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ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR SEDIBENG PRESIDENTIAL IMBIZO

The Imbizo will give impetus to the President's commitment that no one will be left behind

President Cyril Ramaphosa and Premier David Makhura will on Friday, 12 August 2022, lead government's engagement with communities during a District Development Model (DDM) Presidential Imbizo in Sedibeng.

The Sedibeng District Municipality, located in the southern part of Gauteng, is made up of Emfuleni, Lesedi, and Midvaal local municipalities.

The Presidential Imbizo will assist in highlighting challenges and unblock any blockages to service delivery in line with the DDM methodology which seeks to foster integration within government and social partners, to enable inclusive growth and development.

Ramaphosa launched the DDM in 2019 to facilitate cooperative governance through sound intergovernmental planning, budgeting, implementation, and monitoring.

The executive will interact with communities on their experience of daily life in the province, service delivery challenges, and initiatives and solutions by communities to improve socio-economic conditions.

The Imbizo will give impetus to the President's commitment that no one will be left behind as government works with all sectors of society to move the country forward.

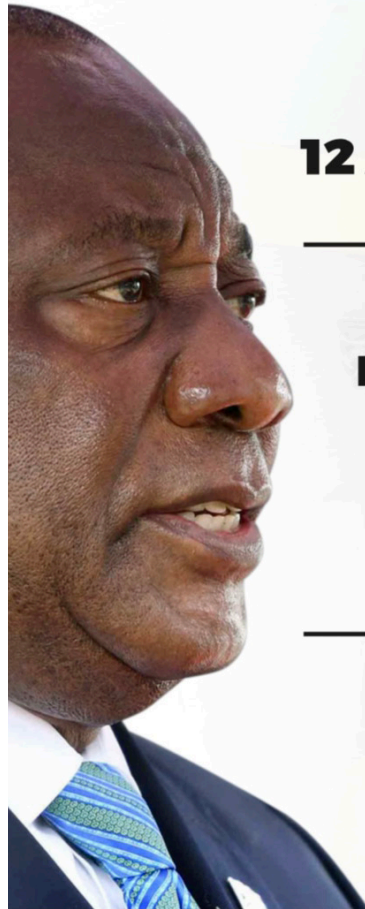
The municipalities in the area, among others, are struggling with irregular spending and aging infrastructure.

To address these challenges, both the national and provincial governments are intervening through Sections 63 and 139 of the Constitution to fix governance and infrastructure to pave the way for economic development and sustainable investment to take place in this part of the province.

Sedibeng, which accounts for an estimated 33% of the national gross domestic product, has traditionally been South Africa's heavy industrial, manufacturing and engineering hub.

PRESIDENTIAL IMBIZO

WITH PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA



FRIDAY

12 AUGUST 2022 | 10:00

**SHARPEVILLE CRICKET
PITCH, NEXT TO GEORGE
THABE STADIUM,
SEDIBENG DISTRICT,
GAUTENG.**

LET'S GROW SOUTH AFRICA TOGETHER.

**LEAVE NO
ONE BEHIND**

However, owing to an array of reasons, the region is experiencing a decline and de-industrialisation of the steel industry, causing undesired falling output and company closures resulting in serious socio-economic challenges.

Plans are in place for the regeneration of the Vaal into a new, smart, green, and more inclusive economy with the single biggest inter-governmental investment effort and public-private partnership initiative that will make it an investor-friendly, economically, and financially viable as well as environmentally sustainable district.

The provincial government is also forging ahead with plans to develop the area into a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) to stimulate local and foreign direct investment, increase exports, develop local industrial capabilities and accelerate development.

The Inaugural Sedibeng Investment Conference held in October 2021 received more than R40 billion in investment pledges and commitments.

Ramaphosa and Makhura will be joined by a delegation of ministers, members of the provincial executive council, and mayors. ■

PLANS TO FAST-TRACK SERVICE DELIVERY IN SEDIBENG

The Gauteng Provincial Government has committed to unblock service delivery challenges affecting businesses in the Sedibeng District Municipality.

Addressing the business community during an engagement on service delivery in the area Gauteng Premier, David Makhura said the provincial government continued efforts to transform, modernise and reindustrialise the district's economy was on track.

Makhura said a number of interventions have enabled the provincial government to proactively implement and monitor the development and roll-out of financial recovery and service delivery plans in the area.

"We have also been able to commit financial resources and implement road infrastructure refurbishment projects, provide waste management trucks to Emfuleni."

The series engagements form part of the Ntirhisano Outreach Programme and are a build-up for President Cyril Ramaphosa's District Development Model (DDM) Imbizo scheduled on 12 August 2022.

During the engagement that took place on Wednesday, 27 July 2022, Premier Makhura was joined by Trade, Industry, and Competition (dtic) Deputy Minister, Fikile Majola, Emfuleni Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Siphso Radebe, and MEC for Economic Development, Agriculture, Environment, Parks Tau.

The DDM is aimed at ensuring that all spheres of government work with civil society, business, labour, and the community to coordinate and integrate development plans in pursuit of inclusive growth and job creation.

The Sedibeng District has been experiencing challenges with water and sanitation infrastructure resulting in the pollution of the Vaal River, road infrastructure, and financial constraints in the local municipalities.

Interventions by the provincial government include placing Emfuleni Local Municipality under administration in 2018 in terms of section 139(5) (a) of the Constitution, 1996 read in



The engagement updated to the business community of Sedibeng on measures that are currently being implemented to reignite the local economy.

conjunction with section 139 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003.

Government has introduced the Vaal River Intervention Implementation Plan to secure and safeguard the water services infrastructure and repair the bulk water, and reticulation network to eliminate the current spillages.

The provincial government is also making good progress in the realisation of the Vaal Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

To date, over 3000 hectares of land have been secured across all the local municipalities in the Sedibeng District. All relevant assessments, land use planning, and priority sector allocation have been completed.

Commitments from local investors to the tune of R40 billion with a potential of creating up to 170 000 jobs over five years were pledged at the Sedibeng

Investment Conference held in October 2021.

Two priority investments with a combined estimated investment value of R3,2 billion over five years have been secured and are planned for implementation during the current 2022/23 financial year.

Deputy Minister Majola appealed to business people to take advantage of the Black Industrialists programme to play a meaningful role in economic development.

"We need to work together in creating economic opportunities and creating jobs to improve the living conditions of the people of Sedibeng. This region is the birthplace of industrialization in South Africa. We are committed to rebuilding the economy of this region by working with all roles players," said Majola. ■



◀ Deputy Minister for Trade, Industry, and Competition (dtic), Fikile Majola advantage of the Black Industrialists programme to play a meaningful role in economic development.

VAAL RIVER SEZ TO DRIVE INDUSTRIALISATION, BOOST JOB CREATION

The high-speed corridor has been declared a Strategic Infrastructure Programme in the Presidency

• By Lerato Mailoane

The Gauteng Provincial Government is laying the foundation for public-private partnerships to transform and ensure sustainable growth for the Vaal Region.

Working with the Department of Trade, Industry, and Competition and the Sedibeng District Municipality, the provincial government established the Vaal River Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Company and the Programme Management Unit, to coordinate the Vaal River Smart City project in 2021.

SEZs are geographically designated areas set aside for specifically targeted economic activities, which are supported through special arrangements and support systems to promote industrial development.

These will unleash linkages between the township and rural economies and create jobs in line with the national government's District Development Model (DDM) and the Growing Gauteng Together (GGT2030) action plan.

Government's plans around the Vaal River SEZ will come under the spotlight when President Cyril Ramaphosa and Premier David Makhura, lead the DDM Presidential Imbizo on Friday, 12 August 2022.

The Vaal River SEZ business case is based on making the region:

- A critical location for the development of the Hydrogen Economy and green re-industrialisation initiative which will transform and modernise this industrial basin into the country's preeminent hub for low-carbon manufacturing and renewable energy production;
- A cannabis capital of Africa, a new sector that has enormous potential to offer opportunities to new emerging farmers and new industrialists who grow and process cannabis for medicinal and other uses;
- A high-impact investment zone for the food industry, agriculture, and agri-food value chains: building the Vaal agrotropolis;
- A logistics gateway (air, road,



Our task is to support youth to unleash their potential

rail, river) in collaboration with the Vaal aerropolis;

- Making the Vaal River a key destination for tourism and the Blue economy;
- Building a Smart City along the Vaal River to enable SEZ development and drive urban regeneration;
- Vaal Marina development;
- Heidelberg aerodrome;
- Working with universities and the private sector to build a comparative advantage of the key sectors and industries such as green hydrogen, cannabis, Agri-foods, logistics, tourism, and the blue economy through research, skills development, and innovation.

Meanwhile the OR Tambo International Airport SEZ is set to drive industrial activity and job creation in the rail and freight sector.

That is according to the MEC for Economic Development, Parks Tau who was speaking at a virtual webinar on OR Tambo International SEZ hosted under the theme "Linking export opportunities to Africa and Beyond."

MEC Tau said the SEZ's location is



ideal for investors in the freight industry. Government is currently expanding its rail network between Gauteng and Eastern Cape with a high-speed rail corridor that would give additional opportunities for people to be able to export and import directly between the two provinces.

"The high-speed corridor has been declared a Strategic Infrastructure Programme in the Presidency, therefore, giving us the opportunity to focus on increasing logistics that support both rail-based and air-based logistics in the SEZ," Tau said. ■

PREMIER DAVID MAKHURA'S MESSAGE FOR WOMEN'S MONTH



• Premier, Mr David Makhura

HAPPY *Women's* MONTH

Today, we honour all women who fought for freedom and democracy and those who continue to fight for a just, equal, and caring South Africa.

Women played and continue to play an important role in building a better South Africa, we salute and celebrate them for their contribution to the struggle for a non-racial and non-sexist South

Africa.

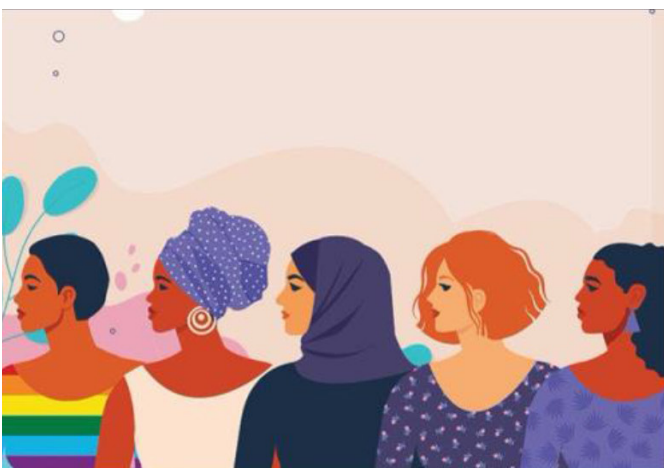
We remain concerned that gender-based violence continues to rear its ugly head in society. This is despite measures we have introduced to deal with this second pandemic of gender-based violence. This cannot go unchallenged.

Despite facing the triple challenge of inequality,

unemployment, and poverty, women remain at the forefront of social movements in all spheres of society, fighting for equality and justice for all, just as they have since that historic march to the Union Buildings in 1956.

We salute all women of our province!

Happy Women's Month. ■



WOMEN'S MONTH AUGUST 2022

#WomenEmpowered2030 and beyond

Women Empowerment is aimed at accelerating women's advancement, access to resources and access to decision making, and includes preferential treatment of women setting aside funds and other resources for the advancement of women, with a view to promoting gender equality

'Women's Socio-Economic Rights, Empowerment and Resilience'

GAUTENG GOVERNMENT CHAMPIONS YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

We brought you together to help government address young people's issues, to help direct government to youth programmes

• By Christopher Sello and Lerato Mailoane

The newly launched Gauteng Youth Advisory Panel (GYAP) had an opportunity to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of government policies and programmes for youth at the inaugural induction session.

The session, held on 22 July 2022, addressed the roles and responsibilities of the panel members, and saw presentations from various departments on their youth intervention for the 2022/23 Financial Year.

The fifteen (15) member Advisory Panel, announced in June 2022, acts as an advisory panel to the Gauteng Provincial Government on all issues affecting young people in the province and works with other governmental agencies and civil society groups in the advancement of youth programmes.

The panel aims to 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).

Part of its responsibilities is to maintaining a close liaison with institutions, bodies, or authorities to foster common policies and practices and promote cooperation. It will also assess new needs and opportunities, and challenges for the youth in the province.

Premier David Makhura used the opportunity to reaffirm the provincial government's commitment to intensify youth development initiatives. He acknowledged that young people's problems are real and that solutions need to be driven by them.

"Young people have ideas. They might not have experience and practical application, but we are looking for your energy to solve young people's problems.



Gauteng youth offering should be consolidated into single multi-tier programmes that prepare young people to transition from adolescence to young adults smoothly

We want your input on our work. We brought you together to help government address young people's issues, to help direct government to youth programmes and help bring young people's issues to government's attention."

Makhura told the session that the executive council had already produced the Gauteng Integrated Youth Development Strategy which will also provide a strategic, programmatic, and institutional framework and mechanisms for mainstreaming youth development in all policies, programmes, and interventions.

Gauteng, with 5, 8 million youth battles high levels of economic inactivity, resulting in unemployment (almost 2,2 million) affecting the youth more, which further heightens the risk of them being drawn into a life of crime or drug abuse.

The issues of mental health, gender-based violence, bullying, racism, sexism and homophobia, strip away from them.

The Premier said these highlight the need for the Gauteng government to work together on efforts to fight the many challenges faced by the youth.

The success of the strategy, he added, will be determined by its ability to achieve integration goals.

"Gauteng youth offering should be consolidated into single multi-tier programmes that prepare young people to transition from adolescence to young adults smoothly. This offering must address the challenges that young people face and ensure that they are linked to opportunities and service offerings to improve their lives and livelihoods", concluded Makhura. ■

GAUTENG GOVERNMENT INSTILLING CULTURE OF ETHICAL GOVERNANCE

Today we are here, not only to deal with integrity, ethics and anti-corruption but we are also here to discuss the reform of the public health system in Gauteng



“Today we are here, not only to deal with integrity, ethics and anti-corruption but we are also here to discuss the reform of the public health system in Gauteng,” Premier David Makhura told the senior officials

• By Rofhiwa Tshitahe-Marubini

The Gauteng Provincial Government is institutionalising integrity and ethical leadership among public servants.

Premier David Makhura and acting Health MEC, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko on 26 July 2022, engaged the Department of Health senior officials on issues of integrity, ethics, and anti-corruption and reforms of the public health system.

The visit forms part of the premier’s State of the Province Address

commitment to conduct roadshows in all departments in a quest to strengthen efforts to prevent, detect, investigate, and resolve acts of corruption and misconduct in the province.

Makhura’s spokesperson, Vuyo Mhaga said the meeting was meant to ensure that the Department of Health is adhering to good governance.

“He met with the senior civil servants to make sure that they adhere to the highest ethical standards so that the services to the people of Gauteng are improved and

the department’s finances are protected,” said Mhaga.

The allegations and actual incidents of corruption and irregular procurement during the COVID-19 pandemic have

significantly eroded public trust.

The provincial government has put several initiatives in place to fight corruption in the province.

These include the establishment of integrity management units in all Gauteng departments, vetting, the appointing of ethics and integrity officers, and the implementation of the open tender system including financial disclosures for senior managers and supply chain management officials.

Mhaga said the premier will continue to meet with senior officials in other departments to make sure “that we run a Gauteng that is corrupt free with high values of integrity and ethics.” ■

The engagement updated to the business community of Sedibeng on measures that are currently being implemented to reignite the local economy.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS CRACKDOWN ON CRIME AND ILLEGAL MINING IN WEST RAND



Premier David Makhura joined the multi-disciplinary forces of O Kae Molao to restore law and order

• By Rofhiwa Tshitahe-Marubini

The dialogue formed part of the Sustainable Livelihoods and Youth Development programme aimed at empowering youth with information on various skills and development opportunities.

In his address, Makhura said the Township Economic Development Act, will assist young entrepreneurs to register their businesses and open doors to funding.

"The Township Development Act is meant for entrepreneurs who have experienced many challenges. We must help, especially the youth, with funding through the Gauteng Enterprise Propeller."

MEC for Social Development Morakane Mosupyo committed her department to intensify the implementation of the Gauteng Anti-Poverty Strategy and resolved to ramp up the war on poverty interventions.

The emphasis will be on increased access, expansion, and introduction of additional innovative programmes in the areas of skills development, entrepreneurship development, and job placement, targeting women and youth, the MEC said.

Young people from across the City-Region used the engagement to express their daily challenges and shared their successes stories from government programmes.

Samuel Ndlovu (37) from Alexandra took advantage of the opportunities for business training that was offered at Ikusasa Lethu Centre for Excellence.

Samuel credited the programme for teaching him how to structure a business plan, operate, and register

his Last-Mile Online Logistics company which delivers medication from public hospitals to the doorstep of chronic patients.

"I had an idea to start an online medication delivery service for patients who would otherwise struggle to get their prescriptions due to ill health."

He employs two students to do the deliveries and is currently developing an app that he hopes will attract more customers to sign up for his services.

"My business is youth-driven, and all my employees are students. I hope to employ more young people as I am familiar with their struggles."

Philisile Sibiba graduated from the Beauty Hub Academy to start her hairdressing business as part of the Welfare to Work programme. The programme seeks to reduce the dependency of young women on the welfare system.

"I am grateful to the department for giving me this opportunity. As young people, we need to push ourselves to achieve the best."

Looking ahead, Philisile is looking to expand her business portfolio by adding spa treatments and to hire more young people. ■

Premier David Makhura has encouraged the youth to utilise all opportunities presented to them by government to create and grow their own businesses.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2023 SCHOOL ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS

2023 ONLINE ADMISSIONS APPLICATIONS TO GRADE R, GRADE 2 - 7 AND GRADE 9 - 12



Parents who wish to **apply for Grade R, Grade 2–7 and Grade 9–12 at a public school in Gauteng** for the 2023 academic year **must apply directly at their identified school(s) and not on the GDE Online Admissions System.**

Parents and guardians are **urged to interact directly with their identified school(s)** to receive **guidance on how and when to apply for these grades.**

Applications will be from 22 July 2022–19 August 2022
To apply, log in to www.gdeadmissions.gov.za

#2023OnlineAdmissionsGP



The Gauteng Department of Education



@EducationGP1



@gautengdepartmentofeducation

• By Thembisa Shologu

The Gauteng Education Department (GDE) has so far successfully processed a total of 557 826 Grade 1 and 8 applications through the Online Admission System.

As of 03 August 2022, the department had recorded 234 940 applications for Grade 1 and 322 886 applications for Grade 8.

Applications submitted with no documents will be considered as incomplete and will only receive placement offers at schools with available space from 1 –15 December 2022

The 2023 Online Admissions applications which opened on Friday, 22 July - will close on Monday, 19 August at midnight.

The GDE's school's online

registration system was initiated to prevent long queues and encourage a tech-savvy school registration process.

A notable improvement this year is that parents can now register on the admissions website without uploading all the required documentation. This was not possible in previous years.

Additional improvements will allow parents to enter their

ID numbers, and their other information will automatically be populated in the required fields.

Parents will also be able to use their live location as an address reference point. This makes it easier to apply for schools within your home address' feeder zone.

The system has been tested to handle 40 000 concurrent users at any given time, performing a total of 120 000 complete applications in one hour.

The department said all learners in Grade R at a school or Early Childhood Development Centre must be applied for, using the GDE Online Admissions System to be accepted at a school for Grade 1 in the 2023 academic year.

"No Grade R learner will be automatically accepted into Grade 1 at any Gauteng public school without applying online", said the department.

Parents who apply to Schools of Specialisation must ensure that they contact the school to arrange for the auditions or admission tests while those applying for residence at boarding schools must first confirm acceptance within the school.

Parents and guardians who wish to apply for Grade R, Grades 2-7, and Grades 9-12 must apply directly at their identified school(s) and not on the GDE Online Admission System.

Applications can be completed at www.gdeadmissions.gov.za where they can create a unique login credentials.

Applicants who do not have internet access or the resources required to apply, can visit their nearest district office or the 48 dedicated decentralised walk-in centres for assistance. A total of 105 libraries are also available to assist parents to apply.

Information on the centres and libraries is available on the GDE website and social media platforms.

After applying, parents will

receive an SMS notification of placement offers to either accept or decline from 3 – 31 October 2022.

Here are the documents required for online admissions:

- Parent and Child ID or Passport or Refugee Permit or Asylum Seeker
- Permit or Permanent Residence Permit or Study Permit
- South African Birth Certificate
- Proof of Home Address
- Proof of Work Address
- Latest School Report
- Clinic Card/Vaccination report (for grade 1)

Parents and guardians will be given up until 26 August 2022 - 7 days after the application period ends - to upload or submit these documents.

To eliminate the risk of overlooking an applicant with uploaded documents by a school, schools will receive an auto alert each time new documents are uploaded. The system will highlight

all uploaded documents for verification.

"Applications submitted with no documents will be considered as incomplete and will only receive placement offers at schools with available space from 1 –15 December 2022," the department said.

To increase the chances of placement closer to the home address, parents are advised to select schools with feeder zones.

Placement will be conducted as per the following admission regulations:

- Home address within feeder zone
- Siblings
- Work address
- Within 30 km Radius
- Beyond 30km Radius

Parents and guardians who experience challenges during the application period are encouraged to visit district offices and decentralised walk-in centres or call the GDE's contact centre at 0800 000 789 or WhatsApp at 060 891 0361. ■





SCHOOL OF SPECIALISATION WITH A FOCUS ON TOURISM LAUNCHED IN TEMBISA

• By Thembisa Shologu

The Gauteng Department of Education has officially launched another School of Specialisation in Commerce and Entrepreneurship.

Tembisa Secondary School has been gazetted as the first entrepreneurship school in Ekurhuleni which will mainly focus on tourism and hospitality.

According to the Growing Gauteng Together (GGT2030) action plan, schools of specialisation aim to bridge the skills gap in the country's economy and increase employment opportunities for learners after completing matric.

Speaking at the launch, Education MEC Panyaza Lesufi said government

wants to nurture talent across key disciplines and develop the future generation of leaders in the country.

"Gone are the days where we are going to produce learners that are not able to be absorbed by the economy.

"We need education to directly contribute to economic development. We do not want to prepare our learners to be unemployed, we want to prepare future learners to be hunted and recruited by companies," said Lesufi.

Learner, Luyanda Zikode (18) said the school will bridge the unemployment gap as they are taught how to run and start a business. "By the time we leave school, we will be equipped with the necessary skills and information."

The school has a simulated hotel

room for practical exercises in the hospitality environment.

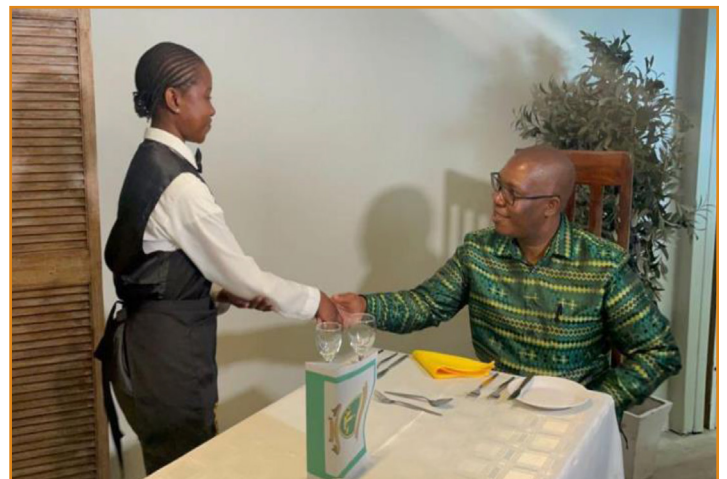
Another learner, Lethabo Motlokoa said they have received practical knowledge and skills in the tourism and hospitality field first-hand.

"The skills we learn here prepare us to be entrepreneurs. If you are not able to continue with your studies or want to do something outside of the hospitality and tourism sector, you are already skilled and independent.

"Instead of looking for jobs, it's easier for jobs to come to us. It's like we are already at tertiary. This is an opportunity that will reduce unemployment in our country," added Lethabo. ■



The schools of specialisation aim to bridge the skills gap in the country's economy and increase employment opportunities



MEC for Education Panyaza Lesufi says the schools of specialisation is teaching children relevant skills.

GAUTENG GOVERNMENT CALLS FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR AUTISTIC PERSONS



By Thabo Bodibe

Gauteng Provincial Government has called for greater access and opportunities for persons with autism.

This emerged at the inaugural Gauteng Autism Colloquium which was held under the theme: "Doing what we can, with what we have, where we are" on 27 July 2022.

The colloquium was hosted in partnership with the Disability Rights Directorate in the Office of the Premier, Departments of Education, Health, and Social Development in collaboration with Autism South Africa, and universities to share the latest research, information, and best practices.

Autism is a condition related to brain development that impacts how a person

**Doing what we can,
with what we have,
where we are**

perceives and socializes with others, causing problems in social interaction and communication. The disorder also includes limited and repetitive patterns of behavior and irregularities in speech and language development.

The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention indicates that the current prevalence rate for autism shows that about one out of fifty-nine children is diagnosed with autism with a ratio of 3 to 4

boys being diagnosed. Research indicates that this ratio might be due to the under-diagnosis of girls.

Disability Rights Director in the Office of the Premier, Zain Bulbulia said the concept of a caring society is strengthened and deepened when everyone recognises that persons with disabilities share the same rights.

"It is vital to acknowledge that the majority of persons with disabilities remain excluded from ordinary life. Growing Gauteng Together (GGT2030) is about building a province where women, youth, and persons with disabilities are empowered."

GAUTENG NEWS

in brief



MEC for Economic Development, Environment, Agriculture & Rural Development, Parks Tau spent time with farmers in Vanderbijlpark to also celebrate with them the harvesting season. He visited the 300-hectare Konkesinako Farm which focuses on sunflowers and maize as well as Ronnie Mckenzie, a vegetable and piggery farmer.



Members of the Executive Council (MECs) visited various communities in Sedibeng to assess service delivery progress, render services and engage with residents. Here are some highlights.



MEC for Infrastructure Development Tasneem Motara visited Pitseng Primary School in Zone 10 Sebokeng. The school was built in 1979 and was due for an upgrade. The renovations are 98% complete. "This project helped the community to participate and gain skills, experience and exposure. Thank you all for participating and thanks to the councilor, MMC, SGB, and stakeholders for taking part in this project," said Motara. The MEC also visited Frikkie Meyer Primary School, which is also undergoing restorative repairs. At least 30% of the contractor's scope of work was outsourced to local suppliers and labourers.



The Department of Roads and Transport team engaged in visible service delivery in the form of repairing potholes, cutting grass, litter picking, deep patching, irradiation, and vegetation removal, removing edge build-up on islands and walkways, and cleaning stormwater drains in De Deur, Vereeniging, and Sharpville.