



PRESS STATEMENT

Attention: News Editors and Journalists

GGDA MANDATE TO FACILITATE AND MANAGE SUSTAINABLE JOB CREATION IS REINFORCED AT THE SOUTH AFRICA INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

Thursday, 07 November 2019

Every rand that is invested in our economy by local and international investors helps to create new jobs, expand the local market and boost economic activity. It sets in motion a new wave of growth that filters across our economy. The South Africa Investment Conference continued in Soweto, where President Cyril Ramaphosa led the Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMME) Business Showcase – an entrepreneurship, small business growth and innovation showcase held at the University of Johannesburg’s Soweto Campus.

“To improve access to information and bring economic infrastructure support closer to townships and rural based enterprises, we are expanding incubators and digital hubs in townships and rural areas. We are also ensuring that small businesses benefit from special interventions that we are making and making available, like industrial parks, business centres, Special Economic Zones as well as incubation centres. The effort we are making in revamping industrial parks on many parts of the country is beginning to pay dividends, because we are seeing how ‘Small and Medium Enterprises’ are now going to these industrial parks, setting up their own business works and beginning to make things and to provide services, and they are also beginning to employ more and more people. This proves the correctness of the path we have embarked on.” President Cyril Ramaphosa.

The Gauteng Growth and Development Agency (GGDA) has a ‘Trade Facilitation and Export Development’ programme that assists companies in the Gauteng Province by exposing them to international trade and export activities, enabling access into new markets and receive training to be export-ready. Through its subsidiary companies, the GGDA has several programmes to support Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises and boost Township Economy.

The Automotive Industry Development Centre (AIDC) has several projects in this regard, these include the Winterveldt Enterprise Hub and the Ford Incubation Centre. The Winterveldt Enterprise Hub is a township automotive hub that was conceptualised through the Township Economy Revitalisation Programme and comprises a business model that provides a facility enabling Winterveldt’s panel beating and spray-painting businesses with much needed technical support. The hub is used as a technical centre of excellence to develop technical and business management abilities.

The Ford Incubation Centre was specifically developed to address the lack of transformation within the automotive supplier base. The AIDC developed the automotive incubation centre, designed to incubate new black entrepreneur entrants into the automotive supply chain. It is currently in its 7th year of operation and to date, has graduated four incubates into opportunities outside the incubator, with a replenished group of incubates entering the facility.



The Innovation Hub (TIH) has, amongst others, the mLab (including Code Tribe Academy), Maxum and BioPark. The mLab (including Code Tribe Academy) is a programme aimed at supporting mobile technology entrepreneurs by providing them with physical space where they can access the tools, platforms, laboratory expertise and support networks necessary to develop solutions and build new businesses, whilst receiving technical support. Maxum aims to accelerate the growth of technology start-up companies by providing business mentorship and life-cycle business development. BioPark provides business development support to start-ups in the health and agriculture spheres in the industrial biotechnology sectors. The support is provided in collaboration with the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) and eGoliBio Life Sciences Incubator.

The Gauteng Industrial Development Zone (GIDZ) conceptualised a skills development programme focused on jewellery design and manufacture in support of the planned Jewellery Manufacturing Precinct (JMP) and the associated need for sector specific skills that could attract investment. The programme, which is located at house No. 50 in the Rand Refinery Precinct (hence the name – Design@50) was established with the aim of ensuring increased development of market-responsive commercial jewellery design skills required to facilitate increased design and production of internationally competitive jewellery from South Africa. This, in support of the GIDZ's objective of contributing to the manufacturing and export of mineral beneficiated products from South Africa. Fifteen students are accepted into the programme annually and to date 88 students have been trained, with the class of 2019 bringing the total up to 103.

Constitution Hill (ConHill) has opened opportunities for businesses in the creative sector to trade and gain access to markets. ConHill partnered with the Gauteng Department of Economic Development and its agencies - the Gauteng Enterprise Propeller (GEP); Gauteng Tourism Authority (GTA) and the City of Joburg (CoJ) to create non-financial opportunities for SMME in the creative sector and provided access to markets for 102 creatives in 2018/2019 financial year.

The GGDA is in full support of the investment target to raise R1.2 trillion in new foreign and domestic direct investment over the next five years and continues to work hard in supporting economic stimulus package and recovery plan unveiled by President Ramaphosa in 2018 to ignite economic activity, restore investor confidence, prevent further job losses.

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