

## MANUFACTURING INDABA TWO WEEKS AWAY 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016

### “CAN WE STOP AFRICA DE-INDUSTRIALISING?”

This is the big question on the minds of African governments and macro-economists seeking to stimulate growth and hoping for a new wave of industrialisation through regional integration, roll out of infrastructure and the creation of regional trading blocs.

“The general view is that Africa is de-industrialising and has skipped a vital industrial revolution like Asia experienced in the 1970s; which is critical for job creation,” says Nigel Gwynne-Evans, Chief Director for African Industrial Development with the Department of Trade & Industry (**the dti**).

“Africa has the lowest global percentage of productivity in manufacturing and the lowest employment rates in the world. The big concern is that we are already jumping to a services-based economy without creating a platform for manufacturing.”

The topic of Africa’s de-industrialisation and the its re-industrialisation will be debated and discussed at length, with new policy directions being deliberated on and new manufacturing opportunities explored at the upcoming MANUFACTURING INDABA at Emperors Palace, Ekurhuleni on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

An investigation into Africa’s de-industrialisation by *The Economist* (November 7th 2015 edition) says, “To be sure, many countries de-industrialise as they grow richer (growth in service-based parts of the economy, such as entertainment, helps shrink manufacturing’s slice of the total). But many African countries are de-industrialising while they are still poor, raising the worrying prospect that they will miss out on the chance to grow rich by shifting workers from farms to higher-paying factory jobs”.

“There’s no doubt that what is known as the ‘4th Industrial revolution’ brings advanced technologies to bare in all aspects of life, particularly to consumers in the form of dramatically improved telecommunications, access to faster internet, banking and retail services and services like Uber that add convenience to the consumer’s life. Africa is adopting these new technologies exceptionally fast, in leap-frogging to a more advanced world. The big but, and it’s a big one, is that without a strong manufacturing sector, these services will largely be provided by global multi-nationals, with an increasing loss by governments of the levers to transforming their economies,” says Gwynne Evans.

South Africa’s government has identified manufacturing as a key growth sector through **the dti’s** Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP) and is currently supporting and growing its “100 Black Industrialists” programme; to boost transformation and growth within the manufacturing sector.

The third annual **Manufacturing Indaba**, has also identified small business as a key focus area for the 2016 event. The launch of the Small Business Indaba will take place on 27th June 2016. The one-day conference is specifically focused on the growth opportunities for entrepreneurs within manufacturing who run small business operations.

#### **Highlights of the 2016 event include:**

- Minister Rob Davies and Deputy Minister Mzwandile Masina from **the dti** will deliver keynote addresses.
- Premier David Makhura will deliver the closing keynote address.
- 3 International manufacturing experts will address the conference sharing the latest global manufacturing innovations and trends.
- Over 1,500 pre-registered visitors have already confirmed to visit the exhibition.
- A comprehensive programme of technical workshops will be hosted by the NCPC-SA in the exhibition hall.
- Focused Africa sessions will take place in the conference to discuss the Africa opportunity for SA manufacturers and how they can access the African market to sell products and services.

The theme of the 2016 Manufacturing Indaba is *“Manufacturing the future”*, with the aim of showcasing and exploring the ideas and technologies that can make South Africa’s manufacturing economies competitive in the global arena.

The third annual Manufacturing Indaba brings together business owners, industry leaders, government officials, investors and professional experts to discuss challenges and to brainstorm solutions for South Africa’s re-industrialisation and Africa’s industrialisation.

The event boasts strategic partnerships with the Department of Trade & Industry (the dti), the Department of Science & Technology (DST), the host City of Ekurhuleni, the Department of Public Enterprises, the Manufacturing Circle and the NCPC-SA.

#### **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 continues to face tremendous challenges; increasing production and wage costs, a shrinking manufacturing base, supply chain challenges, 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, at Emperors Palace on the 28th and 29<sup>th</sup> June, 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 info on this event, visit [www.manufacturingindaba.co.za](http://www.manufacturingindaba.co.za)

**FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

Issued by: Siyenza Management

Tel: 011 463-9184

For media enquiries contact:

Liz Hart: [liz@manufacturingindaba.co.za](mailto:liz@manufacturingindaba.co.za)

Julie Cunningham: [Julie@siyenzaevents.co.za](mailto:Julie@siyenzaevents.co.za) or 083 295 0526

Debbie Mankowitz: [Debbie@siyenzaevents.co.za](mailto:Debbie@siyenzaevents.co.za) or 082 604 5826

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

