



the **dedet**

Department:
Economic Development, Environment and Tourism
MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

Temnotfo

Mpumalanga's economic story, in our words

Department:
Economic Development, Environment and Tourism
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Economic Development, Environment and Tourism
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Renewed interest in Labour Laws

should not take us back ...

COP 17

Durban

MEC Mokoena
continues consultations
with the stakeholders on the proposed MEGDP

Mpumalanga Tourism Month

Litiko Letekutfutukiswa Kwetemnotfo,
Simondzawo netekuVakasha

Umnyango WezokuThuthukiswa KoMnotho,
iBhoduluko nezamaVakatjho

Department van Ekonomiese Ontwikkeling,
Omgewing en Toerisme

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HOD's remarks

Dr. Vusanani Dlamini



As we persist with our quest to implement the Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Path (MEGDP), we continue with consultations to engage our stakeholders so that we ensure that this process becomes a success. We clearly want to honour our mandate of fostering economic growth that creates jobs, reduces poverty and inequality. This mandate was further fulfilled when MEC MN Mokoena donated a house for Womens Month and a Bakery to a Co-operative.

We held a two day Climate Change Summit, ahead of the upcoming 17th conference for climate talks MEC Norman Mokoena has emphasized that Climate change poses a serious to the existence of human beings and other living organisms, and if drastic measures are not taken, climate change will continue to the biggest treat towards our environment. As *the dedet*, we are mandated to address environmental issues and that is why we held this Provincial Summit.

Tourism Month launch was celebrated at Siyabuswa where four celebrities were nominated as Mpumalanga tourism ambassadors.

This publication is meant to give you an insight as to what our Department and government continue to do to fulfil our mandate, and also what we plan to do going forward.

Dr V Dlamini
Head of Department



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MEC Mokoena continues consultations with the stakeholders on the proposed *MEGDP*

The number of consultations conducted so far, with respect to the proposed Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Path (*MEGDP*), clearly indicates yet another vigorous effort by the Department of Economic Development, Environment and tourism to respond to the call made by the President of the country, that of “Job creation”.

The Mpumalanga Provincial government saw it fit to develop a Growth Path that seeks to address the challenges faced by the people of the province, following the adoption of the National Growth Path.

The Growth Path is aimed at fostering economic growth that *creates jobs, reduces poverty and inequality*.

Through the *MEGDP*, the province aims to create 719 000 new jobs over the next ten years. It is anchored on six job drivers, that is:

- Infrastructure for employment and development
- Job creation in economic sectors
- New/ emerging economies such as the Green Economy
- Investing in social capital and Public Service
- Rural Development
- Regional and International co-operation

As part of the consultation process, a task team led by MEC Norman Mokoena has already met with the following stakeholders;

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ▫ Xstrata Coal | ▫ MMC |
| ▫ SACCI | ▫ Labour Market Forum |
| ▫ SASOL | ▫ Anglo Platinum and Chamber of mines |
| ▫ Leadership of COSATU | ▫ Witbank Chamber of Commerce |
| ▫ Leadership of NAFCOC | ▫ Tourism and Cultural Industries |
| ▫ York Timber | |
| ▫ Mondi | |
| ▫ TSB | |
| ▫ SAPPI | |

Once all stakeholders have been consulted, their inputs and comments will be integrated in the *MEGDP*, and the strategy document will be submitted to the Executive Council of Mpumalanga for adoption and approval.



MEC Norman Mokoena and Neren Rau, CEO of SACCI, shake hands after the *MEGDP* consultation.



MEC Norman Mokoena, provincial delegation and SASOL management pose for a group photo after a successful consultation.

Renewed interest in Labour Laws should not take us back to unnecessary and self-defeating workplace conflicts



Over the past few weeks, our country has been entertained by commentary and accounts, critical of our labour laws. It started with an actually innocent remark by a Minister, in favour of a review of certain elements of the laws in order to promote youth employment prospects. Unfortunately, around that time the International Monetary Fund (IMF) released its annual Article IV report (which reflects on staff comments based on bilateral discussions with SA government officials) and then, another nail in the coffin, was last week's World Economic Forum (WEF) Competitiveness Index which, whilst showing an improvement (SA moved up four places), is reported to indicate that SA is pulled down by 'lack of labour market efficiency'.

This renewed interest in the labour laws ought to be welcomed given the size of our unemployment problem (25.7 per cent or 4.5 million people in June 2011) and the ongoing policy reviews and refinements to support the objectives of government's New Growth Path (NGP). However, we should be concerned and extremely worried when there is an attempt to use this context to impose upon us outdated approaches to the regulation of the labour market, and adopt reforms that have a potential to destabilise work-places and the broader economy.

The Presidency's Ten Year Review published in 2003 and based on research undertaken by various and often independent experts, had this to say about labour market regulation in the country: "South Africa has made great progress in introducing and amending labour laws that give employers and employees' certainty and security in their employment relationship. The huge fall in person-strike-days per year bears testimony to the success of the policy. The balance between the degree of job security and the kind of labour market flexibility that encourages employers to take on new employees is being negotiated amongst the economic role-players" (p39).

MEC Mokoena talks to the nation

This statement aptly reflected the enormous strides that the country had made in labour market regulations since 1994.

A labour market review of our country by experts under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour and International Labour Organization (ILO), in the mid 1990's, found that we had inherited in the labour market some form of 'regulated rigidity' characterized by a complex structure of regulations, but that overtime, this rigidity was 'selective', as many workers were excluded from collective bargaining or protective legislation.

Our labour market also bore the scars of other apartheid era policies such as the Pass laws, influx controls, job reservation, regional development policies, and Bantu Education which had impacted negatively.

So there is simply little doubt that the new-ANC led government had to act to address this legacy.

Many seem to be unaware of the reality that the labour laws of the post-apartheid democratic dispensation were both an imperative of our new Constitution, and much needed efficiency objectives in the labour market.

The Labour Relations Act, 1995; Basic Conditions of Employment Act, 1997; Employment Equity Act, 1997, Skills Development Act (1998) and Skills Development Levies Act (1999), and their amend-ments over time, were all attempts to change things.

The approach undertaken in introducing and amending these laws was innovative in emphasizing the importance of both business and workers (supported by government) finding each other across the bargaining table. There are various anecdotal accounts of the testing nature of the negotiations and how sometimes the compromise was reached, often at the early hours of the morning. 'Voice Regulation' and 'regulated flexibility' entered our discourse describing the efforts to reach a 'balance' through negotiations at the time.

The implicit view in some circles, that our labour laws are wrong or a distortion that leads to unemployment, is unfortunately historical and sadly out of touch with more recent approaches to labour market regulation.

We have already outlined above why labour laws had to be introduced or amended after 1994. The labour market had been the cornerstone of an unjust and repressive system, and had to be radically changed. The new Constitution entrenched the right to fair labour practices, freedom of association, collective bargaining and strikes (section 24). For once, rights at work were to be enjoyed by all and not a select few.

The knee-jerk condemnation of the new labour laws and labour market institutions was to be expected as they were introduced at a time when the dominant so-called Washington Consensus was suspicious or hostile to them. The World Bank had written in 1990, that "Labour market

policies – minimum wages, job security regulations, and social security – are usually intended to raise welfare or reduce exploitation. But they actually work to raise the cost of labor in the formal sector and reduce labor demand ... increase the supply of labor to the rural and urban informal sectors, and thus depress labor incomes where most of the poor are found".

However, as some analysts have noted, with time and the accumulation of evidence on these policies, the World Bank had to modify its views, but the initial ideas remained useful for many pursuing a pro-business and anti-worker agenda. Hence today, the criticisms of our labour laws focuses on their 'unintended' consequences and how by raising labour costs (not easy to hire and fire, minimum wages and extension of bargaining agreements to non-parties etc.), they hurt in particular youth in the labour force, small businesses and the unemployed.

Sadly, whilst these arguments are repeated again and again, there is hardly any evidence provided to back them up! An earlier firm level survey conducted by the World Bank and the then Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council found that some 60 percent of respondents suggested that 'all labour legislation combined had no cumulative impact on their employment decisions'.

The evidence as reflected in the study by the Presidency indicates that our labour laws are an important tool for workplace stability. There is also evidence from the OECD that countries that have adopted a combination of labour flexibility with worker security have actually delivered better outcomes.

As we pursue employment enhancing policy reforms, let us be careful not to accept popular ideas that are not backed by solid evidence as the consequences may be great and lead to workplace tensions unseen before.

The seminal book edited by David Howell titled "Fighting unemployment: the Limits of Free Market Orthodoxy," presents a useful collection of cross-country experiences that show that "preventing falling wages, reducing high earning inequalities and not allowing excessive job insecurities actually requires strong labour market policies and institutions, and these are not at all incompatible with low unemployment rates."

The labour laws and institutions in our country are a product of much needed compromise between workers and business. It is in this spirit that we should further evaluate or refine them.

The emerging populist pro-business and anti-worker agenda should be defeated at all costs because it will only take our country backwards, whilst failing to deliver the much promised employment or stability in the world of work.

Norman Mokoena is Mpumalanga's MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and the Member of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature. He writes in his official capacity.



MEC Norman Mokoena and the former HoD R. Tshukudu listen attentively

SMME Business Launchpad reaches 1000



Some of the winners



Addressing the audience

Mpumalanga Provincial Government through the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism launched the final year of the existence of the SMME Business Launchpad competition recently. The competition has produced promising Entrepreneurs since its inception in 2008.

The intention of the programme is to:

- Link the new and existing SMMEs to business opportunities in the economic, infrastructure and environmental development sectors,
- Prioritise and support the creation and expansion of SMMEs which have significant job creation potential, and

Business Launchpad reaches its final lap



MEC Norman Mokoena with Ms J Moriti, Co-owner of JO-M Cosmetics and acting Chief Director Peter Maseko



Buri Rachoene and Bongani Mowenya



Vusi Makamu and Mantwa Mnisi

- Identify and assist individuals in Mpumalanga who want to start new business or expand an existing ones.

Workshops will be conducted throughout the province in order to encourage business start-ups and small business expansion.

Each winner from various categories in the programme receives the following:

- A laptop computer and Microsoft office software;
- Eight credits at NQF level 4 on the National Learners Records Database;
- Small business management compendium;
- Winner logo and certificate; and
- Valuable media exposure.



SIMME business Launchpad Winners smile for the camera

Immy Serakalala, MEC N Mokoena, Executive Mayor, Emalahleni Cllr S Sithole pose for a photo in front of the dedet stall

The construction of Kusile Power Plant in Mpumalanga

Emalahleni – The construction of Kusile Power Plant in Mpumalanga will leave a legacy that people of Mpumalanga will be proud of. This was the sentiment expressed by the MEC for Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Norman Mokoena, when speaking at the official opening of the Kusile Power Station Exhibition at Emalahleni on 07 July 2011.

He said direct construction employment is estimated at 10 000 jobs at peak, whilst ongoing direct employment is estimated at 12 750 jobs, with a total of 51 000 people to be directly impacted on by the project.

Since its inception, more than 7000 job opportunities have been created, and out of that, 4000 were recruited around Emalahleni.

“The construction of the Kusile Power station comes at the time when our country is in dire need of employment opportunities, where majority of our people are unemployed particularly the youth,” stressed Mokoena.

The plant, which will cost R169 Billion once completed in 2018, is expected to empower people of Nkangala District and Mpumalanga as a whole. It is expected to see the procurement process favouring established companies that will transfer their skills to the local entrepreneurs, and its tendering process made more accessible to the people from the province.



MEC Mokoena visits exhibition stalls

“We expect Eskom as a strategic wing of government to adopt and aggressively implement a strategy necessary to address the systematic exclusion of the majority of South Africans from fully participating in the economy,” said Mokoena.

Also in attendance, was the Emalahleni Executive Mayor Councillor, Salome Sithole who urged contractors to take advantage of the procurement opportunities that are offered by Eskom through the construction of the Kusile Power station.

“This exhibition provided by Eskom will change the perception that people have about the procurement processes in Eskom. This initiative will give contractors an opportunity to participate fully in the main stream economy of the country through the Black Economic Empowerment initiatives,” said Ms Sithole.

Government is positive that contractors already supplying Eskom, will offer emerging contractors information and opportunities that involve procurement activities, skills development programmes, employment creation and corporate social investment programmes available for the

MEC Mokoena donates a house during Women's Month

Kanyamazane - The dignity of a 81 year old woman who has been staying with eight grandchildren in an dilapidated shack in Entokozweni has been restored by the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism; Mr Norman Mokoena and Ligwlagwala FM radio personality Gugu Nyarenda when they donated a house to Lomazulu Caith Shongwe.

Gogo Shongwe has been staying with her eight grandchildren for a long time and was discovered by Mrs Skosane, who then wrote a letter to SABC Radio through Masakhane project.

"When I received the letter I was touched, and I wanted to make a positive impact in another woman's life. I can now proudly say that with the support of my family, friends and the community, we have made a difference in the life of Ms Shongwe. There are a number of people who are poor, but I believe that if we work together and have an attitude of helping people we would assist the country to be a better place," said Gugu Nyarenda.

Speaking during the handover of the house, the MEC, Mr Mokoena emphasised the importance of a partnership between government and the community to improve the lives of our people. "We must ensure that we work together, because if we work in isolation, we won't achieve anything. I would also like to congratulate Gugu on behalf of the people in the Province, for her efforts in assisting those who do not have anything. Today Gogo Shongwe's life has been changed for the better."

The MEC's sentiments were echoed by Miss Mpumalanga, Mpumi Lephoko (the ambassador of the Province) who urged the community to protect the family, and not to take advantage nor abuse them.

A grateful Gogo Shongwe, could not hide her excitement and happiness when the MEC and Gugu handed the house and a food hamper to her.

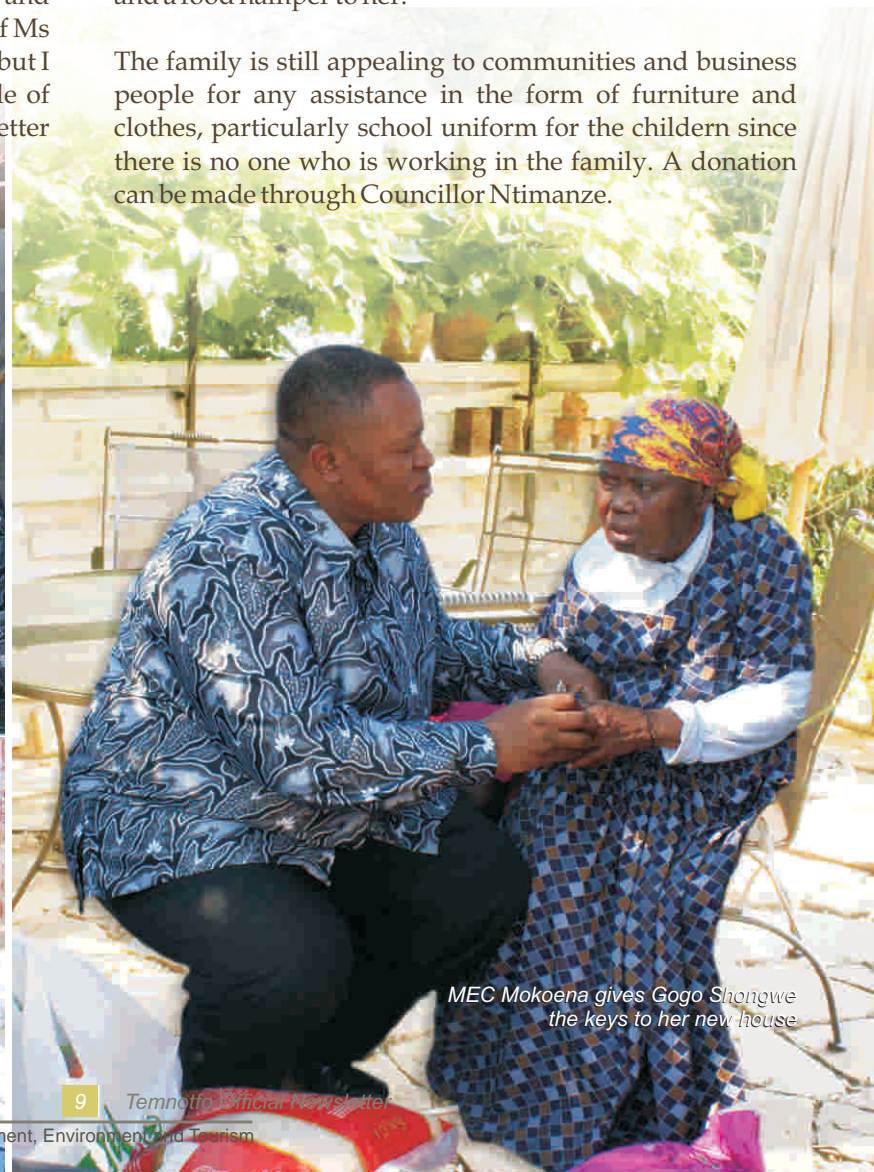
The family is still appealing to communities and business people for any assistance in the form of furniture and clothes, particularly school uniform for the children since there is no one who is working in the family. A donation can be made through Councillor Ntimanze.



MEC Norman Mokoena and Miss Mpumalanga Mpumi Lephoko at the opening of the house



MEC Norman Mokoena cut off the ribbon to open the new house of Gogo Shongwe



MEC Mokoena gives Gogo Shongwe the keys to her new house

MEC Mokoena donates a bakkie to a women 's bakery co-operative

Lefiso – As part of a contribution towards the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme in the Province, the Department of Economic Development Environment and Tourism and its entity, the Mpumalanga Growth Economic Agency donated a state of the art bakkie to Arejeng Women's Co-operative at Lefiso in the Dr J.S Moroka Municipality.

Speaking during the proceedings at Arejeng premises, the MEC for Economic Development Environment and Tourism Norman Mokoena said “the event clearly indicates yet another vigorous effort by government towards rural development. Rural development was identified as one of the critical priority areas out of five

government priorities and Dr J.S Moroka Municipality was identified as one of the Seven CRDP beneficiaries. We will continue to work with municipalities especially those identified to benefit through the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme. We will assist Arejeng Co-operative just like other co-operatives that we have assisted, and ensure that it grows from strength to strength. The bakkie will assist the co-operatives to function optimally,” concluded MEC Mokoena.

Mokoena’s sentiments were echoed by MEGA’s Acting CEO, Mr Rabeng Tshukudu, who promised the Co-operative that Arejeng Bakery would move to a better premises where they will not pay rent.



MEC Mokoena address the people gathered at the handover event



MEC Mokoena officially hand over the bakkie to Arejeng Co-operative



HoD Dr V Dlamini hand over the bakkie keys, to Mabel Tswai of Arejeng Co-operative



MEC Mokoena looks on as Mabel Tswai put the key in the ignition

“The Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency is in the process of assisting people of this province, who cannot afford houses with their financial supports in the form of loans at low interest rates compared to other financial institution," said Tshukudu.

Arejeng Co-operative is registered and was started in 2005 by a group of women. It produces bread and biscuits and sell to the public at reasonable prices.

Accepting the donation on the behalf of Arejeng, Mabel Tswai urged women to register Co-operatives in order to fight poverty and unemployment. We are what we are today because of the contribution and assistance from government. Indeed the voice of women have spoken. We will make sure that the donation contributes towards increasing the productivity of our business."

Delivering the message of support from the municipality, Dr J.S Moroka Speaker Gijimane Sikhosane, said his municipality is very grateful towards the contribution that the Department and MEGA have made.

The contribution towards Arejeng Bakery came at the time when Mpumalanga Premier David Mabuza, signed a memorandum of understanding between Mpumalanga Provincial Government and Standard Bank, to assist co-operatives in accessing finances in the province.



Delivery bakkie



MEC Mokoena, joins Arejeng Co-operative, as they sing, dance and ululate



Members of Arejeng Women Co-operative



HoD Dr Dlamini, Dr J.S Moroka Speaker Gijimane Sikhosana clap hands of joy

Mpumalanga Provincial



MEC Mokoena and HOD Dr V Dlamini listens attentively



MEC Mokoena sharing a joke with school kids



As a build up to the 17th Conference of Parties (COP 17 Conference on Climate Change), Mpumalanga Province held a high profile climate change summit at Ehlanzeni District Municipality office complex in Nelspruit, from 06 – 07 October 2011.

Addressing the delegates during the summit, MEC for Economic Environment and Tourism, Mr Norman Mokoena said "Climate change poses a serious threat to the existence of human beings and other living organisms, and if drastic measures are not taken to combat climate change, we will continue to be the biggest treat towards the environment.

"We must play a critical role in the reduction of green house gas emissions, subsequent to the declaration of the Highveld Priority Area , and it is pleasing that a number of steps have been taken to ensure a focussed approach to the management of air quality in the Highveld. Some of the critical milestones include the establishment of the Highveld Priority Area Air Quality Officers Forum in which each municipality included in the Priority Area is represented," said MEC Mokoena.

Responding to climate change and preparations for COP 17, Minister of Water Affairs and Environment Ms Edna Molewa said, " South Africa needs to act now to prevent irreversible damage to the environment. During the COP 17 meetings, South Africa will seek pro-poor resolutions in line with Africa's development and agenda. COP 17 will see over 20 000 delegates from more than 190 countries descending on our shores to seek mechanisms to combat the challenge we are facing.

Declaration of the Summit

The signatories to Mpumalanga's Climate Change Declaration acknowledge the reality and importance of climate change and are committed to:

- 1 Mitigating climate change impact through reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- 1 Co-operating with affected sectors (e.g. agriculture, water, mining, forestry, local authorities, industry, energy, transport) to reduce the impacts. Areas of



Minister Edna Molewa, accept a present from MEC Mokoena



DDGs, Ms T Mjauli, Ms N Motete and Mr B Moholwa



Minister Molewa sign her pledge



Summit



MEC Siphosezwe Masango and HoD Dr Dlamini sign their pledge

cooperation include the transfer of technologies relating to inter alia, the following areas:

- Climate change adaptation and mitigation
 - Support for adaptation projects in the Province in line with sustainable development priorities
 - Technology development initiatives
 - Energy efficiency and renewable energy
 - Agricultural efficiency and sustainability
 - Exploring the feasibility of carbon capture and storage
 - Broad collaborative scientific research related to global climate change and energy and climate science
- Education and creating awareness to establish programmes and projects in partnership with all stakeholders to respond to the challenge of climate change;
 - Improving cooperation between government, business and all social partners to address environment challenges;
 - Ensuring the conservation of biodiversity in the province;
 - Ensuring the contribution of ecosystem goods and services to the social and economic development of the Province;
 - Increasing the contribution of a low carbon footprint in the economy of the province through the promotion of renewable energies and the creation of sustainable livelihoods;
 - Promoting the development of a green economy through inter alia, the implementation of the waste management hierarchy, cleaner technologies and development mechanisms;
 - Encouraging government, business and industry to engage in sustainable climate change projects in Mpumalanga;
 - Ensuring green design in urban and rural settlements.

The declaration recognises that all levels of government, communities and sectors, play a key role in our collective response to the challenge of climate change, and publicly demonstrate our commitment to action.

The role of Strategic Stakeholders are defined as follows:

Policymakers

- To Set up a provincial innovation council in the Office of the Premier or the Office of the District Mayors and have regional innovation forums at district municipalities, to address the agenda on climate change, and the relevant departments to partner with National Government as we continue to set up an enabling environment. Government will develop policy instruments to change behaviour of industry and society at large. (the National Department of Science and Technology, National Department of Trade and Industry and the Dedet in the Province should be the strategic co-ordinator of all departments and Municipalities).

Financing

- Trade and Investment agencies, MEGA, IDC, NEF, other regional agencies should design funding models that also address contingency plans to growth path and climate change incentives, to manage long term rehabilitation plans.

Operators

- Technology, Innovation agency, Science parks, Public Research and development Centres and FET's should be the strategic support base for the province in rapid prototyping solutions to climate change.

Private sector

- Industry associations, research institutes, funds, foundations, enterprises at local and district municipalities should be the implementers of these rapid prototype solutions developed by operators to bring a competitive sustainable advantage for the Province to de-marginalise communities.

The summit was also used as a platform to pay tribute to a fallen hero, a fallen environmentalist, a great women, and inspiration for many women across Africa, a magnificent visionary the late Professor Wangari Maathai, a combative Nobel Peace Prize winner who died at the age of 71.

Mpumalanga tourism

The stylish launch of the Mpumalanga Tourism Month, by the MEC, for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Mr Norman Mokoena in Siyabuswa will remain engraved in the minds of its residents, because the audience got the surprise of their lives when they saw four (4) well known and loved television personalities amongst the dignitaries.

Tourism month launch event was held in front of a packed audience at Khethiwe Park (Siyabuswa) on 16 September 2011.

MEC Mokoena appointed four celebrities as Mpumalanga tourism ambassadors, with the hope that the appointment of the television personalities will continue promoting township tourism. These celebrities are, Thabiso Mokhehi who plays a role of 'Samuel' in Generations, Gospel Gold Presenter Palesa Mocuminyane, Kwaito musician Tshepo 'Howza' Mosese and Tsholo Monedi who plays the role of 'Meme' in the popular soapie Muhvango.

“

Speaking during the launch, MEC Norman Mokoena said,

"We have selected the four based on their good reputation and the fact that they have a huge following in their respective careers. These celebrities will help us to market our tourism destination and ensure that the initiative of linking tourism with culture becomes a success. We will ensure that we promote township tourism in order to encourage tourists to visit townships."

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MEC Mokoena and Executive Mayor of Dr JS Moroka, Cllr T Mthimuniye promote greening Mpumalanga





MEC Mokoena, Dr Motete, Dr Dlamini, Executive Mayor of Dr JS Moroka Cllr T Mthimunya with Mpumalanga Tourism Ambassadors

month

Apart from roping in Tourism ambassadors, we have agreed with Mpumalanga artist Mama Esther Mahlangu to work with us, because she is an icon who has represented the province and abroad. We need to write a book about her while she is still alive.

The celebrities started their roles as tourism ambassadors by visiting Siyabuswa and Kruger National Park where they had an opportunity to see the big five animals which are the Elephants, Lions, Leopards, Buffalos and Rhino and visited the three Rondavels where they interacted with their fans.

Accepting the responsibility of being a tourism ambassador for the province, Thabiso Mokheithi, who plays the role of "Samuel" in the popular soapie in Mzantsi, generation admitted his joy by saying, " I am honoured to be one of the ambassadors and i will promote Mpumalanga where ever I go. I have travelled almost every province, but seeing one province with the big five animals made me realise how beautiful Mpumalanga is, indeed it is true that when God created Mpumalanga he had a window for Mpumalanga."

Other events that took place during the auspicious of the tourism month include the media tour, where journalist and tourism ambassadors toured to the following areas in the province, Rock & Roll in Mkhuhlu Township where they had an opportunity to interact with their fans, as well as visiting the three rondavels.



MEC Mokoena waters the plant



Comfort Ngobe and Mpumalanga Legendary Ndebele artist, Ester Mahlangu



Tourism launch in progress

Protecting our environment

Barberton - As part of preparations for Climate Change Summit to be held in Durban later this year, the Department of Economic Development Environment and Tourism paid tribute to women who play a role in the environment.

The event was aimed at celebrating the achievements of women who are in contact with the environment. The theme was "We can make a difference even when doing something small to improve our environment."

The Director within the Environment Awareness Directorate, Dr Almarie De Lange said "it is important to plant trees so that trees can be used for protecting and preserving the environment as well as making furniture."

"We need to encourage communities to plant trees, and educate the young generation to know the importance of planting trees and vegetables. Today's event that government and private sector can achieve a lot if working together towards women empowerment," concluded De Lange.

A group of women who belong to Lomshiyo were over the moon when the Department, in conjunction with Realtile Timrite Mines, donated garden tools and food parcels, which were aimed at encouraging women to plant vegetable so that they will be able to sell to local supermarkets.

A jubilant leader of the Lomshiyo Mrs Gumbi said, "I am very grateful for the contribution that we have received today. I believe that this is going to assist us and this contribution comes at time when we as women, celebrate Women's Month. These tools will increase our productivity, and we are appealing to local business people to assist us."



Dr Almarie De Lange gets dirty for a good cause



Dr Almarie De Lange with a group of women who belongs to Lomshiyo

Mokoena meets the International Marketing Council

Mpumalanga's MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Mr Norman Mokoena, says South Africa's image plays a vital role in attracting investors and tourists to the Province. MEC Mokoena said this during a stakeholder engagement with the International Marketing Council in Nelspruit on the 2nd August 2011.

"Mpumalanga's economy rests on five pillars - tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, energy and mining. To grow, we need access to export markets, we need investors, and we need more tourists. The image of our country makes a vital contribution to this," explained Mokoena during the summit.

MEC Mokoena met the leadership of the International Marketing Council of South Africa (IMC), who were in the province as part of the Stakeholders' engagement to share ideas on improving the image or the brand of South Africa. The IMC is using the legacy of South Africa's successful hosting of the 2010 FIFA World Cup to build Brand South Africa to be globally competitive.

"The combined behaviour of a country's people and its attributes make up our brand identity. A positive identity or favourable reputation will promote and consolidate our global competitiveness," added Mokoena.

According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), 935 million tourists travelled across international boundaries in 2010. It also predicts that

the tourism sector will grow by an average of 4.1% per year for the next two decades. Projections for the year 2020 indicate that tourist arrivals will grow to 1.8 billion.

In 2009, South Africa attracted 9.9 million international tourists, while 30 million domestic trips were taken. Mpumalanga attracted 1.4 million international tourists in 2009 and generated 800 000 domestic trips in 2009.

There are several indices that are used to gauge the global competitiveness of a country. They include:

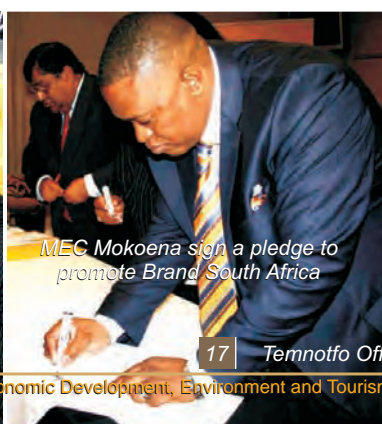
- The Global Competitiveness Index (GCI): South Africa is the most competitive sub-Saharan African country in the GCI 2010–2011 and ranks 54th out of a total of 139 economies measured.
- The World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index: South Africa ranks 34th out of 183 economies.
- The Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance is an attempt to statistically monitor African governance levels. South Africa is ranked 5th out of 53 countries.

In summary, in order to remain globally competitive, Government must play its role in ensuring that we have enabling policies to remain attractive as an investment and trade destination, but the branding of our country is the responsibility of every citizen.

We urge the people of Mpumalanga to play an active role in whatever manner possible to promote the brand South Africa.



MEC Mokoena with the IMC



MEC Mokoena sign a pledge to promote Brand South Africa



MEC Mokoena and the IMC delegation hold a board with pledges



COP 17 Durban

The successful hosting of the 2010 Soccer World Cup by South Africa is starting to bear sweet fruit, and the confidence the world has in the capabilities of South Africa to host high profile events. It was announced on 29 November 2010, during the Cancun (Mexico) Climate Change Conference (COP 16), that South Africa will host the 17th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17).

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was opened for signature at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. One hundred and fifty four (154) nations signed the convention that committed signatories' governments to a voluntary "non-binding aim" to reduce atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases with the goal of preventing dangerous anthropogenic with Earth's Climate system.

As a build up to COP 17, all provinces hosted their respective Summits. Mpumalanga's Summit was held on 06 and 07 October 2011 at Ehlanzeni disaster management centre.

The aim of the Provincial Summit was to provide the general public with a platform to inform the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs of the recommendations for South Africa's negotiating position for COP17.

The overarching objective of the Provincial Summit were;

- To take full advantage of the Climate Change White Paper publication or finalisation process.
- To take full advantage of the possible donor support to this event. To have an efficient and effective coordination of all efforts and optimal use of scarce resources.
- To fully aligned with any planned provincial climate change outreach and general awareness-raising efforts.

The following were the outcomes of COP16/CMP6 held in Cancun Mexico in 2010:

- It recognises that climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to human societies and the planet, and thus requires to be urgently addressed by all Parties;
- Affirms that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and that all Parties share a vision for long-term cooperative action in order to achieve the objective of the Convention;
- It recognises that warming of the climate system is unequivocal, and that most of the observed increase in global average temperatures is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations;
- It further recognises that deep cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions are required, with a view to reducing global greenhouse gas emissions so as to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2°C above pre-industrial levels;
- Calls on rich countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions as pledged in the Coppehagen accord for developing countries to plan to reduce their emissions. Developed countries should submit annual greenhouse gas inventories and inventory reports and biennial reports on their progress;
- Developing countries, according to the Cancun agreements, will implement nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) in the context of sustainable development, aiming at a deviation in their business-as-usual emissions by 2020;
- The agreement includes a "Green Climate Fund," proposed to be worth \$100 billion a year by 2020, to assist poorer countries in financing emission reductions and adaptation;
- Decisions on climate adaptation, including the strengthening of disaster risk reduction and early warning systems are essential to better protect the most vulnerable people and a must for any climate change agreement.

WEAR **GREEN** FOR COP17

**On Friday
18th November 2011**

Show your support for this conference
by wearing **green** on Friday 18 November.
Whether it's a cap, a T-shirt or even
your Bok jersey.

The 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the
United Nations Framework Convention on
Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 7th Session of the Conference
of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties (CMP7) to the Kyoto Protocol
is taking place in Durban from 28 November - 9 DEcember 2011.

For more info visit
www.cop17-cmp7durban.com

Working together: Saving Tomorrow Today

A message from the South African government



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



COP17/CMP7
UNITED NATIONS
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

VISION

An inclusive globally competitive economy

MISSION

Drive economic growth that creates decent employment and promote sustainable development through partnerships



the dedet

Department:
Economic Development, Environment and Tourism
MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

