

My GAUTENG

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TOWNSHIP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BILL - a groundbreaking deal for township enterprises



The adoption of the Township Economic Development Bill is a game-changer for Gauteng, as it will accelerate support for the township economy.

Following various consultation sessions with stakeholders across the province during the course of 2021, the Gauteng Legislature passed the Bill into law on 24 March.

"The Bill is a historic milestone for the province. It is a new deal for the townships of Gauteng which allows us to change the economic geography and to ensure we change spatial and economic disappearances," MEC for Economic Development, Parks Tau told Gauteng

News.

The Bill provides a regulatory framework that makes it possible for people living in townships to establish viable and thriving businesses, small enterprises, and co-operatives in a less bureaucratic environment making it easy to climb the economic ladder.

It introduces an enabling framework to ensure that township-based retail malls and supermarkets partner with local service providers and manufacturers in sourcing products, Tau said.

Moreover, the Bill establishes specific procurement rules and programmatic support that allows government and its main contractors to spend a certain percentage of their procurement spend on township-based enterprises or co-operatives.

Tau encouraged the private sector to come on board to explore and maximise

THE GAUTENG TOWNSHIP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BILL



"My Township, My Business, My Economy"
#GPTownshipEconomy

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opportunities like the backyard shacks economy which is home to 4-million people in the province to build flats that can eventually turn townships into high-streets.

Given the influx of people at taxi ranks, Tau said the Bill promotes incentives for municipalities to develop taxi ranks into micro- central business districts, enabling the taxi economy to use its scale to grow supporting value chains and industries.

The by-laws enabled by this legislation also make it easier to incentivise the installation of broadband in township enterprise zones and empower township-based internet service providers.

Tau said research undertaken by his department found that 90% of township enterprises, at different levels, do not have a business account, are not registered, yet they are engaged in entrepreneurial activity that generates income and creates jobs.

"This Bill introduces a new realm of regulation to allow them to access

operating licenses. For example, when we introduced the grant in 2021 for small businesses that were impacted by the July riots, the challenge we had was that many did not have a verification mechanism.

"This Bill will help us address such challenges. It will give township enterprises access to developmental opportunities, finance, training, equipment and expanded markets directly, while addressing the objectives of the country in terms of economic spatiality and those who were previously disadvantaged, by the colour of their skin," Tau explained.

Through its wide implementation, the bill will provide a Township Partnership Fund to support township-based businesses, the Taxi Rank economy, Backyard Real Estate developments, and township Retail Businesses.

The fund will provide wholesale and blended finance to intermediaries that can de-risk lending to township-based firms. ■

THE GAUTENG TOWNSHIP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BILL



My Township, My Business, My Economy

#GPTownshipEconomy

In conversation with Education MEC Panyaza Lesufi:

New era in early childhood development

When the democratic government assumed power 28 years ago, it identified early childhood development (ECD) as a potential strategy to redress the inequalities of apartheid.

However, with decades of well-funded apartheid preschools and years of underfunded township elementary education centres and voluntary kindergarten, the notion that an educated populace is the foundation for a strong and just society has continued to elude the Rainbow Nation.

Fortunately, after years of research and policy formations, including the National Integrated Early Childhood Policy (NIECDP) aimed at providing needed information, prioritising solutions to facilitate social change and ultimately address poverty and inequality, improve the development of children and the quality of early childhood education, from April 1, 2022 the ECD sector will no longer be run by the Department of Social Development (DSD), but by the Department of Basic Education (DBE).

So why should the ECD sector be run by the DBE and not by the DSD?

In line with many other countries that have moved from viewing ECD less as a child protection function and more as an early learning function

that is led and coordinated by national ministries of education, this shift is a purely administrative process where functions, or roles and responsibilities, are transferred from one minister to another.

This will mean that the DBE will become responsible for everything that the DSD was responsible for in terms of delivering, funding, registering, monitoring and supporting the ECD sector.



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Gauteng Youth Advisory Panel

to address unemployment emergency

The Gauteng Provincial Government (GPG) will soon appoint a civil-society led Youth Advisory Panel (GYAP) which will ensure that young people are at the centre of helping government respond to the current youth unemployment emergency.

The panel will serve as a platform for young people's needs to be mobilised and placed their energies to drive all government, private sector and civil society initiatives.

In order to assess new opportunities, needs and challenges faced by the youth, the youth panel will keep close liaison with institutions, bodies and authorities. In addition, it will monitor the adequacy and effectiveness of youth development initiatives in the province.

The panel will be supported by the Youth Directorate in the Office of the Premier, as announced in the State of the Province Address in February.

Premier David Makhura's Spokesperson, Vuyo Mhaga told Gauteng News that GYAP will advise the Premier and the Executive Council on the implementation integrated and sustainable, transformative youth development strategy across the province.

This, he said will strengthen multi-sectoral coordination, collaboration and partnerships across different spheres of government and sectors of society on the implementation of the Gauteng Integrated Youth Development Strategy (2022 - 2030).

The appointment of the GYAP will come as a relief as too many young, especially in the townships, struggle to access demand-driven



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skills development and employment. In the latest unemployment statistics, the youth accounts for about 60% of unemployed people in the country.

"The process to establish this panel is currently underway with the hope that by mid-year it will be fully functional," Mhaga said adding that a memorandum of the Terms of Reference has been tabled for approval by the Executive Council.

The introduction of the panel coincides with the repackaging of the Tshepo flagship programme into a broader integrated youth development intervention that brings all youth civil initiatives into one youth development focal point drawing on lessons of the past 28 years of pioneering youth policy initiatives and institutions in Gauteng.

In 2014, the provincial government introduced a Tshepo 500 Thousand as a flagship programme to facilitate the

entry of young people into the labour market and fast-track entrepreneurship development.

Since then, under a new name, Tshepo One Million, 930 278 young people have benefited from demand-driven learning, earning and entrepreneurship opportunities.

In assessing the socioeconomic impact of youth initiatives in the province and specifically of Tshepo, the review conducted by the Mapungubwe Institute recommended that the Tshepo youth initiative should be taken through a compacting process across the war rooms, especially the jobs and economics war room.

Mhaga called on all youth to participate in community consultations that present the draft terms of reference of the panel. ■

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This move does not take away the fact that multiple studies conducted all over the world indicate that quality early childhood education results in a narrowing of the achievement gap, increased brain development, lower retention rates and special education placements, and an increased development of both academic and social skill acquisition for children participating.

A Project Management Team

consisting of officials from the DBE and DSD and technical advisors and work streams have looked at required norms and standards, systems and funding processes to register ECD programmes, as well as regulate ECD sector practices.

Investing in early childhood education and a high quality learning experience for our youngest and generates long-term benefits and returns to students enrolled in the ECD programmes as well as to the community. Let's invest in early childhood. Let's invest in our collective future. ■



Gauteng scoops top prizes at the NATIONAL BATHO PELE AWARDS

By Rofhiwa Marubini-Tshitahe

Hard work and dedication of the Tara Hospital general worker paid off as she was named South Africa's Best General Worker of the Year at the National Batho Pele Excellence Awards (NBPEA).

Raesibe Annah Letsoalo (45) told My Gauteng, that she was honoured to be recognised for her work.

"I feel very excited to be one of the winners. I didn't know that my supervisors were recognising my work."

Letsoalo began her employment at the hospital in 2014 as a security officer and later moved into the cleaning department.

While she has to clean the hospital, she goes over and above to help out around in other units, which has earned her internal awards.

She advises other public servants to recommit to the Batho Pele principles and do their bit behind the scenes to make the country a better place.

These awards were launched in 2013 as an effort to encourage continuous performance improvement and promote professional and productive public



Raesibe Annah Letsoalo, from Tara Hospital, received the Batho Pele Excellence Award for Best General Worker of the Year.

These awards were launched in 2013 as an effort to encourage continuous performance improvement and promote professional and productive public service that delivers quality services.

service that delivers quality services.

This year's edition held on Thursday, 24 March 2022, sought to highlight the strength and resilience of public servants in combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Gauteng Provincial Government's commitment to go the extra mile was recognised as worthy of an award in silver, and Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital won gold, for "Best Responsive Government Institution of

the Year" in the same category.

Other winners from the province include the Best Researcher of the Year, which was awarded to Dr Jonathan Moustakis, from Gauteng's Lenasia's Community Health Centre (CHC).

The Lifetime Achiever was awarded to Professor Ephraim Thibedi Mokgokong, a retired former Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University. ■

Annual National Batho Pele Excellence Awards

Best Responsive Government Institution Award during the COVID-19 pandemic, while continuously serving South African citizens in a positive way.

Gold - Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital
Silver - Gauteng Provincial Government

CONGRATULATIONS TEAM GPG



Dr Jonathan Moustakis, of Lenasia's Community Health Centre, won the Best Researcher of the Year award.

NCOP members assess Gauteng's capacity to deliver services

• By Lerato Mailoane

Permanent delegates to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) are visiting Gauteng for a report back session as part of the Provincial Week programme.

The high-impact oversight sessions are held under the theme: "Assessing state capacity to respond to the needs of communities."

The 2022 Provincial Week is aimed at ensuring that service delivery commitments made by the executive are monitored and implemented.

NCOP Chairperson, Amos Masondo said the provision of integrated housing infrastructure, including measures to address the housing backlog and create integrated and sustainable human settlements, will be a key feature of the week-long programme.

In addition, Masondo said the focus will be on provincial efforts to revive the economy following the devastating impact of COVID-19.



Welcoming delegates, Premier David Makhura said he is delighted that NCOP returns to the province after taking a break due to COVID-19.

He said the MEC for Human Settlements, Lebogang Maile is ready to outline programmes to integrate housing infrastructure and efforts to address housing backlogs.

The executive will also use the sessions to highlight the province's plan

to decentralise the health sector.

"The CEO must have authority to conduct the operations of the hospitals. Dealing with major reforms in corruption, the maintenance of institutions must be the responsibility of each department.

"This is a big reform we are implementing as we want to hold accounting officers responsible," Makhura added. ■



Premier David Makhura welcomes permanent delegates to the NCOP as part of the Provincial Week programme.

Thumbs up for eco-friendly

COUNTRY GARDENS ESTATE

• By Thembisa Shologu

Premier David Makhura conducted an oversight visit to the first of its kind, eco-friendly Country Gardens Estate in Nooitgedacht, Mogale City.

The estate is located in the prime Lanseria area that the provincial government is prioritising for economic growth.

Lanseria is earmarked for the development of a Smart City.

Projects in the pipeline in the area include the building of a mega Special Agro-processing Park and Logistics Hub, the expansion of the Busmark plant for manufacturing buses on the N12 Highway, a solar farm and urban agricultural projects on the 30 000 hectares as well as the mega human settlements.

Collectively, the projects will bring in more than R60 billion into this corridor.



Premier David Makhura and MEC for Human Settlements, Lebohlang Maile visit newly constructed Country Gardens Estate

The Country Gardens Estate introduces Gauteng residents to the new age of building design and structure inspired by the Netherlands Development Group, MAXXLIVING.

The developers are promoting a greener way of life by moving completely off the grid and introducing eco-friendly energy methods to sustain a well-maintained estate.

The development uses the Hydroloop recycling unit, a water-saving machine that recycles water in the home three

times before it is expelled, reducing water consumption by two thirds.

Makhura was pleased with the project as it protects the environment.

"It is a small development, but it carries a very big story, a shift in the way we do things, that is the greening but also localisation which is very critical in creating jobs and growing our economy."

The project has already created close to 100 jobs and is expected to create over 1000 jobs in the future. ■



LIVE LEKKER, buy local



• By Thembisa Shologu

Consumers are urged to actively choose to 'buy local' to reset, rebuild and recover South Africa from the economic damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Buying local is critical because it encourages national pride in the goods, services and products made on our home soil. It supports the growth of small businesses and the expansion of larger firms.

It creates employment, sustains livelihoods and supports our manufacturing sector.

MEC for Economic Development, Parks Tau says by buying from local artists and retailers, especially Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs), will put the province and South Africa back to work.

"Small businesses are the engines of our economic progress. They are the glue and the heart and soul of our communities," says Tau.

These sentiments are also shared by Proudly South African CEO, Eustace Mashimbye who cautions consumers believing that cheap international brands are better than locally manufactured products.

South Africa makes amazing products that are huge value for money from luxury goods to value items from clothes, cosmetics, cars, movies amongst others, he says.

"On the Economic Recovery and Reconstruction Plan, at the heart of it is local procurement. Localisation gives you that sense of knowing that you can invest because people are eager to buy and that is what we are about."

Mashimbye says the country has become more self-reliant on a

South Africa makes amazing products that are huge value for money from luxury goods to clothes, cosmetics, cars, movies amongst others

number of products since the advent of COVID-19.

In the space of just two years, through collaboration and out of necessity, South Africa managed to build local production capability in ventilators, hand sanitisers, medical-grade face masks and gloves, vaccines and therapeutic drugs and anaesthetics.

Proudly South Africa has a dedicated online shopping platform for locally produced products at www.rsamade.co.za. ■

COVID-19 IS NOT OVER, CONTINUE TO STAY SAFE

There has been further relaxation of restrictions which means that we are opening our economy and resuming many of the social and cultural activities that we have missed over the last two years.

However, it remains mandatory to wear a mask or similar covering over the nose and mouth when in public indoor spaces.

This means that we still need to wear masks when in shops, malls, offices, factories, taxis, buses, trains or any other indoor public space.

Let us protect ourselves, our families and our communities by encouraging them to get vaccinated and continue adhering to non-pharmaceutical interventions. ■

NON-PHARMACEUTICAL INTERVENTIONS



COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAMME



VACCINES SAVE LIVES



- COVID-19 vaccines reduce your chances of severe illness, hospitalisation and death if you contract the coronavirus.
- Vaccinate to protect yourself, your loved ones and those who are vulnerable to severe COVID-19 infection.
- All COVID-19 vaccines being administered have been approved by the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA).

Play your Part. Stop the Spread.

#IChooseVaccination #VaccinesSaveLives

My township, my business, my economy

My Gauteng News spoke to Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) for their views on the Township Economic Development Bill. This is what they had to say:



KEDIBONE SEGOLE - founder of Moipone Aesthetics

We have a standing challenge of compliance which makes it difficult for us to access the big markets. We have challenges with state funding and we do not have sufficient collateral in order to get banking loans. We don't have the marketing backgrounds to help us expand our business. I believe this Bill will empower us and shine the spotlight on township businesses and the role they can play in growing the economy.



TSHEPO SKOSANA - founder of Taba Taba- clothing and jewellery designs

I hope the Bill will loosen the red tape and improve the ease of doing business for township enterprises. I hope it will give me access to wider markets, especially in the townships where I live. As a designer, there are new sewing machines that are introduced and funding to purchase these has been a challenge. I want the Bill to unlock funding opportunities. My other hope is that it will afford me and many of my peers an opportunity to gain access to much-needed education and skills. Overall, this is a step in the right direction..



TEBOGO LANGA - founder of Marvelous Chemicals

Currently, we supply our products to spaza shops, which seems not to be enough because our products are not seen in the mainstream market. The Bill will assist in ensuring that consumers can purchase our products from larger retailers to help us grow. There are a lot of opportunities that are offered by the government that township business owners do not know about, so having a central policy to coordinate this is a game-changer for us.



THAMI MANZI - founder of Ola Super Stores

Particular districts and townships have defined themselves over time as labour markets, arts and culture hubs and an ecosystem has been established. However, the role of technology is changing and disrupting this ecosystem and value chains. Many small businesses are still under-developed leaving them vulnerable to the profit motive of the corporates. I hope the Bill will embrace formulating an approach that will change this and empower the local business to thrive economically.