



**economic development
& tourism**

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Attention: News Editors/ Assignment Editors

KHOLWANE IMPLORES THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO COMMIT TOWARDS RADICAL ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION

Lynnville, eMalahleni – Mpumalanga MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane says government has identified six (6) key sectors which have the potential to create the much needed jobs in the Province. Kholwane was speaking during the debate on the 2015 *State of the Province Address* at the extra-ordinary sitting of the Provincial Legislature at Lynnville in eMalahleni on Tuesday, 03 March 2015.

“Central to our improvement of employment rate is the focus on the key productive sectors of the provincial economy, namely, Agriculture and Forestry; Tourism; Mining; Manufacturing; the Green Economy; as well as ICT”, said MEC Kholwane.

He further implored on the private sector to continue to actively contribute towards inclusive growth, investment, social development and economic transformation in Mpumalanga.

Kholwane expressed his appreciation for the notable contributions made by BHP Billiton following their pledge during the 2012 *Mpumalanga Mining Lekgotla* which was held in Middelburg. Amongst others, the mining company (BHP Billiton) has ensured that 860 hectares of land within the Nkangala District Municipality is rehabilitated for agricultural purposes. It is also the main sponsor of the Maths, Science and Technology Academy (which is hosted by Emalahleni Local Municipality along the N4 diagonally opposite the Highveld Mall).

The Department of Economic Development and Tourism is further working with BHP Billiton to finalise the skills gap analysis in the key sectors of the economy in preparation for the establishment of the Provincial Skills Hub (which will serve as a High Technology Centre of Excellence).

MEC Kholwane further indicated that other mining companies are coming on board through their social labour plans and corporate social responsibility portfolios in order to benefit the communities within which they operate.



Through these commitments, local communities will benefit in terms of Urban Renewal Programmes. Ogies and Phola townships will benefit through the installation of solar panels and paving of streets; E-learning project in Phola/Ogies; the construction of a library in Klarinet; establishment of an incubator programme in Klarinet; bulk services in Thubelihle and Vosman; integrated waste management in eMalahleni, Ogies and Ga-Nala; and the construction of a Supplier Park in eMalahleni.

MEC Kholwane concluded by stressing the need to strengthen partnerships with the private sector. He indicated that the ANC-led government has done much over the past 20 years of its rule in order to better the life of the people, and further emphasised that the ANC-led Mpumalanga Provincial Government will ensure the realisation of all the marching orders given by Premier Mabuza in the 2015 State of the Province Address.

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***Issued by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism
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