

**ANDILE SANGQU SPEECH
EIP GRADUATION**

Good morning distinguished guests,
Partners,
Graduates,
Members of the media and
Colleagues

It gives me great pleasure to stand before you today to celebrate the achievement of our graduates from our second Entrepreneur Internship Programme. As I stand here today I am inspired by the success and achievement of all the business owners present here.

Over the past 26 years, Anglo American has demonstrated a keen interest in investing in and supporting entrepreneurs who exhibit the drive and ambition to start their own businesses.

When we first partnered with Aurik Enterprise and Supplier Development, to get this programme off the ground, our objective was to provide business development support, mentorship and other assistance to emerging or existing entrepreneurs and SMEs.

As Anglo American, we know that more can be achieved if we partner with others. As the private sector, together with our partners in government, we have the ability to effect so much change while contributing to the sustainability of small businesses through guiding and encouraging them to take charge of their own development.

I believe we can all agree that small businesses are an essential contributor towards a healthy economy. These businesses create a competitive environment, provide vital employment opportunities and revitalise our communities even through the most challenging times.

At Anglo American, we believe that enterprise development is one of the most effective ways of delivering sustainable, broad-based economic growth in local economies. It is the best way of empowering people by giving them access to the essential skills required to better their lives. Further to this, delivering great business opportunities to high potential entrepreneurs enables businesses to become large-scale and meaningful enterprises that have the ability to create jobs and develop much needed skills.

On the journey to building a business, one cannot afford to take short cuts. Former CEO of General Electric, Jack Welch once said: “an organisation's ability to learn, and translate that learning into action rapidly, is the ultimate competitive advantage.”

This requires continuous learning, equipping oneself for the never-ending demands and challenges of enterprise building. You can never be too qualified, too experienced or too

educated for business. Because success is just a marker that should always be moving forward.

To get it right, we must surround ourselves with strong and reliable partners...

It would be considerably difficult to run a programme of this magnitude without solid, reliable and inspiring partners. Aurik Enterprise and Supplier Development, provides the relevant support and skills required by entrepreneurs who want to build or take their existing business to the next level.

We believe that by partnering with the right people and organisations, we can and will make a real difference in South Africa, and this is true in our partnership with Aurik.

Business partnerships are established for many different reasons. One of the key aspects of finding appropriate partners is to look for complementary skills and assets.

Through this partnership we create a pool of entrepreneurs who can feed into Anglo American's supply chain, thereby increasing our competitiveness. More importantly however, this enables us to contribute towards South Africa's growth implementation of the National Development Plan as set out by our leaders in government.

The National Development Plan is a framework that should bring policy, business and people together. It must work for business, it must work for government, support its social commitments, and even further than that, it must work for the people of South Africa.

The future of South Africa should not be the sole responsibility of one entity. The private sector needs to partner with government, large businesses should partner with emerging enterprises and business needs to partner with entrepreneurs. This allows for a competitive and inclusive culture of growth, creating an enterprise development framework that can only make this country exponentially stronger.

In closing...

For us, EIP is a long-term innovative model demonstrating structural collaboration that will help drive business forward and in so doing, will help drive this country forward.

As this is a celebration of some of the country's finest entrepreneurs, it is only fitting that I leave you with a quote from one of the greatest entrepreneurs of his time. It was Steve Jobs who once said: "Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower."

May each and every one of you continue to be pioneers in business - and wish you all of the best for the future.