



**economic development
& tourism**

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SPECIAL EDITION

April 2015 - March 2016



The year in review

Policy and Budget Speech 2016/2017

contents

- 3 MEC Kholwane appoints MTPA board
- 4 Education is the key to break the shackles of poverty – MEC Kholwane
- 6 MEC's school visits
- 8 Mpumalanga Tourism Gets Recognition
- 10 Pictures
- 12 Kholwane Donates Tyre servicing equipment worth R1,5 million to ten(10) small businesses
- 14 Mpumalanga Government and the SAB launch the youth entrepreneurship programme for youth-owned businesses in the Province
- 16 MEC Kholwane pledged R20 000 for water drilling to the Masoyi Disable Centre
- 18 Kholwane attends the 13th Politicians' forum meeting at the 2015 IMEX in Germany
- 20 TVET Centres to groom entrepreneurs
- 22 The Department pays homage to Nelson Mandela
- 24 Kholwane lends a helping hand by donating own money (R5000) to purchase school uniform for ten (10) needy learners at Mashishing's Marambane Primary School
- 25 Small Businesses set to become top priority
- 26 Mpumalanga Gambling Board Celebrates it's 20th anniversary

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MEC Kholwane appoints MTPA board

After running the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) for almost two years with an interim structure, the MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane has announced the appointment of eleven (11) fixed-term board members to take the Entity forward.

The eleven (11) Member board will be chaired by Mr. Thulani Nzima, former CEO of South African, who will be deputised by deputy chairperson of the Black Lawyers Association, Ms. Nomaswazi Rachael Shabangu-Mndawe.

Speaking during the official announcement of the board Members, the MEC said “finally we have found the right people who will take the entity forward, to ensure that the entity assists the Province in retaining its position as one of the preferred tourism destinations, locally and attracts more international tourists.”

The Board must ensure that it accelerates the process of appointing Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and also restore the Province’s position as a leader in the tourism sector, and ensure that the Triland agreement, with neighbouring

Swaziland and Mozambique benefits the local economy,” continued the MEC.

The MEC added that it was important for the Department to prioritise tourism as a key sector in driving economic development. He indicated that the Entity has been allocated R345 million in the 2016/17 financial year. “The money will help the Agency to continue to deliver on its tourism and conservation management mandates Tourism” said MEC Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane.

Accepting the responsibilities of leading the Board, Mr. Thulani Nzima, who is the son of the famous and legendary photo journalist, Mr. Sam Nzima, said he was honoured to be chosen to lead the organisation which has a huge mandate to ensure that the tourism in Mpumalanga contributes towards job creation.

“I am aware of the challenges and responsibilities faced by the Entity, and the task that we have been given today, with our experience in the tourism sector, coupled with team work and dedication, we will do our utmost best to take Mpumalanga Tourism forward.”



MEC Kholwane school visits in pictures

Education

to break the shackles of

By: Silence Mhlaba

MEC Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane says that education is not only a tool that shapes the mind of the learners to be self-reliant in the ever changing social and economic environment, but is also bedrock on which the nation can be able to break the shackles of poverty. MEC Kholwane echoed these profound words during the three (3) days Schools Re-opening visits.

The Mpumalanga January Schools Re-opening Programme is an annual programme whereby public representatives and government officials are deployed to primary and secondary schools across the Province to encourage learners to do better in their studies. This noble programme is a direct response to the clarion call by government to put education at the Apex of its priorities.

MEC Kholwane visited Marambane Primary School in Mashishing, Memezile High School at Sabie and Estralita Special School in Mashishing.

Like in previous years since its inception, in the main, the Programme affords the schools an opportunity to raise the challenges they are faced with, which may lead to poor performance. It is also through this Programme that the deployed public representatives ascertain schools' readiness right at the beginning of the school calendar year.

“The fact that more than 40 percent of the provincial budget is allocated to the education sector is a clear indication that the Province takes education very seriously. The provincial government will continue to provide the necessary



is the key

poverty – MEC Kholwane

resources from the available financial resources to match the societal expectations, and to enable the learners to get basic education”, said the MEC, to the applause of learners and teachers.

Amongst other things, the deployed were charged with the responsibility to ensure that the following non-negotiables are in place and ready:

- **Readiness of the schools**
- **School budget**
- **Governance of the school**
- **Learning material**
- **Infrastructure**
- **Nutrition programme**
- **School Code of Conduct in place**
- **Schools Maintenance Plan**

- **Human Resource Development**
- **Understanding of roles and responsibilities by School Governing Bodies**

As he moved from one school to another, MEC Kholwane appealed to learners to allow the educators to guide them towards a brighter future which is lurking ahead of them. The MEC also used the school visits as a platform to emphasise the importance of Mathematics and Science subjects.

A visible emotional Principal of Estralita Special School had this to say: “We feel very important today that MEC Kholwane took time off his busy schedule to come and encourage us as teachers and students, we don’t usually receive visitors of his calibre in this school”.



MEC's SC



school visits

Mpumalalan Gets Re

By Comfort Ngobe and Sibusiso Mgwenya

“

As a Province we have a proven record of dealing with crime, and want to send a clear message that efforts aimed at derailing the growth of tourism in the Province will not be tolerated by government

”

MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane says the Province is concerned about the high level of crime incidents that have been reported by the tourism stakeholders, as this affects the growth of the tourism sector in the Province.

Addressing the stakeholders during a two day outreach programme by the Minister of Tourism, Mr Derrick Henekom; MEC Kholwane said the Province has identified tourism in the Mpumalanga Growth Development path (MGDP), as a key sector that can play a leading role in job creation.

“The Province is very clear on the issues that drives the economy of Mpumalanga, and it is working closely with the key stakeholders in the tourism sector to ensure that the sector creates the much needed job opportunities for our people,” said MEC Kholwane.

“As a Province, we have a proven record of dealing with crime, and want to send a clear message that efforts aimed at derailing the growth of tourism in Mpumalanga will not be tolerated by government”, declared the MEC.

“We need to ensure that everyone understands the impact tourism has on the economy of Mpumalanga. I am thus urging all tourism stakeholders to work with government and the law enforcement agencies in the Province to ensure that crime does not derail the growth of tourism,” concluded MEC Kholwane.

The Minister of Tourism, Mr Derrick Henekom has assured the tourism product owners in Mpumalanga that the national government values their contribution towards job creation in the country, and the Department that he leads will speed up the process of ensuring that grants are allocated to tourism products owners around the provinces.

“Government views tourism as a critical sector in creating the much job opportunities for the people of South Africa, and a good working relationship with the private sector will assist government in making South Africa a global tourism destination of choice, thus creating the needed jobs for South Africans,” concluded Minister Derrick Henekom.

ga Tourism cognition



Minister Hanekom and MEC Kholwane during a tour of Pilgrim's Rest



Minister Hanekom and MEC Kholwane at the Blyde River Canyon



MEC Kholwane welcomes Minister Hanekom to the Province



Minister Hanekom and MEC Kholwane get a brief history of the Makhonjwa Mountain



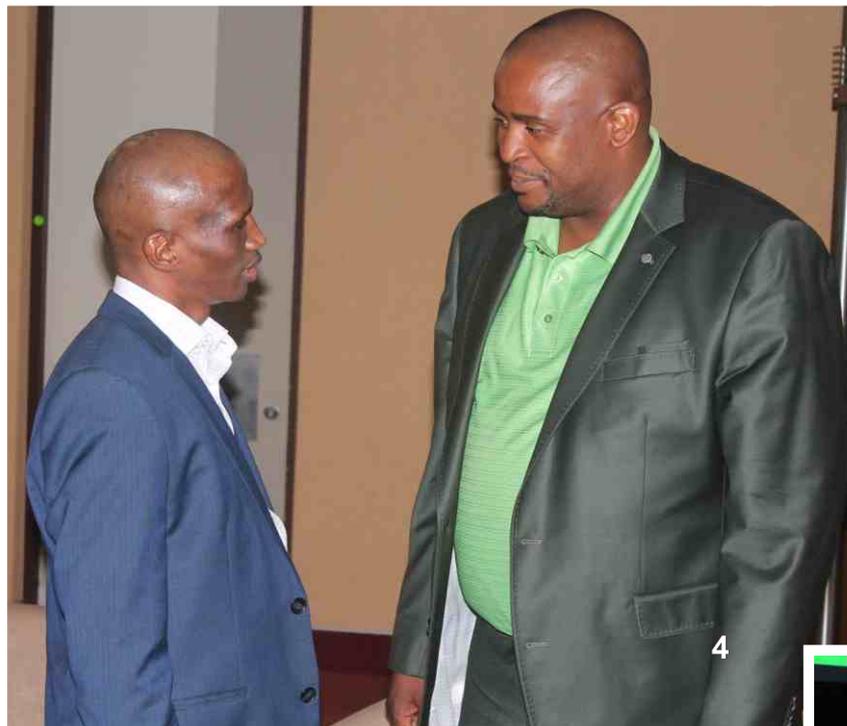
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1. MEC Kholwane with Limpopo MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Mr Seaparo Sekwati after a meeting on the sidelines of the Tourism Indaba in Durban in May 2015
2. Ester Mahlangu holding her Lilizela Tourism Award certificate
3. Tourism Buddies from Secunda
4. MEC Kholwane with Mbombela Executive Mayor, Cllr Mathonsi during the launch of Mpumalanga Youth Biz Portal
5. 4x4 Route Launch
6. 2015 Tourism Lilizela Awards
7. Mpumalanga Youth Business Portal launch



- 8. MEC Kholwane with an exhibitor at the 2015 Tourism Indaba
- 9. Minister Hanekom and MEC Kholwane with a tourism buddy at an awards ceremony
- 10. MEC Kholwane with MiTV crew
- 11. MEC Kholwane with Kgoshi Mokoena handing over a sewing machine
- 12. MEC at the launch of Stoller agri products
- 13. MEC at FurnTech showing how its done
- 14. MEC inspecting the construction of the Agri-hub in Kameel Rivier A

Kholwane

Tyre servicing equipment worth R1,5



MEC Kholwane with owners of tyre servicing companies

MEC Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane has announced the sponsorship of tyre and wheel fitting and repair equipment worth R1,5 million, to ten (10) tyre service centre small businesses across Mpumalanga.

The announcement was made during the launch of the Tyre Initiative by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism at the Khwez' Lam Tyre Service Centre – one of the beneficiaries, in Matsulu just outside Malelane, on 03 December 2015.

“The equipment we are donating today is the best in the market, and we hope it will lay a firm foundation for these emerging entrepreneurs in the lucrative tyre industry. We want to see them graduating from being small businesses into big businesses, and further claiming a huge stake in the industry”, said MEC Kholwane.

The Tyre Initiative is being rolled out by the Department in conjunction with Sumitomo Rubber SA, trading as Dunlop Tyres, supported by SEDA, NYDA and NDA.

“The launch of the Tyre Initiative is a clear expression of government’s commitment to partner with the private sector in

Donates

million to ten(10) small businesses

By: Comfort Ngobe and Sibusiso Mgwanya



Mr Stephen Orr from Sumitomo tyres hands over a tyre changing machine to MEC Kholwane

(L-R) Mr Stephen Orr, and MEC Kholwane hand over a certificate to another product owner

order to create opportunities for small businesses and co-operatives, and to invest in the township economy", explained Kholwane.

MEC Kholwane has also pleaded with local communities to support local businesses such as Khwez' Lam Tyre Service Centre, adding that their survival and growth potential is dependent on their support.

Also speaking at the launch, Sumitomo Rubber SA's Mr. Stephen Orr said that they were proud to associate themselves with the Mpumalanga Government in an effort to assist in creating entrepreneurs and job opportunities.

"Sumitomo is proud to partner with the Provincial Government in its quest to create job opportunities for the people of South Africa, and hopefully more entrepreneurs will emerge from the partnership which in a short period of time has yielded positive results", said Mr Orr.

Dunlop has assisted in training the ten (10) tyre service centre small businesses, who were also awarded competency certificates during the launch. Each of the businesses will receive equipment which includes, amongst others, Tyre-Changer Machines, Safety Cages, Balancers, Low Level Lifters and Trolley Jacks.

(L-R) MEC Kholwane, Minister Zulu
with Women in Maize Winner



Mpumalanga and the SAB launch the programme for youth-owned

By: Comfort Ngobe and
Sibusiso Mgwenya

The Mpumalanga Government, and the South African Breweries (SAB), through its 20-year old youth entrepreneurship development programme, SAB KickStart, announced a partnership investment of R1-million to assist young entrepreneurs to build sustainable small businesses in the Province.

The Mpumalanga Youth Entrepreneurship Programme (MYEP) will target youth-owned SMMEs and cooperatives in three municipal districts of the Province and provide them with training, mentorship and capital funding. The programme will be open to the youth between the ages of 18 and 35 with new innovative businesses of not more than 6 months in operation, participating in industries such as tourism, manufacturing, agriculture (mainly agro-processing) and unique services.

The announcement of the Programme was made at the 20th Annual SAB KickStart National Awards held in Mbombela on Thursday, 19 November 2015. The Awards took place during the annual Global Entrepreneurship Week which took place until 22 November 2015.

The SAB Kickstart Programme is an output of the SAB-Mpumalanga partnership that is linked to three areas of cooperation, namely, Enterprise, Rural and Human Capital Development.

MEC Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane was appreciative of the Programme and its contribution towards government's plan for youth entrepreneurship development in the Province.

"I want to thank the SAB for this investment and its contribution towards government plans for youth entrepreneur development. We have set a target in the

frican | KickStart



Government

youth entrepreneurship businesses in the Province

National Development Plan (NDP) – that of creating an inclusive society that builds the capability of its active citizenry by 2030. It is therefore inspiring and fulfilling to realise that the SAB KickStart Programme is at the core of the issues being pursued by our government through the National Youth Policy-2020,” explained MEC Kholwane.

The SAB will aid the entrepreneurs, who are successful, with seed capital to expand their businesses, with an intention that they will act as a pipeline for the annual national youth entrepreneurship programme. The programme will be rolled out in January 2016 starting with recruitment across Ehlanzeni District, Gert Sibande District and Nkangala District. Each district will hold a 3 day long boot-camp for 50 youth entrepreneurs who would have been selected from the pitching clinics held in those districts.

The startup boot-camp will be geared towards enabling and capacitating youth entrepreneurs of Mpumalanga with

business skills and tools of trade in order to strengthen their products or services. The programme is targeting to identify 9 young entrepreneurs, with an intention to provide them with seed capital, high level mentorship and business development support for a period of 4 months.

In addition, SAB through its flagship enterprise development programme, KickStart, will invite candidates participating with an opportunity to be considered for the annual national competition for the class of 2016.

“We believe that this partnership, and specifically the investment (R1 million), will help unlock numerous opportunities for the youth of our Province, including increasing the skills base of the Province as contemplated in the Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Path (MEGDP). This will also contribute to economic growth as more of our youth enter the economic mainstream”, concluded MEC Kholwane.

MEC K

pledged R20 to the Masoyi

By: Comfort Ngobe



The Masoyi Protective Workshop in Phola outside White River is set to benefit from the R20 000 donation from MEC Kholwane through his Izwelethu Trust, for water drilling.

Addressing more than 150 people with disabilities, during the Provincial Disability Rights Awareness Day at Dayizenze Plaza, outside White River, MEC said, “Earlier today, I went to pay homage to Masoyi Protective workshop and I was touched by the working condition that they are operating in. Through my trust fund, Izwelethu, I am going to donate **R20 000** towards the drilling of water of which I believe will make a huge imprint in the lives of the people with disabilities around Masoyi .

I have also looked at the memorandum which was submitted to me earlier today by the secretary of the Masoyi Protective Workshop. I am going to submit it to various government departments in the Province to resolve some of the issues affecting the centre.

Our government cares for all people, including people with disabilities, hence I have increased the allocation of the Department of Health by R38 million to ensure that the Department deals with the shortage of doctors and physiotherapists, and I believe by doing that, the Department of Health will be able to deal with the problems faced”, said MEC Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane.

holwane

000 for water drilling

i Disabled Centre



MEC in a jovial mood at the Provincial disability rights awareness



Speaking shortly after the MEC pledged to donate the **R20 000** to the Masoyi Protective Workshop, Jennet Mbuyane, thanked the MEC for the contribution which she says came at the right time when the Masoyi Protective Workshop was busy at work to start a food garden project which will see them planting vegetables for themselves .

“We are very grateful for what the MEC has pledged to do for us. We view the contribution as the gift from God, and may the Lord

bless the MEC for what he has done for us. We are also appealing to government departments to consider us for employment because we are capable and we have proven on several occasions that we can make it,” added Ms Jeaneth Mbuyane.

MEC Sikhumbuzo Kholwane has also pleaded with communities around Masoyi to refrain from stealing from the Masoyi Protective Workshop.



Kholwane

the 13th Politicians' forum

2015 IMEX in

By Mohau Ramodibe

Mpumalanga MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane attended the 13th Politicians Forum at the annual Worldwide Exhibition for Incentive Travel, Meetings and Events (IMEX) in Frankfurt, Germany, on 19 May 2015. The Forum is an annual event for politicians across the world, where they meet to share best practices and discuss ways to secure economic, social and reputational dividends that result from hosting meetings and events.

“The Politicians Forum is a precursor to the IMEX and offers politicians around the world an opportunity to interact and share best practices, including assessing the impact that the hosting of international meetings and events have in the economies of their respective countries”, explained MEC Kholwane.

The following issues were also discussed at the meeting:

- **How to translate the hosting of meetings and events into strong destination brands;**
- **How to ensure adequate infrastructure development and planning to secure far-reaching community impact;**
- **How are destinations translating the hosting of meetings and events into strong destination brands (Destination marketing);**

- **What steps are being taken to facilitate greater access, de-regulation and lower taxation (Breaking down the barriers);**
- **How governments are bringing together various government departments, local authorities and agencies to ensure cohesion when marketing their destination and bidding for events (cohesion); and**
- **What are event organisers looking for in a host destination and a host team (the Bidding Process)?**

“This is an opportune occasion to promote, market and sell Mpumalanga as the preferred destination for hosting international events and meetings, amongst others. We believe, with the construction of an ICC in the Province, we will be able to bid and win the hosting of such international events. In turn, the hosting of such events will contribute to job creation and economic growth”, added Kholwane.

The meeting was attended by over 40 political influencers and up to 80 industry leaders across the world. The MEC led the MTPA (Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency) team which was participating at the Exhibition. Last year, IMEX was attended by 3, 500 exhibitors who came from across the world.

attends

meeting at the

Germany





Thirty students from the Gert Sibande Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College are set to benefit from the newly established Centre for Entrepreneurship, an initiative of the Department of Small Business Development.

Speaking at the launch of the Centre, MEC Sikhumbuzo Kholwane urged the youth to seize business and economic opportunities presented by the democratic government of South Africa.

"Government will work closely with the private sector to promote a culture of entrepreneurship for the youth of the country. We want to do away with the culture of job seeking. The launch of the Centres of Entrepreneurs in South Africa is a clear demonstration of government's commitment to create business opportunities for co-operatives, SMMEs, and for the people of South Africa and Mpumalanga".

The Mpumalanga Provincial Government has re-enforced a policy regime which seeks to advance and protect the interests of SMMEs, particularly the payment of service providers within 30 working days, the reduction of red tapes, and the complete overhaul of the tendering system. The Provincial Executive Council has taken a decision which stipulates that 30% of all projects undertaken within the Province must be given to SMMEs and Co-operatives", said the MEC.

"Government programmes for the support of SMMEs and Co-operatives is well articulated in the New Growth Path", concluded MEC Kholwane.

The centre is a product of a five year Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Small Business Development and Gert Sibande TVET College, which is aimed to promote entrepreneur education, training and development by targeting TVET institution.

The Minister of Small Business Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu, was in attendance to affirm the dedication of the Department towards entrepreneurship, training and development. "The Department will continue to play a critical role in the development of small enterprises and prioritises the



Centres for entrepreneurs

establishment of the Centre for Entrepreneurship programme with Technical Vocational Education and Training colleges and universities”.

“Together working with private sector, we will be able to work with the youth to promote entrepreneurship. The recent establishment of Centres for Entrepreneurship is consistent with our vision of building a nation of entrepreneurs,” concluded Minister Lindiwe Zulu.





Officials of the Department who participated during the painting of Bosfontein Laerskool just outside Mashishing

The Depar homage to

In response to the clarion call by the United Nations General Assembly which calls for corporates and individuals to participate in activities that pay tributes to the world icon, former President, Nelson Mandela, the Department together with its Agencies were involved in a number of activities, which included the painting of a farm school, handing over food parcels to destitute families and handing over of blankets to the elderly.

On 20 July 2015, senior managers of the Department and Agencies swapped their formal office attire for overalls, to paint the Bosfontein Laerskool, a farm school on the outskirts of Mashishing. The painting of the school was a way of reaffirming government's promise to create a conducive environment for learning



MEC Kholwane hands over a blanket to a senior citizen



Head of Strategic Planning, Mr J Mtsweni and Head of Consumer Affairs, Mr Nirvard Lubisi point at the spot they have painted



Former Thaba Chweu Executive Mayor Mr J Ncongwane, presents blankets to a senior citizen



Doctor Mdluli, Immi Serakalala and Joe Mbenyane mix paint



MEC Kholwane, the former Executive Mayor of Thaba Chweu Local Municipality and Miss MP 2015 Zama Nene with senior citizens from Mashishing

Department pays Nelson Mandela

By Silence Mhlaba

and teaching, and further respond to the call made by Nelson Mandela, when he said "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world".

After the painting of the school, the Department proceeded to hand over food parcels to two destitute families, the Mnisi and Letsoalo families.

As part of the Mandela Month, MEC Kholwane took time off his busy schedule to hand over blankets and have lunch with the elderly, whom he described as the torch bearers of the freedom we enjoy today. MEC's luncheon with the elderly and the handing over of blankets event took place at Enjambulweni Elderly Centre in Mashishing on 24 July 2015.

"As we celebrate 60 years of the Freedom Charter, we must not forget the contribution and sacrifices that these men and women

in this hall made towards the liberation of our generation. We are duty bound to take care of them. I am particularly pleased to be spending quality time with our torch bearers, and I hope that the blankets and the toiletry bags we are handing over will make a difference in their lives", said MEC Kholwane.

**NELSON
MANDELA
INTERNATIONAL
DAY**

TAKE ACTION, INSPIRE CHANGE, MAKE EVERY DAY MANDELA DAY



Philanthropists: MEC Kholwane hands over school uniform to needy students at Marambane Primary School

Kholwane lends a helping hand by donating own money (R5000) to purchase school uniform for ten (10) needy learners at Mashishing's Marambane Primary School

By: Silence Mhlaba

MEC Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane donated R5000 from his own pocket to purchase school uniform for ten (10) needy learners on 13 January 2016, at Mashishing's Marambane Primary School. This follows his visit to the school as part of the Mpumalanga Executive Council's Schools Re-opening and Readiness Programme, during which he also handed over full school uniform to ten (10) other needy learners.

"As public representatives, we must lend a hand where we possibly can, in order to make an imprint in the lives of those less fortunate than ours. I believe the money will go a long way to restore the dignity of the additional ten (10) learners

at Marambane Primary School", explained MEC Kholwane, who was touched by the plight of the learners.

The Executive Council visits schools on the first of day of each academic year annually, to check their readiness. The intention is to unblock bottle necks, if any, in order to facilitate smooth learning during the year.

Meanwhile MEC Kholwane also visited Memezile Secondary School at Sabie's Simile Township on 14 January and Estralita Special School in Lydenburg on Friday 15 January 2016, also as part of the Executive Council's Schools Re-opening and Readiness Programme.

Small Businesses set to become top priority

In a move that is set to help develop small businesses in Mpumalanga, the National Department of Small Business Development, in cooperation with *the dedt*, has undertaken to prioritise small businesses in the Province. This is to ensure that they benefit from the major business opportunities and developments in the major sectors in Mpumalanga, mostly agriculture, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), mining, manufacturing and tourism.

Speaking during the Youth Enterprise Day at Nokaneng Community Hall, at Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality, the Minister of Small Business Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu indicated that “The Department will knock on all the doors of major companies undertaking major projects to employ small businesses from rural areas as sub-contractors. Gone are the days of small businesses not being taken seriously. You all have something to contribute towards the development of our economy. As a Department, we will be working with all other departments to ensure that small businesses are part of major projects in the country”, concluded the minister.

The MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Eric Kholwane, echoed the sentiments of the Minister that youth development should be prioritised. “The youth needs to avail themselves and work with government to eradicate unemployment in the Province. However, we need to do away with the culture of seeking employment elsewhere.

The youth needs to be self-sustainable, and as the government of Mpumalanga, we have identified agriculture as a key sector to help the youth to be self-sustainable”.

“As the youth, you need to stop trying to get your fingers in all the sectors, which ultimately leads to failure. You must focus on a specific sector and make a success of it. Moving forward, the Department will dictate to departments regarding the procurement of goods and services. Small businesses also needs to get recognition”, said the MEC.

The MEC also indicated that the new developments at the Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA), with a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at the helm, and new board members have seen the Agency turn the corner and back on the path of achieving its mandate of economic growth in the Province.

“The fortunes of our Agency, MEGA, are about to turn around. The Department is in the process of assisting the Agency in bringing its services to rural areas, to ensure that you are not left behind with all developments and opportunities in the Province. We will do this through the establishment of satellite offices in all strategic rural areas in the Province”, concluded the MEC.



MEC Kholwane with Minister Lindiwe Zulu



Mpumalanga G Celebrates it's

The Mpumalanga Gambling Board (MGB) is proud to be celebrating 20 years of unbroken service delivery to the people of Mpumalanga. This key milestone is not only a reflection of the Board's successful establishment of a gambling industry in the Province, but is also proof of its adherence to strict corporate governance and social ethics, as well as its ongoing commitment to ensure effective regulation of the industry.

The MGB was established in December 1995, with the aim of providing for the licensing and control of all gambling establishments in the Province and any other matter relating to gambling, in terms of the Mpumalanga Gambling Act.

The Board is proud to be the first in the country, after 1994, to license casinos in 1997 and it was also the first to introduce limited payout machines ("LPMs") in gambling establishments in 2003.

The Board, in its aim to promote effective governance within the sector, strives to offer local communities more than the simple issuing of gambling licences and collecting

levies. Since its inception, the industry has made significant contributions to economic development in the province through job creation, the levies (which contribute to provincial revenue streams) and by promoting responsible gambling to citizens of Mpumalanga. The casinos themselves also play a role in local development, as they help build thriving urban hubs in the area – stimulating the development of local infrastructure such as malls, hotels and other recreational facilities.

The LPMs also help stimulate the local economy by empowering small, medium and micro businesses – specifically those from previously disadvantaged communities through creating alternative revenue streams.

To date, the Board has granted three of the four casino licences within the province, as well as one independent site operator, two bingo centres, 52 betting outlets and two route operators, linked to 144 site operators.

The success of the Board is attributed to its high performance standards and its strict adherence to good governance since it was established. The dedication and



20 years of pioneering gambling regulation

ambling Board 20th anniversary

commitment shown by the leadership of the Board have had a knock-on effect and trickled down through the ranks to the entire staff, which is evidenced by the Board's inherent culture of embracing the "Batho Pele" principles, as well as its achievement of clean audits every year since 1995.

The 20-year anniversary coincides with the recognition of the Board's CEO, Mr Bheki Mlambo, as the new President of the International Association of Gaming Regulators, thus demonstrating the way the MGB's pioneering spirit reaches international boundaries. This has placed Mpumalanga, the country and the continent in the limelight of world-class gambling regulation.

Over the past 20 years, the MGB has furthered its resolve to promote responsible gambling and encourages licensees, patrons and the general public to find a positive balance between the social costs and the benefits of gambling. To assist in this endeavour, the Board has embarked on a number of responsible gambling projects to ensure that local communities are sufficiently educated about the risks of irresponsible gambling and

uncontrollable gambling habits – such as using social grant money or essential household funds to engage in gambling activities, rather than using it to service their basic needs – as well as the dangers of being involved in unregulated or illegal gambling.

While illegal gambling remains a global problem, the MGB constantly renews its commitment to fighting illegal gambling operations and works closely with other law enforcement agencies. Not only do these illegal operators deceive the trusting public, but they also inhibit government's efforts to create sustainable jobs, as well as affecting its own revenue generating capacity.

This unparalleled commitment by the MGB is premised on the unwavering support of the Provincial Government, ably led by its visionary leader, the Honourable Premier DD Mabuza. Furthermore, the Board is grateful and eternally indebted to the Provincial Legislature for their continued support.



**economic development
& tourism**

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



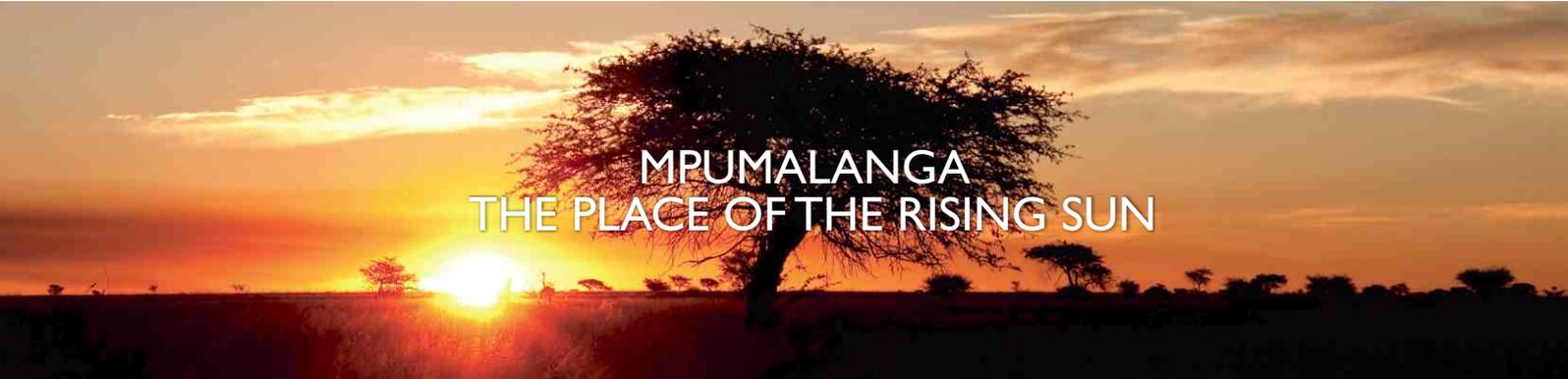
Vision

An inclusive globally
competitive economy

Mission

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

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