

MANUFACTURING INDABA KWAZULU-NATAL HIGHLIGHTS OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PROVINCE'S MANUFACTURERS

Date of release: 2nd August 2016

DURBAN – KwaZulu-Natal's manufacturing sector is the second largest in the country and is poised for foreign investment and particularly for re-export opportunities through the port of Durban. Exciting new and current opportunities for the province's manufacturers will be highlighted by manufacturers at the **Manufacturing Indaba Kwazulu-Natal**, which is two weeks away.

"Kwazulu-Natal is an important manufacturing hub in South Africa. We are delighted to be taking the **Manufacturing Indaba** offering to provincial manufacturers again, and bringing them government and private sector players who will highlight opportunities and listen to their inputs on the way forward for inclusive and improved growth in the province's manufacturing sectors," said Liz Hart, Managing Director of Manufacturing Indaba.

The one-day KZN provincial manufacturing event on 16th August follows the national **Manufacturing Indaba** that took place in Gauteng in June. The KZN roadshow will be hosted at the ICC in Durban with the Minister of Trade & Industry, Dr Rob Davies, along with provincial government representatives and manufacturing CEOs addressing the delegates. They will meet with the province's manufacturers and discuss opportunities and challenges related to manufacturing performance and growth prospects.

With high-level government and industry role players speaking at the conference, the programme is filled with content specifically tailored to unlock new markets, grow manufacturing businesses and meet the needs of the province's manufacturers.

Some of the topics and themes to be explored at the event include:

The Best of South African Manufacturing

This panel session will feature industry best practice exemplars, providing delegates with the opportunity to hear from and question industry leaders on how they are achieving success and the factors that are driving this despite the challenging economic circumstances facing companies.

South Africa's role in the growth of manufacturing in Africa

South Africa has been seen as a dominant big brother on the continent, and with its relatively diversified and industrialised base, has seen dramatic increases in exports to the rest of the continent. Due to the weak productive base of its trading partners in Africa, there has not been a corresponding increase in imports other than raw materials. There is however an increasing emphasis by most of South Africa's trading partners towards higher and more stringent local content provisions. It is therefore going to be imperative for South Africa to start to shift from straight exports to deeper mechanisms and partnerships to strengthen productive capacity in-country. If this is not done, then it is likely that our trading partners in Africa will steadily build up domestic capacity, perhaps on the back of foreign investment from elsewhere, and see significant opportunities being lost to South Africa. South Africa can therefore play a significant role in supporting the industrialization efforts across the continent. It will require a reinvention and reworking of its relationships with its African partners.

Effectiveness of Spatial Interventions for Industrial Development including Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and incentives to assist business

Clusters / Exports / SEZs: The South African government, in an effort to reposition itself in the world economy, established the Industrial Development Zones (IDZ) programme with the aim of attracting Foreign Direct Investment and export of value-added commodities. The IDZ programme has been replaced by a more relevant new SEZ policy. Special Economic Zones (SEZs), are geographically designated areas of a country set aside for specifically targeted economic activities, supported through special arrangements (that may include laws) and systems that are often different from those that apply in the rest of the country with the aim of boosting investment, streamlining operations and maximising profits

There will be another two provincial **Manufacturing Indabas** taking place this year – the **Manufacturing Indaba Eastern Cape** event in Port Elizabeth on the 18th October, and the **Western Cape Manufacturing Indaba** in Cape Town on the 8th November.

For more information on the event, please visit: <http://manufacturingindaba.co.za/kzn/>

PRESS RELEASE ENDS

MORE ABOUT THE MANUFACTURING INDABA

South Africa's economy is under pressure on several fronts and business confidence is at a low. The nation's manufacturing industries continue to face tremendous challenges; increasing production and wage costs, a shrinking manufacturing base, global market volatility, and the threat of other emerging economies which continue to threaten the growth of South African manufacturers. The success of the nation depends on a strong and innovative manufacturing base and we must continue to work together to promote prosperity through manufacturing, science and innovation.

The aim of the Manufacturing Indaba 2016 and its provincial roadshows is to focus on and boost the growth potential of key industry sectors, namely: automotive, construction, metals, forestry, paper & packaging, chemicals, aerospace & defence, industry products and services, and to provide a platform for informative and interactive sessions with the prime movers of the nation's manufacturing sectors.

For more information on the event, please visit: <http://manufacturingindaba.co.za/kzn/>

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Julie Cunningham: Julie@manufacturingindaba.co.za or 083 295 0526

Media registration: Prior to the event ONLY. Proof of IDENTIFICATION is compulsory at the event even if you have been approved for attendance.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/manufacturingindaba/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/IndabaManufact>

Hashtags: #MFGIndaba #ManufacturingTheFuture #ManufacturingMatters #SBI

