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13

## COGTA EMBRACES NBI MENTORSHIP



Mr Platjje



L-R Mr Eldred Fray, Dr Vuyo Nkohla, Mr David Hoar and Mr Mlokothi

### By Siphokazi Nonyukela

A partnership networking session was organised between officials of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) and Mentors from the National Business Initiative (NBI) in East London, recently.

CoGTA's partnership with the NBI is about mentors contracted and assigned to various municipalities in the Province to assist with service delivery issues. The areas of focus are in Spatial Transformation, Financial Management, Infrastructure Development and Local Economic Development (LED).



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Outlining the purpose of the day the Acting Director for the Project Management Unit (PMU) Mr Luthando Plaatjie said the purpose of the session was to bring the team of Mentors together for introduction purposes as they have never met before.

Ms Ruth Troskie from NBI thanked CoGTA for spearheading the partnership and support. “We acknowledge that in the past there was a divide between the private and public sector hence it was not easy to start addressing the paradigms and perceptions of each. CoGTA has opened doors for us open the first pilot project that NBI has launched. If it was not for CoGTA’s visionary leadership it would have never happened. We salute them,” said Ms Troskie.

The Deputy Director General (DDG) for Developmental Local Government (DLG) Mr Vuyo Mlokothe said, “beyond the mentoring we want to see impact, change and transformation.”

“We pledge our support to the NBI mentorship programme,” said DDG Mlokothe.

Speaking at the session the Head of Department (HoD) for Cogta, Mr Andile Fani (above) said CoGTA has a Constitutional responsibility to give support to municipalities. “Given the current negative financial state of affairs, it is important to have partnerships that are helping government. We must level the playing field for the Mentors to make a positive impact in their various areas of specialisation,” said Mr Fani. He added that the NBI Mentors are “CoGTA’s extension” to plug in their expertise in the municipal space.

“We expect them to make a difference with regard to tangible deliverables on the ground, impart the much-needed capacity thus being progressive in that our municipalities will become better and efficient institutions,” said Mr Fani.