

# A year of change and challenge

**JODINE CLOETE**

**SALDANHA – For the West Coast Business Development Centre (WCBDC), 2012 was a year of change.**

This was the message Godwin Ayirebi, the WCBDC's chairperson, left people with at the centre's AGM, held last Wednesday at the Hoedjies Bay Hotel.

Jerry Mafereka, Facilitation Manager in Eskom's supplier development and localisation department, was the keynote speaker.

Ayirebi did the welcoming and gave an overview of the financial report. "The 2011-2012 financial year was a cataclysmic year, a year of change, a year when the almost well-established board of directors had to give way to a new board of directors. It was a democratic change – but change, though always necessary, is not easily effected, and the WCBDC was not spared the pangs of change."

He said visits to Matzikama Municipality have confirmed its confidence in the WCBDC. Saldanha Bay Municipality still maintains its trust in and support for the centre and the Military Academy and other role players have strengthened their support for local enterprise development.

Abigail Murray, CEO of the WCBDC, acknowledged the centre's partners.

"We gratefully acknowledge Tronox, ArcelorMittal, PPC Saldanha, Sea Harvest Foundation, Duferco Steel Processing and GAC Shipping. We are also grateful for our partners, SEDA, Thusong Mobile, Matzikama Municipality and the Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism."

Mafereka said in his speech that a clean audit is a challenge, and that one can only invest funds in a company with a clean audit. "I pride myself in the centre; I know it can be one of the best in the province or SA in a few years'."



**From left are Dhesan Moodley (General Manager of ArcelorMittal Saldanha Works), Jerry Mafereka (Eskom), Abigail Murray (WCBDC's CEO) and Godwin Ayirebi (Chairperson).**

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