our duty. Every investment we secure must help to close the gap between those who have and those who still wait. Every opportunity we create must carry the promise of dignity for our people.

Economically, Tshwane is resilient and ambitious. We host major global companies such as BMW, Ford, and Coca-Cola. We are the diplomatic heart of Africa, with more than 150 foreign missions. We welcome millions of visitors each year to our tourism sites, from the Union Buildings and Freedom Park to the Voortrekker Monument and Rietvlei Nature Reserve.

We are also South Africa's knowledge capital. With three major universities, a network of research institutions, and over 300,000 students, Tshwane is a centre of learning, innovation, and discovery. This knowledge economy is one of our greatest strengths.

Administratively, Tshwane is an institution in recovery and renewal. We are strengthening governance, restoring financial stability, and putting in place transparent systems that give confidence to investors and residents alike. Our officials, our processes, and our oversight structures are the backbone of a city that must serve its people fairly and reliably.

This is the social, economic, and administrative character of Tshwane. A city of promise, resilience, and determination. A city that calls us to unlock its full potential.

Unlocking Tshwane's potential begins with honesty about our finances. Our city has been cash constrained, and our capital



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budget has not kept pace with the scale of development. At an average of R2.5 billion in capital investment each year, it would take 36 years to fund the infrastructure Tshwane needs over the next decade. That is a gap we cannot close through public funding alone.

To expand our capital budget we must first grow revenue. That requires more jobs and more businesses contributing to our economy. Yet investors rightly want reliable infrastructure before committing their resources. Infrastructure in turn requires new investment. This is the circular challenge we face.

The way to break the cycle is through partnership. The City cannot do it alone. Business cannot do it alone. But together we can align public effort with private capital to unlock the infrastructure and assets that will drive growth.

This is why we developed the Tshwane Economic Revitalisation Strategy (TERS), adopted earlier this year.

TERS is not a policy to gather dust on a shelf. It is a practical roadmap that brings every part of the City into alignment. It provides clarity where there was drift, discipline where there was fragmentation, and a shared direction for officials, partners, and investors.

TERS identifies ten priority sectors that define Tshwane's potential. Tourism and business events. The automotive industry. Agriculture and agro-processing. Construction and property. The digital and circular economies. Research and innovation. The township economy. And the student economy.

Each sector has the power to create jobs, expand enterprise, and broaden participation. Each is a gateway for investors to share in the growth of our city. And each is anchored in the conviction that partnerships between City and business will unlock the progress our residents deserve.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Potential becomes real only when it is supported by enablers. Tshwane is not short of ambition, but ambition must be matched by the assets, systems, and commitments that give investors confidence. That is why we are focusing on the assets we own, the processes we manage, and the incentives we can provide.



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Our city holds a portfolio of strategic assets that have been underutilised for too long. They are now being prepared for new life.

The Rooiwal and Pretoria West power stations can once again be engines of growth. Rooiwal, with a capacity of 300 megawatts, still holds its generation licence and can help strengthen our energy security. Pretoria West is being considered for waste-to-energy technology in partnership with the Gauteng Infrastructure Financing Agency. Both assets will be opened to investors through structured agreements that allow us to restore capacity and attract industry.

The Pretoria Showgrounds, once a proud gathering place, will be reimagined as a destination for business tourism and events. Its location at the heart of our capital makes it a prime opportunity for mixed-use development.

The Wonderboom National Airport holds the potential to become a logistics hub directly connecting Tshwane to the world. With over 340 hectares of land, it can drive investment in aviation, cargo, and related industries.

The Tshwane Fresh Produce Market is already the second largest in South Africa. It generates billions in sales each year and is ready to expand into agro-processing and value-added services. With the right partnerships it can become a continental leader.

The Bon Accord Quarry, with decades of life left in its reserves, can be commercialised to its full capacity and used to supply the material needed for our infrastructure renewal.

And across the inner city, parcels of land and more than thirty derelict buildings are being released on a transparent, quarterly cycle. They will be converted into housing, student accommodation, and commercial developments that revive the urban core.

These assets are more than buildings or land. They are catalysts for growth. Each one is being packaged with a clear business case, timelines, and transparent processes to ensure that investment delivers real results.

Alongside the assets, we are reforming the way the City works.

- The Strategic Investment Committee (STRIC) fast-tracks high-impact projects.
- The New Application Process System (NAPS) is cutting red tape and accelerating approvals. T



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- The VIP Business Line gives business leaders direct access to decision-makers in the City.

These reforms are about building predictability, ensuring policy certainty, and giving investors the confidence that Tshwane is open for business.

We are also introducing targeted incentives. Investors will be eligible for rental reprieves of up to eighteen months during the development phase. They will be offered property rates reprieves of up to thirty-six months where long-term leases are concluded. These measures ease the cost burden at the start of projects and accelerate delivery.

Taken together, these enablers show that Tshwane is serious about creating the right environment for investment. The assets are ready, the systems are improving, and the incentives are in place. What is needed now is partnership.

And let me pause here to recognise the business community. The latest labour survey showed that Gauteng created 83,000 new jobs between June 2024 and June 2025. An impressive 71,000 of those jobs were in Tshwane. That is 85% of all new jobs in the province. It is a clear sign of the resilience and commitment of investors and businesses in our city. For that, I thank you.

But partnership is not only about the City and investors. It must also include the people of Tshwane. The entrepreneurs in our townships. The graduates searching for work. The young innovators with ideas but no access to capital. Their participation is what will turn investment into lasting growth.

Colleagues,

Growth that reaches only a few is not growth at all. More than 60% of Tshwane's residents are under the age of 35. For them, unemployment is not a statistic in a report. It is a daily struggle and a constant worry about the future.

Last month I met a young graduate in Mamelodi. He was the first in his family to complete university. He spoke with pride about his achievement, but also with concern about what comes next. His story is not unique. It is the reality for thousands of young people across our city.



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That is why today we launch the Ithuba Youth Economic Development Programme.

Ithuba means opportunity. This programme will incubate young entrepreneurs, open supply chains, create job pathways, and provide technical and artisanal skills. An initial R8 million has been allocated to youth entrepreneurship, with more to follow as the programme expands.

Ithuba is not a side initiative, but a cornerstone of our economic revitalisation. It recognises that no investment strategy is complete without the energy, creativity, and determination of our youth. It ensures that the benefits of this summit will reach Soshanguve, Mamelodi, Hammanskraal, Atteridgeville, and every township and suburb in our city.

When we speak of Tshwane Rising, we mean a city where progress is felt across every community. A city where growth strengthens both boardrooms and households. A city where young people see that their ambition has a place in the economy we are building together.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This summit is not symbolic. It is practical.

It is where we present opportunities, showcase assets, and secure commitments. Our immediate target is to raise at least R5 billion in new projects this year. That figure is not abstract. It is the test of whether we succeed in turning plans into action.

But more than numbers, we seek a new covenant with our partners. A covenant that rests on three commitments. We commit to transparency, through clean governance, predictable processes, and honest dealings. We commit to dedication, by walking with you as partners, never as adversaries. And we commit to alignment, ensuring that investment delivers both profit and shared prosperity for our people.

Colleagues, Tshwane is rising. The strategy is in place. The assets are ready. The will to act is strong. But we cannot rise alone.



So I ask you to join us. Join us in unlocking the potential of this great city. Join us in building Africa's capital of possibilities. Join us in ensuring that growth in Tshwane translates into dignity, opportunity, and hope for all its people.

This is the continuity of the story we began in April, when I told Council and residents that Tshwane is our capital, our pride. Today we affirm that pride not in words alone but in commitments made and partnerships forged.

Together, let us make Tshwane a city of progress and pride. A city where investment drives renewal. A city that belongs to all who live, work, and dream here.

Welcome to Tshwane Rising. Welcome to Africa's capital of possibilities.

I thank you.

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A City that works for all its people.