



MINISTER STELLA TEMBISA NDABENI SPEAKING NOTES FOR THE REGENESYS
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**Importance and Contributions of Regenesys School of Entrepreneurship
on Entrepreneurship Day**

**Dr. Reabetswe Kgoroadira, CEO of the Regenesys School of
Entrepreneurship.**

Ladies and gentlemen, I take great honour for being invited to the launch of the School of Entrepreneurship.

Regenesys School of Entrepreneurship stands as a beacon of innovation, empowerment, and capacity-building in the African entrepreneurial landscape. On Entrepreneurship Day, it is important to acknowledge how Regenesys has significantly contributed to nurturing a new generation of entrepreneurs who are equipped with practical skills, mindset development, and business acumen essential for sustainable enterprise growth.

Regenesys's contribution lies not only in delivering robust entrepreneurial education but also in fostering an ecosystem where aspiring entrepreneurs gain confidence, resilience, and strategic thinking capabilities. Through tailored programs, mentorship, and experiential learning, Regenesys empowers individuals to transition from startup ideation to scalable business operations, driving job creation and economic development.

Synergistic Benefits Between DSBD and Regenesys in Transforming Africa's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

The Department of Small Business Development (DSBD) and Regenesys can create a powerful partnership that catalyzes the transformation of Africa's entrepreneurial ecosystem by:

- **Capacity Building for Funded Enterprises:** Many entrepreneurs who have received funding often lack the necessary skills to manage and scale their businesses effectively. Regenesys, with its deep expertise in entrepreneurial training, can equip these entrepreneurs with financial management, strategic planning, and operational skills that improve sustainability and growth.
- **Corporate Supply Chain Integration:** DSBD's mandate to integrate SMEs into corporate supply chains aligns perfectly with Regenesys's entrepreneurship development approach. By collaborating, they can design specialized training programs focused on compliance, quality assurance, and procurement processes, enabling SMEs to meet corporate supply chain demands confidently.
- **Scaling Impact Through National Platforms:** DSBD's reach and policy influence, combined with Regenesys's education frameworks, can be leveraged to scale supply-chain-focused entrepreneurship programs nationally, thus expanding opportunities for SMEs across sectors.

Strategies for Regenesys to Advance Small Business Development and Inclusive Economic Growth

To foster inclusive economic growth and support women-led enterprises, Regenesys can adopt the following strategies:

1. **Targeted Support for Women Entrepreneurs:** Develop specialized programs that address unique barriers faced by women entrepreneurs, such as access to finance, mentorship, networking, and balancing business with social

responsibilities. Tailored curricula focusing on leadership, negotiation skills, and digital literacy can empower women-led enterprises.

2. **Advocacy for Training-Linked Funding Incentives:** Collaborate with government and financial institutions to advocate for funding models that incentivize entrepreneurs to participate in accredited training programs as a precondition for receiving financial support. This approach de-risks investments and enhances business viability.
3. **Inclusive Curriculum Development:** Ensure entrepreneurship programs are accessible to marginalized groups, including youth, rural entrepreneurs, and people with disabilities, promoting an inclusive economy.
4. **Partnerships with Corporate and Public Sectors:** Foster collaborations that integrate SMEs into larger value chains and public procurement systems, creating market access and sustainable growth avenues.
5. **Policy Innovation and Thought Leadership:** Engage in policy dialogues to drive reforms that reduce bureaucratic hurdles, improve access to markets and finance, and create a conducive environment for SME growth.

Advocating for Training-Linked Funding Incentives to De-risk SME Support Programmes

One of the critical barriers to SME success is the lack of capacity to effectively utilize funding. Regenesys advocates for training-linked funding incentives where funding agencies require entrepreneurs to complete certified training programs before accessing financial support. This model:

- Enhances entrepreneurs' skills, reducing the risk of business failure.
- Provides funders with assurance of capacity and preparedness.
- Builds a culture of continuous learning and business excellence.

Scaling Up Supply-Chain-Focused Entrepreneurship Programs to National Platforms

Regenesys can lead the design and implementation of supply-chain-focused entrepreneurship programs at a national scale by:

- Partnering with DSBD and corporate entities to identify supply chain opportunities.
- Creating modular, scalable training interventions tailored to meet supplier standards.
- Using digital platforms to widen reach and enable real-time support.
- Monitoring and evaluating program impact to continuously improve delivery and relevance.

Driving Policy Innovation for SME Growth

Regenesys, through research and advocacy, can influence policy innovation by:

- Highlighting the need for streamlined regulatory processes.
- Advocating for tax incentives and grants for SMEs investing in capacity building.
- Supporting policies that encourage corporate procurement from SMEs.
- Promoting gender-responsive entrepreneurship policies to enhance women's participation.

I'd like to thanks Dr. Reabetswe Kgoroadira, for the invite and I wish the school and its leadership all the best in your endeavours for promoting education and entrepreneurship.

I thank you.