

## **Wbbn Conference 2018**

### **Press Release**

Dear all

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Wolverhampton Black Business Network CIC, I would like to report on the recently concluded Annual Business Conference, which was held on the 26th April 2018 at the Novotel Wolverhampton.

The Conference was themed ' The impact of Minority Businesses on our Local Economy'. This was so that our speakers and audience and the public at large understand the obvious contributions the minority ethnic businesses are making towards the growth of the economy of the City as well as the sub-region.

The conference was well attended by businesses and officials from the City of Wolverhampton and others from all works of life that came to listen and learn of how progress were being made towards this endeavour.

Among our speakers were all three local Wolverhampton MPs as well as the Deputy Council Leader-Councillor Peter Bilson. Other speakers are Professor Monder Ram OBE from University of Birmingham, a well-known authority on ethnic businesses/entrepreneurship; Sandra Croasdale - Director of Bess Care Ltd; Toyese Anifalaje - CEO of Apex Retailers Ltd.

The Network was formed in 2011, and has continued to focus on representing the minority business community in all aspect of business support awareness. It has engaged with the Local Authority in bringing to their notice all aspect of concerns for business. It has held workshops where business topics were discussed and attendees share business ideas to benefit their business. It has interacted with other business groups to share good ideas.

The highlight at the recent conference was the planned infrastructure development by the City of Wolverhampton Council and how businesses could benefit. It is imperative that all businesses in the City would benefit if they plan to take advantage of the developments.

In addition, an appeal was made by Professor Ram to the Policy makers to consider the minority communities/diversity when discussing matters relating to the development of the City. He concluded that the consideration of the diversity in our region would enhance the economic growth of our region.

We at the Network are determined to continue to empower the community to achieve their goals and aspirations for themselves and their individual families. I will appeal to more people out there to join us to build a more productive society.

Thank you

**Sam Duru MIC**  
**Chair - Wbbn**  
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