

17 July 2013

08h00

Johannesburg: The architect behind South Africa's seminal National Development Plan, Deputy Minister in the Presidency, Trevor Manuel, will deliver the keynote address at the official opening of Metropolis 2013 this morning.

The ceremony starts at 9am and will be hosted by Johannesburg's Executive Mayor, Parks Tau, whose city hosts Metropolis. Other speakers include Gauteng Premier Nomvula Mokonyane, Acting Metropolis President and Mayor of Berlin, Michael Muller, and Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, the Deputy Executive Director of UN Habitat.

Metropolis hosts its annual meeting for the first time on African soil at the Hilton Hotel in Sandton. The four day event will see mayors, officials and leaders from over 85 cities around the world gathering to discuss key issues garnered towards enhancing development and improving the lives of citizens within an urban development context.

Specific issues that will be tackled at the meeting - which this year is promoting the theme "Caring Cities" - include rapid urbanisation, food security, resource resilience, safety and security, caring cities, social cohesion and greater citizen engagement and funding models for growing cities.

A media briefing will be held immediately after the opening ceremony and, depending on availability, one-on-one interviews can be arranged with Deputy Minister Manuel, Premier Mokonyane and Mayor Muller.

Should you or your news organisation require accreditation, interviews, live streaming content, uploads and further information please contact those listed below.

Metropolis takes place at the Hilton Hotel in Sandton on 138 Rivonia Rd Sandton, Johannesburg from July 16 to 19, 2013. For a full programme visit Joburg.org.za or www.metropolis.org

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