

ETC Sub-Committee Report

Central to the ANC's 2009 General Elections manifesto, was a commitment to ensure the **creation of decent work and sustainable livelihood** for the people of South Africa. This commitment was further stressed by the **ANC's PEC Lekgotla in February 2011**, which mandated the Provincial Government to pursue an inclusive growth agenda which had to prioritise the crafting of the **Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Path (the MEGDP)**. The intention, through the *MEGDP*, is to create massive job opportunities by targeting sectors with high potential, and to further accelerate the roll-out of massive infrastructure required to unlock economic opportunities, amongst others. These include the construction of an international Convention Centre; and investment in broadband infrastructure to harness our information technology infrastructure.

Milestones

The proposed MEGDP has been work-shopped and stakeholders widely consulted to have their buy-in. The document is now ready and awaiting approval by the Executive Council. However, in order to strengthen institutional capacity in support of the *MEGDP*, an implementation forum in this regard will be launched soon. In preparation of such launch, we had on 02 December 2011 convened the multi-stakeholder workshop.

Growing Sectors with High Potential

In our quest to grow the sectors with high potential, we will by January 2012, release the first draft of the **Provincial Industrial Strategy**. We are also currently, in conjunction the Departments of Finance and Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration, busy crafting a Provincial Procurement Policy aimed at supporting the development of co-operatives and SMMEs.

Growing Agricultural Value Chain

A major player in the industry (SAPPI) has confirmed that it is considering opening a new pulp and paper plant in Barberton (Lomati).

In linking co-operatives to available markets, we have arranged that they supply fresh produce to government institutions. More support will be provided to those in the CRDP identified municipalities such as in Thembisile Hani and Dr J.S Moroka municipalities.

We will also, through the *MEGDP*, strive to enhance mining value chain; expand existing jewellery project in Umjindi into a fully-fledged training school; invest in growing the **green economy**. In this regard, we have already secured a potential investor to establish a plant to produce components and parts for solar panels, for example. **Investment in social capital** continues to be our focal point. Co-operatives in areas identified for the roll-out of the *CRDP* have been targeted, and are currently undergoing capacity building.