
MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: Monday, 09 December 2024

Attention: Journalists, News Editors and Executive Producers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MASILELA TO ENGAGE STAKEHOLDERS IN MKHONDO ON THE ENVISAGED FURNITURE INCUBATOR FOR THE YOUTH AND WOMEN IN THE MUNICIPALITY

Mbombela – MEC for Economic Development and Tourism, Ms. Makhosazane Masilela, will engage relevant stakeholders in Mkhondo, with the aim of establishing a furniture incubator in the Municipality. The consultation follows a decision taken during the *Taking Legislature to the People* programme, which took place in the Mkhondo Local Municipality, in September 2024. Approximately 200 stakeholders, who include the youth and women, have been invited to the meeting.

“We have realised that most youth and women in Mkhondo, like in other areas of the Province, are unemployed; so we would like to intervene by establishing a furniture incubator to train and skill them in furniture manufacturing. However, before we could take that step, it is crucial that we get their inputs; hence we have planned a Stakeholder Consultation meeting on Thursday this week”, explained MEC Masilela.

The consultation meeting will be done in collaboration with the Mkhondo Local Municipality. Incubators are established to provide skills development to emerging entrepreneurs or micro enterprises. So far, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism has established and continues to support, both financially and non-financially, two incubators; namely, the Furniture Technology Centre (FurnTech) in White River in the City of Mbombela Local Municipality, and the Mpumalanga Stainless Steel Initiative in Middelburg in the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality.

Details of the Consultation are as follows:

Date: Thursday, 12 December 2024

Venue: Mkhondo Town Hall, Mkhondo Local Municipality

Time: 09:00

All Media is invited.

Journalists interested in attending the consultation can confirm their attendance with **Thomas Msiza** on 079 500 0137 or 013 766 4328 or email: tmsiza@mpg.gov.za or **Mr. Robert Kubheka** on 066 478 9365 or email: kubhekarobert@gmail.com.

-ENDS-

Issued jointly by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism and the Mkhondo Local Municipality

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***Notes to Editors:**

The Department of Economic Development and Tourism, under the Mpumalanga Provincial Government, is constitutionally mandated to stimulate economic growth and development in the Province, so as to create sustainable and decent employment, economic transformation and to alleviate poverty. The Department has three (3) Public Entities; namely, Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA), Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), and Mpumalanga Economic Regulator (MER), to which it has delegated some of its constitutionally-mandated functions. These functions relate to: trade and investment promotion; funding of SMMEs; tourism growth and development; tourism marketing; regulation of the gambling and liquor industries, including collection of gambling levies and liquor license fees, amongst others.