



economic development  
& tourism

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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# The year in review

## 2016/2017

# contents

- 3 Pilgrim's Rest set to attract tourists again
- 4 Tourists urged to take a Shot' Left
- 6 Township tyre servicing companies empowered by the Department and Dunlop
- 8 Kholwane leads discussions on green economy opportunities in Mpumalanga
- 10 Mall @ Mfula opens doors for business
- 12 Public private partnership vital for economic growth
- 14 MEC Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane on a mission to revive township economy in Mpumalanga
- 16 MEC kholwane urges everyone to make education everyone's business in Mpumalanga
- 18 Philanthropic Kholwane lends a helping hand by donating own money (R 20 000) to purchase school uniform for needy learners at Mashishing's Lesodi Primary School
- 20 Education is the key to break the shackles of poverty – MEC Kholwane
- 24 MEC Kholwane restore order at striking communities around Tekwane around Mbombela
- 26 Kholwane walks the talk by supporting young entrepreneurs in Mpumalanga
- 27 Department aims to bolster SMMEs

## Editorial Team

**Editor** : Mohau Ramodibe  
**Sub Editor** : Nthabiseng Beulah Lucas  
**Photography** : Silence Mhlaba, Searabo Motshwanedi and Sibusiso Mgwenya  
**Contributions:** Searabo Motshwanedi, Silence Mhlaba, Sibusiso Mgwenya, Ngobe Comfort and Thomas Msiza  
**Layout and Design** : Mandla Nkosi

## Send your letters and comments to

The Editor  
Building No 4, First Floor, Communication Department  
E-mail: [temnotfo@mpg.gov.za](mailto:temnotfo@mpg.gov.za)



Minister of Tourism, Derek Hanekom and MEC Sikhumbuzo Kholwane at the SATSA conference

# Pilgrim's Rest

## set to attract tourists again

By: Ngobe Comfort

**M**EC for Finance Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Sikhumbuzo Kholwane has assured the tourism fraternity in Mpumalanga that the Province is working around the clock to restore Pilgrim's Rest Town to its former glory days as a major tourist attraction town.

Addressing Tourism delegates at the South Africa Tourism Services Association (SATSA) conference in White River, MEC Kholwane said, "I am urging all the sectors involved in the town of Pilgrim's Rest to give government a chance and set aside all the legal battles with the Mpumalanga Provincial Government, to work with the Province to harness the potential of the tourism that the Pilgrim Rest Town can offer".

"Once all issues involving the legal battles have been resolved in that town, tourists will see a different town, a scenic beauty of a historic town that every tourist will visit. Last year I visited Pilgrim Rest, I engaged mostly with traders and they told me about challenges affecting them on a daily basis. I agreed something needs to be done to revitalise the town, however it becomes difficult for government to do so in the midst of all the legal battles".

"Government believes that nurturing the tourism sector means providing excellent customer services and experience to our customers who will in turn, market and

sell the town as a great tourism destination, and that's why I am urging tourism role players to assist the tourism industry in reaching its full potential of job creation in Mpumalanga. Tourism role players must put their differences with government aside and work towards a common goal of revitalising Pilgrim's Rest", said MEC Kholwane.

Ms Lisa Shread, Executive Director for the Kruger Lowveld Tourism said both sectors, public and private need to work together to save Mpumalanga Tourism. "It is through this sector, in particular, that jobs can be created for the people of Mpumalanga. We need to thrive in tourism", said Ms Shread.

The Conference was attended by Minister of Tourism, Mr Derrick Hanekom, who indicated that the number of international tourists coming to the country has increased. "There was a glitch in tourist attraction owing to the new visa regulations, but now that all that has been addressed everything is running smoothly and we are attracting more tourists", indicated Minister Hanekom.

"Government has addressed the issue of visa regulations and now the indication is that the arrival of tourists in South Africa has increased tremendously. The Department of Tourism, working closely with the South African Tourism, will continue to market the country to international and domestic tourists", concluded Minister Hanekom.



# Tourists urged 'Shot'

**T**he MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane, has urged locals to take a *'shot' left* and explore the unique product offerings of Mpumalanga. The MEC was speaking during the launch of 2016 Tourism Month at the Lowveld Botanical Gardens on Spring Day, 1 September.

Speaking during the Media Launch of under the theme 'Universally Accessible Tourism' MEC Kholwane said, "Tourism has been identified as a key sector towards economic growth in Mpumalanga. Tourism has the potential to help fight the triple challenges of poverty,

unemployment and inequality." As a results, we have identified it, in our provincial Economic Growth and Development Path (MEGDP), as one of the priority sectors to be exploited taking into consideration the role that the tourism sector have played in contributing towards job creation in Mpumalanga, added MEC Kholwane."

MEC Kholwane also added that globally, tourism arrivals grew by 4.4 percent in 2015 to reach a record 1 billion 184 million arrivals, contributing 1.4 trillion US dollars in revenue. Foreign tourist to South Africa decreased from 9 Million, 549 thousand and 236 visitors in 2014 to 8 million , 903 thousand and 773 visitors in 2015 a decrease of 6.8 percent."



2016 Tourism Month Launch event @ the Botanical Gardens in pictures



# to take a Left

By: Ngobe Comfort

The decrease was mainly due to a combination of factors, namely unfounded fears to contract Ebola in South Africa, continual global economic challenges and the unintended consequences of our new immigration regulations”, concluded MEC kholwane .

MEC kholwane’s sentiments were echoed by Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) Deputy Chairperson Nomaswazi Shabangu- Mndawe and Acting CEO Mr Abe Sibiya. “As we celebrate Tourism Month our intention is to promote tourism to all South Africans irrespective of gender, race or any status.

As the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks and Tourism Agency our intention is to encourage everyone to travel domestically to get understanding of the affordable existing and world class attractions that are available on their door step, said Mr Sibiya.

“It is during this period where we embark on an extensive awareness campaign aimed at encouraging local people to travel and explore our Province,” said the MTPA Board Deputy Chairperson, Ms Shabangu-Mdawe.

This year World Tourism Day will be celebrated in Parys, Free State Province on 27 September.





# Township tyre companies emp Depar and D

By: Ngobe Comfort

**T**hree black owned tyre servicing companies from Thulamahashe in Bushbuckridge, Kwaggafontein at Thembisile Hani and Nkomazi benefitted from the public private partnership between the Department of Economic Development and Tourism and Sumitomo Rubber SA, trading as Dunlop Tyres. The Department and Dunlop came together to honour the late former state president Nelson Mandela on Mandela International Day. The two (2) stakeholders brought smiles and hope to the small tyre servicing companies with a donation of equipment to the value of R150 000 each.

MEC Kholwane handed over the tyre servicing equipment which includes tyre change machinery, a safety cage, two trolley jacks and a low level lifter to Skroof Tyre in Thulamahashe and Ntuli Tyre in Kwaggafontein.

Handing over the equipment, MEC Kholwane said, "this will ensure that black businesses claim a stake in the lucrative tyre business which was predominately owned by their white counterparts. "The donation is an effort by government, working together with the private sector to fight against unemployment, poverty and inequality, and it is also part of government initiative to promote township economy".

"The Department will continue with its mandate of strengthening small businesses and Co-operatives and integrate them into the mainstream economy. As a result the Province is in the process of reviewing some government contracts, to ensure that in future, we favour small businesses to ensure that money circulates even within townships", continued the MEC.

MEC Kholwane addresses the crowd @ the hand-over event of tyre equipment

# e servicing owered by the tment unlop

Sumitomo Group Business Manager Stephen Orr said “Dunlop is proud to be associated with the South African government. This year we unveiled a R2 billion expansion in our production plant in Ladysmith, Kwazulu-Natal, as our commitment and gesture that demonstrates our level in partnering with government. The Department of Trade and Industry (dti) has also approved a support grant valued at R300 Million under the Automatic Investment Scheme programme towards the Ladysmith expansion, concluded Mr Otto.

One of the beneficiaries of the tyre equipment, Mr Muzi Khumalo, owner Skroof Tyre said “after receiving the equipment I decided to destroy my CV because with this state of the art machinery success is imminent. I told myself that I will never look for a job. I am going to work extra hard. I am going to create jobs for others and indeed today my dreams have been realised and thanks to the Department and Dunlop who made it possible for us today”.

Owner of Ntuli Tyres, Nkosinathi Ntuli said the people of Kwaggafontein will no longer drive long distances to get tyre services. “There are no more excuses for our people to overlook us and drive to Pretoria to get this service. The Department and Dunlop has brought Pretoria to Kwaggafontein. It is under this roof that all your tyre needs will be addressed, and we thank the Department and Dunlop for making it all possible”.



MEC Kholwane tyre equipment hand-over events in pictures





# Kholwane leads discussions on green economy opportunities in **Mpumalanga**

*Green Economy Round Table discussions in pictures*







**M**EC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane led discussions on opportunities afforded by the advent of the Green Economy in the Province.

The high level green economy roundtable discussions took place from 25 - 26 August 2016, at the Nkangala District Municipality Offices, in Middleburg.

The two (2) day discussions, under the theme “The green economy as a driver of sustainable development and job creation in Mpumalanga” were meant:

- To position Mpumalanga as the main point of focus for green economy activities in South Africa;

- To gather inputs on potential provincial priority actions for the green economy (Green Economy Sector Development Plan);
- To confirm the key elements of a green economy path (15 years horizon) in Mpumalanga's context; and
- To start building provincial consensus on the green economy path as an innovative way towards sustainable consumption and production patterns.

“The repercussions of global warming and climate change propel us to prioritise the green economy in order to save our planet on the one hand, and create the much needed jobs for our people. This is one of the ways through which we can deal with the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality currently characterising our communities”, explained MEC Kholwane.





The main entrance of mall @ Mfula



Some of the first shoppers at the Mall



Official opening of the Mall by MEC Kholwane



Mr Joe Mbenyane during proceedings

# Mall @ M doors for

**T**he much anticipated official opening of the Mall at Mfula, situated in Mkhondo, took place on Thursday, 24 November 2016. The mall, a first of its kind within the Mkhondo Local Municipality is expected to create the much needed job opportunities within the region. It is expected that the mall will bring economic activities to the area, and drive away poverty.

Speaking during the opening, MEC for Economic Development and Tourism, Sikhumbuzo Kholwane, urged the people of Mkhondo to take good care of the place as it is intended at helping them boost the economy and create





MEC Kholwane meets local students



Media personnel during opening



MEC Kholwane with Mall founder, Mr Dlamini



MEC Kholwane with Mkhondo Executive mayor



MEC greets some shoppers

# fula opens business

jobs for the unemployed. MEC Kholwane always urged the management to ensure that they employ locally. "This mall is for the people of Mkhondo and it must be run by the people of Mkhondo. We urge the management to ensure that they prioritise locals for employment opportunities", said MEC. "Furthermore, we urge the mall management to ensure that they do not neglect the street vendors. Put measures in place to incorporate the vendors within this mall, they also have a role to play in ensuring that this mall is vibrant", continued the MEC.

The mall was constructed by a local business man, Mr Dlamini. "I recognised an imbalance for our local people."

"It didn't make economic sense to me that a person would drive to eMalahleni, Middelburg, Mbombela, and as far as Sandton, just to shop, our people had to spend more money on the road than they did in the shops. We have therefore decided to bring all those towns and cities to Mkhondo, no more long road trips just for shopping, this mall has everything and more, we therefore urge our people to look after this place because it belongs to you, it is meant to assist you," concluded Mr Dlamini.

Over 500 people were employed during the construction of the mall, and over 800 will be permanently employed at the completion of the mall.



# Public partnership vital for

**M**pumalanga's MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane says government is concerned about the slow pace of economic transformation, empowerment and job creation in various sectors such as manufacturing in the province. He said this while he was addressing members of the Black Management Forum in Secunda on 18 November 2016.

Sikhumbuzo Kholwane said "as we always say government alone cannot do all, we require partnership with the private sector to kill the stubborn triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality. As government, our main responsibility is to create a conducive environment for payers in the private to blossom. We therefore congratulate and express our profound gratitude to the Black Management Forum who have expressed an interest in our work, and took the lead in organizing this engagement platform".

MECs sentiments were echoed by Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, Executive Mayor, councilor Florah Noliqhwa Moboa – Boltman, who urged private sector to partner with government in its quest to create the much needed job opportunities for people of Mpumalanga.

"As the municipality we welcome the news that the second proposal of the special economic zone, which it is being proposed to be situated in the Govan Mbeki local municipality, said Ms. Florah Noliqhwa Moboa – Boltman

According to Black Management Forum (BMF) Provincial Chairperson Mr. Jan Masangwayi who attributed to the role played by the Mpumalanga Provincial government in ensuring that one of their members benefit from the Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA) for funding one of their members Mr. Stephen Dalamba to build a shopping complex worth R20 Million around Kinross in Secunda.



MEC Kholwane with Govan Mbeki executive mayor, Ms Flora Noliqhwa-Boltman



# private economic growth

"The long awaited construction of the Kinross Shopping Complex will leave a legacy for the people of Kinross and will be the clear indication that indeed government have an ability create a conducive environment for private sector to do business.

"as we always say government alone cannot do all, we require partnership with the private sector to kill the stubborn triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality..."



Mr Andre van Niekerk and  
Godfrey Mogoane  
listening attentively



BMF Officials

MEC Kholwane delivers the keynote address

# MEC Sikhumbuzo on a mis township econ



MEC Kholwane

**M**pumalanga MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane says government is committed to revive township economy in the province, as this will assist entrepreneurs to assist the province in fighting against the triple challenges of unemployment, inequality and poverty in Mpumalanga.

MEC Kholwane was speaking during the sod turning of the construction of much awaited Dalamba Shopping Centre which will cost R20 million in Kinross outside Secunda in the Get Sibande District.

To show how committed as a province regarding the reviewing of the township economy in the province as the primary driver towards job creation in the province, We are happy to announce that today we are doing a sod turning for the much awaited shopping complex, which its construction will start commencing in January 2017 will create 254 jobs and it will be completed in June 2016"

The Shopping Center will comprise of the main anchor tenant at the 792 square meter –center, will consist of OK Franchise Supermarket, once completed, the shopping center will also boost various clothing shops, restaurant, medics and banking services"

"The Delmas Shopping Complex, will contribute to the economic growth activities of the Gert Sibande District, and the same time contributing towards addressing the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality. We applaud and extend our appreciation to the developers, Dalamba Victorious Trading and Projects (PTY) LTD for the anticipated job creation intervention" explained- MEC Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane.

Mr. Stephen Dalamba, CEO of Dalamba Victorious Trading and Projects, (PTY) Ltd, said As Dalamba we are honoured to be given this opportunity to contribute towards job opportunity for the people of Kinross and surrounding area, and we cannot wait for the center to be completed in order for our people to receive quality goods and services at their doorstep concluded Mr. Dalamba.

MEC Kholwane was accompanied by officials from MEGA, a delegation of business people under the banner of the Black Business people under the Black Management Forum (BMF).



# o Eric Kholwane sion to revive omy in Mpumalanga





# MEC kholwane

## urges everyone to make education everyone's business in Mpumalanga

**W**ords of jubilation reverberated the Graceland conference hall when about 86 grade 12 learners from around the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality were recognized by Sasol together with Osizweni Education and Centre for their hard work.

The awards ranged from Merit Certificates, Cash Prizes and bursaries for outstanding performances during last matric results, awarded during the annual SASOL Grade 12 Merit Awards ceremony held at Graceland Hotel in Secunda. The Awards recognize the best performing learners in Govan Mbeki, Lekwa and Dipaliseng municipalities.

Speaking during the Award ceremony, MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Sikhumbuzo Kholwane said "Despite the improved performance of the province, we cannot be satisfied with the overall outcomes because we are capable of achieving better".

"As the province we are appealing to the business sector, school governing bodies, educators, learners and parents to hold hands together and ensure that our province reaches the 90 % pass rate and be counted amongst the top provinces in the country this year" said MEC kholwane.

The MEC's sentiments were echoed by Marinus Sieberhagen, Senior Vice President of Secunda Chemicals Operations, SASOL, who views education as an enabler to improving the lives of those in communities and its operations. "Through Osizweni Education and Development Centre the company has dedicated itself to giving full support to the education fraternity".

"This is realized by providing support to learners doing science, technology, engineering and mathematics with the intention to enable top performance in those subjects and soon SASOL will finalize awarding of an extra ten bursaries to deserving students around Gert Sibande District municipality" concluded Mr Sieberhagen.

Sasol has also awarded prizes money to teachers who have done exceptionally well in their contribution in the various schools. On top of the numerous awards received, Bhavick Bhanga from Hoesrskool Hoogenout in Bethel, also walked away with a prize money, which should go a long way in assisting him with his studies as he will be studying Chemical Engineering at the University of Pretoria.









# Philanthropic K lends a helping hand own money (R 20 000) to purcha for needy learners at Mashishing's Le

**M**EC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane donated R 20 000.00 from his own pocket to purchase school uniform for needy learners at Mashishing's Lesodi Primary School. This follows his visit to the school as part of the Mpumalanga Executive Council's Schools Re-opening and Readiness Programme on 12 January, during which he also encouraged learners to take education seriously for a brighter future.

"As public representatives, we must lend a hand where we possibly can, in order to make an imprint in the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves. I believe this donation will go a long way to restore the dignity of these future leaders". Said MEC Kholwane, who was visibly touched by the plight of the learners. An additional ten (10) learners from Marambane Primary School will also benefit from this donation.





# Kholwane by donating school uniforms Sodi Primary School

The Executive Council visits schools on the first of day of each academic year annually, to check their readiness. The intention is to unblock any bottle necks, if any, in order to facilitate smooth learning during the year.

Meanwhile, MEC Kholwane also visited Hoerskool Lydenburg on 11 January and Coromandel Primary School on 13 January 2016, also as part of the Executive Council's Schools Re-opening and Readiness Programme.



# Education is the key to break the shackles of poverty – MEC Kholwane

**M**EC Kholwane says education is not only a tool that shapes the mind of the learners to be self-reliant in the ever changing social and economic environment, but is also a vital component of a life process that all children must go through, so that, through what they gain from it, they can contribute towards building a better society for the current and future generations. Kholwane echoed these profound words of wisdom during the three (3) days Mpumalanga Executive Council's Schools Re-opening and Readiness Programme.

The Schools Re-opening and Readiness Programme is an annual programme whereby public representatives and government officials are deployed to primary and secondary schools across the Province to encourage learners to do better in their studies. This noble programme is a direct response to the clarion call by government to put education at the apex of its priorities.

MEC Eric Kholwane visited Hoerskool Lydenburg, Lesodi Primary Mashishing and Coromandel Primary School.

"The fact that more than 40 percent of the provincial budget is allocated to the education sector is a clear indication that the Province takes education very seriously. The provincial government will continue to provide the necessary resources from the available financial resources to match the societal expectations for and to enable the learners to get basic education", said the MEC to the applause of learners and teachers.

Of importance, this Programme affords the schools an opportunity to raise the challenges they are faced with, which may lead to poor performance. It is also through this Programme that the deployed public representatives ascertain schools' readiness right at the beginning of the school calendar year.

Amongst other things, the deployed were charged with the responsibility to ensure that the following non-negotiables are in place and ready:

- Readiness of the schools
- School budget
- Governance of the school
- Learning material
- Infrastructure
- Nutrition programme
- School Code of Conduct in place
- Schools Maintenance Plan
- Human Resource Development
- Understanding of roles and responsibilities by School Governing Bodies

MEC Kholwane also took this opportunity to encourage learners to focus their energies in education, saying education is the only way to break the shackles of poverty. I appeal to learners to allow the educators to guide them to a brighter future which is lurking ahead of them, concluded MEC Kholwane.



















# MEC K restore order communities a around

**M**EC Sikhumbuzo Kholwane says there is no need for community members to block roads, prevent people from going to work and throw stones at moving cars if they are not satisfied due to perceived lack of services from government. Instead community members must organize themselves to address their concerns with relevant government Departments. He said these during a heated community meeting held at the Tekwane South Community hall on 30 January 2017.

The community of Tekwane went on a rampage and blockaded roads with rubble after they complained about a wide range of issues affecting them on a daily basis, such as lack of support from government for registered co-operatives and failure by government departments to link them to the market.

“As government we listen to grievances from our people, and we do our level best to respond to issues raised by communities, however if people are not organized it then becomes difficult for government to address their concerns. However through engagement with members of communities it becomes easier for government to unlock problems that might be affecting different communities in the province” said MEC Kholwane

The MEC has assured community members around Tekwane South outside Nelspruit that government is ready to address their concerns.

MEC Kholwane's views were supported by City of Mbombela, Speaker Mandla Msibi who urged community members to report their problems to relevant government departments so that they will move swiftly to address them.

The meeting then agreed to set up a task team that will look at issues raised by the community members of Thekwane South. The task team also resolved to report back on the 13th March 2017.



# holwane

## er at striking

### round Tekwane

### Mbombela



# Kholwane walks the talk

## by supporting young entrepreneurs in Mpumalanga

By: Comfort Ngobe and Silence Mhlaba

**T**he MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Sikhumbuzo Kholwane is practising what he preaches. Through his office, he recently procured a sizeable amount of bottled water from a young local entrepreneur, Malibongwe Nkosi who hails from KaNyamazane outside Nelspruit in the Mbombela Local Municipality.

True to his word, MEC Kholwane has delivered on his commitment to procure bottled water for his office from a company owned by a young entrepreneur, called Supa Water. The MEC made the commitment after he was impressed by the young entrepreneur's business model.

MEC Kholwane said "government cannot be seen as talking about promoting SMME's whereas its procurement does not favour SMME's and Co-operatives. As a results, from today my office will procure water from Supa Water and I am urging other departments to support SMME's and Co-operatives".

"I have been tasked to lead and promote SMME's development in the Province. I cannot be seen, as leader of government, indicating left whereas I am turning right. I will walk the talk, and I want to the blesser to be SMME's and Co-operatives in Mpumalanga", said MEC Kholwane.

Speaking shortly after delivering the first supply of water to the Office of the MEC, a jubilant young entrepreneur owner of Supa Water, Mr Malibongwe Nkosi said "I want to say that as a Province we are honoured to have a leader of MEC Kholwane's statue. A leader who is committed to uplifting young people who are prepared to work. We are over the moon with this rare opportunity and we also wish to encourage other departments to support local economic development".

When I started the company in May 2016, I had a vision of being an entrepreneur, to create job opportunities for other people, and government have provided a conducive environment for young entrepreneurs to start their businesses, and today I can confidently say government has helped me to realise my dream of being an employer", concluded Mr Malibongwe Nkosi.

Malibongwe Nkosi's Company Supa Water was established in May 2016. He was funded by Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA) to supply bottled water. The business has the necessary certificates confirming water quality test. Currently, the business has employed 3 local people including two ladies aged 21 and 24 and 1 male aged 22 who is deaf. Malibongwe can be contacted on 079 777 0736 or 013 794 0074.

*Young entrepreneur:  
Malibongwe Nkosi and his colleague*







MEC Kholwane with departmental staff members and Thaba Chweu Local Municipality officials



MEC Kholwane addressing prospective business people



Some of the future business people in attendance

# Department aims to bolster SMMEs

By: Sibusiso Mgwanya

**R**egistered SMMEs and Cooperatives are set to be strengthened by government. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism aims to create viable, autonomous self-reliable and self-sustainable SMMEs and cooperatives. With the focus solely on registered businesses, the Sector and Enterprise Development directorate is on a drive to educate all aspiring business people and equip them with all the necessary skills to run profitable businesses.

The workshops, held at Matsulu and Mashishing were aimed at addressing some of the challenges faced by business people, such as registrations on the new Central database System (CSD), differentiating between the different types of companies such as cooperatives, private companies etc.

Speaking during the Mashishing workshop, Mr Makaringe, Director for Sector and Enterprise Development said the workshop is aimed at providing the right information at the right time. "As business people you need to keep up to date with all the developments in the business sector, familiarise yourself with the latest technology, social media, and all other platforms aimed at promoting your business."

"We will be conducting training seminars in the near future because we acknowledge that SMMEs and cooperatives are mostly initiated by unemployed people, often with low skill level, no prior business experience, especially in economically

marginalised areas." "A lack of both management and technical skills undermines the chances of success, and this also contributes to tensions within cooperatives." Said Mr Makaringe.

MEC Sikhumbuzo Kholwane pledged that the Department will assist small businesses from inception to ensure success. "The Department will provide all the necessary training and working tools to ensure that there is no excuse for failure," said then MEC.

"We will also ensure that Mpumalanga money is spent in Mpumalanga to ensure a vibrant economy, let us circulate our money between ourselves, thus ensuring that we support one another." "As government we will walk the talk, whatever service we require at a certain time we will search and find the provider within our province, be it building material, food, etc," added MEC.

MEC Kholwane concluded by saying, "Furthermore the MEC encouraged the aspiring business people to never give. "It is a long road ahead, there is no overnight success in running a business, there will be ups and downs, losses and gains, therefore, on this long and hard journey we as government want to work with only real business people, we want entrepreneurs, we are talking business, not tenders"



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MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
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**MPUMALANGA**  
**THE PLACE OF THE RISING SUN**

**Nokuthula Simelane Building**

(Building No. 4) No. 7 Government Boulevard | Riverside Park Extension 2

Private Bag X11215 | Mbombela 1200 | Republic of South Africa

Local - Tel: 013 766 4004 | Fax: 013 766 4614

International - Tel: +27 13 766 4004 | Fax: +27 13 766 4614