

Deputy Minister oversight visit highlights SEZ potential



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The Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone will establish a centre of excellence for green energy technology and mineral beneficiation as well as manufacturing of mining equipment.



The Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Mr Fikile Majola, conducted an oversight visit to the proposed Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone in Steelpoort, Limpopo, in October 2021.

Deputy Minister Majola was joined by the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism in Limpopo, Mr Thabo Mokone, MEC for Finance in Limpopo, Mr Seaparo Sekwati, the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Councillor Stanley Ramaila, and the Acting Mayor of Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality, Councillor Hlatsoayo.

The purpose of the oversight visit was to assess progress registered in the implementation of the proposed Special Economic Zone (SEZ)

project and to meet with potential private sector partners. According to Mr Majola, the visit was part of a consultative process on the SEZ Programme. Information on the new approach in the implementation of the Programme was also shared.

"This new approach encourages collaborative engagements through which the implementation of the SEZ Programme is aligned with national, provincial and local objectives, as well as planning strategies to maximise synergies and promote cooperation. This will result in provinces and municipalities benefiting from strong National Government support in areas of limited capacity," said Mr Majola.

He added that the South African Government was seeking to transform the economy into a globally competitive economy, built on the full potential of all citizens and regions.

"To achieve this, the government is driving a robust industrialisation agenda supported by Spatial Industrial Development Programmes such as the SEZ Programme. Our department is driving the SEZ Programme as one of the strategic interventions to catalyse economic and industrial development in the country," he added. ■

Solly Kgopong, Executive Manager



Solly Kgopong is the Executive Manager of the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ. Before joining the Department for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, he was General Manager of Absa Bank. His work experience started as Business Analyst at Trade and Investment Limpopo until he became Executive Manager Strategic and Economic Planning. During this period, Solly was a part-time lecturer at the University of Limpopo. A USA-Mandela Scholar Alumni, Solly holds a MSc in Economics degree from the Ohio State University. He was recently seconded to Head the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ Project Management Unit by the Provincial Government.

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Bunjiwe Gwebu, Project Executive



Bunjiwe Gwebu is the Project Executive for the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone, having joined the Limpopo Economic Development Agency in 2014 when the Special Economic Zones programme was being rolled out nationally. She is an Economic Development Specialist who holds a Master's in Development Studies from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She has held positions at executive and senior management levels in government and non-governmental institutions such as eThekweni Municipality, Slum Dwellers International, uShani Fund and the Housing Development Agency where she was responsible for strategy, programme planning and management, implementation and monitoring and evaluation.

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