

***Message of Support from the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism Mr MN Mokoena, on the occasion of the SAPPI Launch of PBS Trucks***

Date: 5 June 2012

- Programme Director;
- The Chief Executive Officer of SAPPI South Africa, Mr Alex Thiel
- The Director of Afrit, Mr Johan van de Wetering;
- The Deputy Chief Executive Officer of MAN Trucks, Mr Bruce Dickson;
- The Director of Buhle Betsu Company Mr Rocky Smith;
- The Representatives of the workers;
- All other Government representatives present;
- Members of the media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Programme Director, I rise to Congratulate SAPPI on behalf of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government for the launch of the Performance Based Standard Trucks known as PBS or Smart Trucks.

I may have to start by reminding you that during the middle of last year, we consulted with SAPPI and other role players in our economic space whilst we were drafting the Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Path (MEGDP) which has now been adopted as the official economic trajectory for the Province, and in this regard we must thank SAPPI for the valuable contribution made.

Among the Key Strategic Economic Sectors identified in the MEGDP is the Green Economy Sector. In the heart of this sector lies three fundamental principals which can be simplified first as:

- Consumption patterns of SA Citizens
- Energy efficiency and sustainability
- Thirdly – Technology which seeks to reduce the carbon emissions.

SAPPI Smart Trucks seem to be perfectly embracing these fundamental principles.

Perhaps we should qualify them, and say Smart Trucks leading the way to the Green Economy, because they are about:

- Operational efficiencies;
- Sustainability of our environment;
- Global Competitiveness;
- And more importantly about the well-being of the people.

We are convinced that SAPPI is headed in the right direction and we hope to strengthen our partnership with them, especially in the Green Economy Sector.

We are now working on a number of green initiatives in the areas of:

- Waste management;
- Alternative energy production & energy efficiency. Starting with retrofitting of Government and Private Business buildings.

Moving forward the green economy is going to be the main focus of our Provincial Economic Trajectory.

In addition to these big-ideas, we continue with our awareness programmes, like our unique Provincial Climate Change literacy manual for schools – which the last time I checked was the only one in the country.

Programme Director, these are the kind of projects which contribute to the bigger scheme of things, educating South Africans who then introduce innovative technologies such as the PBS trucks.

I know SAPPI has supported a number of green projects in the Province, including our 2011 Provincial Climate Change Summit as a build-up to COP17 in December 2011.

We heartily wish to convey our sincerest gratitude for the partnership we have with you, you are one of our best corporate citizens I must say.

On behalf of MEC Norman Mokoena and the Provincial Government, I wish to take this opportunity to wish you well in your research and development and all future endeavours.

I Thank You!