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Subject: Swartland Municipality Innovation Wins Award for Strategic Infrastructure Investment

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## Swartland Municipality Innovation Wins Award for Strategic Infrastructure Investment

On Tuesday evening, 10 June 2025, Swartland Municipality received the Public Sector Innovation Award at the Western Cape Economy Innovation Awards. Swartland Municipality's victory in this category was the result of an innovative project that has, to date, unlocked 611 permanent job opportunities in the private sector within the municipality, and which continues to create opportunities for local residents.

Swartland Municipality's entry for the innovation awards demonstrated how economic public infrastructure investment of R12.3 million, for the construction of a traffic circle, strategically unlocked significant commercial growth. This project dates back to 2022/23. The municipality's investment addressed the core challenge of limited accessibility and mobility at the development site, caused by insufficient road infrastructure. Rather than relying on private investors to finance the necessary road upgrades, the municipality acted decisively to overcome this challenge.

Although not a technological innovation, this targeted municipal intervention was crucial to enabling significant private projects, notably the De Zwartland Markt Shopping Centre and the Malmesbury Crestcare Hospital, which opened in 2023 and 2024 respectively. These high-value developments highlight how public infrastructure investments can trigger substantial private investment, generate employment, and ensure sustainable municipal revenue growth.

This approach to infrastructure development offers several distinct advantages for both the municipality and private developers:

- It reduces investment risk for developers.
- It accelerates project delivery timelines.
- It demonstrates to current and future developers that Swartland Municipality actively facilitates economic development, moving beyond a passive role towards proactive partnerships.

"What Swartland Municipality has achieved clearly shows that government cannot create sustainable employment. Jobs must be created by the private sector. We focus on making sure our infrastructure is future-ready for investment," said Executive Mayor Harold Cleophas.

"Local governments must create opportunities by investing in infrastructure, working with

private developers to realise investment that creates sustainable job opportunities. Swartland is implementation-ready,” said Municipal Manager Joggie Scholtz.

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