Chris Hani District Municipality Blessed with Economic Boom

The statistics are enough to leave even the most sceptical critics wallowing in the shadows of disbelief as the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) sitting in the Lady Frere in Chris Hani District Municipality generated the municipality more than R10 million in revenue through car rentals, accommodation and various other business peripherals that generate income through out-of-town visits.

The numbers are staggering as from Sunday, 2 November chances of getting accommodation were non existent in the municipality with all B&Bs and game reserves fully booked till Friday, 7 November from the Lukhanji Local Municipality (Queenstown) all the way to the Intsika Yethu Local Municipality (comprising of Cala, Elliot, Ugie and others). The fuel industry consisting of more than six garages servicing more than 100 government officials cars a day the returns will benefit the municipality long after the NCOP sitting ends.

The NCOP vision of “Empowering Communities for Poverty Eradication” was put into effect as the sitting afforded even the marginalised businesses the opportunity to reap rewards from women run catering businesses to farmers that supply the B&Bs with fresh produce. The presence of national ministers and the much anticipated visit by the President of the Republic of South Africa Kgalema Motlanthe at the end of the week is doing what monetary gains can never substitute - community’s pride.

The manifestation of that pride is the ever growing numbers of people that come to the sitting every day to voice their concerns at last count on Wednesday, 5 November over 7 000 people sited attended the People’s Parliament in Lady Frere. The significance of the NCOP sitting is the utilisation of everything local from personnel to accommodation.

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