



the **dedet**

Department:
Economic Development, Environment and Tourism
MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

Temnotfo

Mpumalanga's economic story, in our words

April/June 2009 Edition

Economic growth rests

on how much officials contribute...

Contract lifts Mpumalanga

tourism sky up

Consumer Court members get down to business



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Editor: Letshela Jonas

Welcome to another edition of Temtofo, a publication that seeks to tell our story the way it is.

We reflect on the change that we have undergone following the renewal of the people's contract for the next five years.

We have entered into a new phase, from the old Department of Economic Development and Planning, to a new, more focused and delivery oriented Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism.

As the old Greek proverb says "The beginning is the half of every action" the new (dedet) is speedily on its new path to success.

During his first meeting with the staff, MEC Jabu Mahlangu emphasized the importance of first time delivery of quality service. This is what the people should expect and this is what we must provide at the shortest time possible.

Our MEC emphasized that this is possible if and when we define our roles correctly and are "at the forefront of programmes aimed at assisting people to be what they want to be".

In this edition, we profile some of the activities that signal the beginning of a new story of delivery.

Some of the great reads in this edition arise from the eventful tourism indaba, signing of the agreement with CIPRO and the HIV and Aids Candlelight Memorial during which we pledged solidarity with our friends, colleagues and neighbours who are affected or infected.

Editor



Editorial Team

Editor : Letshela Jonas
Sub Editor : Beulah Lucas
Photography : Bonny-Lee Lightbody, Messiah Hlungwani,
Journalist : Selvy Mohlala, Comfort Ngobe, Bonny-Lee Lightbody and Messiah Hlungwani
Layout and Design : Dineo Motshegare

Send your letters and comments to

The Editor
Economic Voice of Mpumalanga
Building No 4, First Floor
Communication Department
E-mail: temnotfo@mpg.gov.za

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MEC J MAHLANGU:
At the announcement of the new executive council

Economic growth rests

on how much officials contribute ...
- MEC Mahlangu -

The officials in the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism must be the “most enthusiastic people around” because the aspirations of the people rest on them, said MEC Jabu Mahlangu.

Sharing his thoughts on the path that the department will travel in the next five years, during his first meeting with the members of the executive management of the department, MEC Mahlangu said that the officials must always look forward to the next working day. He said that much of what needs to be done rests on how much we contribute to the efforts to grow the economy.

“The department should advance economic development in the province. We have the responsibility to take the people from the second to the first economy. We should also coordinate all efforts of the Government to ensure equitable share of the economic wealth of the country. We must be in the forefront of programmes aimed at

assisting the people to be what they want to be”, said MEC Mahlangu.

He said that the combination of economic development and environment functions was going to be a very exciting and manageable challenge for the department.

“This is a very interesting combination. Let's brace ourselves for the contradictions that may arise between environment and economic requirements and stand ready to provide the right responses while communicating broadly and clearly on the mandate of the department”, said MEC Mahlangu.

The scope of interaction between the department and the national government has now been expanded from three to six national departments which are Departments of Economic Development, Trade and Industry, Mining, Energy, Tourism, Water and Environmental Affairs.

Contract lifts Mpumalanga tourism sky up

The province should look forward to increased inflow of leisure tourists following the announcement of a tourism airlift contract between Mpumalanga Tourism and Park Agency and ComAir at the Tourism Indaba in May.

The Airlift Capacity contract is set to create better market access of international leisure tourism into the Province.

In terms of the contract, ComAir will target the leisure market and make it easier for international and domestic leisure visitors to visit the province as soon as they touch down at the international airports.

Announcing some details of the contract, the Chief Executive Officer of MTPA, Mr. Charles Ndabeni said that

the contract would increase the number of visitors to the province, thus making significant impact on tourism growth.

Meanwhile, the Head of Department, Mandla Mazibuko - emphasized a need for greater partnership between Government and organized private sector to boost tourism growth.

"We are very excited about this contract that MTPA intends to sign because it signifies a change that many of our people want to see in the tourism industry. The outcome of this partnership and collaboration should contribute towards an industry that will grow, attract investment, protect the environment and that will ensure that communities benefit", said Mazibuko.



Mpumalanga Consumer Court members get down to business

“ The newly established consumer court will ensure a speedy and reliable process of handling consumer complaints in the province.
- Mr Nivard Lubisi ”

SMILE – Consumer court members at their first meeting



DELEGATES - Not missing a point



DELIBERATION – Mr B Dube pays close attention to detail



Attendance at the meeting pays close attention

Addressing the introductory meeting of the newly appointed members of the consumer court and the consumer complaints investigators, Mr Lubisi said the court is vital to insure speedy resolution of consumer complaints in the province.

“The establishment of the consumer court is great news for the province because the consumers would now have a court that looks at their interests. Instead of having to go through a costly civil court, consumers will now be able to approach a court which dedicated to protected their rights”, said Lubisi.

The meeting was the first for the members and the investigators since they had been appointed. Welcoming the responsibility bestowed on the members to protect the interest of the consumer, the chairperson of the consumer court, Mr Sinky Nkosi said the team “is delighted to bring their services to people and to ensure fair and equitable decision making that address and protect the rights of the consumers”

“We want to be an asset to the government and people alike”, said Mr. Nkosi. He acknowledged that the court had a huge responsibility given the current economic environment which has had serious consequences on the consumers.

The members of the newly founded Consumer Court are Mr Sinky Nkosi (Chairperson), Prof. Joseph Maseko, Mr. Bongani Matsane, Ms. Mariette van Niekerk, Mr. Macbeth Nkongurane and Ms. Rachael Shabangu. They all have a strong legal background.

The court will sit twice per month in Nkangala, Gert Sibande or Ehlanzeni regions, depending on the cases that are brought to their attention.

Agreement

expand access

to business registration services



HOD M MAZIBUKO:
Putting pen to paper



Ms NB MASHALABA – During her keynote address



Business leaders and officials attending the signing

The DEDET and Companies and Intellectual Property Registration Office (CIPRO) concluded an agreement through which the business registration services will be provided in the province.

The newly formed partnership between the Department and CIPRO will result in improved access to business registration services in Mpumalanga.

In terms of the service level agreement *the dedet* will provide advice and registration services for close corporations, companies, cooperatives and intellectual property at all its regional offices in the province.

Before the signing of this agreement, registering a company was a far fetched exercise which was only meant for those who are able to drive all the way to Pretoria where CIPRO offices are located.

This has been changed and according to the Head of the Department, Mr Mandla Mazibuko, the provision of these

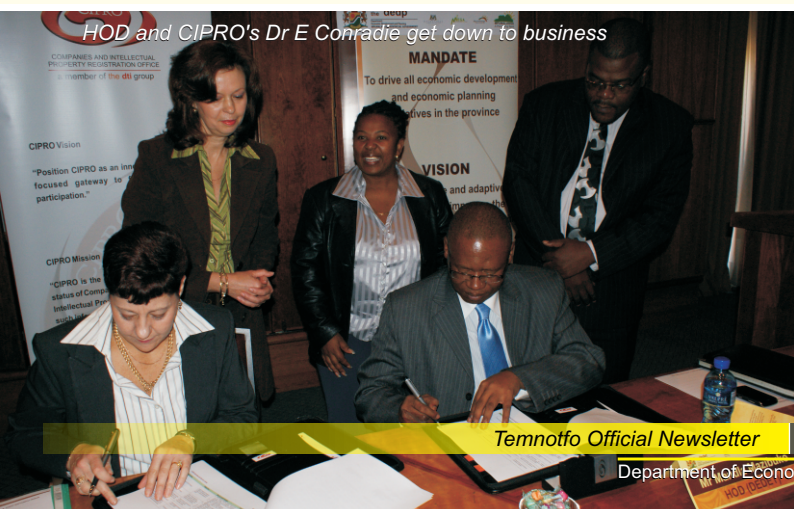
services in the province “will assist the entrepreneurs to legitimise their businesses and assist our creative people to protect their trademarks”.

CIPRO's Executive Manager for Customer Care, Dr Elsabè Conradie expressed confidence in the new partnership.

“We are excited about the relationship that we have established with the department. The agreement means that we have now expanded our foot print and that the services of the office can reach the people where they are”, said Dr Conradie.

She added that “by combining our expertise, we will make huge strides in developing business ideas into viable business opportunities”.

The agreement will enable the DEDET to provide CIPRO services in the province thus minimizing the travelling cost and intricacy that business people had to ensure when seeking to legitimize their businesses.



HOD and CIPRO's Dr E Conradie get down to business



CONCENTRATION- Delegates attending the signing

Mpumalanga launches SMME Business Launchpad Competition takes off

The SMME Business Launchpad Competition is a platform where the people of Mpumalanga are encouraged to venture into business. With R5m worth of opportunities, the entrepreneurs are presented with a mouth-watering opportunity to lend a hand to economic growth.

Briefing the media about the competition, the head of the department, Mr. Mandla Mazibuko said that entrepreneurs are important to the growth of provincial and national economy.

“There is a real and pressing need to identify, inspire, encourage, assist and where necessary, fund those individuals who show real entrepreneurial potential. Entrepreneurs create new employment opportunities, wealth in the community and innovation”, Mr Mazibuko said.

MEGA injected R5 million rand to boost the competition. The winners will win laptops and will also have access to the media publicity to put their business on the map and also gain business support which includes mentorship as well as funding.

CEO of MEGA, Nosizwe Nokwe said that sixty finalists will be selected from all Mpumalanga entries, and a panel of judges made up of local-business people, experienced business advisers and small business experts will select the final 20 winners based on their presentations.

“Many entrepreneurs do not know where and how to access funding, or how to make a convincing case funding or investment. This is where the 2009



Mpumalanga SMME Business LaunchPad comes in. It is a project that really `speaks to our mandate and our strategy”, Nokwe said.

Competition targets entrepreneurs in agriculture, construction, personal/business services, IT, media and marketing, manufacturing, green business, tourism, transport and logistics, creative, craft as well as cultural business.

The team tasked to run the competition toured the province and run workshops in order to make sure that the citizens understand the competition.

The business LaunchPad is not just about a winner, the project will also allow us to identify and reach out a wide range of entrepreneurs and small businesses who can benefit from various funding, mentorship and training opportunities.

The competition will run from June to mid-August this year. The provincial winner will automatically be entered into the National competition where the overall prize is access to funding of up to R50 million.



Mr Gerhard (Manager of Seda), Ms Khungeka Madokwe (Provincial Specialist), Ms Nosizwe Nokwe (CEO MEGA), Mr Mandla Mazibuko (HOD of department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism), Mr Martin Finestine (Small business development entrepreneur) and Mr Sipho Marala (MEGA).

Understanding Environmental Issues

Environmental issues are often scientific and technical and thus reducing interest because we often cannot understand what all the terms mean. These definitions will create a better understanding when we encounter these again.

Climate change is the natural cycle of warm and cold periods which the earth and its atmosphere go through.

WHAT CAUSES CLIMATE CHANGE?

The global climate system is driven by energy from the sun. Several gases in the atmosphere trap the energy from the sun, thus warming the earth. These gases are called **greenhouse gases** and the process is the **greenhouse effect**. Without this there would be no life on earth.

The actual Climate change cycle takes hundreds of years for one cycle to be completed. Unfortunately, human activities have caused the cycle to change too fast. Climate models predict that the air temperature over South Africa will increase with an estimated 2°C over the next century. This may not seem like a lot but it has major impact on plants and animals which may not be able to adapt as quickly to this "rapid" climate change as humans can, and therefore the whole ecosystem is in danger.

CO₂

Co₂ (Carbon Dioxide) is a very important gas but it also destroys the **ozone layer** (A layer that controls warm temperatures by blocking harmful rays from the sun). CO₂ is a very important fertilizer. A lot of plants need it for photosynthesis to grow and to also give out Oxygen (O₂).

HOW DOES A CHANGING CLIMATE INFLUENCE SOUTH AFRICA?

Water resources: We all depend highly on a reliable supply of water. A reduction in rainfall amount or variability, or an increase in evaporation (due to higher temperatures) would further strain the already limited amount of water resources.

Human and animal health: There are several important insect-carried diseases of humans and livestock which are sensitive to the climate. A small increase in temperature would allow, for instance, malaria to spread into areas which are currently malaria-free, and would increase its severity in areas where it already occurs.

Maize and wheat: It is currently estimated that a 10% decrease in rainfall would be approximately balanced by the rising carbon dioxide content of the atmosphere. This would lead to warmer temperatures and may lead to a small reduction in wheat yields, but would have little effect on maize. However, these predictions are not very certain.

Grazing livestock: Most of South Africa, especially the drier part, is used for grazing by cattle, sheep and wildlife. Higher carbon dioxide will lead to less protein in the grass, which will reduce animal production.

Forestry: The forestry industry could probably tolerate a small increase in temperature, but a decrease in rainfall would reduce the area which can support plantations, and the growth rate of the trees.

Fisheries: Changes in the oceans have important implications and can cause major changes in several fish resources.

Biodiversity: Plants, in particular, have trouble keeping up with rapid climate change. Small, isolated populations could go extinct as a result. South Africa has about 10% of all the plant species in the world, of which about half occur nowhere else on earth. Warming, and a change in the seasonal rainfall of the CAPE FLORAL kingdom, are issues of concern to conservationists.



National Environmental Month 2009

World Environment Day (WED) is commemorated yearly on 5 June. It is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action.

National Environment Month was observed from 1 to 30 June in South Africa.

Theme: **SA Act Now! Combat Climate Change.** The theme is appropriate as it revolves around climate change which is a key priority for world governments.

South Africa is raising the bar on climate change as a significant factor in its development agenda, with the

March 2009 Climate Change Summit having laid the foundation for a participatory process to shape the way we respond to climate change. The theme comes at a time when South Africa is drafting the policy framework for climate change, following the Summit.

Action on climate change is seen as an investment to the future as no action will have worse consequences for the world.

What is the government position on critical issues raised therein?

The declaration at the end of the September 2008 PGDS Summit explains it best:

"Mpumalanga remains a place of outstanding natural beauty, a rich cultural heritage and potential for development to the benefit of all. There is a commitment to make environmentally sustainable development a non-negotiable aspect of growth and development in Mpumalanga in order to protect our wetlands, natural vegetation and biodiversity for future generations. An integrated land use framework is currently developed that will balance the need for socio-economic development, sustainable human settlement, preservation of our pristine environment, promotion of cultural and heritage resources, as well as energy and water conservation."

How can our people be involved in addressing environment degradation?

1. They should be aware of the environmental rights and responsibilities
2. Mobilise (or supported to) themselves towards environmental action
3. Be aware of their required role to address environmental issues such as climate change, air pollution, waste etc.
4. Be prepared to become informed whistleblowers in the event of the mismanagement of the environment
5. Always remind themselves that the global environmental challenges we face today will only be addressed and solved on local level and that their inputs are important and vital to ensure a sustained and life supporting environment.

Whether you are an individual, an organization, a business or a government, there are a number of steps you can take to reduce your carbon emissions, the total of which is described as your carbon footprint. You may think you don't know where to begin, but by reading this, you have already begun.



5 June 2009



Candlelight in memory of the affected and infected workers

The DEDET through the Transversal section held an AIDS candlelight memorial service at Riverside Sports Ground earlier this quarter.

The main aim of the event was to remember all the people who had lost their lives to HIV and AIDS and to reaffirm our pledge for continuing support to colleagues and people living with the disease.

Mrs Thandiwe Sibanyoni, a counsellor from Themba Hospital encouraged the attendees to abstain from having sex or to use condoms regularly when having sex. Sibanyoni said that with the current economic meltdown and the rise of price on goods and services, people should abstain soon because it would be difficult to buy food to maintain a proper diet.

The sad stories of people, who lost their jobs, got blacklisted and their properties repossessed due to challenges of affordability were hard to swallow for the officials who attended the event, prompting a loud pledge to continue to support those affected and infected by the disease.

Director for consumer services, Nivard Lubisi said that government was considering to strengthen programmes intended to protect such consumers, noting that people who are seriously ill, end up losing their jobs,



consequently blacklisted when they can't afford their installments.

In his speech, the HOD Mr. Mandla Mazibuko encouraged the workers to know their status and to maintain their status by following all the prescriptions from the doctors.

Mrs Ndivhudzannyi Ramaphanga, an Economic researcher, said "HIV and Aids limits productivity and participation of individuals to the economic growth". It is important the we continue to invest in finding a cure but at the same time divert a portion of funding to the effort to address this disease", she said.

Candle Light Memorial Pledge

"This little light of mine I'm gonna make it shine"

1. This little light is for the mothers who are crying for their children who are infected and are dying of AIDS.
2. This little light is for those daughters and sons who are living with HIV and AIDS and those who have already died from AIDS.
3. This little light is for those women who were raped and left with a permanent reminder: HIV and AIDS.
4. This little light is for orphaned and abandoned children because of HIV and AIDS.
5. This little light is for the awareness that we want to create about this problem and dispelling the darkness and lack of knowledge.
6. This little light is breaking the silence about the disease and bringing it into the open.
7. This little light is for asserting the right of those living with HIV and AIDS.
8. This little light is for Government and Non Governmental Organizations who have the daunting task to educate us.
9. This little light is for the professionals and family members who nurse and counsel people living with HIV and AIDS.
10. This little light is for the commitment of the men and women of the country to the campaign of preventing HIV and AIDS.
11. This little light says that we will stare the beast in the face because we have illuminated our path.
12. This little light is for the empathy and support we will give to those living with HIV and AIDS.

INTERNATIONAL
AIDS
CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL



Streamlined directorate to ensure seamless delivery

The functions of the Chief Directorate for Trade and Industry Development have been streamlined to ensure seamless delivery on key projects that are aimed at stimulating economic growth.

From the beginning of this new financial year, the Chief Directorate have a Directorate that focuses on and project manage key initiatives in the province.

According to the Director for Strategic Initiatives, Mr Maxwell Mathebula, the Directorate for Strategic Initiatives will focus on initiatives that will be iconic in nature and are strategic in the economic development and growth of the province.

“One of the key programmes that we will focus on this year will be the Industrial Development Zones (IDZ) around the two ports of entry, that is KMI Airport and Komatipoort in the province, said Mathebula.

He added that the “programme's main impetus will be coming from the infrastructure development that will be a catalysts to economic growth and development in the province”.

The new organizational adjustment means that the new structure will be key to projects that are aimed at stimulating economic growth.

An IDZ is a purpose-built, industrial estate linked to an international airport or port, which contains a controlled Customs Controlled Area (CCA).

The advantage of the CCA is that it is exempted from duties, VAT and import duty on machinery and assets.

As a result of globalisation, ports and airports are changing so that they can cater for increased economic activity and facilitate access to foreign markets for business people and manufacturers.

Mr Mathebula believes relocating to the IDZ is good for any company that seeks growth.

“Relocation to an IDZ can improve company's competitiveness in both local and foreign markets.

The company can enjoy the benefits of operating in an internationally recognised 'best practice' environment that offers eligibility, entitlement and access to government incentives, such as the Critical Infrastructure Fund (CIP), Export Marketing and Investment Assistance (EMIA), Strategic Investment Programme (SIP) and other supply-side schemes,” Mathebula concludes.

Whilst some of the projects such as the ICC are handed over to the public entities of the department, the directorate will remain focused on monitoring the progress of these projects.

The Directorate for Strategic Initiatives came into being on 1 April 2009.

Trade and Industry Directorate
caught in action



unforgettable

Mpumalanga is a golfer's paradise, with world-class golf courses set against some of South Africa's most spectacular landscapes.

It is home to the country's number one private golf course, the exclusive Leopard Creek – preferred tee-off course for the rich and famous, as well as the second home of international golf icons such as Gary Player and Ernie Els.

Situated on the banks of the Crocodile River and bordering the world-famous Kruger National Park, Leopard Creek offers golfers the ultimate bushveld game. In December each year, it attracts the world's top golfers to take part in the prestigious million-dollar

tournament, the Dunhill Championship.

The province is also home to one of the best public golf courses, the Nelspruit Golf Course. Ranked as one of South Africa's top 100 courses by *Golf Digest*, it hosts one of the largest amateur tournaments, the Jock of the Bushveld tournament, drawing thousands of golf enthusiasts to the capital.

An exciting new championship golf course near Dullstroom, Highland Gate, was designed by Ernie Els and offers golfers the rare opportunity to tee off along the cliffs of the Steenkampsberg escarpment.

