

**MANUFACTURING INDABA hosts dti Minister, VIPs and international manufacturing experts as global economic volatility weighs in on SA's manufacturing  
June 2016**

**EKURHULENI** - The global economic and political shocks felt during the past week and their concomitant impact on the South African economy and manufacturers will be top of mind at the Manufacturing Indaba on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June at Emperors Palace, Ekurhuleni.

Manufacturing stakeholders are keen to hold onto the recent momentum gained in their manufacturing operations, which make up South Africa's fourth-biggest economic sector. Manufacturing saw a recent recovery despite weak global demand.

The Minister of Trade & Industry, Dr Rob Davies, will address concerns of the country's manufacturers during his keynote address as South Africa grapples with the implications of increased global market volatility. The Minister will address members of the media on Tuesday morning, along with the City of Ekurhuleni Mayor, Mondli Gungubele and the Chair of the Manufacturing Circle, Bruce Strong.

Government is pulling out all stops to encourage and stimulate growth in manufacturing in the face of tough headwinds in 2016 and the **2016 Manufacturing Indaba** will once again be the platform for the public and private sector to find collaborative solutions to boosting South Africa's manufacturing industries.

In addition to Dr Rob Davies, Deputy Minister Mzwandile Masina will deliver a keynote address on the progress of the **dti's** Black Industrialists Programme, which will see the Department investing billions over the coming years to boost SA's top black manufacturers. Premier David Makhura will deliver the closing keynote address to a fully packed auditorium.

Two international manufacturing experts have been selected to speak to the region's manufacturers, namely Professor David Romero, Professor-researcher at the National Graduate School of Science, Engineering and Technology (part of the Tecnologico de Monterrey's Center for Innovation in Design and Technology in Mexico) and Prof. Marco Taisch, full Professor of Operations Management and Advanced and Sustainable Manufacturing from Politecnico di Milano in Italy.

The theme for the third annual Manufacturing Indaba is "*Manufacturing the future*", with the aim of showcasing and exploring the ideas and technologies that can make South Africa's economies competitive in the global arena.

The event's strategic partnerships are 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 manufacturing 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, supply chain challenges, weakened global demand 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 & defense, 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**

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