



the **dedet**

Department:
Economic Development, Environment and Tourism
MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

Mpumalanga's economic story, in our words

Temnotfo

January/March 2011 Edition

State of the Province Address 2011

Indonesian Business Meeting

Mpumalanga's "endangered" Wetlands get a helping hand

Temnotfo is siSwati for "Economy"

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President Jacob Zuma has declared this year, *2011 – The Year of Job Creation*. This sentiment was also echoed by Premier David Mabuza, during the 2011 State of the Province Address. What this means to us, as a Department, is that we must start to do things differently and faster, in order to contribute meaningfully to faster job creation. Thus, our role is to lead the process of crafting strategies which will ensure that the province realises the directive from the President.

One of the strategies we plan to implement, is the New Growth Path – the *Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Path (MEGDP)*, whose vision is to realise “an inclusive and equitable economy that supports an improved quality of life for all the people of Mpumalanga.” The MEGDP proposes sectors which have the potential to create more and meaningful jobs. One such sector, is the sector on massive infrastructure development. In this newsletter edition, we focus on summarizing the sectors in question and how we believe they can contribute to meaningful job creation.

“Enhancing the standard of living for the rural poor” is also the priority area for our government, hence an investment in the **Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP)**. In order to achieve this objective, Premier Mabuza will on Friday, 15 April 2011, launch the CRDP at Senotlelo in the Dr J.S Moroka Local Municipality. The launch will focus primarily to benefit residents in the seven (7) identified municipalities, namely, Dr J.S Moroka, Thembisile Hani, Chief Albert Luthuli, Mkhondo, Pixley Ka-Isaka Seme, Bushbuckridge, and Nkomazi.

We believe that such initiatives will improve the lives of our rural poor, by creating the much needed jobs to propel our economy, and ultimately leading towards sustainable livelihood.

This publication is therefore meant to give you an insight as to what our Department and government continue to do to fulfill its mandate, and also what it plans to do going forward.

R.S Tshukudu

Head of Department:

Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism

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Message of Support

from the MEC

On the 18th March 2011, President Jacob Zuma in his opening remarks to the President's summit on Job creation had this to say "We are proud of the fact that seventeen years into our democracy, we have managed to build a thriving constitutional democracy which enshrines human rights, promotes unity in diversity and entrenches socio-economic rights.

As Government we have been working to strengthen the Legislative and policy frameworks to make it easier to do business in our country, and also to support emerging businesses as well as broad-based black economic empowerment. We are keen to hear your suggestions on what else we can do."

This is the premise from which our newsletter of the last quarter of the 2010/2011 financial year seeks to depart "what else can we do together in making the lives of our people better?" This bulletin seeks to invite your indulgence as we are at a point of assessment of what we have achieved, albeit the challenges and of course we will outline in detail our plans during the 2011/12 Policy and budget speech and your inputs as the civil society are welcome (*you can contact Mr Mohau Ramodibe on 013 766 4148*).

Our Premier, Hon DD Mabuza was quite eloquent during the SOPA on the 25th February 2011, when he said "together, we agreed that, if we have to make an impact on the challenges, we must focus on:

- Creating decent work and sustainable livelihoods
- Improving the quality of education and health of our people
- Enhancing the standard of living of the rural poor, and
- Fighting crime and corruption that is so pervasive within our society."

The Provincial Government through DEDET has encapsulated these priorities through the Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Strategy, and this bulletin indicates our practical commitments to take the lead in turning our economic disposition around with programmes such as:

- Mpumalanga's Youth Entrepreneurs Awards
- Mpumalanga, Tourism, Arts and Culture Annual Tour
- SMME Business Launch Pad
- A decade of education for sustainable development
- Comprehensive Rural Development Programme which includes the following Municipalities:
 - Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality
 - Mkhondo Local Municipality
 - Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality
 - Thembisile Hani Local Municipality
 - Nkomazi Local Municipality
 - Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality
 - Bushbuckridge Local Municipality

This unwavering commitment and dedication that *the dedet* continues to show towards the sustainable development of our Province brings comfort to all of us that we are one step closer to achieving a better life for all in the Province.

Please enjoy reading our last edition of the 2010/2011 financial year news bulletin.



State of the Province Address 2011

Premier, David Mabuza delivered his third State of the Province Address (SOPA) on Friday February 25 2011 in Nelspruit. The Premier set the tone for the year by promising to improve the quality of life of people through an agenda that focuses **on job creation, improving health and education, enhancing the standard of living of the rural, poor and combating crime and corruption in society.** Highlights, Achievements and Main Priority areas during his address include;

Highlights

- The recommissioning of the Camden, Grootvlei and Komati power stations and the resuscitation of the Kusile project by Eskom, assisted job creation, but government's expanded public works programme (EPWP) was the main contributor, with 28 908 job opportunities created.

Achievements

- National government has also embarked on the national growth path, with the province responding by developing the Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Path (MEGDP).

Priority areas

- The 10-year plan envisages the creation of 720 000 jobs by 2020, but Premier Mabuza warns that it could only take place if the provincial economy grows at a rate of five to seven per cent per annum.
- The main drivers of economic growth will be the agriculture, forestry, mining, energy, tourism, and cultural sectors, and will enjoy priority.
- Agencies such as the MEGA, MTPA and MRTT, will be central to the province's economic well-being, and be strengthened accordingly.
- A further step along the agenda is combating poverty among the rural poor. Interventions will take place at household level, and run in conjunction with macro interventions such as the Masibuyele Emasimini programme, encouraging people to utilise their land more positively by providing technical and infrastructural support.
- Access to markets will be improved, and skills development will take place.
- Government has reiterated its commitment to promote and facilitate affordable rental and a socially integrated housing market.
- And lastly plans of integrated settlements in Klarinet, Balfour and Thaba Chweu, which started last year, will be expanded to include Emakhazeni.

Indonesian Business Meeting



Dr. Peter Verrijdt and Premier David Mabuza



MEC Norman Mokoena shows Ambassador Sjahril Sabaruddin in the Legislature building



Mr. William Lubisi (Speaker of the Mpumalanga Legislature) and Ambassador Sjahril Sabaruddin

An official visit by Indonesian Ambassador Mr. Sjahril Sabaruddin to South Africa begun a journey that will create a dynamic relationship between the Province and the Archipelago Nation.

This will result in a huge increase in bi-lateral trade, increase export of sugar, grains, pulp, agricultural commodities and manufactured goods. The aim of the initiative is to create jobs, new investments and business opportunities for entrepreneurs on both sides.

The Ambassador met with Mpumalanga Premier, Mr. David Mabuza, MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Mr. Norman Mokoena and Speaker of the Mpumalanga Legislature, Mr. William Lubisi on the 27th January 2011 at the Government Complex in Nelspruit.

The discussions centred on a framework to bring delivery to the Provincial Growth and Development

Strategy (PGDS). Included in the framework, is the cooperation agreements on entrepreneurial, SMME and small farmer training; assistance with the development of co-operatives; the acquisition of appropriate technology, alternate renewable energy; the establishment of an Indonesia/Mpumalanga Business Support Centre, and several other topics.

The timing of the visit is perfect because it will motivate the foreign diplomatic community in South Africa, in its efforts to assist government to create sustainable employment and increased growth through foreign direct investment (FDI) and increased bi-lateral trade.

The Ambassador is scheduled to make a follow up visit to the province to meet the Mayors of the Gert Sibande District Municipality, Thaba Chweu Local Municipality, and Nkomazi Local Municipality to familiarise himself with the economic and agricultural sectors in those areas.

Opening of opportunities Enterp

At least 18 people from various parts of Mpumalanga will be able to live a better life should they be able to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams accordingly. This is after the MEC for the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism; Mr. MN (Norman) Mokoena awarded 18 certificates to the winners of the Mpumalanga 2010 SMME *Business LaunchPad* competition which was held at Ingwenyama Lodge in Whiteriver, on 30 November 2010.

“The Government's New Growth path calls for the creation of 5-million new jobs. Many of these must

come from the small business sector, and we believe it is our job in the province to actively create an enabling environment to assist in the development of entrepreneurship. This project goes beyond just creating an environment. It actively seeks to encourage and inspire, and to get people to put their plans down on paper so that we can identify the ones with real talent and potential for further support,” said MEC Mokoena during his keynote address.

The purpose of the *SMME Business LaunchPad* is to identify those entrepreneurs who have potential and then link them to opportunities and support. In 2010, approximately 1 200 entries were received for the

Colly Mabela and
Phindani Mokoena

Programme Director, Maanda Mungulwa, Project Director: Martin Feinstein,
MD - Traction, MEC N. Mokoena and HOD R. Tshukudu

Listening attentively



doors

for Mpumalanga

reneurs

competition. Only 54 finalists were short listed on various categories and 18 winners walked away with certificates, business start-up packages which included laptops and business software, amongst other things.

The Director of Enterprise Development, Mr. Peter Maseko said "We will really work hard to support the 2009 - 2010 winners, in partnership with MEGA and SEDA. We want to support our winners until they can run successful businesses - through mentorship, training and other means, including assistance with exhibiting at national and international trade pavilions, and through procurement opportunities."

"These are our entrepreneurs, from our province, with the potential to create jobs and opportunities for our people. We must not let them down - we need to join forces to ensure that we do everything to encourage and advance their success," said the HOD, Mr. R Tshukudu.

This year's winners will be traveling to Johannesburg in March 2011 to compete in the National *Business LaunchPad* competition, where they will be representing the province against approximately 100 other finalists.

MEC N. Mokoena with Ms Johanna Moriti,
Co-owner of JO-M Cosmetics



SMME Business Launchpad Winners



Major Mpumalanga investment projects attract potential investors

A joint initiative of the *dedet*, Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency and Mpumalanga Tourism Parks Agency with strong support from the national Department of Tourism and a number of other stakeholders saw the successful conclusion of its Tourism and Infrastructure Summit, on the 22 February 2011 held at Skukuza Camp, Kruger National Park.

The objective was to get Mpumalanga on the global map as a competitive, business-friendly investment destination; to make available a platform for investors to meet with global business and political leaders, and to discuss how to leverage on the success of the 2010 World Cup in order to fast track the province's tourism and investment linkages to create more jobs.



Mr. G Dladla (Acting CEO MEGA) and Mr. S Mahlalela (Chairperson of the board of MTPA) getting ready for the event to start

“Tourism is one of the leading economic sectors in Mpumalanga, one of South Africa's top five regional contributors to GDP, and a critical player in efforts to create jobs and poverty alleviation. It is identified as a job driver in Government's latest job creation blue print, the New Growth Path.”

- MEC Mokoena



Ms. Pinky Nqeto (MEGA)

MEC Norman Mokoena and Ms. Tokozile Xasa (Deputy Minister of Tourism) greets Mr. Fernando Sumbana Jr. (Mozambican Tourism Minister)



Packages of projects were presented to the potential investors, giving them a picture of the current planned infrastructure plans, mainly in the tourism sector. Of the 15 projects presented, the province aims to develop a Blyde Cable Cars-transporting tourists from the top of the canyon to the peninsula in the middle of Blyde Dam. They also seek to develop the Byde Skywalke - a project that will take place at God's Window, allowing visitors a view of the Lowveld. The skywalk is a cantilevered glass walkway that protrudes from an elevated view point giving 360 degrees panoramic view. Another exciting project is the development of a World Class theme/ Amusement Park which will be located in the Loskop Area, and will create 2000 direct jobs and 6000 indirect jobs.

The projects in question, are conservatively valued in excess of R3 billion. The job creation opportunities linked to those projects that will benefit Mpumalanga are estimated to create between 50,000 – 100,000 jobs for the province.

As the Summit drew to a close, Geoffrey Lipman, Ai Advisory Board member, UN World Tourism, said; “This is an ideal time for African tourism investment, coming off the back of an incredibly successful FIFA 2010 and heading into a decade where the global leadership focus will be on green growth and low carbon operations. Africa is perfectly placed to capitalize on this because its tourism product is environmentally and socially grounded.”

The Summit attracted high-level delegates including Zimbabwe’s Minister of Tourism and Hospitality Industry, Hon. Eng W. Mzembe, and Mozambiquan Minister Hon. Fernando Sumbana.

Also speaking at the summit, Mr. Blessing Manale, Deputy Director- General for the Maputo Corridor in *the dedet* said, “As from 1 April, we need to unlock government funds, and complete outstanding business plans, and the appropriate development approvals (land acquisitions, EIAs etc). We need to line up our systems and institutional planning to ensure that this process does not lose momentum.”

Premier to launch the CRDP in Senotlelo

In order to enhance the standard of living for the rural poor, Premier Mabuza will on Friday, 15 April 2011, launch the **Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP)** at Senotlelo in the Dr J.S Moroka Local Municipality. The launch will focus primarily on benefiting residents in the seven (7) identified municipalities, namely, Dr J.S Moroka, Thembisile Hani, Chief Albert Luthuli, Mkhondo, Pixley Ka-Isaka Seme, Bushbuckridge, and Nkomazi.

The Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) is **strategic priority number 3** within the government's current Medium Term Strategic Framework. The CRDP is implemented under Outcome 7 which strives for *Vibrant, Equitable, Sustainable Rural Communities and Food Security for all*. The CRDP is different from past government strategies in rural areas because it is premised on a proactive participatory community-based planning approach rather than an interventionist approach to rural development.

The vision of creating vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities is achieved through a three-pronged strategy based on:

- a coordinated and integrated broad-based agrarian transformation;
- strategically increasing rural development; and
- an improved land reform programme.

The CRDP requires a coordinated strategy to meet the diverse needs of the communities and therefore the participation of various departments across the different spheres of government, non-governmental organizations, research institutions and communities are vital.

The overarching CRDP strategic objectives are:

- more inclusive economic growth, decent work and sustainable livelihoods
- economic and social infrastructure
- rural development, food security and land reform
- access to quality education
- improved health care
- the fight against crime and corruption
- cohesive and sustainable communities
- creation of a better Africa and a better world
- sustainable resource management and use
- a developmental state including improvement of public services.



The following are the dedet's contribution to the CRDP:

PROJECTS	MUNICIPALITIES	
Construction and equipping bakeries	Chief Albert Luthuli Mkhondo Dr JS Moroka	Thembisile Hani Pixley Ka Isaka Seme
Construction of vegetables production Tunnels	Chief Albert Luhuli Dr JS Moroka	Mkhondo Thembisile Hani
Construction of Brick Factory	Mkhondo	Bushbuckridge
Revitalisation of Poultry project	Bushbuckridge	
Establishment of Nursery and Planting of trees	All CRDP Municipalities	
Establishment of water bottling plant	Mkhondo	
Revitalization of the Champagne Juice factory	Bushbuckridge	
Revitalisation of Zithabiseni Resort	Thembisile Hani	
Construction of the Komati River Lodge Songimvelo Nature Reserve	Chief Albert Luthuli	
Pallets manufacturing plant	Mkhondo Thaba Chweu	Albert Luthuli
Fish farming production	Nkomazi Emakhazeni Bushbuckridge	Albert Luthuli Dr JS Moroka Mkhondo
Filter bags	All municipalities	
Paint making projects	All municipalities	
Battery recharging and reconditioning technology	Nkangala	Gert Sibande district
Chemicals and detergent production	Lekwa	
Coffin and Casket production	Dr. JS Moroka	
Special type charcoal production	All CRDP Municipalities	
Frozen vegetable production	All CRDP Municipalities	
School shoes manufacturing	Lekwa Nkangala Bushbuckridge	Victor Khanye Malelane
Plastic, paper and bottle recycling	Nkangala	Ehlanzeni
Juice bottling production plant	Pixley Ka Isaka Seme	Msukaligwa
Food processing plant	All Municipalities	

Resource Allocation and Delivery Framework

Building up Capacity

Considering the capacity challenges, all departments have deployed middle management officials to participate in the implementation of the CRDP in the local wards. Working with the private sector, it is envisaged that the local capacity will be built over time.

Skills Development

Considering the low skills within the province, the CRDP has prioritized the Skills Development Programme as one of the priority projects. Through this programme the people, more particular the youth are trained on various building - related trades and social services skills. With the necessary skills, they

are able to participate in the construction industry and become employable.

Community Empowerment

Local people are given preference in the various projects mainly on construction with support from the professional teams. The people are also being mobilized to form cooperatives which are used as a base for the implementation of projects stated above, amongst others.

The dedet will be kick - starting a Nursery in Marapyane first, and in all CRDP municipalities thereafter. We will ensure that all plants for the greening are procured from local nurseries of the province. The department will also be handing over a bakkie to a women owned bakery co-operative at Lefiso, Dr. JS Moroka Municipality.

Mpumalanga's Wetlands a helping

The *dedet* has made a public appeal to the community to protect Mpumalanga's wetlands. This was said during the Provincial Wetlands Celebration held at Chrissiesmeer on the 02 February 2011. The aim of this day was to create awareness on the benefits that wetlands provide and to highlight the need for society to appreciate the value and function of wetlands.

What is a Wetland?

Wetlands can be described as areas with poor drainage. The soil in these areas is permanently, seasonally or temporary saturated with water. Wetlands are essential in a water-scarce country like South Africa, yet an estimated 50% of South Africa's wetlands have been destroyed or converted. There are more than 800 natural occurring freshwater wetlands in South Africa, and only 14% have full protection and 4% are partly protected.

One of these areas, the Chrissies lake area, is known for its unusually high density of lakes and pans that are characterised as closed basins, each with their own isolated catchment. This assemblage of pans in the Mpumalanga Lakes District is considered to have the highest concentration of permanently inundated pans in Southern Africa that need to be preserved and protected.



Mr. Jaco Prinsloo (resident of Chrissiesmeer) gives a tour of the area

“endangered”

s get

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“Take care of our natural resources and protect Mpumalanga's wetlands. Keep them in good condition and rehabilitate those that are degraded.

This will avoid unnecessary suffering due to draughts and floods that can compromise our livelihoods,” said the director of Environmental Education, Dr. Almarie de Lange.

Ways in which the public can protect wetlands are:

- Do not dump waste in wetlands;
- Adhere to the approved urban development plans that clearly define wetland boundaries and buffer zones as no development areas;
- Do not litter or pollute our water ways as this enters and overloads our wetlands;
- Organise or participate in clean-ups in your area;
- Report the abuse of wetlands to your local nature conservation, agricultural extension officer or Department of Environment Affairs.

The *dedet* intends to do its part by organizing workshops and information sessions which will be held in all 18 Municipal areas, backed up with exhibitions and media outreach programmes.

“The Department has developed an Environmental Management Framework as a means to ensure sustainable environmental management of these natural assets in the area”, said Chief Director of Environmental Services, Mr. Sam Maluleka.



Clr. Selby Zwane (speaker) and Mr. Sam Maluleka (Chief Director of Environmental Services)

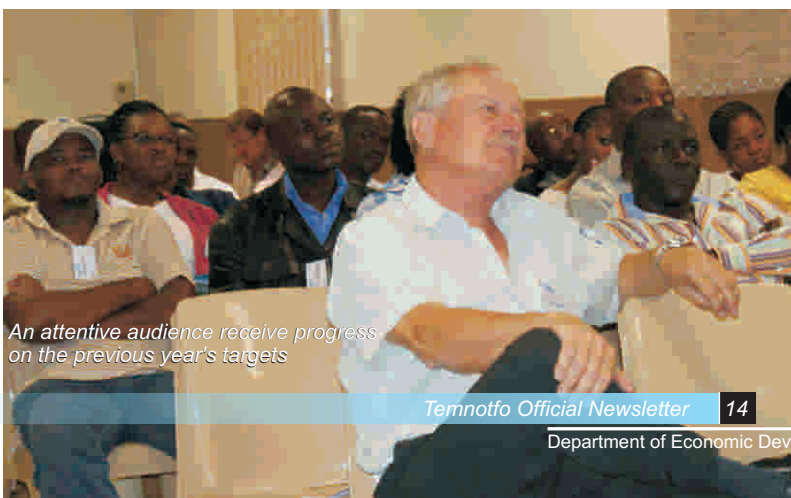
A Decade of Education Sustainable Dev

The province together (with other DESD partners), through the Directorate Environmental Awareness and Education, (*the dedet*) hosted the annual DESD conference/indaba on the 24th February 2011 in Pilgrims Rest, to report on progress of the previous year's targets and commitments, to mitigate challenges and to set new targets for the coming year.

The Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) was launched in Mpumalanga on the 15th of November 2005, through the United National General Assembly, to adapt the resolution to establish a DESD for the period 2005 – 2014. This is to underline the importance of concerned action and to ensure that patterns of sustainable development offer a high quality of life for all, both present and future generations.

The MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Mr. M.N. Mokoena, stated in his

message of support: “The implementation of the DESD at provincial level is a *very important* multi – stakeholder process because it not only aims at implementing the international, continental and national concerns through local initiatives, but also addresses outputs that are linked to the Delivery Agreement for Outcome 10. The DESD is a provincial deliverable for Mpumalanga under the sub -output environmental sustainability: **scaling up environmental education, awareness and voluntary activism**. The Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism is playing a leading role in the Province in terms of the co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation of the DESD without compromising the inter-departmental stakeholder approach. This ensures the optimal use of resources at the most affordable cost to the clients (value for money). This approach includes government and intergovernmental bodies, civil society and NGO's, private sector and media and advertising agencies.”



An attentive audience receive progress on the previous year's targets



Mr. Surgeon Marabané (dedet) wins lucky draw from sappi's Ms. Elsabe Coetzee

on for velopment



Mr A Madonsela receives a gift from Ms T Henning

Currently there are 3 provincial Working Groups;

- The Water and Wetlands Working Group
- The Greening Working Group
- The Waste Working Group

The 3 working groups' overall goal is to integrate the principles, values and practices of sustainable development into aspects of education and learning.

"The DESD encourages changes in behavior that will create a more sustainable future in terms of environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society for present and future generations," said Mr. S. Maluleka, Chief Director Environmental Services, during the event.

The dedet will draw up combined DESD provincial reports (quarterly and annually) in collaboration with the 3 working group's coordinators in terms of the implementation of Education for Sustainable Development in Mpumalanga.

Mr. Maluleka further said, "As the provincial host of the 2011 DESD Indaba, we trust that this assembly will strengthen the networking amongst all relevant stakeholders in terms of education for sustainable development and guide the DESD process for 2011-2012 with a workable Annual Implementation Plan."



Mr S Msibi and Mr S Nkosi



Ms. S Mashego (speaker)

deddet leads the Economic

The challenges of the global recession, high levels of unemployment, inequalities and underdevelopment, present a compelling need for us to collectively define a new growth trajectory for the economy.

The task team on the MEGDP led by the HOD met with a delegation from COSATU for consultations on the Growth Path.

To achieve the targets set by the provincial growth path, (5) five areas have identified to propel job creation and inclusivity in the provincial economy.

Through the Infrastructure Sector: we intend to focus on investing more in the massive expansion of transport, energy, water, communications capacity and housing. This is underpinned by a strong focus on domestic industry to supply the components for the building programmes.

Strategic Infrastructure projects will include amongst others:

- The University in the Province
- Tertiary Hospital
- Komatipoort Logistic Hub (Dry port and Industrial Park) & the recapitalisation of the Komatipoort train station.

- Fresh Produce Market
- Bio-mass plant
- Mining Supplier Parks
- Industrial Parks in Strategic towns
- Crafts Hub
- Sports Academy
- Broadband Infrastructure
- Commercialisation or partnerships of state reserves
- Upgrading the Coal Haulage

Our target in this sector is to create **15 000 jobs per annum**.

The growth path will also be focusing on **growing the agricultural sector** throughout the entire value chain to create jobs, reduce poverty and inequalities.

We shall continue exploring ways to further unlock the province's natural resources for the benefit of our communities.

Special attention is therefore going to be paid to the following sectors this year:

- Mining
- Agriculture
- Infrastructure
- Green Economy



road to Recovery

HOD among the Growth Path project team

In order to achieve this, the government had various consultative sessions with a broad base of stakeholders inclusive of sector departments, state-owned Enterprises, district and local municipalities, organised labour, civil society and the business sector. The roundtable session was one of a series of scheduled consultations. The intention was to solicit inputs into a draft framework for MEGDP.



Mr. Mosotho Kgaka makes his presentation

COSATU welcomed the process of developing the Provincial Growth Path while raising pertinent issues that the path must embrace. Speaking at the plenary session held in Nelspruit, Mr. Fidel Mlombo Provincial Secretary of COSATU said, "with the unemployment rate being 43%, we must set our sights at growing a development strategy, for the success of the province we need active participation from government, big business and other social partners."

The Growth Path project team will incorporate the inputs and comments gathered, into a draft MEGDP.



Nkosinathi Nkonyani (Director Policy and Planning) with Jabulani Mtsweni (Director Planning and coordination)



Agri-BEE Seminar in action

*Programme Director:
Mr. Lekgeme Mapheto (the dedet)*

As part of a series of workshops that the directorate Economic Empowerment is embarking on in the three districts of the province, an Agri-BEE seminar was held at Ermelo on the 10 March 2011 to create awareness about BBBEEE.

The workshop took into account Development Funding Institutions that are dominant in the district namely; the National Development Agency, MEGA and the IDC in order to provide more information to the businesses and farmers about the services available from government and its agencies.

According to the State of the Nation Address debate, National Assembly, by Minister of Economic Development Ebrahim Patel, "The Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) will make R5 billion available over the next five years for investments in the agro-processing activities."

"Special funding is available at the IDC for this purpose, entrepreneurs in the Mpumalanga province are thus challenged to approach the IDC with commercially viable business proposals," explained Clara Ramushu regional manager of the IDC.

The workshop focused on Agri-BBEE as one of the sectors that are dominant in Gert Sibande District and that have the potential to grow the district's economy and create more jobs.

The seminars aim is to give people more understanding about Agri-BBEE Charters and how they can apply it to their advantage in developing

environment established by government, to implement it through the establishment of the Agri-BEE Fund, Industrial Development Corporation, MEGA and the National Emerging Red Meat Production Organisation.

The seminar also aims to stimulate interaction and networking amongst business people in Mpumalanga and to create a platform for successful business people to share their business experiences with others.

Immy Serakalala, Director of Economic Empowerment explains, "The awareness seminar seeks to ensure that entrepreneurs get the necessary information on BBBEE and access support from various government departments and its agencies, particularly Funding Support. Information is disseminated, contacts are shared, and emerging entrepreneurs are given an opportunity to directly interact with big business and Development Funding Institution like the (IDC, MEGA, NDA) so that their questions can be answered and further referrals and support provided."

The workshop also explored some of the opportunities that are available in large companies like Simba that uses potatoes, maize and corn to produce their final products; namely Simba Chips, Lays, Nik Naks etc.

Mr. A. Selokane from Pepsi Company (Simba) says "Simba is fully committed to the BBBEE program, to date Simba has registered 15 students from Badplaas and Malelane within the Lowveld College of Agriculture to study a 3 year diploma in Plant Production - Potatoes."

Youth Shine

at the Entrepreneur Awards

Three young people received the Mpumalanga Youth Entrepreneur awards during a ceremony held at the Government Sports fields on the 16th November 2010.

The aim of these awards is to assist the youth to start or develop their operational businesses by buying the necessary equipment and materials equivalent to their prize money they received.

Young people were invited to submit business plans to a panel of judges and the best three won the prizes.

“The judges were looking for viable businesses plans that showed an opportunity to create jobs for the owner, and his / her employees. “The business plan must outline clear sustainability plans, marketing plans and realistic financial projections”, said Mr. Peter Maseko Director of Enterprise Development.

Delivering a keynote address, Mr. R.S Tshukdu, the Head of Department mentioned that, “As part of rules, the prizes will not be cash. It will be equipment and materials as reflected on the business plans that were submitted. The winners will also be mentored and assisted by the department and its partners to ensure that their businesses are sustainable.”

A total of 69 business plans were received, and only 15 were shortlisted to make presentations. The top 3 from the 15 were:

Position	Name and company of winners	Value of prizes
1st Prize winner	Phumzile Sihlangu (Samkelisiwe Farming Project)	R150.000.00
2nd Prize winner	Bongane Mathabelu (Phakama Africa Co-operative)	R100.000.00
3rd Prize winner	Nomsa Tembe (Penab Projects)	R80.000.00

“ I feel very happy, the prize will now allow me to fit an electric pump, build a dam, buy seedlings and employ more people to grow my business”, said an elated Phumzile Sihlangu who got the first prize.

Last year's winner Julia Shungube gave words of encouragement during her presentation and urged the youth to grab all opportunities that come their way. “I had the opportunity to go to China funded by *the dti*. The purpose of the trip was to exhibit as well as to create new markets for my products which are mainly cosmetics made from natural ingredients.”

The programme is also aimed to meet the challenges faced by young people in the province. This was made possible by the Department of Economic Development Environment and Tourism in partnership with SEDA, MEGA, NYDA, KHULA and Standard Bank.

MEGA

MPUMALANGA ECONOMIC GROWTH AGENCY

WE GROW OPPORTUNITY

- Agriculture
- Foreign Investment
- International Trade
- Enterprise Development
- Infrastructure and Housing

**MEGA is the Official Economic Development Agency
for Mpumalanga Province - South Africa**

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