



TOWNSHIP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT –

POSITIONING SMMES AS CATALYSTS FOR ACCELERATED GROWTH

• By Rofhiwa Marubini-Tshitahle

The groundbreaking Township Economic Development Bill has been officially signed into law by Premier David Makhura.

The new Act is part of the Gauteng Provincial Government's effort of establishing and formalising township businesses, and to promote a sustainable township economy via funding and infrastructure.

"This Act is a timeless monument to the resilience and tenacity of towering pioneers of the township economy such as Ntate Richard Maponya and many men and women who have built thriving township businesses against the wishes of the architects of apartheid," said Makhura.

Historically, township entrepreneurs lacked access to formal markets, proper commercial districts, land, and affordable financial support for business expansion and formalisation.

The new Act provides a regulatory framework that makes it possible for entrepreneurs 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 compels provincial government and municipalities to procure goods and services from local township-based businesses owned by South Africans while encouraging businesses to manufacture such goods locally so that jobs can be created.

The Act will make it easy to release land and lease such land on

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a long-term basis, to those township entrepreneurs who want to grow food and expand their businesses.

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

Furthermore, it creates a new framework for big corporates that invest and operate in the townships to partner with local businesses, including offering shelf space for goods produced.

With the support of the Gauteng Enterprise Propeller (GEP), Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), SA SME Fund and Standard Bank, R850 million is available to assist township businesses to rebuild and grow.

Addressing small business entrepreneurs at the Orlando community hall in Soweto, Makhura said the policy is explicit about supporting township

businesses owned by South Africans.

"We are not apologetic about this initiative to redress the injustices of the past and deal decisively with the structural economic challenges of poverty, unemployment, and inequality that South Africa faces.

"All over the world, developmental states make interventions that seek to assist their citizens to overcome historical, geographic or social disadvantages."

Makhura mirrored the Township Economic Development Act with the Obama Care Act saying it is about inclusion and transformation.

"I am filled with deep emotions as I sign into law this historic piece of legislation. Our Act is aimed at including hundreds of thousands of Township entrepreneurs who were left out of the mainstream of the economy," Makhura told the packed hall.

Through this law, Makhura said government wants to see township-based firms integrating into high-growth sectors and entering Special Economic Zones.

"As we journey towards a transformed and inclusive economy, we need to remind entrepreneurs that all government can do is to create a more favourable environment for township businesses to thrive.

"It is entrepreneurs who must take the risk and work hard to build businesses that can create jobs and inter-generational wealth," he said.

Gauteng MEC for Economic Development, Parks Tau said the Act marks a paradigm shift in realising economic emancipation for townships and informal settlements where unemployment, poverty and deprivation are still concentrated.

Government is currently setting up systems and processes to ensure that the Act is implemented swiftly and diligently.

You can **download and read more on the Gauteng Township Economic Development Act**, here <https://bit.ly/3Ahx50M>

TEDA promotes INCLUSION AND TRANSFORMATION

• By Rofhiwa Marubini-Tshitahle

Township-based entrepreneurs and associations have welcomed the Township Economic Development Act (TEDA), saying it will radically transform the economy whilst ensuring coordination and integration of resources for sustainability.

The Act, which was signed into law by Premier David Makhura at Orlando Community Hall, Soweto recently, is a progressive intervention for township economies to be centres of production, distribution, and commercial activity. President Cyril Ramaphosa said this Act is a template of what South Africa's township and village economies should be.

"This progressive Act is one of redress, it aims to address inherited historical wrongs that have continued well into the democratic dispensation, to undoubtedly, disadvantage South African citizens and communities from participating in gainful economic activities," said MEC for Economic Development, Parks Tau.

Soweto Business Collaboration Chairperson, Lucky Kettlele said the Act will help township entrepreneurs reclaim the economy.

"It is important that township businesses take up space and reclaim what is ours. We are ready to ensure that this Act is implemented. We are ready to work with government on the ground so that we can fulfil the crust of this Act. We



MEC for Economic Development, Parks Tau



Black Business Council (BBC) President Elias Monage



Nafcoc Gauteng Chairperson, Themba Ndlovu



Soweto Business Collaboration Chairperson, Lucky Kettlele

need jobs to be created for our people.."

National African Federated Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Nafcoc) Gauteng Chairperson, Themba Ndlovu said government is paving a path for entrepreneurs to take back townships and turn them into black chain economies.

Black Business Council (BBC) President, Elias Monage said the law is a milestone in dealing with the broader challenges faced by small black businesses in the last 28 years and the beginning of a transformational agenda for the township.

"This Act is a new deal to unlock

sectors and create new opportunities so that our people participate in our economy. The inclusive economy will be a pipe dream if we do not support or exclude blacks. There is nothing for us without us," he added.

Entrepreneur Zazini Molo said this was positive news for youth.

"South Africa currently has 66% of young people who are unemployed while many have solutions. The Act is about to change this, I believe. It will open space for sustainable opportunities for young people." ■

GPG officials urged to emulate MASEBE'S UNCOMPROMISING PROFESSIONALISM



• By Lerato Mailoane

While the Gauteng Provincial Government (GPG) is still reeling with shock from the passing of acting Director-General, Thabo Masebe, GPG staff were urged by Premier David Makhura to push forward with the programme of transformation, modernization, and re-industrialisation of the Gauteng City Region

Makhura was delivering his staff address which paid tribute to Masebe who passed away on Monday, 18 April 2022 after a long battle with chronic asthma.

"When a general who commanded the army of public servants is lost in the middle of a battle, it becomes hard. What we are facing is a battle for better life to improve service delivery, the battle against the corrupt in our ranks, who are determined, the battle against poverty, crime, gender-based violence and all discrimination against other human beings.

He added that the team must pull together and not lose momentum in putting the people first while adopting Masebe's leadership model.

"Your spirit of selfless service must not be broken. We must continue to mourn but we must not be broken. We cannot snap under this strain when we have the collective strength to rebuild our emotional state of being. Even in the most difficult circumstances we faced, Thabo Masebe is one of those people who would say to me: we must remain focused on our work and our message must remain consistent," said Makhura.

He encouraged staff to look to the future with hope and be proud that there once was an individual among them of such a rare breed of character who ennobled lives. Very rare does an individual embody both management excellence and leadership exceptionalism.

The Premier also used the address to announce that work is underway to fill all vacant senior management posts in his office to bring about stability in the organisation.

The Premier appealed to staff to re-group, get back on their feet and overcome the powerful destructive storm of death that has hit the province through the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I would like to emphasise that every player must play in the area of their strength, their best areas of strength. Our work on fighting corruption, our policy work, and our Ntirhisano work can only be upscale. Our work on the economy is gaining momentum. Our communication work has

improved tremendously."

Reflecting on some of the work of the Office, Makhura said, the LGBTIQ+ Directorate has been established and a business case to develop an LGBTIQ+ strategy for the province was finalised to streamline the interventions in the sector.

Furthermore, the Office is in the process of re-establishing the Youth Directorate and appointing the Youth Advisory Council which will be completed in the month of May..

Thus far, the Office of the Premier has successfully conducted consultations on the establishment of the Youth Advisory Council. The Council will provide independent oversight, advice, advocacy, and civil society mobilisation on all efforts toward Youth empowerment in the Gauteng City Region.

The work on the war rooms, Makhura said, is aimed at enhancing multisectoral coordination across Gauteng Provincial Government and has gained momentum. This important work brings both national and local government to respond to the problems of poverty, unemployment, and inequality that continue to face the people of our province.



CHARLOTTE MAXEKE REOPENS ITS EMERGENCY UNIT

• By Rofhiwa Marubini-Tshitahe

The Accident and Emergency Unit at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (CMJAH) is finally up and running. However, the unit is not taking any walk-ins just yet.

The hospital – which is a critical part of Gauteng healthcare services, suffered extensive damage when a fire broke out at the facility in April last year.

The unit was officially opened by Health Minister, Joe Phaahla, Gauteng MEC for Health, Nomathemba Mokgethi, and acting MEC for Infrastructure, Jacob Mamabolo on Monday.



The hospital received Occupational Health and Safety approvals and certificates from the City of Johannesburg.

Led by a team of clinicians, Phaahla said the first cohort of 15 mental health patients was brought in from Helen Joseph Hospital on transfer on 4 May, to alleviate the strain.

“This was a pre-arranged

transfer. We must emphasise that the reopening of the Accident and Emergency Unit is done in a phased-in approach so as not to overwhelm the system.”

One of the delays in the reopening of the Accident and Emergency Unit was the Computerized Tomography (CT) Scan which was vandalized.

“The process has unfortunately been delayed because the CT scanner’s processing unit and its cables were stolen and vandalized. The scan machine is critical to the full operation of the units given that trauma and adult emergency patients that present with life-threatening conditions are time-dependent.”

Phaahla said the department’s focus would now turn to the obstetrics and gynaecology department, which will reopen at the end of March next year. Paediatrics is expected to reopen in July 2023, surgery in October, and internal medicine in November 2023.

The entire hospital is expected to be fully operational by December 2023. ■



R800-MILLION KWASTINA FACTORY OPENS IN CARLETONVILLE

• By Qaqambile Maledle

The commitment made by Corobrick at the South African Investment Conference in 2019 has been honoured, with its new Kwastina brick manufacturing factory in Driefontein, Carletonville entering full production.

The R800 million state-of-the-art factory is the largest brickmaking project in the world outside of China.

The construction of Kwastina (Home of the Brick) created temporary employment opportunities for 1 000 people and trained 30 people from the surrounding community in bricklaying.

With a production capacity of 100 million bricks per annum – this will allow the company to broaden its export market to countries such as Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Speaking at the launch of the factory, President Cyril Ramaphosa, who was accompanied by Premier David Makhura said he is delighted that Corobrick has lived up to its promise.

“In March, we said we want to see investment commitments fast being



turned into projects. We want to see foundations being sunk, to hear the sound of bricks being laid, and seeing cranes dotting the skyline.

“We want to see factories being built and production lines being expanded. We want to see people being employed and skills being developed, and here today at Kwastina we are seeing the fulfilment of such investment commitments,” Ramaphosa said.

Corobrick, he added, is making a vital contribution to rebuilding the economy.

“Infrastructure is the flywheel of economic growth and development. Infrastructure projects are vital to our economic recovery due to their multiplier effect throughout the economy and

society,” added Ramaphosa.

The brick manufacturing company is known for being a pioneer in the manufacture and supply of materials for the commercial and household construction industry.

CEO, Nick Booth said the factory is fully automated, from mixing the raw materials to the end product, and is capable of meeting larger volume orders.

“We believe we invested at the bottom of the cycle. All things being equal, if the government rolls out what it plans to, in terms of infrastructure like clinics, hospitals, police stations, and schools, then Kwastina is ideally placed to make those projects more cost-effective and efficient,” said Booth. ■



Caption ???



Gauteng economy on a high

• By Thembisa Shologu

With the increase in demand for medical cannabis, the Gauteng Provincial Government (GPG) is opening regulations for the commercial use of hemp products, providing opportunities for small-scale farmers while keeping up with global trends.



As such, the provincial government calls on those interested in the cannabis business to submit their proposals as part of the Gauteng Cannabis Industrialization Programme.

In a request for information document, gazetted on Friday 29 April 2022, the programme, which is led by the Gauteng Department of Economic Development and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) seeks to unlock huge potential for investment and job creation through cultivation and processing on an industrial scale.

GDARD MEC, Parks Tau said since this is a new industry, projections depended on how far the country is prepared to go.

According to the World Health Organisation, South Africa is already the third-largest illegal cannabis producer in the world, with about 2 500 tons grown in the country a year.

In 2018, cannabis was decriminalised for personal use by the Constitutional Court, while dealing with the products and smoking it in public remained illegal.

Despite this, the sector has the potential to create more than 130 000 new jobs in the country.

Tau said the provincial government is looking at providing leases on state-owned or state controlled land, rentals at special economic zones, industrial parks,

or subsidies at private facilities.

"We have been working on identifying land with the Department of Infrastructure, large tracts of land that we will release not just for cannabis but overall agriculture initiatives in the province, but we will dedicate some of this land to the cannabis sector," said Tau.

With a minimum of 1000 hectares of land, Tau said government has been engaging with Sibanye Stillwater for potential bioremediation of the land which could be used for agriculture industrialization and remediating contaminated land for future land uses.

"We are excited about the potential that this gives agricultural development in the province and using land that is currently waste more productively whilst addressing environmental challenges that are presented by the mining land," he added.

Some of the government's requirements for those applying, are that their proposals include funding mechanisms, cannabis-driven carbon reduction, rehabilitation of compromised mining land, and the inclusion of communities as partners.

Government is also looking at the entire value chain, starting with planting and cultivation. This includes looking at

opportunities in seed cultivation, and possible export of seeds to different parts of the world.

As part of the programme, the support provided by the provincial government will include leases on state-owned or state-controlled land, rentals at special economic zones, industrial parks, or subsidies at private facilities.

Tau said the Gauteng Cannabis Industrialization Programme's potential is also based on the extent to which entrepreneurs take full advantage of the opportunity that has been created.

Earlier this year Premier David Makhura visited the CBD Full Spectrum factory in the Vaal which is the first licensed and most advanced cannabis plant in South Africa.

"As soon as the regulatory framework is stabilised, we will be better able to open up opportunities for medicinal cannabis to create certainty for the proper participants in the sector," added Tau.

Applicants must complete an online application form in full with proper documentation, including a medicinal cannabis license or hemp permit or proof of application where a license is not yet issued. Applications close on 27 May 2022. ■

Building a socially cohesive Gauteng:

AFRICA MONTH MESSAGE

by Premier David Makhura

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We also reflect on the gains that the continent has made in changing perceptions of Africa, from a problem state to one filled with endless business opportunities.

Over time, we have taken concrete steps as a province to support change agents contributing to social cohesion. We continue to work towards building a socially cohesive Gauteng, focused on shifting attitudes and strengthening relations with other African countries.

Amid the positive gains that have

been made in realising the founding vision of the AU, an excess of problems and potential pitfalls remain, which if not dealt with, have a potential of wiping out gains made from years of hard work, sending the continent into relapse.

Through exercising agency and reclaiming ubuntu as the defining feature of human civilisation and human progress, Africa can have an immeasurable impact on the future of humanity. I believe that moment has arrived. Working together across generations and driven by the spirit of partnerships, we will be able to build the Africa of our dreams. We can collectively claim that the 21st century belongs to Africa. ■

Happy Africa Month!



We also reflect on the gains that the continent has made in changing perceptions of Africa, from a problem state to one filled with endless business opportunities.

#AfricaMonth



**BUILDING A BETTER
AFRICA
AND A BETTER
WORLD**

THE BEST BOOSTER

is the one in your arm!

There is a steady increase in the number of COVID-19 infections and influenza cases as we enter the winter season.

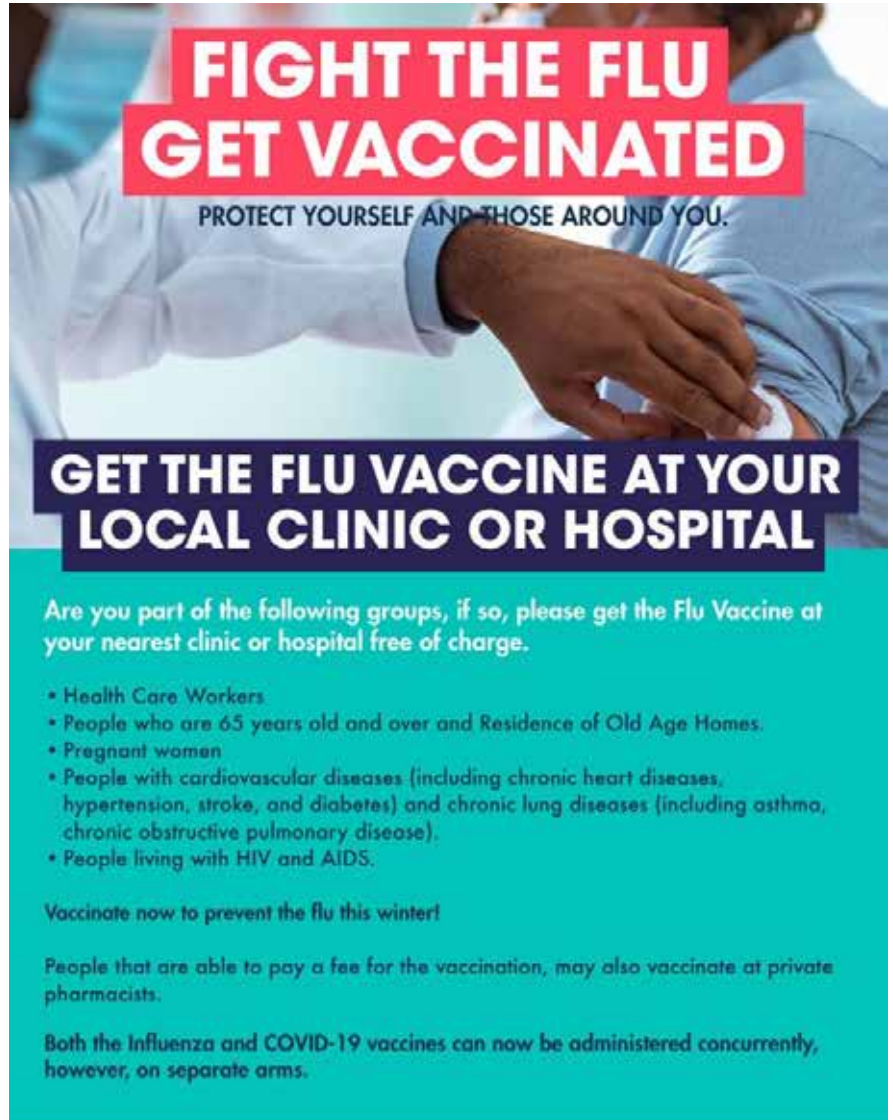
Vaccination remains the most effective weapon to protect ourselves. Both COVID-19 and influenza vaccines can be taken at the same time.

All those who are still not vaccinated and those who qualify for boosters are urged to visit their nearest vaccination site to get the jab.

Having a strengthened immune system can help to reduce the severity of symptoms and the duration of illness.

There is much we can do as individuals to keep healthy and prevent transmission to others:

- Ensure your COVID-19 vaccines are up to date
- Ventilate indoor spaces
- Wear a mask when indoors and in crowded spaces
- Get a flu vaccine, it is that time of the year
- Know what to do when you have flu-like symptoms



**FIGHT THE FLU
GET VACCINATED**

PROTECT YOURSELF AND THOSE AROUND YOU.

**GET THE FLU VACCINE AT YOUR
LOCAL CLINIC OR HOSPITAL**

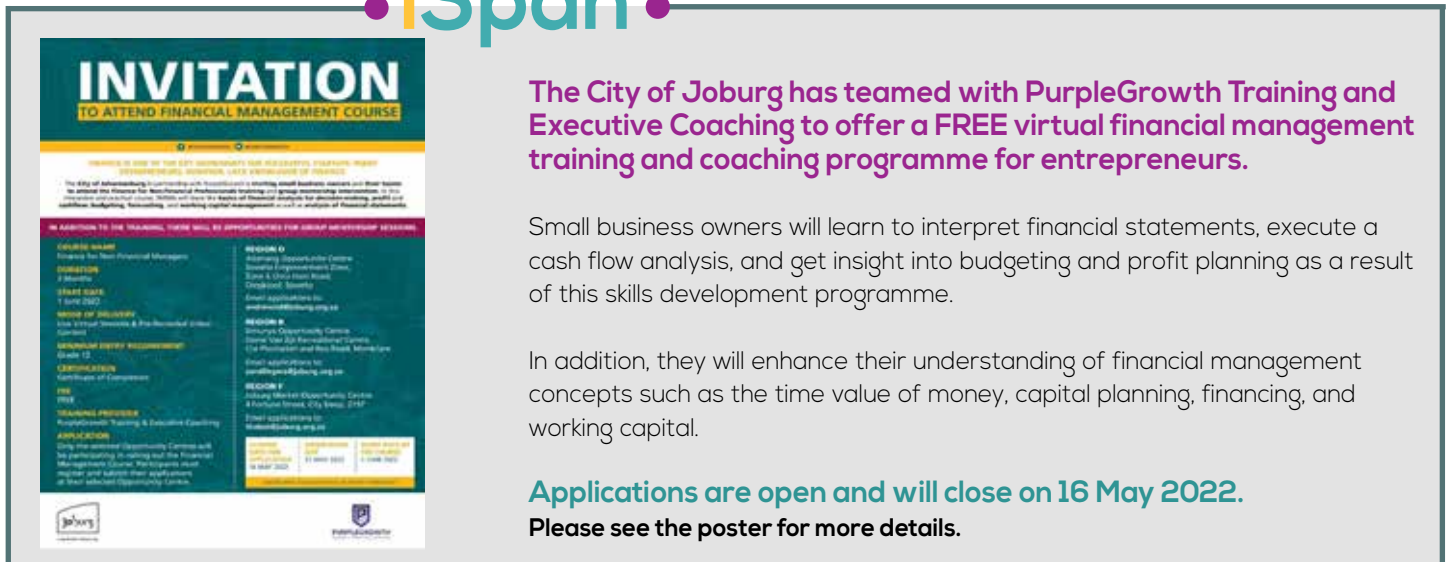
Are you part of the following groups, if so, please get the Flu Vaccine at your nearest clinic or hospital free of charge.

- Health Care Workers
- People who are 65 years old and over and Residence of Old Age Homes.
- Pregnant women
- People with cardiovascular diseases (including chronic heart diseases, hypertension, stroke, and diabetes) and chronic lung diseases (including asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease).
- People living with HIV and AIDS.

Vaccinate now to prevent the flu this winter!

People that are able to pay a fee for the vaccination, may also vaccinate at private pharmacists.

Both the Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines can now be administered concurrently, however, on separate arms.

INVITATION TO ATTEND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COURSE

THE CITY OF JOBURG HAS TEAMED WITH PURPLEGROWTH TRAINING AND EXECUTIVE COACHING TO OFFER A FREE VIRTUAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT TRAINING AND COACHING PROGRAMME FOR ENTREPRENEURS.

Small business owners will learn to interpret financial statements, execute a cash flow analysis, and get insight into budgeting and profit planning as a result of this skills development programme.

In addition, they will enhance their understanding of financial management concepts such as the time value of money, capital planning, financing, and working capital.

Applications are open and will close on 16 May 2022.
Please see the poster for more details.

GAUTENG NEWS

in brief

Here are some highlights of the work of the Gauteng Provincial Government



Premier David Makhura held a meeting with the African Development Bank Group (ADB) led by regional Director General Leila Mokaddem. The meeting identified growth-unleashing projects in the province with an African continental focus. "We look forward to accelerating economic growth through shovel-ready projects across the City Region," said Makhura.



MEC for Education, Panyaza Lesufi visited Leondale High School where 36 learners are suspended and currently await disciplinary action for being involved in the disturbing dagga smoking incident. "We are serious, we mean it and we mean business. You have two choices either you want to be a learner or you don't want to. We can't tolerate a situation where children smoke dagga inside school premises. We can't tolerate this," he told the learners.



MEC for Community Safety, Faith Mazibuko led the prayer service at the home of the late Kgomotso Diale, a Pimville resident who was recently killed while marching over electricity cable theft in the township. Mazibuko told the community that "peaceful demonstrations are allowed in terms of the law. Members of the community must act within the confines of the law. If they apply peacefully with the police present, there's nothing wrong with that." She has called on Eskom to join community members in their efforts to protect key infrastructure.



Premier David Makhura led the provincial Freedom Day celebrations at Kwa Thema Stadium, in Springs Ekurhuleni. The event started with the convoy visiting the home of Margaret Gazo and laying a wreath at her grave. Gazo was one of the leaders who organised the 1956 Women's March against the pass laws at the Union Buildings in Pretoria. Makhura urged parents to educate their children about what freedom means and what it took to achieve it. "This should not be done only on Freedom Day, as it is important for young people to understand the sacrifices that were made for the country to attain it.



MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Lebogang Maile briefed the media on the state of the province's municipalities. Maile announced that municipalities are owed R79.4 billion in non-payment of services, 75% of this debt is by household consumers. Unauthorised, fruitless, and wasteful expenditure in the 2021-2022 financial year amounted to over R23 billion. Maile said the province has created a debt management committee and that his department was working on a strategy to help municipalities tailor their revenue collection for sustained growth.



MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Parks Tau joined the Nelson Mandela Foundation to launch 2022 Mandela Day activities at Zandspruit. This year's theme will highlight the intersection between food security and climate change. "While South Africa produces enough food, households are still food insecure. This food insecurity has affected more women-led households compared to male headed households. We are proud to partner with the foundation in ensuring we adopt sustainable solutions," said Tau.

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GAUTENG NEWS

in brief

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The Provincial Disaster Management Centre has deployed a team of thirty emergency services rescue experts to Kwazulu Natal, in order to assist the province as it tries to recover from the devastation and destruction caused by the recent floods. This professional, skilled, internationally accredited Gauteng team of emergency services experts, the only classified government rescue team in South Africa, will contribute to the flood relief and rescue efforts. The flooding, which has been classified as a provincial disaster, caused damage to roads and bridges and disrupted water and electricity supply to various areas. Over 5700 houses have been completely destroyed and nearly 10000 houses have been partially damaged.

Around 630 schools have been affected and over 100 schools are not accessible at present. A total of 435 people lost their lives.



Joy was in the air at Alliance Extension 5, outside Benoni, where MEC for Human Settlements, Lebogang Maile handed over 240 houses. This project has already delivered 1689 serviced sites. Most of the qualifying beneficiaries are from Lindelani Informal Settlement.



The Department of Social Development has held consultations with the board and staff members at Tswelopele Frail Care Centre in Hillbrow and ensured alternative facilities to relocate beneficiaries were identified. This follows an eviction by the landlord after the centre defaulted on its rental commitment which accumulated to R3 million. The Department says family members were also consulted. The centre was providing 24-hour residential frail care, social work services and offered learning opportunities for the auxiliary social work, nursing auxiliary students and final academic year medical students.

Immunisation helps prevent various diseases, as well as stimulate a child's immune system to fight against illnesses later in life.

Immunisation is free and available at all government clinics.

The Department of Health has encouraged parents to get their children immunised to protect them against disease. "Young children from birth until the age of five are vulnerable to many infectious diseases such as polio, tuberculosis, hepatitis, measles, and meningitis. Immunisation helps prevent these diseases, as well as stimulate a child's immune system to fight against infectious diseases later in life."

"Pothole Patching In Your Area": #Smart Mobility Campaign

- 01 Gauteng residents/motorists are kindly requested to participate in a research study from CSIR's Smart Mobility Cluster on behalf of Provincial Department of Roads and Transport
- 02 #SmartMobilityCampaign, undertaken jointly with municipalities, aim to ensure that all public roads in the Province are kept to acceptable standards through patching of potholes, undertaking of road markings amongst others.
- 03 This is done for safer, easy movement of people and goods.
- 04 The survey aims to quantify the impact and benefits of #SmartMobilityCampaign, offering residents/motorists an opportunity to provide feedback on service delivery in targeted areas.

MEC for Roads and Transport, Jacob Mamabolo has announced a partnership with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) conducting an online survey on the conditions of the province's road network as part of the Smart Mobility campaign. The campaign focuses on pothole repairs, road reinstatements, skoffelling on the islands and verges of the roads, and other road maintenance work. Gauteng residents/motorists are urged to participate in the survey here: <https://tinyurl.com/mr4bbdhj>

Immunisation helps prevent these diseases, as well as stimulate a child's immune system to fight against infectious diseases later in life.