



Media Release

Friday 18 March 2011

The 2nd Eastern Cape Economic Symposium underway

On Thursday, 24th March 2011, the country's leading economists, policy makers and Eastern Cape government leaders will be herding for East London to the 2nd Eastern Cape Economic symposium and presentation of the Eastern Cape Economic Outlook 2011.

Themed: "Embracing Partnerships for Sustainable Economic Growth", the symposium seeks to offer a platform for formulating tailored responses and to align the Eastern Cape economy to the new policy reforms.

MEC for Economic Development and Environmental Affairs, Mr Mcebisi Jonas, says the symposium will mobilise stakeholders in the business, academic and interested members from both the civil and public sectors to identify and recommend relevant and practical measures for shaping the economy of the province in the near future.

"The symposium offers an opportunity for us to interact with our stakeholders and contributes in identifying interventions to be adopted linked to our strategic framework for economic development. It is also instrumental in outlining the economic outlook and the strides made so far in changing the socio – economic conditions of the province", says Jonas.

Speakers at the conference include:

- Hon Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Mr Enoch Godongwana;
- Mr Brian Molefe, Group Chief Executive Office – Transnet;
- Prof Graeme Bloch, Wits University - School of Public and Development Management;
- Mr Lumkile Mondi, Chief Economist - Industrial Development Corporation;
- Dr Neva Makgetla, Deputy Director General - Economic Policy Development, Department of Economic Development.

Topics to be discussed at the conference include:

- The New Growth Path and its significance to the Eastern Cape Economy;
- The Green Economy: Eastern Cape as an emerging hub;
- The Eastern Cape logistical connections: Challenges and Opportunities;
- Interrogation of Skills Development and Economic Growth;
- Plenary: Emerging Issues for the Eastern Cape.

The symposium will take place at East London International Convention Centre in East London at 8h00.

For more information on the symposium or to book a place, contact:

- Nomzamo Kolo at Nomzamo.kolo@coega.co.za, tel: 041 403 0494
- Ntombentsha Yaya at Ntombentsha.yaya@coega.co.za, tel: 041 - 403 0423

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Note to the editor:

**Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs
(DEDEA):**

DEDEA strives for building a province where all her people share the benefits of sound environmental management, sustainable development and economic growth.

DEDEA's mission is to provide strategic leadership in developing a people-centred, equitably shared, Green Economy through effective programmes, strategic partnerships and responsive services.

Issued by:

Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs
Eastern Cape Province

Contact:

Sixolile Makaula
Communications Manager
Cell: 072 751 5001

Sixolile.makaula@deaet.ecape.gov.za

www.dedea.gov.za