

OVERVIEW BY THE MEC FOR FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM, MR PV MKHATSHWA, MPL, DURING DELIBERATIONS WITH THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PREMIER'S OFFICE; FINANCE; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM ON QUARTER 3 OF 2020-2021 PERFORMANCE REPORTS AND 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT AND ITS PUBLIC ENTITIES HELD VIRTUALLY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Tuesday, 16 March 2021

Chairperson and Members of the Portfolio Committee;

Good Morning/ San'bonani!

1. Chairperson, thank you very much for affording us this opportunity, yet again, to engage the Committee on the **Third Quarter of 2020-2021 Performance Reports and the 2019-2020 Annual Reports** of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, and its three (3) Public Entities.
2. As the Committee also requested, we will provide **progress on implementing House Resolutions** emanating from the 2018-2019 Annual Reports, and Quarter 1 and 2 Performance Reports of the 2020-2021 financial year.

3. Chairperson, you are now **aware of the political and administrative leadership changes** that has happened within the Department recently.
4. Let me take this opportunity to thank the former MEC, **Honourable Pat Ngomane** (in absentia), for the role he has played whilst at the helm of the Department.
5. The same goes to the former Head of Department, **Mr Sarel Mtsweni**, who has since been transferred to Head the Department of Social Development. This was the post which was filled in December 2019.
6. Our current acting HOD is now **Ms Gugu Mashiteng**, who also doubles up as the Head Official of the Provincial Treasury.
7. Chairperson, we were unable to fill the vacant post of the CEO for MEGA owing to recruitment interviews not yielding what we required. The post has now been re-advetised, and the recruitment drive closed on 22 February 2021.
8. An Interim Board for MEGA is in place. Its term of office started in September 2020 and is scheduled to end by 31 March 2021 (after six months).

9. The anticipated **Petro-chemical Industrial Technology Park** in Secunda is fast taking shape, following the **approval of the Industrial Park's General Plan by the Surveyor General**.
10. Our Department is also currently working closely with the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality to **finalise the transfer of the land** – on which the Industrial Technology Park will be situated – to the said Municipality.
11. Once the transfer is concluded, we will **seek permission to establish the Industrial Technology Park** from the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, as required by the Environmental Management Plan. This will then give us a green light to continue to implement this massive project.
12. As for the proposed **Forestry Industrial Park in Sabie**, delays have been experienced due to a number of objections against the proposed development. A number of engagements with stakeholders were held and will continue in future in order to resolve the stalemate.
13. Unfortunately, we will not be able to meet the time-lines for the establishment of the Techno-Parks owing to challenges experienced, as already alluded to.
14. Considerable progress has been recorded in the construction of the **Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market**, as

the main building is at roof-level, whereas the roof at the Processing Building is almost complete.

15. The Nkomazi SEZ Entity has now been registered (on 09 December 2020) as the **Mpumalanga Nkomazi SEZ SOC Limited (Registration No. 2019/449561/30)**.
16. The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) is now in place; Township establishment process is in the final stages; and five (5) professionals have been appointed in the PMU (Project Management Unit) of the SEZ.
17. With regards to the Barberton Makhonjwa Mountain World Heritage Site, the **Department has finally been appointed as the Management Authority** for the Site, by the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries.
18. An amount of **R10 million has been set aside as part of the Tourism Recovery Plan**. This will provide relief to Tourism Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) in distress due to the COVID-19 induced lockdown. The Fund will be administered by the MTPA.
19. This is part of the broader **Mpumalanga Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan**, which seeks to revitalise the entire economy of the Province.

20. The **MTPA** is currently operating with an Interim Board, whose term of office started from 01 January 2021, and will expire on 30 June 2021.

21. Our three (3) Public Entities continue to perform their mandates as expected. **MTPA** continues to market and promote the Province as the tourist destination of choice; **MER** continues to regulate the gambling and liquor industries, including collecting revenue due to the fiscus. **MEGA** also strives to do its part, as it endeavours to attract investment into the Province.

22. ***Let's grow the economy of Mpumalanga together!***

I thank you!