

2008 Miss World Contestants

Debates on
Economic Invigorates

Launch of
Maputo Corridor

Litiko
Ietekutfukiswa

Kwetemnotfo
nekuHlela

Umnnyango
Wezokuthuthukiswa

KoMnotho nezoku Tlanywa

Department van Ekonomiese
Ontwikkeling en Beplanning



Volume 3

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Shaping economic path for sustainable development

Official Newsletter



the dedp

Department:
Economic Development and Planning
MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT



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We enter the last quarter of the financial year with confidence because we believe that progress is being made and results of implementation of our programmes are there for all to see.

We pay close attention to the business forum where economic issues were debated.

The Provincial Government also reaffirmed its commitment to transformation agenda when the Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment Advisory Committee and Forum were launched.

Who could forget the glitter of the Miss World gala dinner held in 2008! The beautiful Miss World contestants who graced our province and left us



Editor: Letshela Jonas

with positive messages to the people of 'a pioneering spirit'.

The consumer services directorate led a festive season campaign through which they urged our people to "spend wisely" and to think about the needs of tomorrow.

There are many more exciting focus points in this edition, which are available to you at just the turn of a page.

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

Economic Voice of Mpumalanga was compiled by the Department of Economic Development and Planning's editorial team. Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government, the MEC or management of the Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development and Planning. Although care has been taken to verify the accuracy of information, the editorial team of this publication takes no responsibility for any inaccuracies.



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Miss World Contestants get world class treatment

in Mpumalanga

It was a meeting of the two beauties when 112 contestants in the Miss World pageant descended to the land of the rising sun, experiencing the picturesque of the gift of nature that the province has and the warmth of the people of Mpumalanga during November 2008.

Addressing the gala dinner held for the Miss World contestants, the MEC for Economic Development and Planning, Craig Padayachee recalled the journey that we have traveled thus far as a country. He gave the contestants some food for thought as they approach the grand finale where the crown will be given to the most beautiful of them all in Johannesburg in December 2008.

"As you travel the world, you will be expected to bring messages of hope to thousands and millions of people. You will be expected, together with other leaders, to get the world to act in unison against inhuman behaviour, end to suffering, diseases and for the creation of a better world where we all can live side by side in peace and harmony, in respect and dignity," said MEC Padayachee.

The MEC also urged the contestants to continue to be the voice of the less fortunate and encouraged that the people of Mpumalanga would join them in this crusade.

"It is a significant opportunity for Mpumalanga to consolidate its brand awareness and communicate our promise to the world that world class tourism destination beckons in the province with a pioneering spirit.



Miss Nigeria, Mr Sebastian Angelo and Miss South Africa



Mr Sabelo (MTPA Chairperson) and MEC Padayachee



Miss Canary Island, Mr Jabulani Mtsweni and Miss Botswana



Miss Angola and Mr Bonani Dube



Miss Venezuela and Ms Immi Simelane

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Everyone is welcome to experience scenic beauty and make contact with the origin of human life in Mpumalanga", MEC emphasized.

He added that the contribution that each of the contestants had made as they criss-crossed around the country would be appreciated for many years to come.

"Your presence here today will serve as a reminder that 112 countries once descended on Mpumalanga and saw what the province can offer the world. This day the 30 November 2008 will always be remembered as one of the greatest days for Mpumalanga and for me personally," said MEC Padayachee.

The MEC also expressed his and the people of Mpumalanga's appreciation for the organizers to have allowed the province to host 111 nations in the province.

The province received showers of praises from the organizers and the contestants alike because of the scenic beauty and warmth of the people in Mpumalanga.

The Chairperson of Ms World Limited, Julia Morley thanked the province for hosting the contestants and expressed her joy after experiencing the best that the world can offer in the beautiful and scenic province of Mpumalanga.

"This is really, really a good place and we are grateful for the opportunity to be here in Mpumalanga," said Ms Morley, adding that she hopes that tourism will grow even more after seeing the tourism attraction and how welcoming the people of Mpumalanga are to the guests.

The contestants also expressed appreciation for the hospitality and warmth of the people of Mpumalanga who embraced them when they landed at the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport and at the Gala Dinner held in Nelspruit.

Miss Barbados, Natalie Griffith said "it has been a serene and peaceful experience being in the province." She added that for most of their time young people get fixated in the hectic life of the city but the province of Mpumalanga

gave them (contestants) an opportunity to get in touch with nature.

"We have never been so close to nature, it's been lovely to go on safari, seeing lions and the majestic waterfall, it's been absolutely exceptional experience since we arrived in the province", said Miss Griffith.

Miss India, Parvathy Omana-kuttan also added her voice of appreciation to the province saying "it has been a great and wonderful experience being in South Africa, Mpumalanga."

We pride ourselves about the picturesque scenic beauty of our province which is blessed with some of South Africa's and the world's best tourist draw-cards; our game reserves, forests, hiking trails, beautiful rivers, mountains and fossils. We know we can offer much more than that in terms of tourism offerings.

MEC Craig Padayachee held a discussion on provincial economy with the executives and leaders of businesses in Nelspruit in November 2008.

The discussion took place in the aftermath of financial challenges that were experienced in the US as well as current developments on the world's economy such as rising food prices, rising inflation and increased household debt among others.

The meeting noted that businesses have a wealth of information

Debates

on economy invigorates collective approach to common challenges

on the performance of the markets and the global economics that applies to them, but a combined effort is needed to ensure that we are effective in the response to the current economic environment.

Speaking at the forum of business leaders, the MEC said it is impor-

tant that the business and the government work together to ensure that the programmes that are implemented make impact and assist in the efforts to 'wage war against unemployment and poverty'.

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ECONOMIC MATTERS:
Business leader joins in the debate

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He added that it is important that business and the government continue to host economic debate sessions as this will invigorate a shared perspective and approach on how to deal with the economic challenges ahead.

“The debate on the current economic environment and outlook will enable business and government to communicate with each other and in the process and reach a consensus on interventions that are necessary given the current economic circumstances,” said MEC Padayachee.

MEC added that “the information that was shared in the *debate on provincial economy* would help us to accentuate our views on the short and medium term interventions that are necessary to make the businesses prosper. He added that, “if businesses make profits, that should translate to job creation and absorption of many people in the companies.”

MEC said continuing *debate on*

provincial economy will assist us to have a shared perspective on programmes and decisions that are necessary to ensure that the provincial economy grows at a much faster pace and that it absorbs as many people in the mainstream of economy.

“It is important that we direct the efforts of government and business in the direction that will ensure maximum benefits for all the people in the province,” said MEC Padayachee.

Reflecting on the current global economic environment, Head of Department of Economic Development and Planning Mandla Mazibuko said it must be noted that even after the US government has bailed out of their financial institutions, there are challenges in the global economy that must be confronted with much more zeal.

“We need to counteract or balance the challenge of shrinking labour absorption because anything less

than that would deepen poverty and consequently threaten the survival of the businesses,” said Mazibuko.

MEC Craig Padayachee hailed the discussion and debate on provincial economy with the business leaders as one of the critical moments in the evolution of participatory governance that has become a custom of this government in the most recent times.

He said the forums and committees that were established recently have enhanced a collectivism approach to economic development matters such as investments, tourism and SMME development.

The purpose of the meeting was to give government and business and opportunity to encourage debate on provincial economy, discuss issues of common interest and to consolidate valuable input on practical strategies on growing our economy to create much needed jobs as well as fighting poverty.



ECONOMIC CONCERNS:
Business leaders and officials attending the debate



DEBATE:
MEC Craig Padayachee takes part in discussions with HOD Mandla Mazibuko by his side



PRESENTATION:
Mosotho Kgaka acting chief director describes the economic situation to business leaders in the debate

Mpumalanga Government and Chinese Municipal Province

cement economic Partnership



TRANSLATION:
Vice Chairman of CPPCC translating for leader
of the delegation Mr Liu Longzhu

Local business should play an active role in implementation of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that the province signs with our international counterparts, says MEC Craig Padayachee.

MEC Padayachee said this during the breakfast session which was held as part of the three day trade mission in the province by a delegation from Chongqing Municipal Province in China.

The breakfast session was attended by senior government officials, Chief Executive Officers of the Economic Development agencies and representatives of Mpumalanga business.

The session was aimed to give local businesses a platform to network with the delegation from China with a view to cement discussions and relations on areas of cooperation as identified in the (MoU) that was signed by

the Mpumalanga Province and Chongqing Municipal Province in October 2008.

In his address, MEC Padayachee emphasised that the MoU needs to be vigorously implemented to realise the economic growth of the province and to tap into opportunities for partnerships that are envisaged.

"The MoU between Mpumalanga and Chongqing must not be a document that is signed and then put aside without any follow up by both the provincial government and the business, especially on areas of cooperation that have been identified in this regard," said MEC Padayachee.

He added that "cooperation of local businesses in taking this discussion forward will be critical if the MoU is to bear the desired results in terms of Economic Development and Economic Growth."

The leader of the delegation and Vice Chairman of the Chongqing People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Mr Liu Longzhu said the delegation had had a fruitful discussion with the officials on areas such as economic development, exchange programme and cooperation on information technology.

"We are very excited to be here in the province and the interaction that we had with the local business will surely be important for the future as envisaged in the MoU that our respective premiers signed back in October 2008," said Liu Longzhu.

Mr Longzhu said he was hopeful that the interaction with business people in the province will continue and that this will result in more tourists and business executives visiting the respective provinces in pursuit of taking advantage of opportunities that

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are available for trade and business.

The CEO of Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency, Ms Nosizwe Nokwe said the breakfast meeting was a follow up to the visit that the province had undertaken to the Peoples Republic of China in October 2008.

She said the MoU covers three areas of coope-

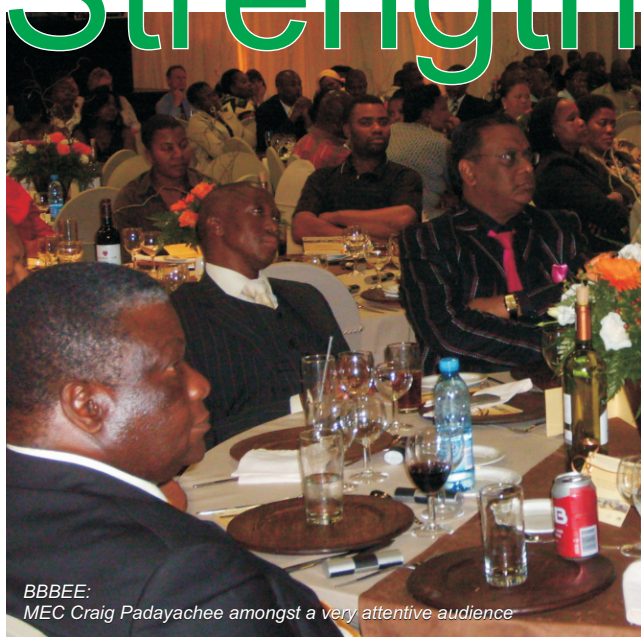
ration that are critical to economic which are agriculture, human resource development and economic development.

The Head of Department of Economic Development and Planning, Mr Mandla Mazibuko concluded that: "participation of local business in this trade mission was important because, out of the MoU, there are opportunities that must be followed up by business."



PARTNERSHIP:
HOD Mandla Mazibuko besides MEC Craig Padayachee
at the breakfast session

Economic transformation agenda Strengthened



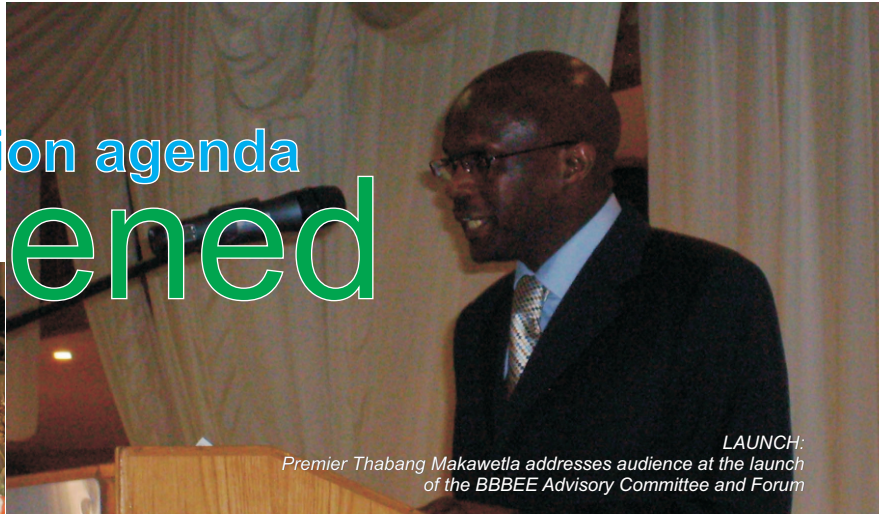
BBBEE:
MEC Craig Padayachee amongst a very attentive audience

The Premier of Mpumalanga Thabang Makwetla launched the provincial B-BBEE Advisory Committee and the Forum at a gala dinner in Nelspruit on 20 October 2008.

The five-member committee and the forum will advise and support the Mpumalanga Province on the implementation of the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment legislation and strategy.

The committee will also assist the government to track transformation progress, foster partnerships with the private sector and lobby for the implementation of B-BBEE in the province.

Addressing the delegates at the Gala Dinner, Premier Thabang Makwetla said the launch of the B-BBEE Advisory committee and the Forum is an "important milestone in our effort to grow and transform our provincial economy in a manner that responds sufficiently to the disturbing picture of ever widening inequalities."



LAUNCH:
Premier Thabang Makwetla addresses audience at the launch of the BBBEE Advisory Committee and Forum

Premier Makwetla added: "As correctly analysed in the Fifteen Year Review, persisting inequality is largely the result of the reproduction of existing disparities in ownership, income, resources, skills and other determinants of people's capacity to take advantage of opportunities."

He said that he expects the new advisory committee to be fearless in guiding the province towards the set of interventions that will ensure the achievement of our targets and goals with regard to entrepreneurship development, the promotion of Mpumalanga SMME's, job creation and social cohesion.

The MEC for Economic Development and Planning, Craig Padayachee also welcomed the committee and the forum saying both these initiatives give the province a hope that the economic transformation agenda of our province has acquired a necessary ally.

"We are optimistic that through the participation of the esteemed members in this forum and other people who support this initiative, that our role to fast-track transformation, foster partnerships with the private sector and lobby for the implementation of the Broad-Based Black Economic

Empowerment will be much easier, said MEC Padayachee.

The MEC also pointed out that the emergence of new entrepreneurs who take up their role as contributors to economic development of the country provides an opportunity to companies to play a role as partners in advancing the implementation of Broad based Black Economic Empowerment legislation and related codes.

"The new entrants provide us with an opportunity and a challenge to take them on board in order to have a broad based empowerment in the province," he said.

MEC added that "the policy regime that we have adopted, shall assist us to achieve most of the objectives and help us to succeed on the people's mandate to improve the quality of life for all."

The launch of the advisory committee follows the commitment made by Premier Thabang Makwetla during the B-BBEE conference that was held last year that the province will establish such committee to advance the ideal for all inclusive socio-economic environment in the province.

The launch of the Provincial B-BBEE Advisory committee and the B-BBEE Forum is a key milestone in pursuit of the recommendation of that conference.

Launch of Maputo Development Corridor takes the dream of spatial connectivity to logical conclusion

The Premier of Mpumalanga, Mr Thabang Makwetla launched the Maputo Development Corridor flagship in Nelspruit, signaling the determination of the province to work even more to take the corridor development to its logical conclusion.

“The provincial government took a decision as part of review of its mid-term in office to re-launch the flagship so as to address the shortcoming of the concept document of the corridor,” said Premier Makwetla.

He said the cabinet took that decision because of the a need to have as one of our flagship the Maputo Development Corridor project where the government will concentrate resources in terms of financial, expertise and time to contribute to economic development.

“The launch of Mpumalanga-Maputo Development Corridor speaks to a programme which is intended to meet the needs of the municipalities along the corridor, to assist them to have the capacity to nurture and crowd investment in those towns and to ensure that trade and industries develop in these areas,” said the Premier.

Mr Makwetla also said it is the cabinet's hope that the resources that the executive has advanced for the commencement of work on this project will deliver the desired results of improving the lives of the people.

Economic Development and Planning to lead development of corridor

In his welcome address to the delegates, MEC for Economic Development and Planning, Mr Craig Padayachee acknowledged the role played by the then Presidents of Mozambique and South Africa adding that his department will implement programmes to see through the development of the corridor.

“South Africa and Mozambique have promoted the revival of the Maputo Corridor with bilateral policies and substantial public and private sector investments designed to stimulate sustainable growth and development in the region,” said MEC Padayachee.

He said the vision of the provincial government is that of creating beyond hope “a world class regional development corridor and development hub of first choice”

MEC Padayachee added that “our mission now is to create a conducive regulatory and policy environment, attracting investment, strengthening local government capacity and building partnerships, so that the corridor can bring the reality of the promise of hope.”

The Department of Economic Development and Planning, the lead agency for this flagship will as part of implementing the projects that the Premier unveiled:

- Develop a sustainable funding strategy for the flagship and appropriate information system (database) for the programme that will provide on-line information on all the projects, its status, risks etc.
- Develop a Communication, Consultation and Stakeholder Management Strategy that will ensure continued buy-in, manage expectations and ensure sound relationships between all stakeholders
- Develop a Strategic Environmental Management Plan, to ensure that our growth does not erode with it opportunities and options for future generations

Speaking through a translator, the Governor of Maputo said the corridor brings together the two nations and makes shorter the distance between the two cities of Nelspruit and Maputo which are now having important developments such as industrial parks, hotel and housings industries and that trade between the two provinces is also growing.

The Mpumalanga Provincial Government has in the last four months begun to give impetus to this project by appointing a Chief Executive Officer and a highly skilled multi-disciplinary project management unit to drive this corridor to new depths and heights.

Community advised to spend wisely



The Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development and Planning in conjunction with the financial services institutions and credit regulator held an awareness campaign on responsible spending at Siyabuswa Stadium in Kwa-Mhlana in December 2008.

Hundreds of people attended the consumer awareness campaign to listen and take advice on how to overcome the temptation of overspending during the festive season.

All the speakers encouraged the members of the public to spend wisely during the festive season and consider saving for the New Year.

Speaking at the event,
Deputy
Director

or for Consumer Education, Bonani Dube urged the residents to honor their debts, pay their arrears and to make proper consumer decisions during this festive season.

"It is important that we should differentiate between what we desire to have and what we really need during this period," said Dube.

Dube also urged the people not to be tempted by the SALE signs which often make them to deviate from their spending plans and budgets.

"We encourage you to think of saving for next year's obligations, like school clothes and fees that need to be paid," Dube said, while adding that "If you haven't saved, don't borrow to spend money you don't have."

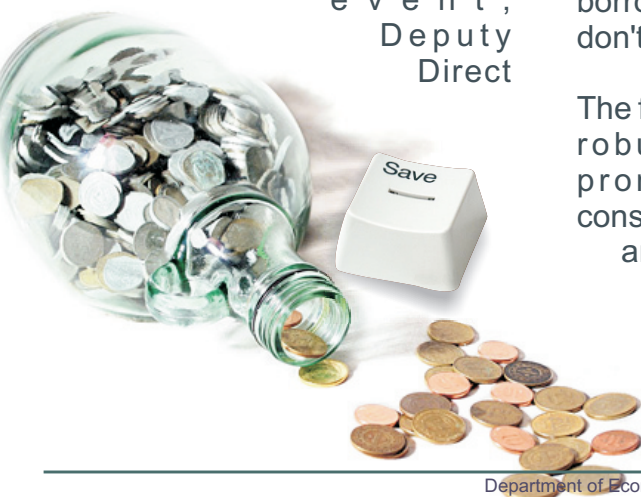
The festive season is known for robust advertising and promotions that entice consumers to spend on service and goods. The results of spending beyond what can be afforded are

often felt in the New Year when consumers can not keep up with the financial commitments they have made during the festive season.

The Mpumalanga Consumer Protection Office, the Financial Services Board, the National Credit Regulator, Medical Schemes Council and South African Saving Institute joined hands in a coordinated effort to advise the consumer to be cautious when it comes to spending during the festive season.

Sibongile Skosana, a resident from Siyabuswa, said she was excited about the campaign as it reminded them to understand the importance of responsible spending in light of the current economic situation. "The campaign made a lot of sense and I have learnt a lot regarding saving and responsible spending," she said.

The event was part of the campaigns held country-wide as part of the "don't compromise-be money wise" national drive.



Govan Mbeki Executive Mayor: Councillor Sipho Nkosi congratulates graduates while Professor Van Zyl looks on

Tourism

About 40 tourism practitioners from different municipalities were awarded certificates of competence after completing a training course whose aim was to capacitate them with methodologies and practices of responsible tourism.

The course was also aimed to ensure that there is a shared perspective and understanding on responsible tourism practices and approaches among tourism officials in the province.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony for the practitioners, chief director for trade and industry development, Dr Joyce Pakade said if we have "a shared understanding of where we want to take the tourism industry to as the province and municipalities, our chances of succeeding in growing the tourism industry and making impact on economic development will be multiplied three fold."

"Tourism Industry plays an important role in the economy of the province. It is one of the industries that can be relied upon given the recent statistics on international tourist arrival that were issued by South African Tourism."

practitioners awarded certificates of Recognition

"The sector has in many instances shown the potential to grow and it continues to give us hope that it can lead our efforts to address the challenges of poverty and unemployment in the province," said Dr Pakade.

According to the recent statistics by South African Tourism, the number of inbound tourists rose in the first two quarters of the year that ended in September 2008, this despite earlier forecast of decline in tourism demands by the UNWTO in its World Tourism Barometer (SAT Q1 2008).

Dr Pakade challenged the tourism professionals to "give us a clear sense of direction on how the

province should respond to the current economic climate and ensure that the industry remains in good footing."

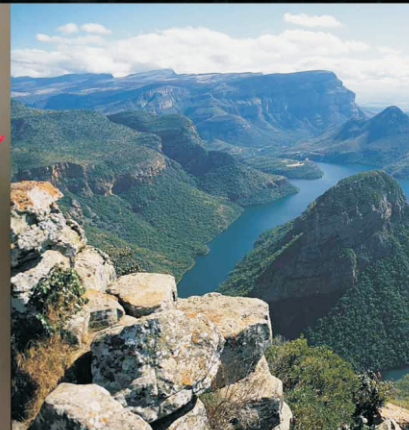
Responsible tourism approach has been adopted in the country to support development and growth of the sector that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.



DEDS Chief Director Dr Pakade, with MGB CEO Bhaki Mlambo and Alex Adjei listening attentively during the event



Lekwa Executive Mayor Mrs J.Q. Radebe-Khumalo motivates graduates to do more



Not just pretty pictures...

Your holiday is changing lives. Every day you spend in Mpumalanga creates eight* jobs in our tourism industry. Each one those jobs feeds a family and puts children through school. So, enjoy our stunning scenery and culture, and know that you are helping us build a better life for the people of Mpumalanga. You are making a difference!

* Statistics from SA Tourism

www.mpumalanga.gov.za/dedp

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