

# Mpumalanga's SMMEs shine at Eskom small businesses expo

Litiko  
Ietekutfufukiswa

Kwetemnotfo  
nekuhlela

Umanyango  
Wezokuthuthukiswa

KoMnotho nezoku Tlanywa

Department van Ekonomiese  
Ontwikkeling en Beplanning



## Volume 2

# Temnnotfo

*Shaping economic path for sustainable development*

## Official Newsletter



**the dedp**

Department:  
Economic Development and Planning  
**MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT**



MEC Padayachee and  
HOD Mazibuko meet the  
Tourism industry

3

First economic opportunities  
roadshow a huge success

4

Mining project progressing well,  
safely

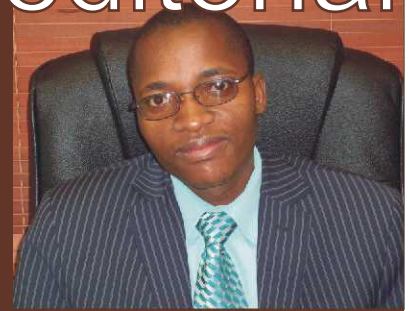
5

Mpumalanga SMMEs shine  
at Eskom small businesses expo

6

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During his policy and budget speech earlier this year, MEC Craig Padayachee remarked that we have entered a period in which "more than anytime before, our collective resolve is needed to overcome the common challenges that we face as society and the nations of the world."



**Editor:** Letshela Jonas

Taking this message in the context of the current global economic challenges - we now know what the MEC was referring to, and how he reminded us about the "CAN DO IT" attitude of the South African when confronted with any challenge including in the economic front.

The real work of implementing the programmes that we have committed ourselves to, as part of our plan for this financial year, is on course. The "CAN DO IT" attitude will propel us to faster implementation in line with our mandate.

In this edition, we bring you all that happened during the second quarter of the financial year through capturing some of the key functions and activities in our quest to implement our programme of action.

We have supported more small businesses by facilitating their

exposure to number of stakeholders attending conferences, summits and seminars during the quarter. MEC Padayachee met different sectors to take forward the economic development agenda and mobilize support for implementation of the economic development programmes.

We also held our first economic opportunities roadshow as part of our outreach activities to expand access to information on services.

Furthermore, the MEC returned to Middleburg to check progress of the Douglas-Middleburg Optimization project as it is seen as one of the project with major spin offs for the economy.

I hope that you will find this newsletter informative and interesting.



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# MEC Padayachee and HOD Mazibuko meet the tourism industry



**ARTICULATING VIEW:**  
HOD Mandla Mazibuko expressing his views on the way forward.

Some of the issues the meeting discussed included the Mpumalanga Tourism Growth Strategy, Tourist Information Centre, the MTPA Levy regulations policy and the Heritage, Greening Mpumalanga and Tourism Flagship.

Regulations (2008). The regulations require tourism business owners to pay certain levies to register their accommodation facilities.

The members were concerned that once approved in its current

**T**he Mpumalanga Tourism Forum close ranks with MEC for Economic Development and Planning to accelerate growth in the tourism industry at a meeting held in Nelspruit.

MEC expressed his appreciation to the leaders of the tourism industry who joined him in this important meeting, which was a precursor to the celebration of the tourism month in September.

"I am happy that the members of the forum, from your respective associations, have deemed it fit to join me in this meeting to help propel our tourism industry to new heights," said MEC Padayachee to the members at the Tourism Forum meeting.

Private tourism business and tourism SMME's welcomed the Mpumalanga Tourism Growth Strategy and agreed to contribute to its implementation.

Some members of the forum voiced concerns on some parts of the strategy alluding that it does not reflect some of their inputs and that its implementation in the current form is difficult.

"We are aware of the tourism growth strategy and think it's a good approach towards propelling the growth of the industry, but we want to further input into it so that we can take ownership of its implementation," said Mr Gavin Jarman from the Southern African Tourism Services Association (SATSA).

Members of the forum also voiced their dissatisfaction about some parts of the MTPA Tourism Levy's



**UNITY:** MEC Padayachee stresses that unity is important to achieve tourism goals.

form, the Tourism Levy Regulations will make it difficult for them to do business in the province.

The department has agreed to give members of the forum an opportunity to contribute in making the regulations work for

*Continued to page 4*



the growth of tourism in the province.

MEC Padayachee also assured the industry that he has "listened and heard the concerns" regarding the MTPA regulations, adding that the sector and MTPA should look into this matter and come up with a solution.

The Forum also welcomed the presentation of the Heritage Greening and Tourism flagship. Members of the forum felt the flagship will allow them to grow and develop new tourism routes.

"I have initiated this forum in order to involve all tourism stakeholders in the province, including SMME's. Their role is to advise me on tourism matters and I trust that the contributions in this forum will help us understand and resolve challenges of the SMME's in the tourism business", said Mr Padayachee.

# First

## economic opportunities roadshow a huge success

"Government has agreed to procure ten products and services from the SMMEs but this must be complemented by equally good services as would be expected from those who are granted business contracts,"

The department of economic development and planning held its first economic opportunities roadshow in Nkomazi in September 2008. The roadshow brought together all the economic development agencies and the community of Nkomazi to share information on opportunities in the province.

Opening the economic opportunities fair, MEC Craig Padayachee acknowledged challenges in the

community but assured them that government would support initiatives that seek to advance the economic development agenda in the area.

The MEC highlighted the importance of government procurement as a key driver for SMME development but also reminded the small businesses about their responsibilities when given the contracts.

The ten products that have been



MEC addressing hundreds of people attending the roadshow



Mr Peter Maseko (Director: Enterprise Development) amongst a very attentive audience

Continued to page 5



agreed upon forms the bulk of services that the government is using to ensure that the previously disadvantaged people get access to business and economic opportunities.

“This procurement approach is a way of ensuring that the previously disadvantaged people have access to opportunity that will help them to kick start their businesses,” said the MEC.

He said that the real work that must be done now is to ensure that all government departments, including local government assist with implementation of this national imperative to ensure that local businesses also benefit from the business opportunities that our government makes available from time to time.

“The rollout of the offices of Small Enterprise Development Agency, Umsombovu Youth Fund, and those of many other institutions that are here with us, increase our confidence in our capacity to ensure greater impact of our programme. With these agencies we know that we are in a good position to contribute to the creation of new enterprises that will help emancipate our people



from the shackles of poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment, said MEC Padayachee.

The agencies and banking institutions made presentations on economic opportunities and business opportunities in different sectors of our economy. The presentations were geared towards stimulating interests among the people to want to enter into business that best suits their abilities and passion.

MEC Padayachee said that while many of our people are taking advantage of business opportunities, there are many other people who, because of lack of

information and access to relevant services, are unable to reap the fruits of this democracy.

“It is important that the government increase the frequency and depth of interaction with the communities on economic opportunities in the province.

“These Economic Opportunities Roadshows will go a long way in ensuring that we increase the number of entrepreneurs and new entrants into the economy. In no time we will realize that the future of our economy is in the hands of many of our people, whom when given a helping hand, will initiate projects that will make a difference in communities in which they choose to start their businesses,” said the MEC.

MEC Padayachee expressed confidence in the economic opportunities roadshows saying these will be an answer to the challenge of access to information and services in many parts of our province.

# Mining project progressing well

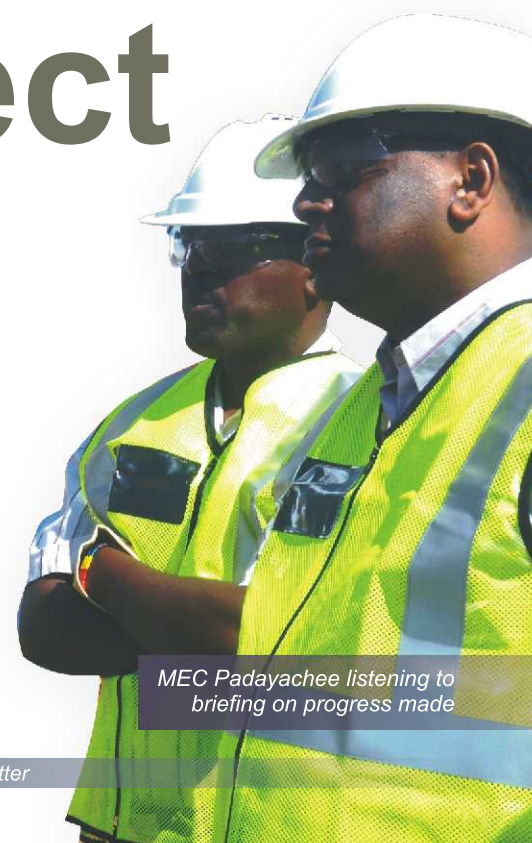
Mr Craig Padayachee, MEC for Economic Development and Planning, has commended progress on the Ogies-Klipspruit and Douglas-Middleburg Optimization project during his recent visit the two projects.

Briefing the stakeholders on the

project, the project director, Richard Kenny said they are proud of the safety measures that they have put in place and promised to keep it that way.

“We have been working here for over a year and have not had an injury. We have not lost a shift so we obviously very proud of that.

*Continued to page 6*



MEC Padayachee listening to briefing on progress made



MEC shared the stage with a great team working on the project

That's our first objective, to deliver this project safely and only then worry about the schedule and the cost thereafter," said Richard Kenny.

The multimillion DMO project was launched by the MEC in March this year.

The project is seen as critical to transformation of the mining industry and will put the province en route to economic growth.

According to the Vice President of project development for Africa,

Don Turvey, the project is right on track. "The project has progressed very well, we are far ahead into construction and we are also well advanced in training people and bringing them up to speed with skills that they need to deliver this project," said Kenny.

BHP Billiton Energy Coal South Africa has invested an amount in excess of US\$ 975 Million (R7.5 Billion) in the province which is seen as a major step which will help the province to fight unemployment and poverty.

"The mine that we are creating will prioritise local employment. On the construction phase we have a variety of employees- some local and some from various places in South Africa. We have 3 000 contractors on site who will continue until next year and then reduced to around 600 - 700 permanent employees," said Mr Kenny.

MEC Padayachee said he was delighted on how the project has developed and the attention to safety over the past few months. MEC also reiterated that this investment will surely put the province a step forward to deliver a better life for all in the province.

When this project is complete, areas such as Middleburg, Witbank and surrounding area's will undoubtedly enjoy the benefit of a better and, increased access to economic opportunities and job creation.

# Mpumalanga SMMEs shine at Eskom small Businesses expo

Two of the ten craft SMMEs which the Department of Economic Development and Planning has taken to the Eskom small business EXPO in Johannesburg have made Mpumalanga proud.

Mr Cornelius Maluka of Izandla Curious received a gold award and certificate for stand excellence, this in recognition for his outstanding work in wire art. Mr Sam Malibe, managing director of Bakubung Art and Craft took home the silver award.

"I feel very proud to be part of this exhibition. This has shown me that Bakubung arts and crafts have grown so well. The products that we are exhibiting are for

Continued to page 7



everybody and have contributed to us winning the silver award, which brings us great joy," said Sam Malibe.

The Eskom Small Business expo which took place in Johannesburg from 12 - 14 September 2008 brought together many SMMEs across the country to showcase their different arts and craft products. Through the expo the department exposed local small businesses to local and international markets.

"We are very grateful of the work that went into this project and thank the Department for presenting us with the opportunity to showcase our products to the rest of the country," said Malibe.

The small businesses that took part in the exhibition come from various municipalities including Umjindi Municipality, Albert Luthuli Municipality, Thembisile Municipality, Bushbuckridge Municipality, Mbombela Municipality and the Dr J S Moroka Municipality.

The department also took several small businesses to the ASIA+ EXPO trade show which took



**SUCCESS:** Gold awarded to Izandla Curious represented by Nicholas Maluleke

place in Bloemfontein from 14 - 17 October 2008. The trade show brought together small businesses in the country to market their products to the Asian market and other international buyers. The expo was also intended to provide local companies with an opportunity to forge trade relationships with their overseas counterparts.

Through exposure to different markets, the department hopes to help the companies to access the

market, contribute to job creation and participate in ongoing efforts to grow the provincial economy.

It is expected that the next ASIA+EXPO trade show will be held in the province in 2009. This could give the province a golden opportunity that will not only expose local business to the Asian market but will also bring much needed financial injection to the tourism industry as well.



*Silver awarded to Bakubung Art & Craft On the 12.09.2008 represented by Sam Malibe*



**EXPO:** Our officials sitting at their office stand representing all the products.

## Mandate

To drive all economic development  
and economic planning  
initiatives in the province

## Vision

A competitive and adaptive economy  
that improves the quality of life  
of all the people in the province

## Mission

To facilitate, implement and  
co-ordinate integrated planning and  
stimulate sustainable economic development

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