

ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM, MR PV MKHATSHWA, MPL, ON BEHALF OF THE PREMIER, ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF THE MPUMALANGA GREEN CLUSTER AGENCY HELD AT THE RIDGE HOTEL, eMALAHLENI, eMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Tuesday, 24 May 2022

1. Thank you Programme Director, the CEO of Greencape, Mr Mike Mulcahy, for the opportunity;
2. Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen; It is indeed a great honour and pleasure for me, in my capacity as the MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, and on behalf of the Premier of Mpumalanga, to welcome you all this evening to the official launch dinner of the Mpumalanga Green Cluster Agency in the magnificent surroundings of the Highveld region.
3. Mpumalanga is the energy centre of South Africa and has been for 100 years. Along with an incredible inheritance of mineral resources, Mpumalanga also has extremely rich solar and wind resources. As technology has moved, it is now becoming possible to convert these wind and solar resources into energy and value for the region.
4. The Mpumalanga Green Cluster has been supported by the Mpumalanga provincial government. This cluster is independent and brings together Government, Business and Academia to work together to identify and then remove barriers to the accelerated development of the Green Economy.
5. In the short amount of time the cluster has been running, led by its board and the Interim Cluster Executive Official, has produced a set of Market intelligence reports to identify opportunities in the region, it has had hundreds of engagements with stakeholders. Has, and continues to, provide training and training

opportunities for government officials at a provincial and municipal level - so that they are capacitated toward Green technology and terminology. The cluster is already coordinating stakeholders operating in the province including developers who intend to invest in the province of Mpumalanga on sustainability projects.

6. Internationally - Clusters like the Mpumalanga Green Cluster are used to try and boost regional and local economic competitiveness. Such competitiveness will help companies in Mpumalanga export more, find global partners and apply the solutions developed here in Mpumalanga on a global scale. The Mpumalanga Green Cluster has been invited to participate in the International Cleantech Network, a group of world-leading clusters from 4 continents.
7. It is a great achievement that the Mpumalanga Green Cluster have been granted membership of the ICN considering the value and footprint of the ICN and there is no doubt that the seat on the board of the ICN by the Mpumalanga Greencluster gives the province access to the over 15 000 tech companies under the clusters affiliated to the ICN thereby providing opportunities for information, knowledge, technology and business exchange. This will further boost Mpumalanga's prospects for job creation and investment attraction.
8. Internationally - these sorts of structures and partnerships are relatively new, and are a way to try and ensure the best aspects of Government, Business and Academia can be applied toward development that unlocks jobs and investment.
9. There are several thank yous, but to the Department of Economic Development and Tourism for the effort in carrying out the instruction and vision of my cabinet to promote green industries as the future of economic growth, this cluster would not exist if it wasn't for your vision and effort and the dedication of the team working toward this.
10. The cluster board of directors, and advisory board - thank you for your time and energy in supporting and driving this cluster forward. The GIZ's BMU and BMZ

programs for your support. And thank you to the local team from Greencape who have supported the cluster in finding its feet. I thank all the internal countries who are partnering with South Africa but have also expressed an interest to work with Mpumalanga Province.

11. Finally, thank you to all the companies and investors that are interested in Mpumalanga and the opportunities inherent in our beautiful province.
12. Your inputs and support for the Cluster is a key mechanism for communication and the practical implementation of enabling investment in the Green Economy in Mpumalanga.
13. Mpumalanga is open for business.

I thank you!