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EDITION THREE 2022



LOOKING BACK TO 2022

LEAD STORY

Page 34

Mayor visits perseverance cluster

SPECIAL FEATURE

Page 38-41

Chamber Banquet

COVER STORY

Page 42

Cable Infrastructure & Theft



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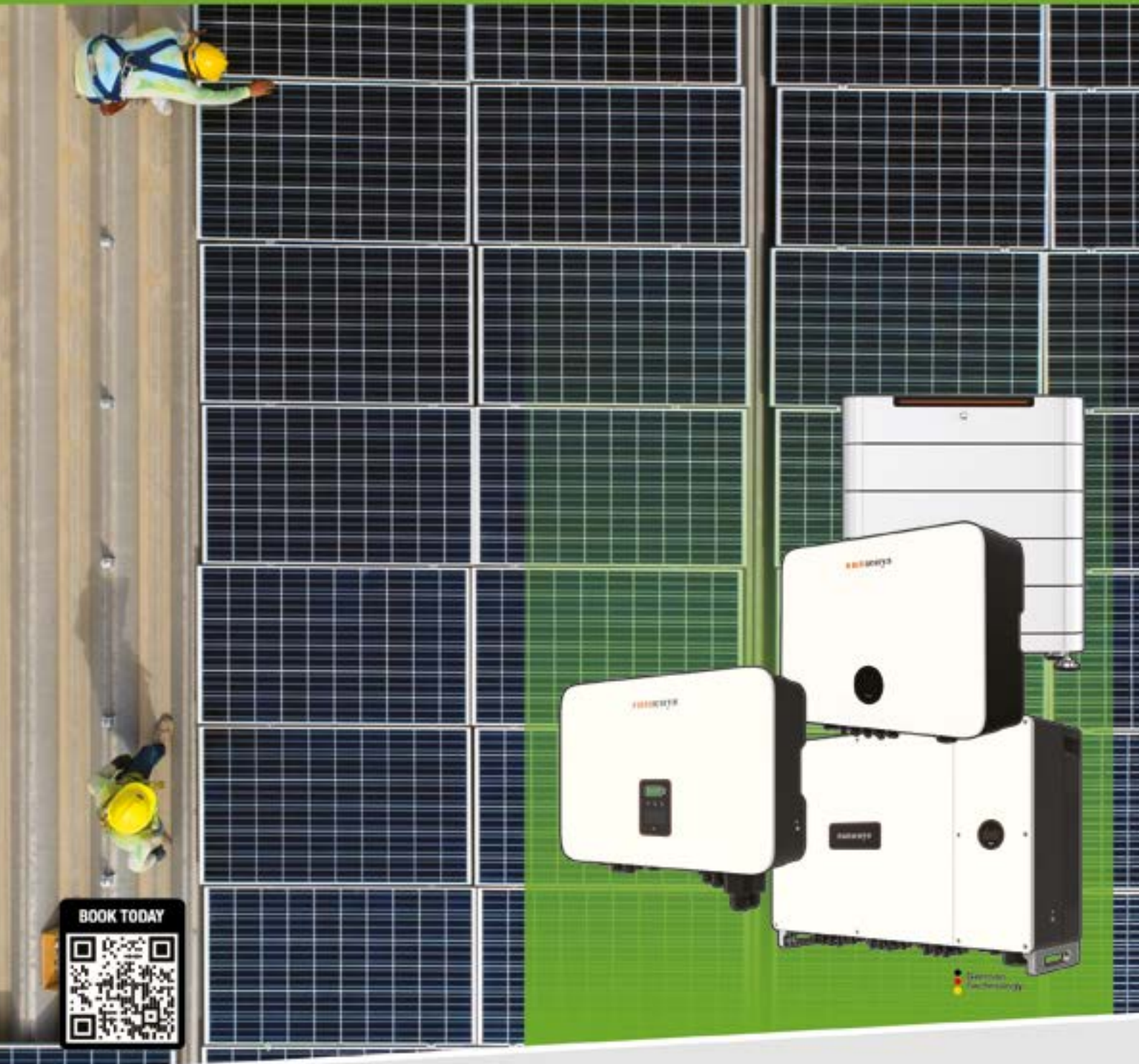
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Contents

OUR BUSINESS CHAMBER:

Tech company's boost for conservation	7
Editor's Note	9
Chamber Services	10
Chamber Strategy	11
Chamber upscales global export accelerator programme to upskill local SMMEs	15
Notable spike in Women owned Businesses in the Bay	17
Business safety over the holiday season	25
May I challenge you to read at least one section of this article?	26
Chamber President calls on business to mobilise more volunteers and resources to grow local economy	28
Mayor visits Perseverance Cluster to engage with businesses in the area	34
Chamber Annual Banquet Celebrations	38 – 41
The Courts' approach to the implementation of RULE 41A	45

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Tech company's boost for conservation



SAFE HAVEN: Jendamark staffers (from left) Morné Muller, Cameron le Roux, Goodwill Mabena, Asanda Madikizela and Helena Rademeyer explore the newly-acquired 120ha Seaview Private Sanctuary. Jendamark aims to restore biodiversity and promote wildlife education at the private sanctuary which it recently bought for an undisclosed sum. (Image: Supplied)

LEADING Nelson Mandela Bay tech company Jendamark Automation has announced an investment in conservation which will transform one of the city's most controversial game parks into a private sanctuary that aims to restore biodiversity and promote wildlife education.

Jendamark, a global exporter of high-tech automotive component assembly systems, purchased the 120-hectare Seaview Predator Park for an undisclosed sum with the intention to develop it into a conservation and rehabilitation centre that will create jobs and act as an outdoor retreat for Jendamark employees, customers, and community groups. According to Jendamark operations director Siegfried Lokotsch, the Seaview Private Sanctuary, as it is now known, is not a commercial tourism venture and will not be open to the general public.

"However, once we are up and running, any educational or community upliftment programme will be welcome to apply to visit our facility free of charge. We want to give back to our community and educate people about the importance of protecting our wildlife." Lokotsch said Jendamark was in the process of developing a long-term veld and game management plan in consultation with a wildlife veterinarian and environmental specialist.

"We want to understand the biodiversity and do the right thing ecologically in terms of the species that we introduce, the indigenous vegetation and the carrying capacity of the land. "Currently, we have several free-ranging species such as various buck, giraffe, and zebra. There are no animals in cages and no dangerous game. All the big cats for which the park was previously known have been rehomed by the former owners."

With water for the animals being scarce, rainwater tanks have been installed and a borehole will be sunk to access a steady groundwater supply.

Lokotsch said the first phase of redevelopment would be completed within the next six to 12 months, beginning with high-security electrified fencing to keep out poachers, and keep animals and visitors safe.

The existing facilities, including the restaurant, log cabins, camp sites, ablution blocks and braai areas, will also be upgraded. "Our vision is to have mountain biking and walking trails criss-crossing the property, so that it becomes a very special outdoor recreational centre that allows people to have close encounters with our incredible wildlife," said Lokotsch.

"In the next two years, we aim to create 30 to 50 jobs in the local community, assisting with trail building and the removal of alien invasive species such as black wattle, which we will help them bag and sell as braai wood for additional income." He said the new investment aligned with the company's existing sustainability efforts, such as the rooftop solar energy plant powering its manufacturing facility, and its core business of developing assembly solutions for electric vehicle power packs, as well as catalytic converters, which reduce harmful exhaust emissions.

"At Jendamark, we also apply ecosystem thinking to the manufacturing tech that we develop, so in a sense, supporting an environmental ecosystem is a natural fit for us," explained Lokotsch. "What we've also realised as a tech business is that attracting and retaining specialised skills involves more than money. For the new generation of tech talent, shared values and wellness incentives are just as important as above-market salaries. So, we are constantly thinking of authentic ways to be a good corporate citizen and the employer of choice."

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EDITOR's *note*



Dear Reader

Welcome to the last edition of Infocom for 2022, aptly themed Tourism to close off a rather eventful year!

The Festive Season is upon us and during this period, Nelson Mandela Bay becomes a hive of activity with a banquet of exciting tourism activities that cater for both the locals and visitors from near and afar. Over the years, the Bay has entrenched itself as a destination of choice for water sports and is home to the Big 7, which consists of the Elephant, Buffalo, Rhino, Lion, Leopard, Southern Right Whale and Great White Shark.

The city is also home to the largest breeding colony of the African Penguin and has amazing Blue Flag Beaches. The area also boasts a significant amount of endemic species. Such a concentration of biomes, particularly within a city, is unparalleled in the world and results in an extraordinary diversity of landscapes, plants and animals. According to latest statistics from SA Tourism, at the ports of entry into and out of South Africa, shows that a total of 1 696 851 travellers (arrivals, departures and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in April 2022.

A comparison between the movements in April 2021 and April 2022 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 145,4% (from 117 557 in April 2021 to 288 430 in April 2022). Departures increased by 147,3% (from 126 417 in April 2021 to 312 662 in April 2022) and transits increased by 584,7% (from 59 in April 2021 to 404 in April 2022).

For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 128,9% (from 248 314 in April 2021 to 568 484 in April 2022) departures increased by 130,9% (from 218 493 in April 2021 to 504 392 in April 2022), and transits increased by 272,5% (from 6 035 in April 2021 to 22 479 in April 2022). This came on the back of a calamitous year of the Covid-19 pandemic, which negatively impacted the tourism industry and nearly brought it to its knees.

As such, the travel and tourism sectors could not pivot like the rest of other sectors who managed to work online during the pandemic and kept their operations going. However, post the pandemic, it has shown signs of resilience as it gradually roars back to life after going into hibernation.

More importantly, great strides are being made to revitalise the industry, with key focus on strengthening strategic partnerships between all relevant stakeholders to work on curating unique travel experiences for tourists.

Taking into account the industry's contribution to job creation and economic growth, these efforts become even more important if you juxtapose them with the current unacceptably high unemployment figures in the Eastern Cape Province.

To this end, today and beyond, we all have a collective responsibility of safeguarding our tourism assets to harness them for their economic spinoffs, to propel the industry on a sustainable growth path. In this issue, we have a variety of interesting topics on the subject from different contributors and we hope that you will enjoy this last edition.

On that note, may you all have a wonderful Festive Season!

Sibongile Dimbaza

NELSON MANDELA BAY BUSINESS CHAMBER

VALUE-ADDED BENEFITS TO YOUR BUSINESS

COO

The Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber issues Certificates of Origin (COO) at a reduced rate to members who export the products. Added to this, they also are offered free electronic certification through the new ECOO system.

For more info, contact coo@nmdbbusinesschamber.co.za

COMMUNICATION

As the Nelson Mandela Business Chamber, we offer our members exposure across a number of print and electronic platforms. Our popular print publications the Annual Business Guide, Annual Review and Infocom (it is printed three times a year) all carry insightful content and are distributed to our member companies.

For more info, contact media@nmdbbusinesschamber.co.za

ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

The Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber Enterprise Development Programme offers local small business owners an effective combination of mentorship and skills development aimed at enhancing their eligibility for funding, assisting them with export-readiness, giving insights into new markets, and increasing their job creation potential.

For more info, contact smme@nmdbbusinesschamber.co.za

EVENTS

Annually the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber creates networking opportunities for member companies through an array of tailor-made events. The organisation brings in high profile speakers who are experts in their fields, ensuring that events are relevant and valuable.

For more info, contact events@nmdbbusinesschamber.co.za

HELP DESK

Since January 2022, the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber has received 31 queries through its Help Desk, from various member companies who have requested the Chamber's intervention to resolve them. The bulk of the queries relates to service delivery issues due to ongoing challenges within the Municipality. Some of the queries relate to incorrect municipal billing, road maintenance, sewerage spills, water leaks, illegal dumping, low water pressure, water quality, exports, homeless people squatting, malfunctioning streetlights, WULA and petroleum licenses, including data on statistics. The Chamber has set up a dedicated Help Desk to assist members with any obstacles they encounter with respect to ease of doing business.

For more info, contact helpdesk@nmdbbusinesschamber.co.za

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

We continue to leverage our relationships with our counterparts abroad for the benefit of our members in terms of reaching international markets.

For more info, contact nicki@nmdbbusinesschamber.co.za

BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

The Business Chamber has an in-house cluster research unit which is mandated with identifying catalytic projects that can contribute to the development of key sectors. It provides a library of business intelligence and insight for the development of essential clusters.

For more info, contact research@nmdbbusinesschamber.co.za

SMME AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DESK

The E-Desk is dedicated to promoting economic development through the provision of support to Small Medium and Micro Enterprises in the Metro. The E-Desk offers the following services: Enterprise Development, access to funding opportunities, access to markets, advisory support/help desk, access to business intelligence, tender documentation support, mentoring programme, access to skills development and training, webinars and topics of interest to SMMEs and exposure linkages.

For more info, contact research@nmdbbusinesschamber.co.za

EMPOWERMENT CIRCLE

Mentorship Circle:

The mentorship programme supports and empowers individuals within the business landscape of the Nelson Mandela Bay region. This programme offers mentees one-on-one sessions with a mentor over a period of three months. Within this programme the mentor provides guidance and motivation to mentees seeking to establish themselves within the business fraternity, in addition to this SMMEs have been identified as one of the key targets of this programme as they are a cornerstone for economic growth.

Women's Circle:

The Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber recently held its inaugural meeting on 01 March 2022 to kickstart its Women's Circle programme, which is sponsored by First National Bank. The Women's Circle aims to empower and further develop women in business through lobbying efforts, conversations and networking opportunities. Through these initiatives, the Women's Circle will provide a platform wherein individuals can access business opportunities through networking and address topical issues for women in the business landscape.

Connect Circle:

The connect circle is aimed to provide a platform for Business Chamber associates to engage and network. The connect circle will offer industry and sector focused events that unpack strategies and/or catalytic projects that aim to contribute to the economic development of the Metro. Not limited to sector focused events this will also extend to events such as a New Members welcome, Coffee Connect sessions and Speed-Networking sessions.

CHAMBER CLUSTERS

The cluster is a voluntary formation of businesses, established in order to broaden and strengthen the capabilities in their operational environment and to address issues of common interest.

Geographical clusters include:

- Deal Party
- Perseverance * Struandale
- Kariëga
- North End

Sectoral based clusters include:

- Property Cluster
- * High Energy Users Cluster
- * Manganese Cluster
- Renewable Energy



Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber OUR STRATEGY

With around 700 member businesses and 155 years of rich heritage, the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber remains one of the most trusted, respected and authoritative voices on matters relating to local business and the economy.

The environment we operate in is changing at a rapid pace and requires ongoing agility to ensure that we robustly respond to issues that impact upon the sustainability of local businesses, the functionality of the operating environment, leverage economic growth opportunities, while simultaneously providing value adding services to our members.

For this reason, we have implemented a strategic plan where we have adopted a more activist, collaborative and action orientated approach in pursuing our vision of being the leading catalyst for Nelson Mandela Bay





Building trust and delivering sustained outcomes that make a difference.

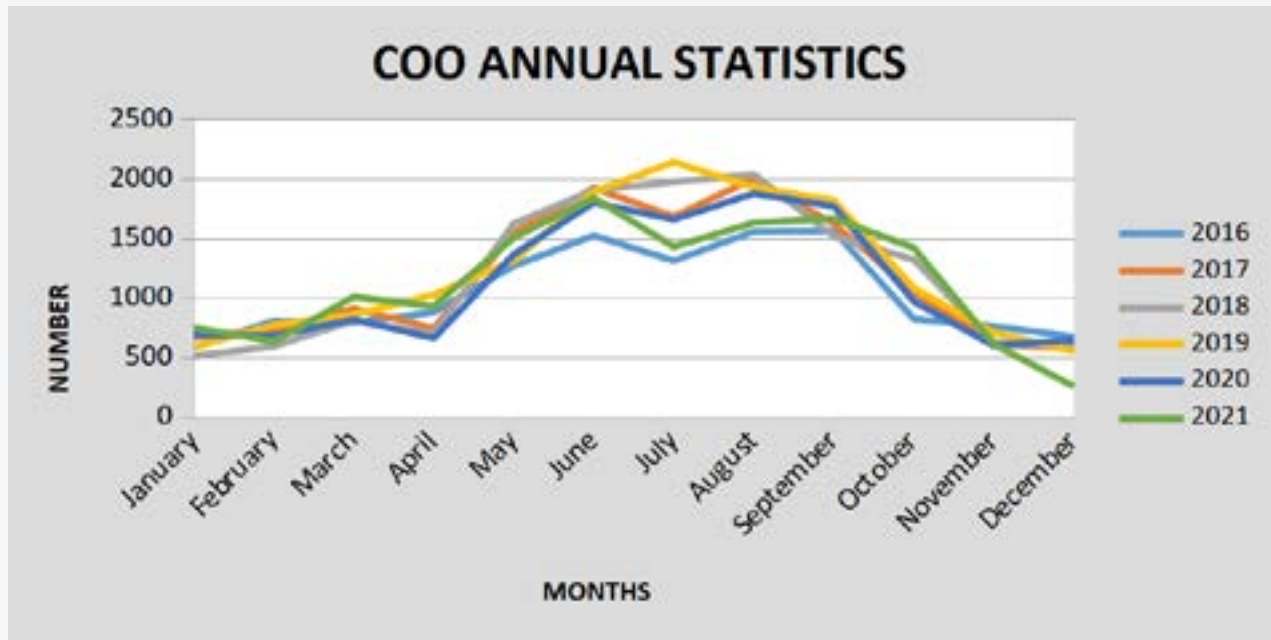
Today’s challenges are unlike any we’ve seen before. They require something more than the expected. The complex nature of the important problems we help solve every day, requires a community of human led, tech-enabled solvers, bringing the best of PwC to you, your people, your stakeholders and the communities where you live and work.

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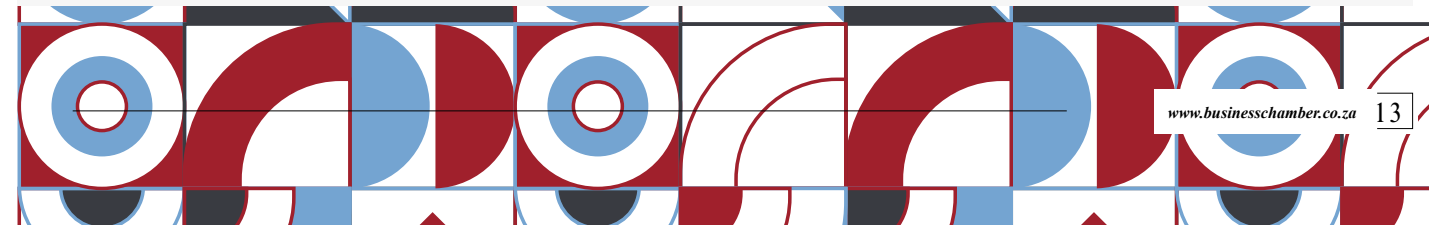
CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN

The Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber has forecasted a positive outlook for this year’s total number of Certificates of Origin (COO) to be issued to companies in the export market, once figures for November and December have been included. From January to October 2022, 13 295 certificates have been issued compared to 13 731 issued from January to December 2021. A certificate of origin is an important international trade document that certifies that goods in a particular export shipment are wholly obtained, produced, manufactured or processed in a particular country. The document also serves as a declaration by the exporter.



For more information on Certificates of Origin, contact coo@nmdbbusinesschamber.co.za

CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN ANNUAL NUMBERS							
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	586	671	516	589	697	755	541
February	811	735	597	776	686	637	592
March	797	914	812	863	823	1013	778
April	884	749	700	1031	666	935	747
May	1274	1549	1627	1316	1369	1510	1201
June	1527	1926	1908	1894	1805	1844	1882
July	1316	1687	1977	2145	1662	1433	1796
August	1561	2006	2042	1931	1881	1634	2694
September	1568	1626	1520	1824	1774	1671	2239
October	827	1052	1326	1085	975	1424	825
November	766	620	627	710	602	615	
December	676	575	609	556	651	260	
TOTAL	12593	14110	14261	14720	13591	13731	13295



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AIRPORT PERFORMANCE

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AWARDS

- World Airport Skytrax Award: 5th place Best Regional Airports
- World Airport Skytrax Award: 6th place Cleanest Airport in Africa
- Airport International Council - Chief Dawid Stuurman Int Airport receives accolade for reducing carbon emissions
- Toughest Fire Fighter Alive Competition 6th place in SA



(From left to Right): Rialgo Barnard a Global Expert at GMLS, GMLS's General Manager Elywyn Pitt, CEO of KTMC Management Solutions Tim Scholtz, Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber's Projects Coordinator Renzo Druissi, and GMLS's Global Expert Reginald Moyo.

Chamber upscales global export accelerator programme to upskill local SMMEs

The Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber (NMBBC) is piloting in the Metro an export accelerator programme “to empower Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) with the necessary skills and knowledge to establish their own export market base”, says Denise van Huyssteen, the CEO of the Chamber.

This follows a highly successful and innovative Export Incubator established in 2018 as a partnership of the Employment and Skills for Development in Africa (E4D) Programme of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI).

When the programme came to completion, 75 SMMEs had participated and were provided with a suite of export orientated development support ranging from training, mentoring, product development and international market research, including international market access and business linkages.

Through the JCCI's initiative, 120 new job opportunities were created while 10 SMEs experienced more than 200% growth in annual turnover and 20 SMEs reported annual turnover growth of more than 100%. In an effort to upscale this successful model, E4D has reached out to the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber and three other chambers: the Cape Chamber of Commerce & Industry, the Pietermaritzburg & Midlands Chamber of Business as well as the JCCI.

The four chambers together with the South African Supplier Diversity Council have formed the Global Export Accelerator Partnership (GEAP) funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

GEAP is aimed at stimulating job creation and enhanced business capacity of SMME's to heighten their global competitiveness and ability to grow their markets internationally. Through a 12-month programme commencing July 2022, NMBBC aims to achieve the following indicators by working with a minimum of 40 enterprises in Nelson Mandela Bay and across the Eastern Cape Province:

- 120 additional jobs to be created, thereof 35% women
- 200 people to improve their employment situation
- 40 enterprises to enhance their business capacity.

This comes at a time the country is facing considerable economic challenges, including stunted economic growth, high unemployment and waning interest in the country's prospects from trade and investment partners. As such, the country's export performance remains weak. In South Africa, SMMEs absorb about 60% of the employed population but contribute less than 4% to export earnings, leaving a large margin for growth.

With a relatively small domestic market that is highly concentrated and competitive, SMMEs have to gain international experience and look for business beyond South African borders to succeed. “We have elevated the importance of growing local SMMEs within the Chamber and to this end launched a SMME and Entrepreneurship Desk in April of this year. The Desk, which is anchored by sponsorship from Standard Bank and Labournet, already is supporting over 100 registered businesses”, says Van Huyssteen. “

As the Chamber, we regard GEAP as a key initiative because the focus is on stimulating job creation and promoting exports as a way to help SMMEs to grow. Therefore, there is the need to boost export activity as a stimulant to economic activity and job creation, which remains a national policy priority.

To this extent, SMMEs are expected to function as a driving force in South Africa's social and economic stability.”

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Notable spike in Women owned Businesses in the Bay



Phumeza Kate (Managing Director Ilinge Lethu Bafazi) Thanusha Pillay (Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber's Membership Manager), Kayleigh van Huyssteen (Founder of Jam and Cheese clothing line) and Tanya Kisten (Managing Director Khanyisela College).

The Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber's SMME and Entrepreneurship Desk has 105 registered members and of this, 56% represent women run businesses, indicating a growing trend of women entering into entrepreneurial opportunities, says Denise van Huyssteen, Chamber CEO.

These companies have a combined annual revenue generation of over R100 million and employ 428 employees. To date, 18 internships have been created through the Chamber's SMME and Entrepreneurship Desk.

"Women are typically well represented in leadership roles in the finance, legal, human resources and services sectors in Nelson Mandela Bay. However, they are generally under-represented in strategic roles across the manufacturing sector, as well as in Managing Director roles at medium to large business operations. It is therefore vital that young women are encouraged to pursue qualifications which will provide them with a broader scope and options, thus increasing their eligibility for other types of leadership roles. Examples of these fields include engineering, chartered accounting, Information Technology and the growing renewable energy terrain," says Van Huyssteen.

Given the importance of entrepreneurship in reviving our local economy and creating jobs, Van Huyssteen says this should be more proactively positioned as a viable option for women to pursue. In tandem with this, it is vital that mentoring, coaching and other support is provided to interested women who have the potential to run their own businesses.

More importantly, women play an increasingly significant role in driving South Africa's economy, including their contribution socially and professionally. "While the country has made some excellent gains, a huge opportunity remains for the public and private sectors to work together to accelerate efforts to dismantle the structural obstacles and biases that impede female entrepreneurship. This is to ensure that the playing field is levelled for women to further play an enlarged role in the country's economic recovery."

SMMEs are the engines that drive economic growth throughout the world as they account for the largest portion of jobs created, including their contribution to the country's GDP growth. Their development, growth and sustainability is significantly important as it is directly linked to the country's economic and social success.

As such, the Chamber's SMME and Entrepreneurship Desk acts as a single contact where business support, growth and sustainability initiatives are housed, and these are achieved through four pillars such as access to funding and professional banking services; access to business development; access to advisory support and market access.

Standard Bank's Eastern Cape Head: client coverage and business clients, Leigh-Anne de Witt said from the banking point of view, they have noticed that their newly established relationships have been with entrepreneurs in the legal, medical, manufacturing, accounting sectors and of course other general trades.

"While these are still at a relatively low revenue scale – it is encouraging to see the emergence of women-led businesses. In general, there is still some dominance of male entrepreneurs in our base, some partnering with women for possible skills transfer or to explore far reaching business opportunities. We are yet to see independently run operations by women in the agricultural space.

"As women retire or breakaway from formal employment, they seem to be opening consultancy businesses – tapping onto their respective experiences. There is definitely an opportunity to forge more growth partnerships with female entrepreneurs and contribute to their entrepreneurial skills development," says De Witt.

Do you have family and friends visiting Gqeberha for the upcoming festive season?

What better place to enjoy their stay than the Bluewater Bay Sunrise Hotel. It's time to take advantage of the luxury and opulence located on the Coega SEZ's doorstep. Just 15 minutes' drive from the Chief Dawid Stuurman International Airport and city centre, and a scenic drive to the popular Addo Elephant Park, you'll be able to enjoy the best of nature and urban convenience in a peaceful suburb overlooking the bay.

The Bluewater Bay Sunrise Hotel provides 4-star hospitality and promises its guests even better treatment. Feast your eyes on vibrant coastal-inspired interior décor and mouth-watering meals or spend a relaxing weekend away enjoying the fresh ocean breeze.

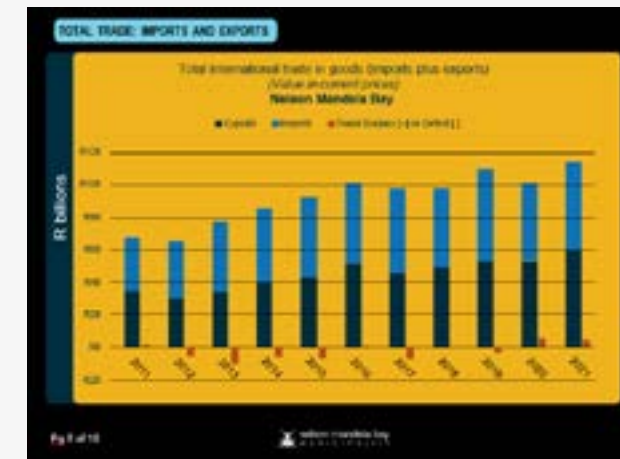


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NELSON MANDELA BAY'S ECONOMIC PROFILE

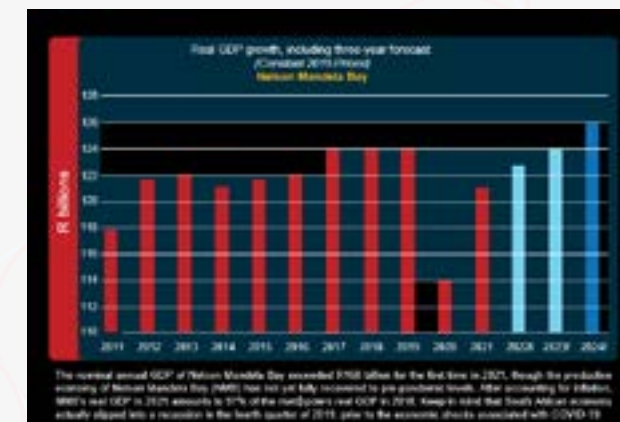
Long considered as an economic powerhouse in the Eastern Cape Province, Nelson Mandela Bay continues to position itself not only as an investment destination of choice, but an iconic friendly, ocean city driven by innovation, service excellence and economic development.



The value of South African goods exported from Nelson Mandela Bay amounted to R59.4 billion in 2021.

Considering the significance of maritime and logistics activity to the economy of Nelson Mandela Bay, it should not be surprising that the total value of international trade in goods through Nelson Mandela Bay (i.e. both imports and exports) in 2021 is equivalent to 70.1% of Nelson Mandela Bay's GDP for the calendar year (imports into Nelson Mandela Bay) amounted to R4.4bn in 2021; equivalent to 2.7% of Nelson Mandela Bay's GDP for the calendar year.

Two years prior to this, Nelson Mandela Bay's trade deficit (i.e. the value of net imports in excess of exports) equated to 2.3% annual GDP at the time.



The number of unemployed work seekers in Nelson Mandela Bay decreased by close to 12,000 over the past four quarters. As such, the unemployment rate in the metropole declined to 36.4% in the first quarter of 2022.



“Long considered as an economic powerhouse in the Eastern Cape Province, Nelson Mandela Bay continues to position itself not only as an investment destination of choice.”



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The team in East London are from left, Debbie Kleinenberg, CHOC Childhood Foundation Regional Manager, Lizelle Maurice, Border Kei Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Deidre Sedras, Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture General Manager and Dawn Hendricks, Algoa FM Marketing Coordinator.

Algoa FM Big Walk for Cancer Attracts more than 11 000 WALKERS

The colour pink is associated with love and compassion according to Pinterest. Recently, this analogy certainly rang true as the sea of pink permeated through the Algoa FM Big Walk routes in Gqeberha, East London and George.

More than 11 000 people joined the Big Walk for Cancer to celebrate survivors, and honour loved ones undergoing treatment and remembering those who succumbed to the disease. "We are extremely pleased with the turnout of this event after two years of virtual participation. The atmosphere in all three centres was incredible and the purpose of the participants was clearly demonstrated by the names and images of loved ones displayed on their T-shirts and the messages of love and hope written on the Isuzu vehicles during the course of the walk," said Alfie Jay, Algoa FM Managing Director.

He added that Algoa FM remains committed to its cause, creating cancer awareness while raising funds for cancer related initiatives. It is also the first time in its 24-year history that the event was held simultaneously in George and in East London, affording an opportunity to listeners from the broader broadcast area to physically participate in the walk Jay explained. "We expect the event to grow in these cities in the same way it has grown in Nelson Mandela Bay," he said.



Alfie Jay, Algoa FM Managing Director, centre is joined by Sharné Woods from ISUZU Motors South Africa and Lynne Gadd-Claxton, CHOC Childhood Cancer Foundation Gqeberha Manager.

Big Walk partner, the Eastern Cape Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture, was represented in East London and Gqeberha, with the MEC for this department, Nonceba Kontsiwe participating in the walk in Gqeberha. She said that walking was a good way of showing support for one another. "Being out in the fresh air strengthens our wellbeing and gives us energy. Cancer survivors and those undergoing treatment certainly felt that they were not alone on their journey," said Kontsiwe.

Nelson Mandela Bay Executive Mayor, Retief Odendaal, thanked Algoa FM for bringing so many residents together for a good cause. "Cancer has no preference, it affects everyone, irrespective of race, sexual orientation, religion or age. This event shows that if we stand together, we can overcome many things," said Odendaal.



In George Angelique Strydom from Algoa FM (left) is joined by cancer survivor Nevin van der Heever (16) and his father Louis van der Heever, who also participates as a CHOC cow, Lesley Geyer, Algoa FM Marketing Manager and Roland Gaspar, Algoa FM presenter.

This year's beneficiary is CHOC Childhood Cancer Foundation South Africa, a non-profit organisation which supports children and teenagers, who are diagnosed with cancer or life-threatening blood disorders, as well as their families. Solar panels will be installed at the CHOC facilities in East London and in Gqeberha. To date more than two million rand had been donated to cancer related organisations. Jay said that the event will remain an essential activity on the radio station's annual calendar.

"We thank our sponsors, listeners and partners for their unwavering support in making this event a success."

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VWSA SUPPORTS SCHOOLS THROUGH CHAMBER DRIVEN ADOPT A SCHOOL INITIATIVE

When Nelson Mandela Bay experienced severe water shortages a year ago, Volkswagen Group South Africa (VWSA) was one of the first companies that heeded the Chamber's call for member companies to assist with implementing urgent interventions to reign in water losses in the Metro.

To this end, the company has installed 30 water tanks at 15 schools in Kariega and Despatch in partnership with Old Mutual. Both companies sponsored 15 tanks with a capacity of 5 000 litres each, and ensured the tanks were fitted with taps and connected to roof gutters at the schools.

In addition to the tanks, VWSA also assisted in alleviating the water crisis by fixing leaks and replacing plumbing, including toilets, taps and pipes, at 19 schools in Nelson Mandela Bay. The project forms part of the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber's Adopt a School initiative, which challenges local businesses to assist with water preservation at local schools.

Beyond this, the company has remained committed to reducing its environmental impact and has done its part to minimise the use of resources, including water. Between 2010 and 2021, the company reduced its use of water by 65% and installed an on-site wastewater recycling facility to reuse water for production processes and reduce the Kariega plant's freshwater consumption.

The company has been recognised with a Water Crisis Award for its tremendous commitment in supporting Adopt a Leak initiative, as well as adopting 30 schools, including donating 60 Jojo tanks since 2021.

Chamber chief executive Denise van Huyssteen says: "VWSA has over the years done so much for the Metro community and remains committed to the growth and prosperity of this region. Their support of our Adopt a School and Adopt a Leak initiatives is evidence of their commitment to humanitarian efforts. But more importantly, it speaks to the power of how you can resolve any problem through strategic partnerships."

"We are honoured to receive this award, and it is our hope to bring more awareness of the critical, ongoing water issue through our efforts," said Nonkubela Maliza, Corporate and Government Affairs at VWSA. "Through this and other projects, VWSA aims to empower and uplift the communities where we operate."

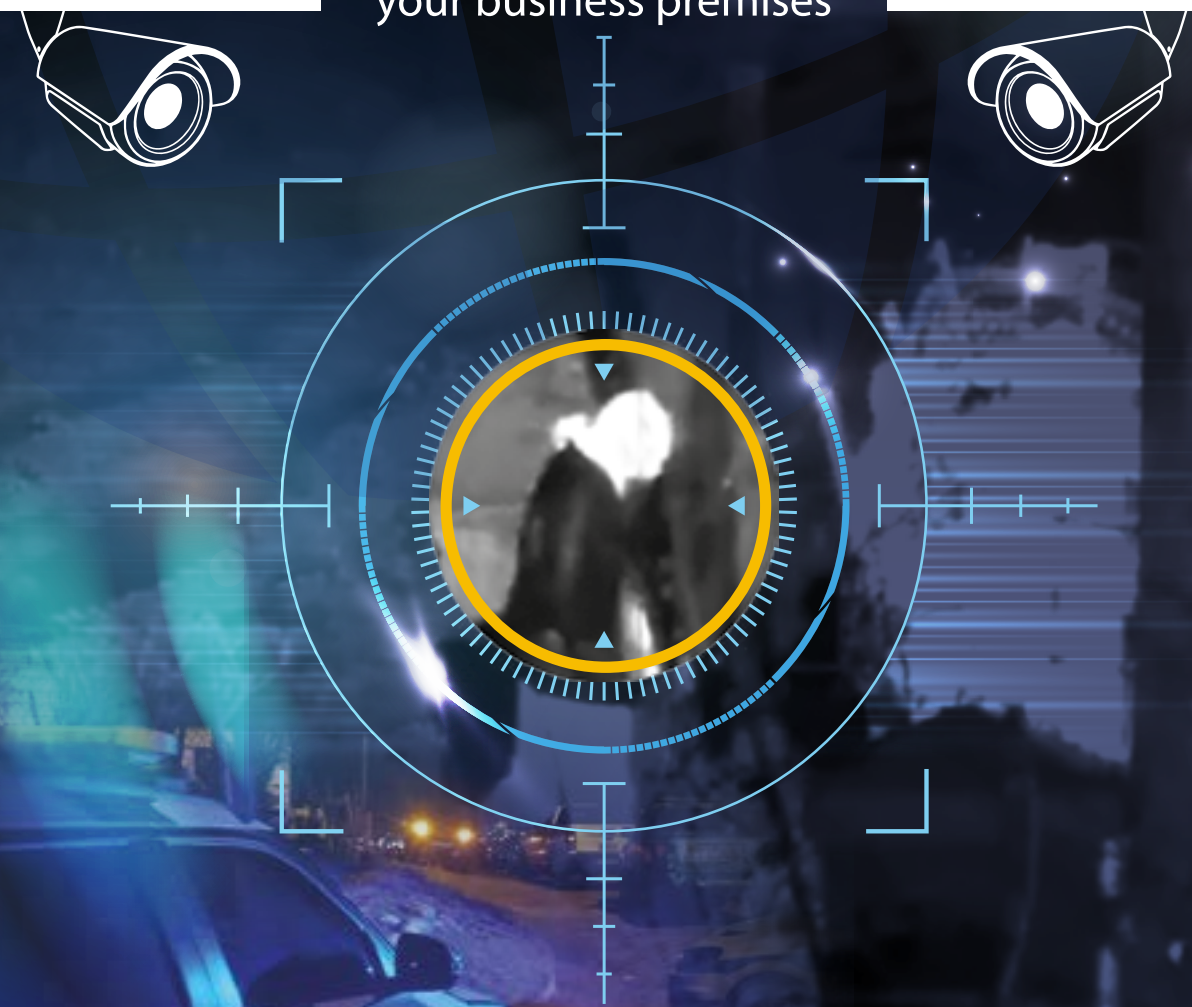
We believe access to water is a basic human right and we encourage others to also play their part by supporting the invaluable Adopt a School initiative by the Business Chamber." ace brimming with innovative ideas, aware of rich possibilities and, above all, equipped with the skills to realise these possibilities," concludes Pretorius.



Chamber President Loyiso Dotwana handing over an award to the VWSA team (Vernon Naidoo, Andile Dlamini and Nick Chapman).

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Business Safety over the Holiday Season

When Puseletso Mmutle and Goitseone Mohale matriculated, they had no idea what toolmakers did.

The Holiday Season is upon us, and the impact on businesses ranges from some having little to no staff or movement through the premises, while other businesses experience their most productive period as the Holidays needs all hands on deck. Understanding these two extremes helps one understand that there is no one-size-fits-all to a security solution. Business owners need to understand the risk that they face through various phases of the year, and plan accordingly to not only protect their stock and assets, but also protect their employees and customers from the potential dangers specific to the nature of their business.

First, we look to understand a business that shuts down over the holiday season. The days leading up to the final moments of your working year become nothing short of absolute chaos. Clients and suppliers leave everything to the last minute and make it your problem, leaves you with minimal time to effectively plan for what happens after doors close on the last day of the year. This means that the same alarm system that you have had in the premises for years remains in the same state that it was when it was first installed, leaving your business under threat as you assume that the alarm is in a good working order and that you have sufficient protection.

An alarm system is made up of electronic components which age over time; wiring becomes brittle, passives (eyes) become ineffective, contact magnets on the doors and windows go through extreme wear and tear as after being slammed all year. Take a moment to consider your TV at home, you upgrade it to enjoy a better viewing pleasure as technology becomes bigger and better. Shouldn't you be upgrading your alarm system to protect your business or family as more advanced intruder detection technology becomes available?

Advanced Analytical CCTV solutions provide electronic eyes on site which can be triggered by the detection of human movement within set parameters, which means that should suspects attempt to gain access to the premises, the analytical software will detect them and alert our Control Room before entry is gained. Atlas Security Surveillance Pro is the proactive solution that gives you complete peace of mind.

On the other end of the spectrum, some businesses are gearing up for their busiest period. These businesses will remain open for extended periods of time with an increased number of customers entering their doors. These types of businesses require a very different kind of security solution as they will be vulnerable to different types of crime. These crimes will lean away from burglaries (which the businesses shutting down are vulnerable to) and include more thefts, robberies, medical emergencies etc.

These crimes are more likely to occur during operating hours, which means that the alarm generally won't be armed. This is when high quality panic buttons are most effective. Give your staff the power to call for help in any event and know that the Armed Response Officers coming to help are equipped to handle any emergency, ranging from petty criminal activity to hostage situations, from medical emergencies to fires. The greatest strength is understanding the threats that your business faces, and using that information to protect it, as it provides not only for your family, but it allows your staff to provide for their families.

The team at Atlas Security wishes you and all your staff a magical holiday season. We have been preparing for the holidays, and will be on the roads in full force to provide you with the level of safety that you deserve.



Ryan Morris, Marketing Manager
Atlas Security

May I challenge you to read at least one section of this article?

SHAUN VAN ECK IS THE PROJECT MANAGER FOR DISCOVER MANDELA BAY, THE BUSINESS ORGANISATION FOR THE WIDER TOURISM INDUSTRY IN NELSON MANDELA BAY.

If you have a business you are impacted by tourism. Whether you are a difference-maker or a passionate local, I know that you will be inspired to be part of at least one of these areas that can see Nelson Mandela Bay grow to becoming one of the top 3 most recommended tourism destinations in South Africa.

These are the topics that you can skip straight to if you wish:

- Can we take back our beachfront and make it safe again?
- Can we break free of being a city of copycats?
- Why is it the End of Tourism as we know It' and why should we care anyway?
- Can we ever truly spread the benefits of tourism to our township communities?
- Can we win the single-use plastic battle on our beaches?

Feel free to jump to the section that interests you most and possibly try a few others after that.

Can we take back our Beachfront and make it safe again?

One of the top 3 tourism opinion leaders in SA, Martin Weist of Tourvest, recently reflected on how safety concerns are significantly affecting our tourism arrivals in our country. My heart broke when I read what he said in the next paragraph. "Mpumalanga is a problem, the Garden Route is a slight problem and Gqeberha is very unsafe." Realistically, our Beachfront does have scammers, thieves, drunk revellers and people who litter and break glass bottles on our beaches. And nothing appears to be done to improve the situation.

Here is the first opportunity where you as a difference-maker or a passionate local can make a difference. I somehow ended up Chairing a most amazing gathering of people. For the first time that I can remember we had Municipal, Government and Private Enterprise decision-makers around a conference table. At last Tuesday's meeting the previously unlikely occurred and the most wonderful consensus was achieved. From early December there will be between 5 and 9 visible patrolling people, for 24 hours a day throughout the year. The patrollers will each have a radio to be in touch with the 24- hour Joint Operations Centre in the Hobie Clubhouse. There will be power backup for load shedding and Phase 2 will see the installing of cameras covering the parking lot around the Club and the Pier.

So are you a supporter of projects that make a real difference? You can be a partner in this initiative to take our Beachfront back. We have businesses that have pretty much covered the monthly costs but we still need sponsors to cover some of the set-up costs to enable us to launch in the first week of December. The great thing is that a successful model can be rolled out in tourism areas such as Central and Well's Estate.

Can we break free from being a city of copycats?

We have lost our wonderful essence as a city. Consider our culinary offerings and our crafts. There is precious little that is authentic to us and is driven by the stories and unique aspects of Nelson Mandela Bay. Visitors, asked by potential future visitors about these aspects of their visit, would reply that there was nothing that connected them to the character of the City and it was not worth a stop.

Discover Mandela Bay has launched an initiative to boost the creativity and authenticity of our offerings. The restaurants in Stanley Street created amazing dishes for the Alliance Française Street Music Festival. That was the start of our Bay Chefs initiative. Just the week before, beaders from our Townships and the Northern Areas attended a workshop lead by Discover Mandela Bay and will produce wonderful new items that could only be sold in NMB because they are based on our unique stories. No more copying please! We were the City of Firsts and it is time to find our nowhere-else mojo again.

Why is it the End of Tourism as we know It' and why should we care anyway?

The digital revolution has turned tourism marketing on its head. The great thing is that this change will benefit NMB as a destination as the bigger marketing budgets that most of our competitors have no longer guarantee competitive advantage. Social media word-of-mouth by our current visitors now matters more than anything else in tourism marketing, outnumbering our own marketing and, significantly, social media posts are also seen as much more credible. 92% of tourism consumers say that they follow the recommendations from friends and family above all other forms of advertising. Reviews on sites such as TripAdvisor rank as the second most trusted source. Recommendation marketing is now clearly the most significant influencer of our customers' buying decisions.

Social Media posts get shared around the world by our current visitors, often within minutes of an experience happening. This is repeated throughout their journey, is spontaneous and is based on their emotional responses to the experiences. World-renowned Destination Think! CEO Rodney Payne recently said: "The one thing that matters to your destination or product more than anything else is word-of-mouth from friends and family; locals; visitors and your tourism industry."

It all comes down to the experiences that are delivered by our tourism products. We need to focus on experiences that are authentic, unique and personal. We want to be innovative, take chances and create 'nowhere-else' experiences. Our marketing strategy has to move from the visitor deciding where to go based on a 'what there is to do' mind set to focussing on them basing their decisions on 'how will it make me feel' and adapting our approach to that. Our main objective over the next years will be to turn all of our visitors into promoters that cover the whole world and are highly trusted.

So the Discover Mandela Bay strategy has now moved largely to coaching our members to deliver the compelling experiences that will cause our visitors to post and rate more often and tell our stories to our potential future customers. We will also focus more on encouraging our activity providers to offer more immersive and authentic experiences that are suited to the move away from big tour groups. We are on our way to becoming a highly recommended destination and the critical aspects of collaboration and 'dating our customers' will make us as world famous as the brand of the man we bear the name of.

So why should all businesses and locals in NMB care? Well, simply because the new trends away from mass tourism and toward smaller more local experiences offer us significantly more competitiveness. We have the wide open spaces and the interesting locals that our visitors are looking for. We have a huge opportunity to grow our visitor numbers and that will benefit almost every business in NMB.

Can we ever truly spread the benefits of tourism to our township communities?

Discover Mandela Bay is partnering with the Township Tourism Forums to develop nowhere-else experiences that deliver local moments and immerse our visitors in our stories. The Forums nominated Walmer Township as the first area of focus. We found during our research that it is the only township in SA that was not forcefully removed and it will be branded as 'The one that got away.' It has the potential to be a nowhere-else, must-do tour. We have conceptualised and scripted a 4D video production for the start of the tour that will put viewers in the middle of an 80's protest march with those incredible protest songs and posters. Another first is that rather than the guide telling all of the history, actors will surprise guests and deliver immersive performances that will bring the stories to life.



The nowhere-else-on-earth experience of our bottlenose dolphins with the background of the second-largest moving dune fields in the world. Photo by Raggy Charters.

Our community experiences are life-changing and we are very close to having the Cruise Liners promote them as some of their local tour options that they offer in NMB. We know that we can offer transformational tourism days in our townships and can change the lives of both our visitors and our locals who have been let down so many times by tourism promises.

So yes, we can spread the benefits of tourism directly to the communities that have such inspirational stories to tell. We can also create entrepreneurial opportunities in the supply chains of front-line tourism products and create sales opportunities for them to reach our tourists. We would love it if this inspires you to become a hands-on or funding partner in these community-changing initiatives.

Can we win the single-use plastics battle on our beaches?

Our Bay is our most valuable tourism asset. Others around the world have noticed this. They have awarded us scarce and extremely valuable designations. Algoa Bay was recently awarded the status of being a Whale Heritage site. There are only 5 other sites in the world! It places us in the company of 5 of the leading tourism destinations on the planet and is in the middle of one of the quickest growing sectors in world tourism. We now have the opportunity to build our brand as a destination that is passionate about our gift from nature and innovates unique ways to leverage its sustainability. Together with amazing partners such as the Sustainable Seas Trust and EDTA, Discover Mandela Bay will transform single-use plastic bottles into 3D printed 'sculptures' that can become a major attraction on our beachfront areas and show our commitment to sustainability. We are also toying with the idea of creating beautifully lit features, made out of plastic bottles, plastic bags and recycled materials, in Happy Valley for this season.

Are conservation and innovative initiatives inspiring to you? We have the ideas and financial partners will allow us to make Nelson Mandela Bay the most featured family holiday destination in the country this coming Summer Holiday Season.

In closing, you will see that Discover Mandela Bay and its partners have the ideas to create a tourism breakthrough in these post-COVID times. It does get a little lonely, though, when businesses and brands that are not first-line beneficiaries do not support these initiatives. Can we inspire ourselves for the rest of 2022 and go on holiday knowing that Nelson Mandela Bay is going to feature as a leader in the social media posts by our visitors and finally start the journey to reaching our true potential contribution to our local economy?

If you are a leader or passionate local please email me on shaun@nmbt.co.za and we will host you at an inspiration evening that will recapture the essence of this priceless City.



IMAGE: Shaun van Eck

Chamber President calls on business to mobilise more volunteers and resources to grow local economy

The Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber President Loyiso Dotwana has called on the business community in the Metro to mobilise more volunteers and resources to get the local economy growing again.

He was delivering his speech during the Chamber's Annual Banquet held at the Sun Boardwalk Hotel and Convention Centre, on 18 November, where over 800 guests attended the aptly themed Casino Royale event. The event remains one of the highly sought-after engagements on the Metro's business calendar as it provides an opportunity for local business leaders to reflect on highlights from the year and also to strengthen and expand their networks.

This year's event was hosted by well-known Soul musician Loyiso Bala, who provided the night's entertainment alongside Television and Radio personality, Rouchelle Liedemann. Dotwana encouraged businesses to plug into the Chamber's Task Teams, Clusters and other resurgence initiatives.

"Key too is the forging of strong partnerships with stakeholders such as local government, NGOs, the Nelson Mandela Bay Civil Society Coalition and government agencies to all work together to do the right thing for our city and our people. There is no discrimination on our part. We will partner with whoever shares our common values of operating with integrity and are aligned to our goal of getting the city to work again," he said. "Let's continue to build a groundswell of support so that we can resurgence our city to unlock its true potential."

He further highlighted some of the challenges the city has been grappling with such as the aftermath of an ongoing pandemic, a water crisis, rolling blackouts, truck hijackings, cable and catalytic converter theft, including vandalism of the city's infrastructure. Parallel to this has been the political instability since 2016, which has led to a breakdown in the enforcement of Municipal by-laws and security, a lack of investment in critical infrastructure, mismanagement of key resources and a general breakdown in the functionality of the Municipality.

"In the past year, we've worked with three different Mayoral Committees. The most recent of which came into power a few weeks ago. So far, it has been very encouraging to see the collaborative approach, which the current Executive Mayor Retief Odendaal and Deputy Mayor Khusta Jack have adopted. We hope that their number one focus will be on fixing the Municipality so that service delivery can be restored," Dotwana said. In her speech, Chamber CEO Denise van Huyssteen expressed her heartfelt appreciation to those who have gone beyond the call of duty to help the Chamber achieve its set goals.

"As you know, the Chamber is a non-profit organisation and as such, we rely heavily on the voluntary involvement of our members in driving our initiatives and for providing resources, sponsorship and other support," Van Huyssteen said.

She said that collectively, the team had managed to achieve the following milestones:

- **Implementation of a targeted Adopt A Leaks intervention – which has saved the Metro over 1.5 million litres of water per day.**
- **Partnership with the Gift of the Givers to ensure that communities have access to water**
- **Adopting 75 schools to fix leaks and install rain water harvesting measures.**
- **Adopting 17 sub-stations to safeguard electricity supply to manufacturing operations.**
- **Establishing geographic clusters in Perseverance, Deal Party, Struandale, Kariega and North End.**
- **The establishment of a mega cluster to address major common issues which affect all the clusters.**
- **Establishing a renewable energy cluster which groups 23 of the biggest manufacturers in the metro find a common solution to support the grid and reduce carbon footprints.**
- **The strong positive outcome of our legal case against NERSA.**
- **The initiation of an Eastern Cape Climate Change Coalition to drive the readiness of the Metro to deal with both droughts and floods.**
- **The establishment of an Entrepreneurship Desk which has over 100 businesses registered with it.**
- **And the successful completion of the Exporters Development Programme and Enterprise Development Programme**

"I want to thank our members, stakeholders, Board Members and staff for their support of the Chamber. We remain committed to working with them to take positive action to retain investment and jobs in Nelson Mandela Bay."

Mertens' strong leadership empowers SA against Nersa's tariff methodology

The recent High Court judgement, which was honoured in favour of the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber against the National Energy Regulator's (Nersa) municipal tariff methodology, had come as a result of the meticulous work and leadership of Dave Mertens, the Chamber's Water and Electricity Task Team Lead.

The outcome was also in favour of the Pietermaritzburg and Midlands Chamber, who jointly filed legal papers with the Bay's Chamber earlier this year to challenge Nersa on its decision.

Together with his team, they presented strong legal arguments for over a year challenging the decision and this resulted in the High Court delivering an outcome in the Chambers' favour, changing the way electricity tariffs are set and ensuring that in the near future, Municipalities will not be able to add on costs to consumers for their own inefficiencies. This ultimately benefits South African business and consumers, and is the second time that the Chamber has taken on a case of this nature.

Commenting on the outcome, Mertens said this demonstrated effectiveness of the Chamber's approach to establishing clusters with business in order to collaborate in finding solutions to common problems.

"We have been very consistent in our legal approach and over the years, this formula has helped the team in restricting both Eskom and Municipal electricity increases, thus providing savings to businesses and consumers across the country," he said.

To this end, the Chamber has recognised Mertens for his sterling leadership and contribution in the Task Teams. More importantly, for leading a successful charge against a powerful entity such as Nersa.

"What the Electricity Cluster Challenge has achieved under David's leadership is highly commendable and has set a high precedent for future engagements. What should be appreciated about this process is the power of collaboration and what you can achieve as a collective," said Denise van Huyssteen, chief executive for the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber.



Dave Merten's receiving an award for successfully challenging Nersa on its municipal tariff methodology.

Team Aspen goes beyond call of duty in driving Chamber's water preservation initiatives

The Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber has in the last two years established an Adopt a School initiative, which has the full support of its member companies who are assisting with fixing faulty or damaged plumbing at identified schools in the Metro.

This forms part of the city-wide water preservation efforts and to date, 75 schools have been adopted and work at 53% of these has been completed. Alongside this, the Chamber has also driven its Adopt a Leak initiative through its Water Task Team, which has saved the Metro 1.5 million litres of water a day.

Water leaks at schools contribute 10% to the Bay's total losses and even worse, the city's dam levels remain severely under resourced due to the prolonged drought. Behind the success of both initiatives has been the hardwork and selfless dedication of the Aspen Pharmacare Group team led by Christiaan Theron, the company's Executive for SA Operations, and his colleague Basil Mugwagwa, an Engineer Manager. Mugwagwa serves as the Lead for the Water Task Team and both have been instrumental in the adoption of nine schools by Aspen.

Due to the city's water supply challenges, some schools have experienced severe water shortages, which have negatively impacted the learners and staff members not being able to access potable water or use ablution facilities. Through the Chamber's initiative, this has helped to restore the dignity of pupils as they now have access to water supply and can make use of operational ablution facilities.

The team received a Water Crisis Award for being instrumental in leading and driving the Adopt a Leak initiative. "This team has done an incredible amount of work in ensuring that these initiatives become a success and achieve their intended impact.

They have consistently shown commitment and dedication and went beyond their call of duty. For that, I would like to extend our deep appreciation as the Chamber for their continued support and selflessness," says Denise van Huyssteen, chief executive of the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber.

Basil Mugwagwa says an increased effort to make a sustainable difference in our local communities, Aspen SA Operations is proud to be associated with environmentally responsible processes such as the Business Chamber's Adopt a Leak initiative.

"It is through this partnership that we can live our ethos of Healthcare. We Care, by addressing the water supply challenges in the Metro and providing learners with better access to clean water and good hygiene solutions, thus supporting the future of our young people. Sincere thanks to the Business Chamber and to the SA Operations teams who dedicated their time to this initiative.

"We hope that our efforts will act as a catalyst for businesses and residents to play their part by addressing water leaks within their premises," he says.



Aspen Pharmacare Group team Christiaan Theron and his colleague Basil Mugwagwa, receive their award from Chamber President Loyiso Dotwana.



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Local food specialist firm receives Entrepreneur of the Year Award

Following extensive deliberations by the judges from Standard Bank and Labournet, the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber has handed out an Entrepreneur of the Year award to Aluzar Systems Consultants (ASC) for growing their operations exponentially in the past year.

A total of 108 registered members of the SMME and Entrepreneurship Desk were eligible for this award. ASC is headquartered in Nelson Mandela Bay and is a specialist food safety and public health consultancy firm, which provides guidance and generate practical solutions regarding food safety, labelling, quality assurance, regulatory compliance and food litigation defence. With many years of hands-on experience in the food, beverage and pharmaceutical industries, the company identified a significant need amongst small and medium-sized businesses for cost-effective, convenient and professional consulting services.

"Our key focus is to provide exceptional quality and cost-effective services. We offer specialised, individually tailored food safety consulting services to organisations looking to improve food safety measures, maintain regulatory compliance, and protect their brand identity. Our reputation for providing professional and practical workforce development and training has seen us grow to become one of the largest and most respected food safety and public health consulting firms in South Africa.

Our uncompromising commitment to full service and support, means that we are the first choice, and often the only option, for companies that want to create a safe and productive workforce," says Mthokozisi Nkosi, ASC's Managing Director.

"We boast a multidisciplinary team of consultants, trainers, and auditors with unmatched technical skills in the industry. We work with small, medium, and large businesses in ensuring they achieve their objectives."

The company has experience consulting for national and international companies in food safety and public health. Over the past year, they expanded their service to incorporate Public Health Solutions. Parallel to this, they conducted, at their own cost, two significant studies on Manganese pollution and water quality, and served as a contributing author for a chapter in the Encyclopaedia of Food Safety.

Furthermore, they secured two key clients in the Citrus and Chicory sectors, and expanded their footprint to Nigeria, Kenya and Brazil. The company has also opened satellite offices in Durban and Johannesburg, and grew their revenue by 30%, compared to the previous year.

"The company's success is testament to what can be achieved through dedication and hardwork. This is even more inspiring for small, medium and micro companies who are working their way up to understand the importance of quality service and how that plays a role in gaining industry and consumer respect. We wish ASC all the best in their journey and this award is well deserved," says Denise van Huyssteen, chief executive of the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber.



Standard Bank's Eastern Cape Head: client coverage, business clients Leigh-Anne De Witt congratulating Mthokozisi Nkosi, ASC's Managing Director after receiving his award from Chamber President Loyiso Dotwana.

Humanity at heart of Coca Cola's involvement in Chamber water preservation initiatives

Placing humanity at the heart of what Coca Cola Beverages South Africa (CCBSA) do has been the hallmark of their involvement in the Chamber's water preservation interventions since their launch a year ago.

It is for this reason that the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber has recognised them with a Water Crisis Award following their string of interventions involving the adoption of three schools, donation of two water tanker trucks, 20 Jojo tanks and 500 water wheelers. Furthermore, the company donated Nine Cokevilles, an off-grid solar powered ground water harvesting and treatment project aimed at offsetting the increase water insecurity in South Africa.

Nine new systems are planned for the region with a minimum annual potential of replenishing 90 million litres per annum.

The company's partnership with Cerebos resulted in half a million litres of desalinated water per day being delivered to vulnerable communities to prevent a humanitarian crisis. This also went a long way in restoring human dignity to those affected communities.

CCBSA also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Gift of Givers, which saw the beverages bottling company's monster truck support the foundation with the distribution of water to struggling communities in the Bay.



Coca Cola Beverages South Africa was also recognised for its involvement in the Chamber's water preservation initiatives. Receiving the award is Nolundi Mzimba and Fezile Sidubi.

Mayor visits Perseverance Cluster to engage with businesses in the area

The Executive Mayor of Nelson Mandela Bay Retief Odendaal recently visited the Perseverance Cluster where he was briefed on the importance of its work and how the Municipality can assist with service delivery challenges in the area.

He was joined by the Deputy Mayor Khusta Jack, MMC for Roads and Transport Kabelo Mogatosi and MMC for Infrastructure and Engineering, Dries van der Westhuizen. Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber CEO Denise van Huyssteen also joined the delegation, including the Cluster Chairperson Siyolo Dick, who presented the Cluster's strategy to the team. "The geographic clusters, such as Perseverance, form part of the Chamber's vision to retain investment and jobs in the Metro. Our number one priority is to drive for an enabling environment in which business can operate," says van Huyssteen.

"Our primary goal is to enable collaboration between businesses which are located in the same geographic areas, so that together focus can be applied to addressing issues of common interests. This reduces costs, leverages resources and increases impact as the businesses are operating as a collective, rather than in their individual capacities. Also, by joining forces, businesses have a stronger and united voice to lobby on strategic issues which impact upon future investment decisions."

She further points out that the Chamber is driving a resurgence strategy to get the Metro working again and revive the Bay as a whole, as a conducive place to do business. The Chamber has also established other geographic clusters, which currently include Deal Party, Kariega, North End and Strandale.

Ten major companies in the area have a combined R16 billion annual contribution to the City's GDP and employ 10000 employees. In total there are 46 businesses operating in the area which was first established in 1947.

Delivering his presentation to the delegation, Dick says the Cluster's Strategy is for Perseverance to be a self-sufficient, business friendly precinct maintaining an enabling operating environment that adds value for all stakeholders. "We're leveraging the benefits of a multi sectoral business cluster to retain and attract investment, including creating opportunities to drive business sustainability and growth. However, we have a multitude of service delivery related challenges within the precinct and thus, it becomes imperative that we should form a strategic alliance with the Municipality to collectively find effective solutions to these problems," he says.

Executive Mayor Odendaal commended the Cluster for the effort it has put in addressing some of the key challenges in the area such as the adoption of a substation to safeguard it against vandalism. "The Perseverance Cluster is very strategic for Nelson Mandela Bay as they contribute significantly to the Metro's GDP. They invited us today to come and look at some of core infrastructure problems they have been facing over the years and the city is committed to resolving some of these issues as soon as possible and to work with the Cluster and the Chamber to ensure we make business for them as easy as possible," says Odendaal.



The delegation pictured outside of a substation in the areas that the business sector has adopted for safekeeping against vandalism as part of Adopt a Substation initiative.

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CO-OPERATION WITH GLOBAL *AUTO BODIES TARGETS AUTOMOTIVE GROWTH*

Reflecting the intent to drive localisation and transformation, and broaden the base of automotive suppliers the Automotive Industry Development Centre Eastern Cape (AIDC- EC) has committed to partnerships with two of the world's leading automotive bodies.

The international partnerships between the AIDC-EC, representing the Eastern Cape's prolific automotive manufacturing sector, and The Automotive Component Manufacturing Association of India (ACMA) and the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), respectively were agreed in Nelson Mandela Bay at the recent (17 October) Automotive Supplier B2B Indaba.

Interms of the agreements JICA and ACMA will assist the AIDC-EC roll out technical training programs to automotive component suppliers at South Africa's largest auto manufacturing centre. The Eastern Cape contributes to 38% of South Africa's total vehicle production and 50% of the country's exports. AIDC Eastern Cape CEO, Thabo Shexane said, amongst others, the partnership sought to embed a culture of Kaizen - a global management method that drives Quality and Productivity Improvement (QPI) - into the supply chain.

"Kaizen will bring measurable competitive improvement outcomes which will capacitate suppliers to access new markets, attain international benchmarks and the development of new opportunities," Shexane says. "The development of Tier 2-4 suppliers will make a major impact on South African Automotive Masterplan 2035 objectives, which targets an increase of 20% of locally produced components in vehicles made in the country", Shexane said.

"Presenting empirical results from Kaizen programs at eight Tier 1 South African manufacturers between 2016 and 2019, JICA showed that productivity more than doubled, on time delivery improved from 73% to 95 %, work in progress, in many cases disappeared, overtime work dropped on average from 13.8 hours per week to 4.6 hours per week and lead times improved on average by 40%."

"The results clearly justify scaling up of Kaizen in the automotive manufacturing sector. And, like JICA, we believe that South Africa can compete with India and Thailand's automotive component industries, but we must vision and plan for this," Shexane said.

As a key activity of the partnership, The AIDC-EC and JICA are introducing the Quality and Productivity Improvement (QPI) program to Tier 2 and 3 automotive suppliers across the country's major manufacturing hubs. Centered around the philosophy of Kaizen, the project, includes the scientific tracking of improvement data attached to Kaizen training. "We have started the process to work with 120 Tier 2 and 3 component suppliers, over the next three years.

This will involve the close analysis of data and training, which will present scientifically proven results that will serve as a further springboard to deepening Kaizen even further into the component manufacturing sector", Shexane said.

Additional training will be implemented in terms of the AIDC-EC's partnership with ACMA to address knowledge gaps and low competence through continuous skills transfer, the AIDC-EC says.

In terms of the partnership with ACMA, highly structured cross functional skill development & training programs, blended physical training, cross countries knowledge exchange, simulation techniques and shopfloor project implementation will be included in training to the Eastern Cape supply chain, Shexane said.

"It has been noted that suppliers of all sizes have realized the effectiveness of blended learning approaches, where employees have the opportunity of engaging in both hands-on and virtual-based learning. This provides unique opportunities for training and will enhance networking and automotive related activity between India, Japan and South Africa," Shexane said.

Toyota Wessels Institute for Manufacturing Studies Director, Dr Justin Barnes underlined the importance of cultivating manufacturing in the context of the country's very poor performance. According to Barnes, Manufacturing Value Added per capita (MVA) barely grew in 30 years between 1990 and 2019. Manufacturing contributed 12% of South Africa's economy in 2019, 17% in 2000 and 21% in 1990. Moreover, Barnes said South Africa's manufacturing sector employed more people in 1969 than it does today. "If we had kept manufacturing at 1990 levels we would have employed over a million people more."

"The sector is shedding jobs and becoming more capital intensive at a time of employment crisis. To achieve a high-income society, the driving force is manufacturing productivity and good jobs, whereas the economy is now welfare dependant." Barnes noted that the auto industry had performed better than the manufacturing sector at large, increasing vehicle production from 376 000 units in 1995 to 632 000 in 2019 but that the "dark cloud was that local content had dropped."

ACMA with a membership of 800 manufacturers represents best practice demonstrated in India's burgeoning automotive manufacturing sector and JICA is a key proponent of Japanese and Toyota automotive manufacturing techniques that have become globally replicated.

Shexane said the Eastern Cape automotive manufacturing hub "would benefit handsomely from the experience of international partners and global benchmarks that would be used to grow supplier competitiveness, fill skills gaps and increase localisation.

FUTURE OF THE ECONOMY *lies with SMMEs*

When the South African government made a clarion call to the youth to embrace entrepreneurship as a way of uplifting themselves out of unemployment, this sparked an interest for Phumeza Kate who immediately took a plunge and registered her own company in 2005. ww

Since then, Ilinge Lethu Bafazi Trading has steadily grown into a multi-sector business with a strong team of 10 employees providing a multitude of services in catering, cleaning, provision of cleaning supplies, including a construction arm focusing on paving, kerbs, sidewalks, stormwater drainage systems, construction of houses, electrification, plumbing, painting and general maintenance. The company offers these services to the public, private sector and government departments.

"When I registered my company, little did I know that there would be such demand for women owned businesses. All I was focused on was to build a sustainable brand through asserting ourselves and collaborating with industry captains to enhance the brand and grow our footprint," says Phumeza Kate, the company's Managing Director.

Kate's business has also immensely benefitted from the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber's SMME and Entrepreneurship Desk, which is dedicated to promoting economic development through the provision of support to Small Medium and Micro Enterprises in the Metro.

It provides a single point of contact for business advisory, training, mentoring, and information on support, funding programmes and business opportunities for SMMEs. The Chamber has included the following services within the Desk: Enterprise Development, access to funding opportunities, access to markets, advisory support/help desk, access to business intelligence, tender documentation support, mentoring programme, access to skills development and training, webinars and topics of interest to SMMEs and exposure linkages.

"My participation in the programme played a huge role in my personal development in terms of adjusting my mindset to overcome any challenges within my business journey. More importantly, it also made me understand my strengths, weaknesses and shortcomings, and how to successfully navigate them.

"I'm now able to network and connect with big business. There are great synergies where I am able to form legally binding joint ventures with established companies and as such, my network is growing. Had it not been for the Chamber's programme, this would not have been possible. It shows the importance of capacitating yourself as an entrepreneur, identifying relevant upskilling programmes to help you grow your business."

She reiterates that the future of the economy is "deeply woven" in the SMME sector. However, the current barriers are making it difficult for women owned businesses to access funding and grow their operations.

"There's no real commitment from government in addressing the current challenges of red tape that are limiting the SMME sector to realise its potential. Until there's concerted effort in rectifying these limitations, no visible growth from the industry will be realised from the crop of businesses that are not yet well established. This negatively impacts job creation because we are not doing enough to give them a leg up."

"My participation in the programme played a huge role in my personal development in terms of adjusting my mindset to overcome any challenges within my business journey."



Phumeza Kate, Managing Director
Ilinge Lethu Bafazi.

Chamber's Banquet







Chamber Chief Executive
Denise van Huyssteen

CABLE & INFRASTRUCTURE THEFT AMOUNTS TO ECONOMIC SABOTAGE – NELSON MANDELA BAY BUSINESS CHAMBER CALLS FOR STATE OF DISASTER

The declaration of a State of Disaster on the vandalism of infrastructure should lead government's response to cable and infrastructure theft that is occurring at an industrial scale and crippling the South African economy.

The Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber has sent a formal request to Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma to take this drastic step in order to protect public assets that are essential to service delivery and supporting investment and job creation. Copper cable theft from rail and electricity networks alone is estimated to cost the economy R45 billion annually, while the wider knock-on impact of cable theft across the economy has been estimated at R187 billion.

NMB Business Chamber's Chief Executive Officer Denise van Huyssteen said out-of-control theft of cables and essential infrastructure amounted to economic sabotage of South Africa's future growth prospects, threatening investment, employment security, livelihoods and community safety. The scale of the problem, the likely involvement of cross-border organised crime syndicates and the wide-ranging socio-economic impacts warrant a State of Disaster that would enable a coordinated, national response driven from Cabinet-level.

"We don't advocate for such a step lightly, especially given that the country has only recently emerged from two years of successive states of disaster imposed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, a state of disaster of this nature should not affect the daily lives and movement of the general public, as it would be specifically targeted at protecting infrastructure and monitoring, tracking down and prosecuting the perpetrators of these crimes," Van Huyssteen said.

She said that the Business Chamber Board believed that cable and infrastructure theft and vandalism was the greatest current threat to the South African economy, and that it met the criteria for a State of Disaster as specified in the Disaster Management Act. In relation to the definition of a disaster in the Act, theft of cables and infrastructure, and associated vandalism, is widespread across the country. It is human-caused, and it can (and does) lead to death or injury. It causes damage to property, infrastructure and the environment. There is also the knock-on effect of lost productivity and wages. It is disruptive of the life of a community, in the inconvenience of electricity and water outages caused by theft, and in the resulting loss of lives and livelihoods.

CABLE & INFRASTRUCTURE THEFT AMOUNTS TO ECONOMIC SABOTAGE NELSON MANDELA BAY BUSINESS CHAMBER CALLS FOR STATE OF DISASTER

"Finally, it is clear that the magnitude and scale of the problem is beyond the ability of individual municipalities, state-owned enterprises, metro police services and national security and intelligence services acting alone to adequately secure infrastructure, to prevent these crimes and to enforce the law with sufficient deterrent effect," Van Huyssteen said.

The Business Chamber has welcomed the coordinating initiatives of the CEOs of Eskom, Prasa, Telkom and Transnet through the Economic Sabotage of Critical Infrastructure Forum, and believes that a State of Disaster would unlock the national resources to take this initiative further.

Van Huyssteen said the mechanisms of a State of Disaster that could be brought to bear on the scourge of cable theft and vandalism included release of national government resources and personnel as a focused, coordinated emergency response. It would also enable checks on the movement of goods and suspects, cross-agency coordination of intelligence, policing and prosecutions, emergency procurement, and facilitate cross-border assistance to tackle organised crime.

"It is our view that declaration of a State of Disaster would enable the necessary urgency and priority, and coordinated efforts across government departments and law enforcement and prosecution agencies, required to turn the tide on cable and infrastructure theft and vandalism. "A state of disaster would enable the assignment of short-term extraordinary powers to security services, intelligence and law enforcement agencies. The timeframe of a national disaster is relatively short, at an initial three months, which would ensure focused planning prior to a declaration and focused efforts during the declared period," she said.

The recent moves by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition to temporarily ban scrap metal exports and tighten up the regulations on local and international trade in scrap metal are welcomed, and should form part of the State of Disaster response. This would ensure a coordinated approach with optimal impact through the value chain of illegal trade in metals and infrastructure equipment, from source to trade through to the "owners" of the criminal enterprises.



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The Courts' approach to the implementation of RULE 41A

Marco Boyens

Director and Attorney at Joubert Galpin Searle

Marco Boyens is a director in the Labour division at Joubert Galpin Searle and holds an LLB, Master's degree (NMU) and Post Graduate diploma (NMU) in Labour Law.

Marco has comprehensive experience in all areas of employment law and employment litigation. He is particularly recognised for his experience in review applications.

To Review or not to Review

Considerations and proactive measures to be taken prior to the review of CCMA arbitration awards.

Employers often face the prospect of unfavourable Arbitration awards, compelling either the payment of compensation or the reinstatement of the employee concerned. Section 145 of the Labour Relations Act ("LRA") enables a party to the arbitration proceedings to approach the Labour Court and challenge a CCMA or Bargaining Council arbitration award by way of a review application.

The binding nature and enforceability of arbitration awards are the same as court orders. Therefore, the consequence of noncompliance with an arbitration award, will self-evidently result in judicial execution (attachment and removal of property) and/or contempt of court proceedings. In 2016, the Labour Appeal Court held that the 2014 amendments to section 143 of the LRA provided that once an award is certified, it is enforceable as if it were an order of the Labour Court in respect of which a writ had been issued. This simplifies and expedite the execution proceedings for successful applicants.

A Review application must be brought within six weeks of becoming aware of the award. If the six-week period is not complied with, the company will be required to request the Labour Court for condonation, which poses its own difficulties and unnecessary legal costs.

It is therefore imperative to take the following proactive measures within the prescribed period to ensure that the intended review application is properly before the court and dealt with appropriately:

1. Obtain legal advice in respect of the prospects of success in relation to the review and whether it is financially viable to challenge the arbitration award. This exercise entails an analysis of the arbitration award and whether it satisfies the test on review established by our courts.

2. A major disbursement associated with a review application is transcription cost, payable within two months after launching the application. The transcribed record must be served and filed on the opposing party and at court. The transcription cost depends on the duration and extent of the arbitration proceedings itself.

3. The review application itself does not stay the operation and enforceability of the arbitration award. The successful applicant may therefore merely certify the award and proceed with execution proceedings, despite the review application being launched. The LRA requires Employers to provide security equivalent to the amount of compensation awarded or an amount equivalent to 24 month's salary in the event of reinstatement. Either obtain a bank guarantee or make payment into an Attorneys Trust account, where your attorney can file a security bond.

4. Where a successful applicant is awarded reinstatement, it is advisable to make financial provision for backpay in the event of an unfavourable pronouncement by the Labour Court.

5. Prepare a draft letter addressed to the reinstated employee, advising him/her that the company intends to challenge the arbitration award and thus not require such "reinstated" employee to report for duty. A similar draft letter can be prepared for the Sheriff in the event of potential attachment of company property during the 6 weeks period.

There are various strict time periods imposed by the Labour Court throughout the review proceedings and failure to comply with such periods may result in the application being archived, dismissed or deemed to be withdrawn, which will occasion further unnecessary litigation, legal costs, and the prospect of an unfavorable outcome.

Therefore, the decision to review an arbitration award and the process of the application itself should not be undertaken without the proper legal advice and guidance from the onset.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE NEW ECONOMY.

THE LEADERSHIP REVOLUTION.

Looking at my El Niño Garden with cactus, yuccas and the dessert roses which have become almost standard in the Eastern Cape landscape over the few years, it's quite amazing how we have adjusted to a changed environment.

In the business landscape we have emerged from our COVID isolation into a business world which has shifted dramatically in a short period of time. Just pre-lockdown there was a lot of talk about the emerging 4th industrial revolution. I would put it to you that a global vaccinated lockdown later there is no question that we have stepped over that threshold and are now in a bewildering new age.

An age where the internet of everything means that almost daily, we are discovering new technical opportunities that were not possible even ten years ago. The speed of technological development across every aspect of modern life is bewilderingly exciting and dynamic. Interestingly, in the social and human space, this change has also been dramatic but in a somewhat different direction. There is a lot of research that shows that we are experiencing a period of massive trust deficits, as humanity.

As a consequence of manipulation of social media and information, the failure of leadership in the political space people are far less trusting of information and leaders than in the past. The Edelman Global Trust Barometer is showing that we just don't believe our political leaders, what we see on the news or YouTube, and all sources of authority. Trust has become or is fast becoming a scarce commodity. What does this mean for our organisations as we move into the "new economy"?

I have a strong sense that the environments which we created in order to flourish during the past Information Age, will not be ideal when faced with this new breathtakingly dynamic but trust impoverished landscape. Let's be honest, while we have had a fair amount of focus on the soft human side of business over the past age, we have also seen a proliferation of controls, audits, compliance, KPI, reporting, targets, endless meetings and reviews and the mighty rise in the power of PowerPoint.

While all of these control systems and management tools are well-intended, they have unforeseen consequences. I would suggest that combined with the growing trust deficit in society, this could provide very toxic conditions. I have had the privilege of workshoping the "superpowers" we need to thrive in this new economy, with various business leaders.

The consensus that appears, seem to include the following superpowers:

Agility, Creativity, Innovation, Changeability, Collaboration, Passion, Continuous learning, Resilience and Autonomy.

The challenge for organisations, as we move into this new age, is how to create an environment where these themes will emerge and ultimately thrive.

I am not so sure that the tools we used to secure standards in the 3rd Industrial Revolution will provide the optimal environment in the 4th. Humans respond to their environments, and the "superpowers" are a consequence of this environment. How do we create an environment where people are free to display these superpowers confidently. Someone reflected the other day that in the new age, the things we used to refer to as "soft issues" will become more important.

As a consequence we could see the culture we create tomorrow "eat" the structure and strategy we have for breakfast. Where do we start? While this "leadership formula" will emerge with time, and someone will eventually write the manual, I think that it goes without saying that in today's organisations everything will start with a simple question.

Do the people we lead trust us? If we are not sure of the answer to this question, how will we be sure of anything else?

Charles du Toit,

Charles du Toit leads a new niche Leadership and HR consultancy, Dr Charles du Toit and Associates. He holds a Masters degree in Industrial Relations and HR from Nelson Mandela University, and a PhD in Leadership through Change from the University of Johannesburg. He spent 14 years in IR, HR and Training Management at leading Nelson Mandela Bay companies. He lectures at Nelson Mandela University and Stellenbosch University Business School, and is a founder and Chair of the NMB HR Forum.



Importance of energy efficiency for local businesses

South Africa's inability to service its electricity needs has led to a negative investor confidence outlook as businesses are scrambling to keep up with unreliable power supply. This has left many operating in an untenable environment as the country is perpetually in the throes of load shedding, a costly exercise for businesses, especially the manufacturing sector.

As the world looks to develop sustainable energy industries, mitigate the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, energy efficiency has been emphasised as an integral part of the efforts to attain these objectives. Internationally, governments and lobby groups are tightening the screws as they are increasingly putting pressure on organisations to reduce their impact on the environment by adopting more innovative and sustainable energy efficient technologies in their operations.

In September, StatsSA reported that the country's gross domestic product decreased by 0.7% in the second quarter of 2022, much of this decline was attributed to rolling blackouts, which hobbled economic output. There is the cost of downtime, the cost of business disruption – at times up to three times a day, and many businesses are at high risk with their equipment, maintenance costs also escalate and this becomes a recipe for disaster for the SME sector, which lacks the necessary support structures to take the hit.

To this end, it has become a necessity for businesses to install backup generators, solar systems, energy-efficient LED lights, occupancy sensors to turn off lights automatically, and daylight sensors to dim lights automatically in bright or outdoor spaces. Many businesses are beginning to realise the importance of recalibrating their operations to reduce their monthly energy bill drastically while playing a pivotal role in managing their carbon footprint.

Gross inefficiencies at Eskom have presented an opportunity for businesses to recalibrate their approach to power consumption as part of cost saving, while inculcating a culture of adapting energy mix within their workforce. Parallel to this, it also ensures that there are minimal disruptions in their operations and there's better environmental performance. There is even more beneficial for small businesses who cannot afford increasing energy prices. Not only does this help lower their operating expenses and improve their profits, but also enhances their competitiveness in an environment that is striving to become a carbon-neutral economy.

According to new research from Frost & Sullivan, titled Energy Efficiency and large South African Commercial Businesses, finds that the commercial sector could begin by implementing simple measures such as monitoring lighting, heating, ventilation and air conditioning use, installing technologies like variable speed drives that have shorter payback periods, and using energy saving settings on computers.

It further highlights that there is already a growing interest in the replacement of halogen light bulbs with more efficient light emitting diodes. More importantly, Eskom is offering financial incentives for saving energy, real-time metering, training staff on energy efficiency, and planning energy management projects respectively.

"A turnaround is needed badly, and there should be absolutely no talk – only action."

2022 Exporter of the Year winners announced at glittering event

Exporters Eastern Cape announced their Exporter of the Year 2022 winners during a night of special celebrations in October this year.

The Overall Winner of the Exporter of the Year 2022, Ford Motor Company of Southern Africa, also walked away with the category title win for Best OEM and a Merit Award for the IDC Job Creator Award. This success comes on the back of Ford's investment last year of R600-million in the Struandale Engine Plant to support the introduction of a new production line. Currently the Struandale Engine Plant in Gqeberha employs approximately 850 salaried staff and hourly employees, with permanent sub-contractors taking that number up to approximately 1 300 people on-site, along with thousands of additional jobs at supplier companies.

"It is an honour and privilege to win the prestigious 2022 Exporter of the Year Award, as well as the Best Exporter OEM Award and an IDC Job Creator Merit Award. This is a testament and credit to the hard work and dedication of the entire Ford team to ensure the sustainability and relevance of our business, both here in Nelson Mandela Bay, and internationally as part of Ford's global manufacturing network," said Ford Struandale Engine Plant Assistant Plant Manager Oscar Sundu.

The Exporter of the Year Awards is hosted annually to acknowledge the achievements of Eastern Cape exporters and service providers in the province. It was the first time in three years that the Awards were again hosted in person, at The Sun Boardwalk International Convention Centre, and the gala event included excellent food, entertainment, music and dancing.

Exporters EC Chairman Quintin Levey congratulated the winners in a video message. "On a night of celebration, it was a privilege to once again, host the top businesspeople in the export industry at one of the premier events of the year. A huge congratulations to all the winners. The resilience and collaboration within the export industry bared the fruit of much success, despite trying economic conditions. Exporters Eastern Cape is proud to facilitate conversations on export related matters, and encourage collaboration in the industry," said Levey.

The judging panel for the Exporters Eastern Cape Exporter of the Year Awards consisted of Kingsley Dell-Robertson (IDC), Hoosain Mahomed (AIDC Eastern Cape), Justin Ries (FNB), Quintin Levey (Exporters EC), Sujit Bhagattjee (TNPA), Renai Moothilal (NAACAM), Dr Randall Jonas (formerly from the Nelson Mandela University Business School) and Mpho Jonas (Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality).

Sponsors of the 2022 Exporter of the Year Awards Gala evening included Transnet National Ports Authority (Platinum); Volkswagen Group South Africa (Gold Sponsor); Oracle Media (Gold Sponsor); Isuzu Motors South Africa (Silver Sponsor); Kingfisher FM (Silver Sponsor); SJM Flex SA (Blue Sponsor); Industrial Development Corporation (Blue Sponsor); DG Incentives (Blue Sponsor); Chumile Holdings (Blue Sponsor); The Herald (Media Sponsor) and Bay FM (Media Sponsor).

Exporters Eastern Cape Exporter of the Year 2022 Merit Awards and Winners:

SJM FLEX ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICE AWARD

- S4 Development Services

SJM FLEX ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

- Merit Award – Isuzu Motors South Africa
- Winner – Volkswagen Group South Africa

IDC JOB CREATOR AWARD

- Merit Award – Isuzu Motors South Africa
- Merit Award – Microcare Solar
- Merit Award – Ford Motor Company of Southern Africa • Winner – SMA Engineering

BEST PROVIDER OF SERVICE TO EXPORTERS

- Merit Award for Growth – OM & Barker
- Merit Award for Awards won and Achievements – Toyota Industrial Equipment
- Winner – DG Incentives

BEST EXPORTER – SMALL BUSINESS

- Merit Award for New Markets – OPM Tooling Import & Export CC
- Winner – Microcare Solar

BEST EXPORTER – MEDIUM ENTERPRISE

- Merit Award for Improvement in Profitability and New Business – S4 Development Services
- Winner – Acoustex Group

BEST EXPORTER - CORPORATE

- Merit Award for New Contracts – Lumotech
- Merit Award for Overcoming Obstacles and New Contracts – SMA Engineering

BEST EXPORTER - OEM

- Merit Award for Increased Volumes – Volkswagen Group South Africa
- Merit Award for Innovation, Transformation and Increased Volumes – Isuzu Motors South Africa
- Winner – Ford Motor Company of Southern Africa

For more information on Exporters Eastern Cape or to become a member, contact Branch Manager Suzanne Loubser at info@exportersec.co.za



Overallwinner Pictured from left are Deon Joubert (Exporters Eastern Cape Vice-Chair), Sujit Bhagattjee (TNPA Business Development Manager), Oscar Sundu (Ford Struandale Engine Plant Assistant Plant Manager), Ludwe Kawa (Ford Manager), Themba Phiri (Ford Manager), Pamela Yoyo (TNPA Ports Manager of Nelson Mandela Bay Ports of Ngqura and Port Elizabeth), and Xola Mkontwana (Port of PE Business Strategy Manager). Ford was the overall winner of the Exporters Eastern Cape Exporter of the Year Awards 2022, and Transnet was the platinum sponsor of the event.

*All winners All the category and merit winners of the Exporters Eastern Cape Exporter of the Year Awards 2022.



Ford team comes out tops at this year's Exporter of the Year awards.



VWSA receives recognition at this year's Exporter of the Year awards.

Ford Wins 2022 Exporter of the Year Title from Exporters Eastern Cape

Ford team comes out tops at this year's Exporter of the Year awards.

Ford Motor Company's Struandale Engine Plant in Gqeberha has been crowned the overall winner of Exporters Eastern Cape's annual Exporter of the Year awards for 2022. In addition to winning the main prize, the Struandale Engine Plant won the Best Exporter OEM category for original equipment vehicle manufacturers – the fifth time Ford has earned this title.

It also received an IDC Job Creator Merit Award for the third time, having also won this category on two previous occasions. "It is an honour and privilege to be announced as Exporter of the Year for 2022, which is the first time we have won the overall award," said Shawn Govender, Plant Manager of the Ford Struandale Engine Plant.

"It's a testament and credit to the hard work and dedication of the entire Ford team to ensure the sustainability and relevance of our business, both here in Nelson Mandela Bay and internationally as part of Ford's global manufacturing network.

"This success comes on the back of Ford's investment last year of R600-million in the Struandale Engine Plant for the addition of the new 3.0L V6 Diesel engine program.

This comprises cylinder head machining and engine assembly, making it the third diesel engine family currently manufactured at the plant, and its 11th engine program to date.

VWSA recognised at annual Exporters Eastern Cape awards

VWSA Receives recognition at this year's Exporter of the Year awards.

Volkswagen Group South Africa has been honoured with the SJM Flex Environmental Award for the ninth time at the 27th annual Exporters Eastern Cape awards.

This award is given to an ISO 14001-accredited exporter who pursues excellence in environmental management. In addition to this title, VWSA received a Merit Award in the OEM Category. The awards ceremony was held on Friday 21 October to give recognition to the province's leading exporters. This occasion also marked the return of the in-person award ceremony, which was hosted virtually in 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"As VWSA we are incredibly proud of this achievement, especially in a time where our industry continues to be severely impacted by semi-conductor shortages," said Robert Cisek, VWSA Chairman and Managing Director. "VWSA remains committed to environmentally

responsible manufacturing that contributes to the community of Nelson Mandela Bay, where we operate. Receiving an award such as this one prove that our commitment shows in the quality we deliver and the economic impact we are able to make. I am thankful for every employee who has contributed to our continued success." In 2021 VWSA exported a total of 89 373 Polos and 39 103 engines to export customers across the world.

Exporters Eastern Cape has been operating in the Eastern Cape for 42 years and is aimed at organisations involved in exporting, either directly or indirectly, and for organisations with an interest in exporting. These organisations represent industries such as automotive, pharmaceutical, agriculture and services. The judges for the Exporters Eastern Cape Awards come from varying backgrounds and sectors.

Can you trust a trustee?

Authority of a trustee to bind the trust

The issuing of a Letter of Authority to the trustees of a trust by the Master of the High Court signals the assumption of office as trustee to the designated party.

It is at this point that the responsibilities, authority and duties of a trustee begin to be binding and effective, provided the trustee's actions are allowed in terms of the provisions of the registered trust deed and the trustee's actions are authorised by the trustees of the trust. The above means that the authority of the trustees begins upon written authority from the Master of the High Court, and not prior to this. Section 6(1) of the Trust Property Control Act 57 of 1988 (the "Trust Property Control Act") provides that any trustee who acts on behalf of a trust must have prior written authorisation from the Master of the High Court.

The provisions of section 6(1) are peremptory and it requires written authorisation by the Master and any act performed by a trustee prior to authorisation will be null and void. Ratification will be impossible as an act which was null and void at any time of performing the act cannot be ratified. Under the Alienation of Land Act, No 68 of 1981 (the "ALA"), any deed of sale of immovable property has to be in writing, and the parties thereto or their agents representing them, have to be legally authorised to act at the time of signing of the contract.

Section 2(1) of the ALA specifically provides that no alienation of land shall be of any force or effect unless it is contained in a deed of alienation signed by the parties thereto or their agents acting on their written authority.

Legal capacity of a trust

Unlike a company, where a pre-incorporation contract can be ratified, unauthorised acts by a trustee/trustees cannot and are therefore void and invalid.

The court held in the Jansen v Ringwood Investments 87 CC case handed down in 2013 that the ratification of a contract by the trustees is not possible if a statute requires prior written authority for such action, no matter what the trust deed provides. The Supreme Court of Appeal in Thorpe and Others v Trittenwein and Another 2007 (2) SA 172 (SCA) confirmed that the very object of section 2(1) of the ALA is to facilitate proof of the trustee's authority, by requiring the authority to be in writing.

The court held that there can be no ratification of a contract which is void ab initio.

In a more recent decision, the court in Goldex 16 (Pty) Ltd v Capper NO and Others (2019) (ZASCA) dismissed the appellant claim for specific performance against the trustee who signed the sale of immovable property agreement. The court held that what the appellant is essentially seeking is specific performance of a void and invalid contract against a person who signed the contract but was not a party to it.

Property transactions with a trust to be formed

A new trust comes into existence only once letters of authority are issued to the trustees by the Master. Therefore, any transaction entered into by someone claiming to act on behalf of a trust to be formed, is invalid.

A 'trust to be formed' may not be nominated as a purchaser, not even with the wording 'stipulatio alteri' (an agreement benefiting a third party), because the trustees will not be in a position to ratify the transaction on behalf of the trust retroactively.

Is the turquand rule applicable to trusts?

Outside parties that deal with a trust often assume that the trustees have both the authority and the capacity to enter into transactions binding the trust. If trustees have not ensured that these requirements are met, to what extent can these outside parties be deemed to have known?

In the instance of companies and close corporations, the courts have adopted a principle called the Turquand Rule, which provides that a contracting party, dealing in good faith, can assume that actions have been properly and duly performed and that the required approvals were obtained.

Section 20(7) of the Companies Act 71 of 2008 (the "Companies Act") provides that a person dealing with a company in good faith, is entitled to presume that the company, in making any decision while exercising its powers, has complied with all the formal and procedural requirements, unless, in the circumstances, the person knew or ought reasonably to have known of any failure by the company to comply with any such requirements.

There is no such equivalent provision in the Trust Property Control Act. The liability is therefore on the outsider to ensure that due process was followed. Contracting parties are advised to carefully examine the constitutional document of the party it is contracting with and to ensure that the requisite authorising resolutions have been properly passed.

In particular, when contracting with trusts in respect of a sale of immovable property, it is important to ensure that the trust has been registered by the Master of the High Court and that the trustees have been properly appointed. In addition, ensure that a resolution authorising the sale and the trustee to act on behalf of the trust is properly passed and in writing in accordance with the formal and procedural requirements set out in the relevant trust deed prior to the conclusion of a sale agreement.



Thank you Chamber Partners

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BLUE



EMFULENI RESORTS, SUBSIDIARY OF SUN INTERNATIONAL, APPOINTS NEW CHAIR

Seasoned Eastern Cape businessman Stephen Dondolo has been appointed as new chairman of Emfuleni Resorts Pty Ltd, a subsidiary company of Sun International Group. Sun International Group together with their empowerment partner, Zonwabise, co-own the Emfuleni Resort trading as Boardwalk, the only licenced casino in Gqeberha.

Emfuleni Resorts is the biggest black owned leisure company in the Eastern Cape. Catalysed by its meaningful investments in Boardwalk, Emfuleni Resorts became a pioneer black industrialist, contributing to the economic growth and job creation in the province. Dondolo, the Group CEO of investment holding company African Pioneer Group and Chairman of Coca Cola Beverages Southern Africa, takes over the reins from Bongsi Siwisa, who held the position for more than 12 years.

Dondolo is also the Executive Chairman of Pioneer Fishing Group, the fourth largest fishing conglomerate in the Southern Africa, and a shareholder and the Chairman of the Audit Committee at Woodlands Dairy, a huge industry player in the dairy industry and other food companies.



Businessman Stephen Dondolo

The logo for HUME INTERNATIONAL features a red hexagon with a white outline to the left of the word "HUME" in large, bold, white capital letters. Below "HUME" is the word "INTERNATIONAL" in smaller, white capital letters. The background of the logo is a photograph of stacked orange shipping containers.

IMPORT DUTY FAILURES INCREASE COSTS – NOT COMPETITION

South Africa has seen yet another wave of new and extreme import duties this year on everything from chicken and French fries to tyres. However, there are not only glaring faults in the calculation of these levies, but the reality is that these funds will be used to line government coffers instead of growing local industries – all while inflating prices and hammering the pockets of the country's most poor and vulnerable.

Anti-dumping duties are calculated and imposed by the International Trade Administration Commission (ITAC) and the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) in a supposed bid to protect vital local industries and jobs. Yet both continuously fail to first engage with industry players to understand their environment or concerns before unilaterally decreeing new tariff schedules – a fault noted by multiple businesses and organisations.

Had they done so, they would have understood that in many cases, businesses import basic goods because South Africa simply lacks the production capacity to meet the local market's demands – a fact recently noted by Gavin Kelly of the Road Freight Association (RFA) in response to the 38.8% levy on imported tyres.

Those in favour of these tariffs argue that they are necessary for giving local producers the space needed to become more competitive with overseas importers. By preventing local producers from being undercut by overseas businesses, tariffs should theoretically give them time to diversify and develop innovative new products, address inefficiencies, and expand their operations to benefit from economies of scale.

In practice, tariffs often drive up costs without any meaningful impact on industry growth, job creation or domestic competitiveness, allowing local producers to charge higher prices without investing meaningfully towards expansion.

Poultry and French fry case studies

To demonstrate the point, first consider the example of the poultry industry. In 2013, government imposed new anti-dumping duties on chicken products up to 82%. In 2020, it then added another levy of 62% on individual frozen pieces – a favourite staple food among low-income households.

But as economist Neva Seidman Makgetla observed in a working paper for the South African Reserve Bank (SARB), the price of poultry in rand terms has climbed faster than import prices in recent years, the producer price for poultry has risen 10% faster than inflation in real terms, and tariffs did not lead to any substantial increase in domestic production.

Likewise, local French fry manufacturers have been gifted with a new raft of duties on European imports, including levies of more than 180% on German imports. This is despite the fact that German imports only account for some 6% of total import volumes, and as such are unlikely to have had any material impact on local prices.

In a non-confidential response to these tariffs, the European Potato Processors' Association (EUPPA) points out that of the three major local potato manufacturers, all three imported French fries themselves to supplement their own supplies.

SAVE THESE DATES!

2023 FLAGSHIP EVENTS



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