

My GAUTENG

PG 3 - New leadership needed to catalyse the African dream - Makhura | PG 6 - Vaxxed and stadium-ready



Government to fast track the implementation of the TOWNSHIP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BILL

• By Rofhiwa Marubini-Tshitahle and Qaqambile Mledle

The Gauteng Provincial Government Executive Members led by Premier David Makhura are engaging communities on the implementation of the Township Economic Development Bill.

The engagements which are part of the Ntirhisano Outreach Programme saw MECs on the ground targeting entrepreneurs, farmers, business leaders and forums across the province.

Communities visited thus far include Tembisa, Katlehong, Dobsonville, Eldorado Park, Munsieville, Ivory Park, Tsakane, Mohlakeng, Sharpeville and Daveyton.

The Bill was recently passed in the

Gauteng legislature. Once Premier Makhura signs it into law, it will allow new business activity and push mass-scale employment as well as self-employment in townships.

As part of preparatory work to implement this Bill, Makhura on Thursday visited Orange Farm where he urged communities to work with government to claim back their communities.



He explained that the Bill was introduced after township businesses shared their concerns about not seeing the perks of Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE).

Makhura told the community that an amount of R800 million has been allocated to the Township Economy Partnership Fund in which a portion will go towards supporting start-ups founded by the youth. He reassured them that the Partnership Fund will be reserved for South African-owned businesses.

On Friday, the Premier told the community of Ivory Park that the provincial government wants to build proper, thriving township businesses that will operate in a conducive environment.

The Bill will give township enterprises access to developmental opportunities, finance, training, equipment and expanded markets directly, he said.

However, he told them that their businesses would need to be formalised



Business owners in Ivory Park during a feedback session on the implementation of the Township Economic Development Bill.

Continued - pg 2

From - pg 1

and comply with rules and regulations of trading to access funding.

The community raised concerns around the existence of foreign national-owned shops, red tape involved in registering for liquor licenses, access to funding, lack of infrastructure and high cost of equipment among others.

Richard Hlatshwayo of Lusaka Business Forum welcomed the Bill and urged the Premier to ensure that it is implemented in all townships.

"We all need to benefit from this Bill because we are competing with people who have more resources. Most of them do not even follow the rules and sell fake products."

Tembisa Entrepreneur, Rita Zwane who was the first person to formalise and commercialise a shisanyama, Busy Corner, in the townships welcomed efforts to address the challenges faced by small businesses.

She encouraged the youth to reignite the spirit of Vukuzenzele and search for opportunities in the informal township economy. ■

EASTER - a season of recovery, rebirth and hope



I wish all Gauteng residents a safe and refreshing Easter break this coming weekend.

Though this year's observance comes at a time when our country faces many challenges, the message of Easter remains unchanged- though sorrow may last through the night, joy comes in the morning. These holidays comfort us, as we remember that suffering will pass, and goodness will prevail.

During this period, we also experience high volumes of traffic on our roads as well as a heightened number of road crashes as people travel to various destinations.

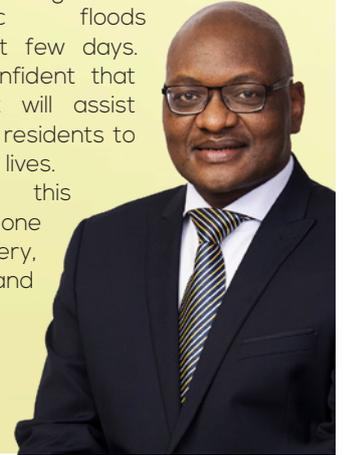
We would therefore like to appeal to every road user, both drivers and pedestrians to obey the rules of the road.

As we gather with our friends and families, let us be mindful that COVID-19 is still in our midst. Let us protect

ourselves and our communities by getting vaccinated and continuing to adhere to non-pharmaceutical interventions.

I also wish to convey heartfelt condolences to all residents of KwaZulu-Natal who lost their loved ones, and a speedy recovery to those who were injured during the catastrophic floods in the past few days. We are confident that government will assist all affected residents to rebuild their lives.

Let this season be one of recovery, rebirth and hope. ■



In conversation with Health MEC Dr Nomathemba Mokgethi:

On a mission to improve the quality and efficiency of public health system

In the last couple of months, there has been what some might consider to be unprecedented focus on the Gauteng healthcare system. However, if you consider that ours is the biggest healthcare system in Southern Africa and that millions of people access health related services through our 36 Hospitals and 372 clinics annually and that the public health accounts for more than 80% of the over 15 million citizens, this focus is not unwarranted.

Many of our facilities treat patients outside their catchment areas and outside the province including patients from the rest of the African continent.

Having said this, it is important that at the onset we assure the residents of Gauteng that, despite the many challenges we are faced with as an organisation, our commitment to providing quality healthcare remains unwavering.

Currently the province has over 18 000 beds for managing different categories of patients. We are also working on introducing alternative measures to improve bed capacity at some of our facilities experiencing

Despite the many challenges we are faced with as an organisation, our commitment to providing quality healthcare remains unwavering

increased patient load. The infrastructure investment made by the province as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic where Alternative Building Technology (ABT) was employed to expand our capacity will go a long in alleviating pressure once the ABT structure are fully resourced.



As part of augmenting our capacity, the Gauteng Department of Health has extended the contracts of staff members recruited on temporary basis as part of COVID-19 response at all the central and tertiary hospitals while across other facilities we continue to reprioritise based on the local needs.

Government is on record on our commitment to get the CMJAH back into full operation as quickly as possible. To this end some measures have been taken at a provincial and national level to fast-track the remedial work and this has meant that the facility will be completed by end of 2023 which is 36 months ahead of the earlier projected timeframe and at reduced costs.

Continued - pg 3

This hospital has over the past decade seen an increase in patient load with no increase in infrastructure development. It has steadily increased intake from 10 000 deliveries to 16 000 deliveries per year, which is the second highest in the country.

Even in the midst of the various challenges, team Gauteng health continues to work relentlessly to build a responsive healthcare system. These efforts have not gone unnoticed as was witnessed recently at the Annual National Batho Pele Excellence Awards and at the 19th Public Sector Innovation Awards where the team scooped several awards.

By Dr Nomathemba Mokgethi
Gauteng MEC for Health



NEW LEADERSHIP NEEDED

to catalyse the African dream - Makhura

• By Lerato Mailoane

As the cradle of humankind, Africa should be at the centre of a more humane, inclusive, equitable, sustainable, digital, and green future.

This quest must be built on the values and ethics of "Ubuntu".

"We must rediscover and reclaim human solidarity and collective public interest as the *raison d'être* [reason for being] of the next stage of the evolution of human civilisation," says Premier David Makhura.

He was speaking at the launch of the Africa Economic Leadership Council (AELC) South African Chapter recently.

AELC is a business partnership amongst business communities in Africa that seeks to transform the face of business on the continent and grow economies equitably.

South Africa's Chapter draws inspiration from the African Union Free Trade Agreement area aimed at reigniting industrialisation, boosting intra-African trade and empowering SMMEs to compete on global markets.

Makhura says the launch of the Chapter is a bold statement that African entrepreneurs are gaining confidence in



Premier David Makhura with Ambassador Veicoh Nghiwete of Namibia to South Africa, CEO of Zambia Stock Exchange Nicholas Kabaso, and AELC co-founders Percy Morapedi Koji and Heirich Hafeni at the launch of the South African Chapter in Sandton.

structural transformation.

With AELC geared to catalyse the African dream, Makhura says a new leadership of the 21st century will be needed to understand the impact of people, organisations, communities, nations and humanity to navigate and negotiate negative consequences.

Makhura outlined six dominant mega trends that warrant leadership attention. These include the rapid technological change which he says requires leadership that will ensure that Africa is not left behind.

Africa's youthful population, he says, gives the continent an advantage to be

at the centre of the Digital Economy through investing in digital skills and infrastructure.

Makhura also identified the escalating intensity of the climate which he says required global and local leadership.

The continent needs to deploy scientific knowledge and technological innovations to ensure that Africa is at the centre of Green Economy, he adds.

The third mega trend is the threat of pandemics. For this Makhura says leadership must ensure that health systems, communities, institutions, and infrastructure are pandemic-proof and pandemic-ready. ■

REVENUE ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY

to accelerate provincial priorities



MEC for Finance and E-Government, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko at a post-2022 Budget Breakfast held in Pretoria.

• By Thembisa Shologu

In response to the challenging environment of slow and uneven economic recovery from the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, the Gauteng Provincial Treasury has launched a Revenue Enhancement Strategy.

The strategy is born out of the recognition that there are limited resources to address Gauteng's economic agenda to accelerate provincial priorities as envisioned in the Growing Gauteng Together Vision 2030 Plan.

Endorsed by the Executive Council in March 2021, the strategy is anchored on independent and mutually reinforcing outcomes including modernisation to increase efficiency, cost-effectiveness, client

satisfaction and eliminate loopholes in collection mechanisms.

Through the Revenue Enhancement Strategy, Gauteng government's overall aim is to increase the revenue generated from the province over the next three years by R3.7-billion over and above the 2022 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework revenue baseline estimates.

The main revenue sources for the province are mainly motor vehicle

license fees, casino and horse racing fees, patient fees, and interest on short-term investment of surplus funds.

Under the new strategy, the Gauteng Broadband Network (GBN) commercialisation and e-Waste are being considered as potential revenue-generating projects.

Other new revenue initiatives identified are based on an assessment of the potential to increase revenue through sources without impacting negatively on service delivery and include the establishment of new vehicle impound lots, the licensing fees of private health facilities, roadside advertising and billboards on government-owned facilities, besides others.

MEC for Finance and E-Government, Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko believes that growing own revenue will assist in protecting funding for key priorities while facilitating economic growth to create jobs, public education, health, and social welfare even during these difficult times for Gauteng residents.

In a post-2022 Budget Breakfast held in Pretoria, Nkomo-Ralehoko said the implementation of the strategy depends on all leaders, managers, and staff members who need to embrace it to serve people who deserve the 'best' services delivered on time and within the budgetary constraints.

"Each one of us should make a concerted and dedicated effort to get maximum value for money when implementing the different interventions to enhance and expand our revenue baseline," she said adding that her department will provide the required leadership and guidance. ■

SPECIALISED UNITS, resources to restore law and order in Diepsloot

South African Police Service (SAPS) in Gauteng and other law enforcement agencies are on high alert to prevent and combat crime and vigilantism in Diepsloot.

SAPS have delegated specialised units and resources in the form of vehicles on the ground following protests that erupted in the area on Wednesday, 6 April 2022.

The protests erupted when residents took to the streets complaining about the police's inability to deal with high crime levels in the township.

A day later, Elvis Nyathi, a 43-year-old Zimbabwean was attacked by a mob after they demanded that he produce his immigration status before setting him alight.

The suspects evaded arrest after fleeing the scene. It is reported that prior to the incident the group had been moving from house to house claiming to be searching for criminals and demanding either passports or money.

Police in Diepsloot have confirmed that five murders were reported between Wednesday, 30 March and Sunday, 3 April 2022.



The murders emanated from separate unrelated incidents and investigations are still underway to arrest the suspects.

A high-level delegation including Premier David Makhura, Police Minister Bheki Cele, Home Affairs Minister Aaron Motsoaledi, and National Police Commissioner General Sehlahle Fannie Masemola visited the area on Wednesday and Friday to assess security and to meet with the community leaders.

Makhura denounced the murders and vigilantism, saying concerns over crime cannot justify the decision by some to crack down on illegal immigrants.

There's a growing anti-immigrant sentiment in some parts of Gauteng with some community members blaming illegal foreign nationals for the spate of violent crimes.

Frustration over what they believe to be police inaction, vigilante groups have been targeting alleged criminals and undocumented foreign nationals.

"It is not acceptable for people to go into people's homes and demand that they produce documentation. This should not be done by citizens, instead, it should be done by Home Affairs and the law enforcement agencies, because they are the machinery responsible for these issues," said Makhura.

Makhura said the provincial government is dealing with the issue of illegal businesses. Under Operation Restore Diepsloot, government will deploy 25 home affairs officials for three months.

"We are considering how we can activate our township businesses and support entrepreneurs because, at the end of the day, it's all about competition for resources and jobs." ■



Premier David Makhura, Ministers Bheki Cele and Aaron Motsoaledi on a walk about in Diepsloot to monitor interventions to restore law and order.

Here are some highlights of Gauteng Provincial Government's work:



MEC for Public Transport and Roads Infrastructure, Jacob Mamabolo led the Smart Mobility Weekend in Emfuleni. The campaign is aimed at ensuring public roads in Gauteng are well maintained, to allow for the easy movement of people and goods. Mamabolo said his department is working on finalising plans for the construction projects in Vereeniging and Bophelong Taxi Ranks.



MEC for Human Settlements and Urban Planning, Lebogang Maile, handed over 500 houses to qualifying beneficiaries at Affri Village at Greenhills in Randfontein. Once completed, the project will yield 9880 mixed housing opportunities. Planned social amenities for the village project include a taxi rank, open park, a sporting facility and a community hall.



MEC of Education, Panyaza Lesufi opened eight new classrooms at the Randburg Clinic School. The new classrooms were unveiled on April 2, simultaneously with the commemoration of World Autism Awareness Day. Lesufi encouraged families of autistic children to give them all the support they need.



MEC for Economic Development and Agriculture, Parks Tau delivered an address at the Deciduous Fruit Industry Development Awards in Stellenbosch, Western Cape. The awards recognise black producers who have played a significant role in the industry. Tau told delegates that the Gauteng Provincial Government sees potential in the industry value-chain as well as the viability and growth potential of the fruit processing sector in the province.



MEC for Community Safety, Faith Mazibuko handed over of mobile police station for the community of Kagiso. The handover is in line with Premier David Makhura's commitment to direct additional resources to SAPS to provide service delivery and to assist in the fight against criminal activities in the province.



MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Mbali Hlophe joined the 25th year celebration of the television drama Muvhango. Hlope said the drama was able to contest cultural stereotypes and build social cohesion. She also attended the premiere of Thando, the gripping new local drama tackling gender-based violence, peer pressure, bullying and socio-economic challenges.



COVID-19 VACCINATION

▶ **GET
YOUR
JAB**

VAXXED AND STADIUM-READY

The lifting of the National State of Disaster has allowed for fans to return to stadiums with up to 50% capacity, provided you are vaccinated or have a negative COVID-19 test not older than 72 hours.

Guidelines for spectators are as follows:

- **Buy your ticket and bring your vaccination certificate and proof of ID** to the stadium if you are already vaccinated.
- **If you not yet vaccinated**, buy your ticket, vaccination teams will be available at the stadium to assist you with vaccination.
- **If you have been vaccinated and could not access your vaccination certificate**, you can download it on <https://vaccine.certificate.health.gov.za/> ahead of the game.

Social mobilisation teams will be on site to help you on how to download it using your cellphone and the vaccination code received after vaccination.

Remember coronavirus is still in our midst and everybody remains at risk of contracting the virus. Let us protect ourselves, our families and our communities by encouraging them to get vaccinated and continue adhering to non-pharmaceutical interventions. ■



REDISCOVER GAUTENG THIS EASTER WEEKEND



Gauteng offers unique tourism experiences. Your visit to local tourism attractions contributes to economic growth and the creation of jobs. We have compiled a list of five places to visit in the City Region this Easter Weekend:

✿ CENTRAL CORRIDOR (Johannesburg): Rand Show



The Rand Show the largest and most renowned consumer event that is jam-packed with outdoor entertainment for young and old. Besides live performances and an array of services in home furnishings, the Rand Show also boasts the best exhibitors and presenters who showcase their products and services.



✿ EASTERN CORRIDOR (Ekurhuleni): Marievale Bird Sanctuary

Set on a floodplain in Nigel, Marievale Bird Sanctuary has Gauteng's highest bird count: 280 species. The wetland forms part of the Blesbokspruit – a perennial river – and has been declared a wetland of international importance. It offers a lovely spot for a family picnic in the beauty of nature and colourful bird species.



✿ NORTHERN CORRIDOR (Pretoria): National Zoological Gardens

The largest zoo in the country, the National Zoological Gardens of South Africa, is situated in Pretoria and covers 85 hectares. The zoo houses 209 mammal species, 202 bird species, 190 fish species, four invertebrate species, 93 reptile species, and seven amphibian species, plus a host of exotic trees.



✿ WESTERN CORRIDOR (West Rand): Cradle of Humankind

The Cradle of Humankind, which is one of the World Heritage Sites in the country, offers a world-class exhibition centre, home to around 40% of the world's human ancestor fossils. Other attractions within the site include Sterkfontein Caves, a lion and rhino game reserve, beautiful scenery, guesthouses, hotels and restaurants, hiking, and hot-air ballooning activities.



✿ SOUTHERN CORRIDOR (Vaal Triangle): Teknorama Museum

The Vaal Teknorama Museum is an interesting cultural centre full of history. You will walk away well informed with a new outlook and understanding of the history of the Sedibeng Region and the people related to the history.

Your visit to
local tourism
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iSpan



Are you a young person trying to figure out how you can improve your skills?

The Gauteng Office of the Premier invites young people between the ages of **18-35 years to apply for the 2022 internship programme.**

The programme seeks to provide recent graduates with an opportunity to gain meaningful work experience for a period of twenty-four (24) months.

Apply online here: <https://professionaljobcentre.gpg.gov.za/Public/DepartmentJobs.aspx?dept=16>

The closing date for all applications is **18 April 2022.**