

THE ZONE NEWS



RBIDZ

Special Economic Zone

ISSUE 20

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GATEWAY TO
world
MARKETS



Zulu Kingdom. Exceptional



RBIDZ
Special Economic Zone

WHY DELAY YOUR PROSPERITY?

YOUR **INVESTMENT HOME** AWAITS!

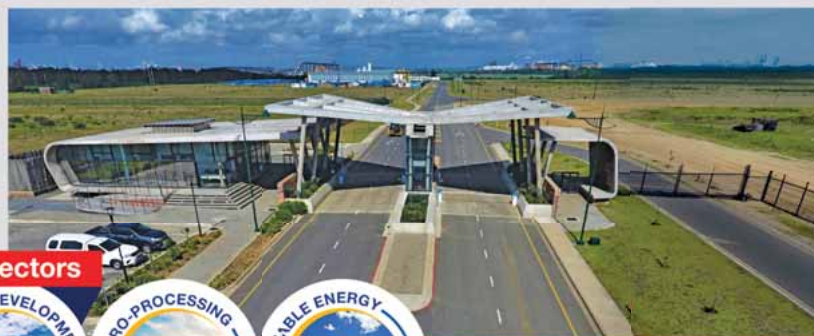
The Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone is a prime purpose-built and secure industrial estate situated on the North-eastern Coast of KwaZulu-Natal. With our prime land on Phase 1 A and Phase 1 F poised for operations, there has never been a more ideal time to invest in the RBIDZ and take advantage of numerous competitive advantages and fiscal incentives.

INCENTIVES

- Reduction in Corporate Income Tax from 28 to 15%;
- World-class industrial land that supports infrastructure for export-oriented production; Dedicated in-house Customs Controlled Area (CCA) that supports services to expedite forwarding and clearing;
- Duty-free or imports for production-related raw materials including machinery and assets used in production with the aim of exporting the finished products;
- VAT exemptions for supplies procured in South Africa

Competitive advantages

- Close proximity to deep-water port
- Minerals and beneficiation of resources
- Tax and duty-free rebates
- Reasonable rentals



Key sectors



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

CHOICE SIHIYA
STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER



The COVID-19 pandemic is not only leaving traces of destructions to the lives of the people, but also causing immense instability to the economy and causing labour markets to take a downward slope. The economic inactive performance is hitting firm to various objectives aimed at driving economic growth and creating substance in the lives of the people.

Abnormally the pandemic continues to test our resolve as a nation to fast-track service delivery to the people. The pandemic has restricted and impacted the global economy and is further crippling the efforts to promote and attract foreign direct investments. In the country, the adverse effects have been greatly illustrious in economic sectors like manufacturing, transport, trade as well as tourism due to various restrictions hindering cross-trade.

The unemployment rate has increased immensely due to various companies reducing jobs and closing down. This impact calls for renewed efforts to stimulate economic growth through innovative and diverse activities as alluded by the President of the Republic of SA, His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa during his address when the country moved to Alert Level 1. This message is directed to all structures both in public and private sectors, that practical means of reconstructing the economy and getting people back on their feet should top the list of the priorities on the agenda.

The Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone, being the vehicle aimed at driving economic growth through investment attraction, is steaming ahead with efforts aimed at operationalising investments and creating job opportunities for the people of this province. The persistent partnership between the RBIDZ and its locators as well as investors that have commenced construction on the ground will help accelerate the restoration of the economy of the province.

The RBIDZ continues to work with leadership across all spheres of government to ensure a new trajectory of socio-economic development, using RBIDZ as a catalyst for development and economic recovery. The social partners remain critical during this period which must be categorized by social stability and further ensure business continuity under the new normal conditions.

Promotion and Attraction as well as Retention strategies led by the Business Development and Support Unit continue to blueprint our

path to attract investors to our region with the aim of stimulating the economy and safeguard jobs.

Pacing forward, the company is pushed by urgent issues of operationalising investment projects with speed so as to assist in the eradication of poverty and unemployment exacerbated by the global pandemic which has resulted in the shutdown of various companies resulting in an economic knockdown.

The RBIDZ is also thrilled with the in-house Enterprise Development Programme to be rolled out soon. This programme is led by the Executive Manager for Business Development and Support, Simthembile Mapu and it focuses on SMMEs and businesses interested in the operation of RBIDZ, and activities aimed at economic inclusivity and transformation. This programme seeks to complement 'our' industrial investment through upstream and downstream participation by local SMMEs, a, job creation, and a contribution towards inclusive growth. This programme will be a cooperation between RBIDZ and investors aimed at leveraging skills and expertise.

As the Richards Bay IDZ, we are a beacon of hope to the people looking up to the Special Economic Zone for the change of the socio-economic landscape, therefore identifying prudent sectors of the economy agile to the times and fast-tracking strategies to stimulate investment attraction and reconstruction of the economy is one key action that is driving our intent towards better accomplishments.

The Zone News is a newsletter published by the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone Company (SOC) Ltd

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THE RICHARDS BAY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ZONE COMPANY (SOC) LTD (RBIDZ)

The Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone Company (SOC) Ltd (RBIDZ) is a Special Economic Zone that is purpose-built and secure industrial estate on the North-Eastern Coast of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa linked to the international deep-water port of Richards Bay. It is tailored for the manufacturing of goods and production of services to boost beneficiation, investment, economic growth and the development of skills and employment. The RBIDZ is a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) that aims to encourage international competitiveness through world-class infrastructure, tax, VAT and duty-free incentives to qualifying investors.

The RBIDZ strategy is geared to provide significant contribution to the country's economic growth through creation of employment opportunities, upgrading the skills, technology transfer, deepening economic empowerment of historically disadvantaged individuals and broadening of South Africa's basket of export products.

INCENTIVES PROVIDED BY RBIDZ TO INVESTORS INCLUDE:

- Reduction in corporate income tax from 28% to 15%;
- VAT exemption for supplies procured in South Africa;
- Duty-free on imports for production-related raw materials including machinery and assets used in production;
- Location in a secured and Customs Controlled Area (CCA); and
- World-class industrial infrastructure.

THE RBIDZ'S OBJECTIVES:

- To attract local and foreign direct investment;
- To attract advanced foreign production and technology methods in order to gain experience in global manufacturing and production networks;
- To develop linkages between domestic and zone-based industries; and
- To provide world-class industrial infrastructure.

THE RBIDZ'S KEY FOCUS SECTORS:

- Metals Beneficiation (Aluminium, Iron Ore, Titanium);
- ICT (Techno-parks, Innovation Hubs);
- Renewable Energy (Solar, Fuel Cells, Biomass);
- Agro-Processing; and
- Marine Industry Development.



GATEWAY TO WORLD MARKETS

VISION

To be the preferred Special Economic Zone for quality investments while delivering value to our stakeholders.

MISSION

To utilise the competitive advantage of the Richards Bay area to attract sustainable investments that stimulate economic growth, job creation, beneficiation of resources and the empowerment of people.

COMPANY PROFILE

Company name:	Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone Company (SOC) LTD (RBIDZ)
Industry sector:	Manufacturing
Year established:	2002
Year licensed to operate:	2009
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SHARING INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND OUTLOOK

WITH SIMTHEMBILE MAPU, EXECUTIVE MANAGER
– RBIDZ BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT



Mr. Simthembile Mapu, Executive Manager –
RBIDZ Business Development and Support



Our commitment is to bring quality and sustainable investments to the region. We will do our utmost best to use these investments to address the challenge of unemployment, inequality and environmental equity. ”

CAN YOU BRIEFLY TELL US ABOUT YOUR ROLE AT THE RBIDZ?

I am responsible for leading the Business Development and Support Unit which entails; Investment Promotions, Facilitation, Retention, and Investor Support. I like to think of the Unit as the heartbeat of the RBIDZ as we ‘carry’ the greater part of the company’s mandate.

SINCE JOINING THE RBIDZ WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR HIGHLIGHTS THUS FAR WHEN YOU NAVIGATE THE SCOPE OF INVESTMENT PROJECTS ON THE GROUND, CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, AND INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING OPERATIONALISED?

When I started, the Board and the Shareholder gave me a clear mandate, to focus on operationalising our pipeline so that we can create jobs and economic opportunities for our region. I am excited to share with you that despite COVID-19, the related lockdown and the resultant global economic down-turn, we have been able to commence construction of the R 1,3 billion edible oil plant by Wilmar as well as phase 1 of Nyanza’s R 4,5 billion project.

Construction of the Wilmar plant is expected to be completed by the 4th quarter of 2022. We expect the project to inject some much-needed jobs into the district. Construction for Phase 1 of the R 4,5 billion Titanium Dioxide pigment production plant by Nyanza Light Metals is underway and gaining momentum with the recent launch officiated by MEC for EDTEA, Mr. Ravi Pillay. This phase will be operational in the 4th quarter of 2021 and construction for Phase 2 (40,000 tons) will commence in the 1st quarter of 2022.

There are also a number of domestic investments that have been approved, and being facilitated with various partners. The team is working night and day to get those ready for construction in the upcoming year(s).

DO YOU THINK THE RBIDZ CAN TAKE LESSONS FROM BENCHMARKING WITH OTHER SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES GLOBALLY; AND IF YES – HOW?

We can definitely take lessons from benchmarking with other SEZs but the exercise needs to be qualitative (rather than quantitative) as there is no homogeneity in the conditions. We need to move into a space where our competitive advantage is not only informed by our locational dynamics but also our business model. We need to factor the integration in the investment profile of our Zone, city, and region beyond our borders. Our proximity to Mozambique makes us unique and we need to leverage that factor.

The recently launched Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement also presents excellent opportunities for collaboration with other SEZ's within the continent. We recently had an eye-opening engagement with the Ugandan Free Trade Zone Authority, exchanging knowledge and ideas with a view of building a mutually beneficial partnership.

HOW DO YOU PROJECT THE MANDATE OF ATTRACTING FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS INTO THE COUNTRY; TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE GLOBAL COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

I imagine that in the short term it's going to be extremely difficult to attract foreign capital. This is because in times of crisis, investors become inwardly focused and they opt to put their excess capital in less risky instruments. We are fortunate that our mandate does not limit us only to foreign investment but also promotes domestic investment. While keeping the iron hot on the FDI space, we will intensify our efforts to materialize the domestic investment pipeline in the short term. This will be done by increasing our collaborative efforts with DFI's so we can get investments off the ground.

AS THE HEAD OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT, DO YOU HAVE ANY RECOVERY PLANS AND STRATEGIES FOCUSED ON SMMEs AND BUSINESSES INTERESTED IN THE OPERATION OF RBIDZ IN GENERAL AIMED AT ECONOMIC INCLUSIVITY AND TRANSFORMATION?

In the next couple of months, we will be launching our Enterprise Development Programme. The programme seeks to respond to a need to develop and support local Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) towards greater participation in the RBIDZ's investment activity. We intend to complement our industrial investment through upstream and downstream participation by local SMMEs, resulting in localisation, job creation, and contribution towards inclusive growth. This will be done in collaboration with our investors to leverage some of their skills and expertise. We want to positively contribute towards the sustainability of SMMEs by providing financial and non-financial support to participating entities for the duration of the programme.

IN YOUR VIEW WHAT DO YOU THINK SHOULD HAPPEN IN TERMS OF REPOSITIONING THE RBIDZ AS A PRIME DESTINATION FOR INVESTMENTS?

In my view, we need to play to our strengths by highlighting our value proposition, locational advantages, investment value chains, logistics network, and regional integration. Investors are looking for value and we need to demonstrate both CAPEX and OPEX advantages of locating in the RBIDZ and how they can move their products and access markets. Importantly, we need to package and elevate incentives that would be unique to us to create a special place in the hearts and minds of potential investors. This would mean working

closely with the City of uMhlatuze, Transnet, and the broader network of stakeholders to realize this.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC, WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL BE AN IMPACT OF THIS WITH REGARDS TO PROMOTING AND ATTRACTING INVESTORS INTO THE RBIDZ AS WELL AS IN THE COUNTRY? DO YOU THINK THAT ONE CAN STILL BE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE AND ALL EFFORTS AIMED AT BOOSTING THE CONFIDENCE OF THE INVESTORS ONCE THE STORM SETTLES?

In the short-term, we will struggle to effectively promote RBIDZ through the normal channels as an investment destination, however we have started using digital platforms to reach foreign investors, generate new leads and increase dialogue in the investment space.

I am confident that we will recover, we need to intensify our efforts in operationalising our pipeline so that we can create jobs to get us on a growth trajectory. We are paying particular focus to value-adding investments that seek to benefit our resources as a country thereby creating import substitutes.

JUTTING THE RBIDZ'S FUTURE, WHAT CAN THE PEOPLE OF THIS REGION AND THE ENTIRE PROVINCE HOPE FOR IN THE SHORT AND LONG TERM, THIS INCLUDING ORDINARY PEOPLE AND THOSE IN THE VALUE CHAIN OF BUSINESS?

Our commitment is to bring quality and sustainable investments to the region. We will do our utmost best to use these investments to address the challenge of unemployment, inequality and environmental equity. Inclusive growth is on top of our minds and everything we do is a step towards creating a just and equal society.

We also want to create a platform for collaboration with local enterprises, to this end, we encourage our investors to localise production to the best of their ability, this we do through offering rental concessions.

IN CLOSING, WHAT IS YOUR PROMISE TO THE PEOPLE OF KWAZULU-NATAL AND CRITICALLY, THOSE WITHIN OUR REGION LOOKING UP TO THE RBIDZ TO CHANGE THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE?

Working within our mandate and with the multiplicity of stakeholders (including civil society) we have relations with, we are committed to making a contribution to the creation of employment and improving the incomes of South Africans using industrialisation, beneficiation, and localisation.

Commencement of major construction activities Boost RBIDZ Confidence after delays caused by the outbreak of COVID-19



Grinaker – LTA and RBIDZ during the Nyanza TSC project technical meeting



An artist's rendition of the Nyanza Light Metals Technical Services Centre

“

The RBIDZ heralds the commencement of the first phase of this unique and significant project which will enhance Richards Bay's position as the Titanium and Minerals Beneficiation Capital of the African Continent”



RBIDZ CEO - Mr. Thabane Zulu

Nyanza Light Metals CEO - Donovan Chimhandamba

Efforts to rebuild the economy of this province have been strengthened by the commencement of construction of the Nyanza Light Metals' Technical Services Centre at RBIDZ Phase 1F estate.

It should be remembered that the clearing of site and construction should have commenced earlier in 2020 but was derailed by the outbreak of COVID-19. The pandemic left in its track, the destruction of the economy with thousands of job losses and companies shutting down.

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) released data towards the end of last month which shows that about four out of ten people are unemployed in the country. As indicated by the Finance MEC Nomusa Dube-Ncube during the delivery of the Budget Speech recently, this number is estimated at five out of ten in this province. She pointed out that between the fourth quarter of 2019 and the fourth quarter of 2020, the number of people employed in the country dropped from 16.4 million to 15 million. According to Dube-Ncube, this implies that close to 1.4 million people became unemployed in 2020, largely as a result of the pandemic. Over the same period, 210 thousand people became unemployed in this province.

Taking cue from governments' economy recovery initiatives as well as the MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Mr. Ravi Pillay the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone (RBIDZ), is steaming ahead with efforts aimed at creating job opportunities for the people of this province. The enduring partnership between the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone and Nyanza Light Metals will help accelerate the reconstruction and re-engineering of the economy of this province.

"We will continue to work with leadership across all spheres of government to ensure a new trajectory of socio-economic development, using RBIDZ as a catalyst. The organized labour and other social partners remain critical during this period which must be characterized by social stability."

Nyanza Light Metals (Pty) Ltd is a chemical manufacturing company established in 2011, which has begun the process of building a titanium dioxide (TiO₂) pigment production plant at the RBIDZ. Titanium dioxide (TiO₂) pigment, a R350 billion market, is widely used in the manufacturing of products such as paints, industrial coatings, plastics, papers, inks, foods, medicines (i.e. pills and tablets) as well as most toothpastes.

The project is in line with the RBIDZ's mandate of being a purpose-built and secure industrial estate tailored for the manufacturing of goods and production of services to boost beneficiation, investments, economic growth, job creation, and the development of skills.

Though South Africa (RSA) is the second-largest producer of titanium dioxide mineral sands and slags in the world after Australia, accounting for more than 22% of the 7 million tons' global production, it is an importer of all value-added titanium products such as the Titanium dioxide (TiO₂) pigment and hardly has any local titanium value addition industries.

The Nyanza Light Metals project will be rolled out in three phases, the first being the Technical Services Centre construction which is underway. This centre will house a semi-production plant, whereas the second and third phases will be for the main production (commercial) plant, accounting for the total investment value of R4,5 billion. At peak production, the main commercial plant will produce over 80,000 tons per annum of titanium dioxide (TiO₂) pigment as well as other titanium-related products, and water treatment chemicals such as gypsum, iron, and aluminium sulphate (copperas).

Operation of the Technical Services Centre is expected to be in the fourth quarter of 2021/22. The semi-production plant housed in the Technical Services Centre will produce sufficient pigment volumes for

paint manufactures to use and develop paint or other formulations based on the Nyanza pigment grade. The semi-production plant will employ about a hundred (100) people during the construction phase and create an estimate of sixty (60) permanent jobs post-construction. Construction of the main production plant will commence in the last quarter of 2021, also creating job opportunities.

The RBIDZ heralds the commencement of the first phase of this unique and significant project which will enhance Richards Bay's position as the Titanium and Minerals Beneficiation Capital of the African Continent.

"We are very motivated to witness this breakthrough. This project is one other that we have been harnessing for some time now to ensure that this day is realised, not only for the benefit of the RBIDZ but for the people that we have to serve. The project has been strongly supported by the provincial and national government equally. The uniqueness in it will bring a major boost to the economy and further create much-needed employment opportunities with a spiral of skills transfer and innovation as well as the value chain benefits to our people" remarked RBIDZ CEO, Thabane Zulu.

Nyanza Light Metals CEO, Donovan Chimhandamba, remarked that the journey of getting to where the project is today has been a lengthy one, however, motivated by the youthful exuberance and ambition we were convinced that something could come out of the waste thus exploring the journey of 10 years leading to the birth of Nyanza Light Metals that is being witnessed today.

"10 years ago we stumbled in a pile of waste steel slag generated by Highveld Steel and Vanadium as a waste stream out of their steel and vanadium manufacturing process in eMalahleni and we believed that something useful would come out of it".

"They say the rest is history because today we are here celebrating the milestones of Nyanza Light Metals".

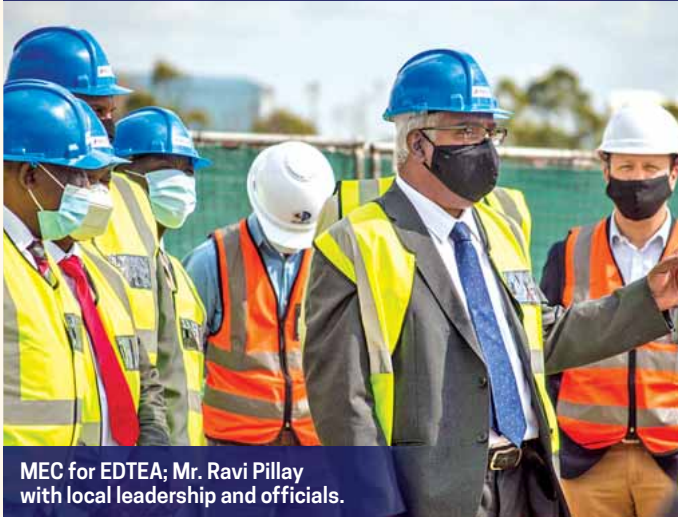
"Like its name and meaning of "Nyanza", in Swahili, meaning the RIVER, the journey has been a winding one. Pleasing enough today, Nyanza represents an opportunity for South Africans to demonstrate transformation of the continent from just being an exporter of low value primary raw materials to becoming an exporter of value added products".

For the RBIDZ, the previously unobtrusive fields are something that will be in the past for both of the estates, Phase 1A and Phase 1F. And for many years the RBIDZ has been working tirelessly in the attempts to get investors to commence visible work on the ground.

NYANZA LIGHT METALS TECHNICAL SERVICES CENTRE CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS



Officials at construction site of the Technical Services Centre in Phase 1F industrial estate.



MEC for EDTEA; Mr. Ravi Pillay with local leadership and officials.



Officials witnessing the site activity for the construction of the Technical Services Centre in Phase 1F industrial estate.



RBIDZ Board Chairperson; Mel Clark leading the construction site tour.

DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DTIC MS. GINA COMMENDS PROGRESS MADE BY THE RBIDZ



RBIDZ Executive Management sharing an overview of the projects currently underway at the RBIDZ estates with the DTIC Deputy Minister, Ms. N. Gina.



DTIC Deputy Minister, Ms. N. Gina with DTIC officials and RBIDZ Executive Management during the National Siyahlola Programme.

The recent visit to the Richards Bay IDZ by the Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Ms. Nomalungelo Gina as part of the national Siyahlola Programme whose purpose was to inspect and assess progress made in the implementation of the Special Economic Zones Programme, Revitalisation of Industrial Parks Programme, and the sector-specific Master Plans that are part of the re-imagined National Industrial Development Strategy re-enforces work that has been tasked to the industrial zones from inception.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic that has decelerated various economic initiatives, the visit has been one of the key activities to view progress and get first-hand updates and insights on the milestones achieved post relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions that affected activities on the ground.

According to Gina, the visit aimed to provide her with an opportunity to familiarise herself with first-hand data of the impact that the government programmes and interventions are making on the country's businesses in particular, and the economy at large.

"I will be meeting with the leadership of these SEZs, industrial park and companies and then undertake tours of their facilities to see the difference that government support makes in the daily lives of the people whose factories operate in the SEZs and parks," said Gina.

She added that the Siyahlola Programme provides an opportunity for the government to reiterate its support for SEZs, industrial parks, township and rural development, and manufacturing.

"We will also use our interaction on the ground to learn about the challenges that they experience as well as identify opportunities that government can explore in order to deepen, improve or extend the implementation of the programmes. The successes and best practices that we will observe during the visits will be taken into consideration and replicated in other parts of the country as the roll-out of our programmes continue," added Gina.

Gina said that the SEZs and Revitalisation of Industrial Parks programmes form part of many important instruments that government uses to drive industrial development as a key contributor to employment in the country.

During the visit at the RBIDZ attended by key stakeholders representing various partners of the RBIDZ including the City Mayor, Cllr Mduduzi Mhlongo, it was evident that the expectations and intent of the Special Economic Zone is the same, and that is critical to see the positive impact made to the lives of our communities and the province at large.

The Special Economic Zones by their very nature are mandated to attract foreign and domestic direct investments in order to increase the number and value of exported products, also accelerating the development of industrial infrastructure that will assist in the beneficiation of the country's resources leading to the economic growth, creation of employment opportunities, development of skills and transfer.

"We are happy to see progress made by the Special Economic Zone in our City of uMhlatuze since these are the projects that will also contribute to the revenue of the City thus enabling the City with its development programmes in turn. We can confirm that these are the projects that we immensely support. We have tripartite agreements at a high level that aim to tackle challenges that may regress progress'. We want to see the co-existence between the Port of Richards Bay, City of uMhlatuze, and the RBIDZ so that the communities can also position themselves for value chain opportunities earmarking localisation, remarked City Mayor, Cllr Mduduzi Mhlongo.

The commendations by the Deputy Minister, Ms. Gina on what has been achieved thus far boosted the confidence of the RBIDZ team equally as a lot of work has been invested in the projects ensuring that they finally break ground.

"We welcome the visit by the Deputy Minister for the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic), Ms. N. Gina as part of the national Siyahlola Programme and we believe that her visit will strengthen all our efforts aimed at turning around the circumstances in the face of destruction caused by COVID-19'. The recorded progress evidenced by the commencement of construction by the catalyst investment projects worth over R5 billion combined being Wilmar Processing SA (Pty) Ltd and Nyanza Light Metals (Pty) Ltd at the Richards Bay IDZ pronounce the start of a new era'.

"These projects come at a time when there has been a harsh decline in the construction sector and an increase in unemployment globally'. We are very motivated to witness this breakthrough and we appreciate the support by all spheres of government - nationally, provincially, and locally". "We are pleased that the Deputy Minister commended the positive progress by the entity and further committed to intervene in resolving bottlenecks with the speed that these deserve'. RBIDZ remains a strategic asset that will help change the face of the province moving forward. We are determined to contribute towards the creation of employment leveraging on the direct investments with different sectors of the economy being targeted to drive growth, spiralling skills transfer as well as value chain benefits to the people at large, remarked RBIDZ CFO, Simangele Ngcobo.

IN THE CORNER ... WITH ZAINUL SHIEKH, EXECUTIVE MANAGER - ZONE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONS (ZDO)

Let's talk about infrastructure....

AS A RECENTLY APPOINTED EXECUTIVE MANAGER FOR ZONE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONS IN THE COMPANY WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?

My role will be quite extensive which will encompass effectively planning, procuring land parcels, and management of the land portfolio; co-ordinating and devising the implementing of effective establishment and maintenance of common infrastructure and services to facilitate our locators within RBIDZ, co-ordinate with stakeholders and investors on projects development i.e. from inception to commissioning. I will also be responsible for security strategy, policy and procedures customs control area (CCA) compliance, and operations.

CAN YOU ELABORATE ON THE LINK BETWEEN ZONE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONS AND INVESTMENT ATTRACTION, TOUCHING ON THE BROADER SCOPE OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES?

There is always a direct link between the facilities you provide to your investors and its attractiveness. As an example, when we want to buy or rent a house we assess the basic facilities like water, electricity, internet access, proximity to school, shopping centres, security, etc. Similarly, when our investors find the various advantages like the strategic and secured location of a world-class industrial facility with functional bulk services like road, water, electricity infrastructure as well as reduced corporate income tax, it becomes a much easier decision for investors to invest. I will ensure that when these investors come on board, they are able to fast track their development seamlessly and the existing facilities maintain their standard and reliability, co-ordinate with the stakeholders and the community at large so that the developments lead to jobs creation and local economic development.

WHY DO YOU THINK WELL-DEVELOPED INFRASTRUCTURE IS A PLUS FOR ATTRACTING INVESTORS INTO OUR SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE?

It provides an industry or investor a high level of comfort and confidence that one can start with planning for physical infrastructure development without having to wait for land

and bulk services, which is generally an onerous and time-consuming process and most of the times the reason for potential investors shying away. Hence, RBIDZ's ability to provide an enabling environment for investors along with streamlined procedures and advantageous government policies is proving to be key in attracting quality investors into our Special Economic Zone.

GIVEN YOUR DENSE EXPERIENCE IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE ENVIRONMENT AS A SEASONED ENGINEER, WHAT VALUE ADD ARE YOU BRINGING WITH TO THE ZONE?

I believe that the experience that I have gained over 25 years across three continents on numerous infrastructure projects from residential, industrial, commercial to bulk municipal services will certainly contribute to the effective management and implementation of the projects that RBIDZ have already started as well as those that are in the horizon. I believe that I will be able to complement the existing RBIDZ resources in successfully progressing forward.

DO YOU THINK THE RBIDZ CAN LEARN A LOT FROM BENCHMARKING WITH OTHER SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES, CRITICALLY ACROSS THE GLOBE; AND IF YES - HOW?

Each Special Economic Zone is unique based on its geographical location, land footprint, the existence of industries in its vicinity, primary local economic activities, access facility, export-processing zones, etc. Globally, China, which started the establishment of SEZs in the 1980s, is one of the most successful countries in SEZs, about a decade ago SEZs in China contributed to more than 20% of the national GDP and 60% of exports. We can certainly learn from China regarding how they have been successful and sustainable over a long period of time.

Some of the key areas we can learn are to continue improving the business environment that will encourage skills training, technology transfer, and local economic linkages. Other key areas include; long-term government policies to ensure policy continuity with strong government commitment, encouraging and attracting more private investors through a PPP framework due to limited resources, focusing and supporting the existing zones to grow and develop before new zones are planned for development as well as appointing,



RBIDZ Executive Manager (ZDO) - Mr. Zainul Shiekh

retaining appropriate and highly skilled people to work in the zones.

LOOKING INTO THE BELT OF YOUR MULTINATIONAL EXPERIENCE, DO YOU THINK ONE CAN BE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT WHAT IS YET TO COME?

I am very excited and optimistic about what is yet to come. The African Continent as a whole is seen as the continent with the most growth potential in the coming years with its young and vibrant population. Further, the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us the importance of becoming self-sustaining, which means our emphasis going forward will be to become less import-oriented by improving our manufacturing capacity, developing and enhancing local skills, and also endeavour in becoming food secure region and country.

WHAT IS YOUR TAKE ON THE FUTURE OF THE RBIDZ?

The RBIDZ is very well positioned to grow and become one of the best performing SEZs within South Africa in the next few years. The signs of success are already there with the current investor commitments and the number of potential projects in the pipeline.

IN CLOSING, WHAT IS YOUR PROMISE TO THE PEOPLE OF KWAZULU-NATAL AND CRITICALLY THOSE OF OUR REGION?

I promise that I will give my best to the growth and development of the province and specifically to that of our region by working collaboratively, effectively, and efficiently with all stakeholders to maximise beneficitation.



Port of Richard's Bay

BALANCING THE ACT WITH RBIDZ SECTOR RESEARCHER - MAXWELL NCANE

AS A RESEARCHER AT THE RICHARDS BAY IDZ, WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?

The role of a researcher at RBIDZ is simple to understand. It is largely about a continuous conduct of research mainly but not limited to the company's primary target sectors, namely: Agro-processing, alternative or renewable energy systems, metal beneficiation, marine industry development, and information & communication technology (ICT) and digitization. I deliberately mentioned continuous because sectoral dynamics change over a short period of time – particularly in sectors such as ICT and digitization

The main objective is to understand these economic sectors as variables that are operational (beyond concepts), particularly their behaviours in different economic conditions. The ultimate goal is to extract key insight (business intelligence) that could be used as a decision support mechanism for the company – mainly for investment attraction, target marketing, and policy advice purposes among other things.

HOW DOES YOUR ROLE FEED INTO THE SCOPE OF THE RBIDZ?

By design, RBIDZ is a company deliberately created to advance industrialization through external (and domestic) finance (often called foreign direct investment) attraction and then facilitate business linkages for supply and business partnership purposes. This all happens towards the broader goal of inclusive economic growth and development in KwaZulu-Natal and South Africa. So, the Researcher's role is important in discovering key insights on sectors targeted for investment attraction into the RBIDZ. Sectoral insights (e.g. past and forecasted sectoral trends, current states, key drivers, etc.) are important to understand on continuous basis and should be used as decision support evidence e.g. as indicated, for target marketing, targeting investors, sectoral information uncovering (business intelligence) just name the few.

GIVEN THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC, WHAT IS YOUR TAKE ON THE ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE?

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused severe economic impairment not only to South Africa but across the globe and the recovery is likely to take a good number of years. However, the pandemic has provided a rare opportunity for economic reform. Global organisations such as World Economic Forum are calling for great (economic) reset. The concept (great reset) simply advocates stakeholder economy, which should be modelled around "resilient, equitable, and sustainable" and along environmental, social, and governance (ESG) metrics. In my



RBIDZ Sector Researcher - Mr. Maxwell Ncane

view, economic reform and recovery plans should be designed along these concepts – but most important, implementable and capacity to implement plans together with a sense of urgency and workable business partnerships will prove to be enabling infrastructure for economic recovery.

DO YOU THINK INVESTMENT PROMOTERS STAND A CHANCE OF WINNING THE CONFIDENCE OF THE INVESTORS?

An approach towards imperative work of investment attraction has to change. As much as the supply side of the equation is still important (e.g. the strong emphasis on incentives such a reduced tax rate, provision of the basic infrastructure, etc.), the market demand side should be the primary selling approach.

Promoters need to articulate to potential investors about market demands because the demand is an important determining factor in whether or not the product will take-off.

Remember, investors make the decision to invest to grow their market share and to make money among other important objectives. As a result, they mainly look into market demand factors to make such decisions – incentives are secondary. By the way, some well-established investors (normally listed companies) with strong balance sheets tend to pay little attention to offered incentives.

WHAT DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE THE FOCUS AREAS/SECTORS WHEN DRIVING INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND ATTRACTION?

They are, but not limited to:

- Demand-pull factors;
- Cost-push factors;
- Clear knowledge of the sector in which the potential investor belongs or is interested to invest in;
- Updated information on both social and economic conditions at local, provincial and, (inter) national levels; and
- Lastly, an ability to precisely or unambiguously explain incentives offered.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE THREATS TO THE INVESTMENT SPACE GIVEN THE UNCERTAIN ECONOMIC OUTLOOK?

Generally, investment space is fragile and highly responsive to the behaviour of economic agents at all levels of the economy e.g. micro and macro level. Having said that, the following 10 elements (but not limited to) pose the greatest threats to the South African economy in the short to medium term:

- a. Growing unemployment and ever-rising costs of living (e.g. rates and taxes, food prices, travelling costs, etc).
- b. Deteriorating governance – especially at local governance levels where the real and key service delivery happens.
- c. Poor service delivery, which often triggers violent service delivery protests, and then leads to the destroying of expensive infrastructure desirable for economic activities.
- d. Ever-shrinking tax revenue, mismanagement of public finances, and deteriorating corporate governance in major state own entities (SOEs).
- e. Widespread allegations and real cases of corruption
- f. Shrinking private sector investment in the economy. A so-called “domestic private sector investment strike” might be true. Some research is needed in this area.
- g. Lack of investment in human capital development – particularly in 4IR related skills areas.
- h. Policy uncertainty and regular (short intervals) changes in policies. Investors need some certainties and stability as far as return on investment (ROI) is concerned.
- i. On-going scarce power supply. Electricity supply is the lifeblood of any economy.
- j. Lack of urgency in the implementation of developmental programmes even though they were praised, generated widespread excitement, acceptance, and admiration when they were announced as official policy documents.

WHAT DO YOU THINK COULD BE THE OPTIONS FOR PLAYING SAFE IN THE PROMOTIONS AND ATTRACTION SPACE?

I don't think it should be about playing safe or unsafe. It should rather be about precision, patience and strategic in approach. Investment promotion and attraction work is dynamic and a “one-size-fits-all” kind of approach will certainly not work. This why it is important to always be prepared to be a student in this space and always go back to the basics. Otherwise, your knowledge, experience, and approach might be deemed outdated or even irrelevant.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC REFORMS ON FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS (FDI)?

The positive impact results normally end and an ultimate goal of a programme, if one views impact from a theory of change perspective, will be that the foreign direct investment is an old economic growth and development concept, and the empirical literature about its impact has been mixed and controversial at times. Nonetheless, if conducive policies are in place (like in South Africa), implementation plans are well-designed and executed competently, FDI is likely to be true economic growth and development concept in any country. East Asian countries are good case studies to learn from the recent past.

WHAT COULD BE YOUR ADVICE TO THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE (SEZ) THAT WANTS TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT STRIDES AND PLAY ALONG THE CURRENT TIDES OF ECONOMIC UNPREDICTABILITY?

SEZ programme is still relevant as an economic growth and development instrument among many. However, the major problem with SEZs in Africa is that they are not realistically special. For instance, rules of the game applicable to the wider economy are still applicable inside the Zones. This is what separates SEZs that are based in Africa from those based in other continents – especially East Asian countries where the model of SEZ has been credited to have transformed economies in those countries. Therefore, my advice would be:

Firstly, let the SEZ model be really SPECIAL.

Secondly, be prepared to learn from countries where SEZ model has performed well e.g. East Asian countries.

Lastly, implement policies and programmes with a sense of urgency with SEZ model-specific monitoring, evaluation, and reporting systems.

In closing, this is the next discussion that South Africa needs to have if the SEZ model has to lead to rapid industrialization, growth and, development as desirable.

TOP 6 REASONS TO INVEST IN RBIDZ

PORT OF RICHARDS BAY

- Port of Richards Bay is one of the world's leading bulk ports and deep seaport.
- RBIDZ's proximity of the port (2,5km) allows cost-effective transportation of bulk goods via road, rail and overhead conveyor systems
- Exports over 30 varied commodities to a host of locations around the world

CONNECTIVITY

- Multi access road and rail systems close to major routes within South Africa and the rest of Africa (158km to Durban and 487km to Johannesburg).
- RBIDZ is approximately 380km away from Maputo, Mozambique through the newly built Maputo-Katembe Bridge (Gateway to Southern Africa).
- A dedicated rail service to and from the coal fields in Mpumalanga and Gauteng and rail to Durban, Swaziland and Mpumalanga.
- RBIDZ has direct connection to the Lilly Pipeline (operated by Sasol) and direct access to existing distribution channels.

ONE-STOP-SHOP

- A key value-adding service that reduces the red-tape and turnaround times of investor and business queries.
- OSS assists in the facilitation and application of visa, work permits and other migration processes and
- Application of SEZ incentives such as duty-free on imports for production-related raw materials including machinery and assets used in production to export the finished products, VAT exemptions under specific conditions for supplies procured in South Africa, 15% corporate tax and 12i tax allowance)

WEALTH OF MINERALS AND SUPPORTING INDUSTRIES

- Richards Bay is underpinned by a wealth of natural and mineral resources as such aluminium, titanium slag, iron ore, chrome ore, ferrochrome, zirconium, manganese ore, pig iron, and tec.
- Richards Bay has the characteristics of a highly industrialised urban complex with companies, amongst others;
 - The largest aluminium smelter in the Southern Hemisphere (South32), two heavy sand mines (Tronox and RBM), one of the leading coal terminals in the world (RBCT) and sulphuric Acid Company (Foskor).

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

- Industrial land pockets are serviced with bulk infrastructures such as tarred roads, utility networks and high-security fencing. Site services include surveillance and security and maintenance on a 24-hour basis
- Ideal choice for investors seeking a cost-effective, low entry cost, long term leases of fully serviced and level sites for domestic and export markets.
- Dedicated in-house Customs Controlled Area (CCA) that supports services to expedite forwarding and clearing.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

- Strong working relations with the City of uMhlatuze, Transnet, Development Agencies (KZN Growth Fund, IDC, DBSA, Ithala), the dti, Trade and Investment KwaZulu-Natal (TIKZN) and EDTEA (KZN Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs).
- Collaboration with the dti on grant support through the Black Industrialist Scheme (BIS), capital towards bulk infrastructure and financial support for investor related infrastructure (SEZ Fund).

Local University evolving to meet Industry Competitive Skills Demands



UNIVERSITY OF
ZULULAND

The University of Zululand is responding to the vast needs of a technological world that require well-skilled and trained engineers to bring ideas into reality.

As the local higher institution of learning it is critical that the skills offered align with the demands of the industries and the world at large. The university situated in northern KwaZulu-Natal, in Richards Bay is primed to offer solutions in a world that is evolving towards the 4th Industrial Revolution.

The University has been endorsed by the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) and also recently accredited by the Council of Higher Education (CHE) and registered with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) to offer four-year engineering degrees in 2021, being;

- Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering
- Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering

Applying the principles of mathematics and science, engineers are able to develop solutions to the world's biggest technical issues.

It is an unquestionable fact that investment in education is the premise of progress in every society, and as such paying attention to the agility of the competitive prerequisites is imperative for any institution.

Our role as the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone Company (RBIDZ) is to encourage international competitiveness through world-class infrastructure, attract local and foreign direct investments; attract advanced foreign production and technology methods in order to gain experience in global manufacturing and production networks and develop linkages between domestic and zone-based industries.

Our strategy is geared towards providing a significant contribution to the country's economic growth through the creation of employment opportunities, upgrading of skills, technology transfer, deepening economic empowerment of historically disadvantaged individuals, and broadening of South Africa's basket of export products.

With the highpoints of our mandate, we are therefore attentive that the same cannot be fulfilled in isolation, however, the role of our 'local' higher learning institutions play a pivotal role in ensuring the competitiveness required by the targeted economies as well as the compelling need for advanced skills alignment suitable for the fulfilment of our mandate.

As the RBIDZ we are elated that the University of Zululand is now offering programmes that respond directly to the needs geared towards the future as well as the progress of the society at large. The institutions of higher learning are regarded as key drivers towards contributing to the advancement and development of our societies, and this requires dynamism in the learning strategies that are aligned

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As the RBIDZ we are elated that the University of Zululand is now offering programmes that respond directly to the needs geared towards the future as well as the progress of the society at large.”

with the global shift in skills demands. The world over has been disrupted by the industrial revolution and as such our societies should be consciously equipped with skills of their agile era.

The perspective taken by the University in positioning itself accordingly is applauded and this is testimony that the role of the institutions is huge critically in leveraging and repositioning our universities to optimise our role in reconstructing South Africa's future and the associated development and employment landscape. There is a huge relationship between education and economic development, the basis of closing the gap is through aligned education. Therefore, there is an emergent need for drastic reconsideration of the curriculum within higher learning institutions to equip societies with a platform to comprehend the technological details relevant to the economy and environment.

The RBIDZ being a government institution mandated to create employment opportunities, also have a huge undertaking upon us in ensuring that the communities of the region benefit in the development brought in by various projects, however, we also have a responsibility of ensuring that the required skills are available since that is a driving factor for investors choosing a destination for their investments.

We need an employable workforce that complements the demands of the investors, and we look up to the institutions of higher learning to be proactive in positioning themselves in several sought-after fields. The launch of the University's Engineering Programme is one of those, and the overall objective is to bring social justice forward engaging with relevant stakeholders being the learning institutions, industries, markets, and the society at large.

Local Municipality Steering the Ship Back to Direction after COVID-19 Storms

.... Engaging Critical Stakeholders to Strengthen the Investor Confidence Strategy

Global economies were severely hit and struggle to make ends meet amid the novel Coronavirus pandemic. The City of uMhlathuze is not immune to these economic woes especially because it is a port and an industrial city with a plethora of global networks in the economic value chain.

Imports and Exports in the Port of Richards Bay, the main coal exporter in the world, were ground to a halt for months during the hard-core lockdowns from March 2020 until towards the end of the year, thus putting the City's major economic drivers to stop operations.

Major projects earmarked for the City of uMhlathuze, mainly Richards Bay pioneered by the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone (RBIDZ) immensely took a knock and delayed.

The City and all its economic cluster partners and stakeholders have resumed operations in full force working hard to resuscitate all programmes and projects that were on hold.

The key focus for the City is on unlocking all projects that will drive economic growth, create employment and supplementary sources of income to all who lost jobs, and recovery plans for businesses that were adversely impacted by the destructions of the global pandemic.

The City has engaged with all critical stakeholders to analyse the impact of the pandemic in their operations and to ascertain their plans to reboot their business activities.

Municipal Manager, Mr. Lulamile Mapholoba is driving the process to critically analyse the severity of the pandemic, how it affected the City operations in relation to how the City does business with critical stakeholders and all community members in order to develop mitigation plans to create a conducive environment to trade normally.

'Industries are highly critical to the economic growth in the City of uMhlathuze and largest employers with our community members benefitting.'

"We have met with the CEO and Senior Management team of Foskor, Transnet Richards Bay, and had engagements with the Richards Bay Minerals. We have standing meetings with our tripartite partners Transnet, Richards Bay IDZ, and the City of uMhlathuze to implement all strategic agreements we are bound to. The synergy we enjoy has provided full confidence that we are on the right path towards picking up all the pieces we have lost forging ahead with our plans as well as the revival of various activities. Ours as the City is to provide basic services to the community first, then service our partners, stakeholders and mainly industries with effective basic services such as water,



City of uMhlathuze Mayor - Cllr Mduzi Mhlongo

electricity, refuse removal and create a conducive environment for the private sector and public entities to flourish," Mapholoba said.

One of the priorities of the City of uMhlathuze is ensuring water and power security. These are enablers for industries to operate and make a profit thus boosting the economy of the region.

Richards Bay Airport

The City will also resume direct flights from Johannesburg to Richards Bay after it has been idling for months. This will ease the burden of flying to other cities to connect as well as drive long distances to our City. The Business sector will reduce travelling hours and be more effective on how they conduct businesses having saved resources and time. Now that most tourist attractions in our beautiful and sizzle city have reopened, global and local tourist can fly direct and enjoy the tranquillity in our shores.

Economic Recovery Plan

Local Economic Development (LED) has been seriously hampered and requires closer attention from the City. Strategies aimed at resuscitating all economic streams and beneficiation of local SMMEs are at an advanced stage. The City is cognisance of the reality that SMMEs can create the much-needed jobs and self-sustainability for several unemployed people especially youth and women.

The key strategic focus of the City is to inject more resources towards supporting small businesses mainly in townships, formalise more street vendors by creating a healthy environment without compromising aesthetics of the city, create more Agri-processing links for farmers, especially chicken, goat, fruits, and vegetables, thus taking advantage of the proximity of the harbour and working with public entities to facilitate markets.

Focus on Domestic & Global Tourism

Facts remain that the global tourism sector will take time to reach the peak it was at before the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic. The sector was the hardest hit with international flights grounded, inter-provincial and at some point, inter-district travel halted. For some months, the sector came to a standstill resulting in thousands of people retrenched due to businesses shedding jobs and reducing numbers due to low demand in production as well as operational activities.

The City has prioritised programmes to revive its glorious position in the tourism rankings by strengthening the local tourism structure - uMhlathuze Community Tourism to work with all local tourism products and assist where possible. As a result of the destructions of the pandemic, some establishments almost totally collapsed and the City is working with different entities, Provincial and National Departments to salvage and save what is left of the tourism sector. This is one of the largest local employers in the world and requires extra support.

One of the key drivers to local economic development through tourism is the eventing industry, which remains locked down. It also includes physically visiting the stadiums for sports purposes. The City also has plans to use events and sports to bolster tourism and the economy of the City, once the pandemic subsides and the national government unlocks these industries.

Strategic Partnerships

City of uMhlathuze Mayor, Cllr Mduduzi Mhlongo, says that support is required from all angles. "The City cannot do this alone but is working hard to forge practical partnerships with various economic drivers including public entities, government departments, local industries, etc. We also need to work with communities and traditional authorities to unlock all economic opportunities. Ours is to ensure that we create an environment that is conducive for trade, work, and local beneficiation. We are continuing to lure international investors to make the City of uMhlathuze their next investment destination. With the enormous work done by the RBIDZ, the future is bright," Mhlongo said.

For More Information on the City of uMhlathuze:

Switchboard: T- 035-907 5000

Call Centre: 0800 222 827

Website: www.umhlathuze.gov.za

Facebook: Umhlathuze Municipality

Twitter: @UmhlathuzeM

RBIDZ ENCOURAGING FEMALE PARTICIPATION THROUGH WOMEN IN TRADE AND INVESTMENT WEBINAR

Not so long ago the RBIDZ hosted its first Trade and Investment webinar dialogue with women across the business fraternity to devise strategies that will encourage greater female participation in the field of domestic and foreign direct investments.

The webinar aimed to provide a platform to raise public awareness on the specific issues faced by women within the Trade and Investment sector. "For the province of KwaZulu-Natal to have lively SEZs and competitive regional economies, it is essential to engage in interchanges among key stakeholders such as this webinar session. The SEZ programme was specifically developed to promote the creation of a regionally expanded industrial economy by establishing industrial parks in under-developed regions of our country.

It is therefore commanding that from time to time we bring together representatives from all spheres of business to share perspectives and expertise on investment strategies, domestic and foreign direct investments critically during this time of battered economy demanding re-positioning of recovery strategies.

Intense strides still need to be penetrated to improve the status of women in the country since women in the business fraternity still face several challenges including gender inequality and other isolations motivated by historic marginalisation. Notably, female emancipation in both the economic and social sphere have seen increased efforts to fight women empowerment. Women own close to 10 million of the world's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Whilst the figure is still relatively low, a Small Business Trends survey indicates a constant increase in the number of female-owned enterprises.

Sharing experiences and global perspectives the panel included local and international experts amongst others; Ms. Zoe Harries a Senior FDI & SEZ Advisor, Managing Director for Impact Zones, Advisory Board Director at FEMOZA, and Lecturer at Nyenrode Business University, Ms. Nelly Shezi an astute and diverse female business professional, Dr. Nana Vezi-Magigaba a Senior Lecturer and Head of Department for Business Management - University of Zululand representing academia, Ms. Donnee Kruger - a Manager for Trade and Investment KZN (Gauteng Province), they are also responsible for recovery plans during this COVID-19 and others who shared perspectives and expertise on business strategies tapping into their journey of getting into business as females.

The active participation from attendees was a testimony of the knowledge gap that industries have to close for the achievement of inclusivity in wealth generation, especially institutions like the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone that are expected to make a difference to the lives of the people and change the economic landscape of the province.

Our mandate as the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone is crystal clear supported by our well-founded determination, and as such we will not tire until we have made our mark to the majority.

RBIDZ Secures Top Spot on Matters of Governance

It is pleasing to note that in the recent tabling of audit findings before the provincial legislature, Richards Bay IDZ was applauded for attaining unqualified reports with no findings for the 2019/20 financial year, an achievement that the RBIDZ prides itself on as a company as it upholds sound financial management and good governance.

The prestige that RBIDZ accomplished did not come easy compared to other government departments critically, the shareholder and sister entities. It was reported that KwaZulu-Natal government departments incurred irregular expenditure of more than R17 billion collectively during the 2019/20 financial year, according to reports on the auditor-general's findings. The outcomes of the AG's audit of the financial statements of the provincial Departments of Transport (DOT), Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), the Office of the Premier, and the Department of Sport and Recreation were among those presented to the standing committee on public accounts during the Public Finance Management Act 2019 (PFMA).

Some departments, reported an improvement and an unqualified audit report, while others, such as the DOT and EDTEA, were plagued with notes about fruitless, wasteful, and irregular expenditure.

The department did not record the full extent of irregular expenditure in the notes to the financial statements, as required by section 40(3)(b)(i) of the PFMA.

This was due to expenditure incurred in contravention of the supply chain management legislation not being detected, recorded, and appropriately disclosed in the financial statements.

The cause of the problem was management's slow response to address the audit findings regarding its supply chain management processes that were raised the previous year.

The financial statements submitted for auditing were not prepared in accordance with the prescribed financial reporting framework and supported by full and proper records, as required by section 40(1)(a) and (b) of the PFMA.

The EDTEA incurred R55.8 million in irregular expenditure, up from R13m in 2018/19, which was related to the expenditure that occurred in the prior years due to proper procurement processes not being followed. Fruitless and wasteful expenditure to the amount of R839 000 was also reported.

The Ithala Development Finance Corporation, Ithala SOC Limited, KZN Sharks Board, and the

KZN Tourism Authority received unqualified audit reports with findings, while Dube Trade Port Corporation; KZN Growth Fund, and the KZN Liquor Authority received unqualified reports. Trade and Investment KZN and Richards Bay IDZ received unqualified reports with no findings.

Irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditure amounted to R22.4m and R2m respectively at Ithala SOC Ltd; R9.7m and R1.6m at the KZN Sharks Board; R1.7m and R117 000 at the KZN Film Commission; and R6.7m and R213 000 at the KZN Nature Conservation Board. The KZN Tourism Authority recorded R25.8m in irregular expenditure.

The reasons for the irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, ranged from goods being procured without quotations to non-compliance with supply chain management procedures, litigation costs, and a salary being paid into an incorrect account.

Out of all the EDTEA entities only 2 attained unqualified reports with no findings, and RBIDZ was one of them. This proves that the company is doing something right and commends its staff members for contributing towards this achievement, critically the Finance Business Unit for always guiding the processes and ensuring that all protocols and guidelines are complied with.

RBIDZ SCORES AND CELEBRATES ISO 14001: 2015 AND ISO 9001: 2015 RE-CERTIFICATION

The RBIDZ is celebrating re-certification to ISO 14001: 2015 and ISO 9001: 2015 standard following a successful external surveillance audit by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) on the integrated Safety, Health, Quality, and Environmental Management System (SHEQMS).

The SHEQMS covers the operations of the RBIDZ and it aims to entrench sustainability across the company. It offers a systematic way of managing our environmental objectives and targets, reducing the undesirable impacts, and ensuring compliance against environmental legislation.

The company's re-certification to ISO standards means that the assurance and compliance to the standards have been evaluated and approved by an independent body and provide reassurance to our stakeholders that the Richards Bay IDZ conforms to set environmental standards. Retaining the certificates, which the company obtained in 2016, further demonstrates the commitment to sustainability; which is one of the core values of the company.

'As the company that is committed to delivering a safe, efficient and conducive environment, the RBIDZ is also conscious of the impact on the environment. Being re-certified to ISO 14001:2015 and

ISO 9001: 2015 demonstrates our ability to continually improve our environmental performance, reduce risk posing and hazardous incidents'. To ensure that our team members throughout the company are fully engaged, we have ensured that our environmentally responsible principles are aligned with our operating practices and can therefore be managed effectively within our processes, emphasised SHEQ Manager, Percy Langa.

The re-certification comes at a time when the RBIDZ construction activities for investment projects are in full swing on the ground demanding optimised safety adherence and environmental responsibility.

The Richards Bay IDZ prides itself with the re-certification to ISO 14001:2015 and ISO 9001: 2015 which endorse that the company's Environmental Management System meet the requirements of these standards. These include the enhancement of the company's environmental performance, fulfilment of compliance obligations, and achievement of environmental objectives.

The standards specify the need for the company's continual, robust, and wide-ranging environmental management as well as strategic alignment to the business direction.



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The KwaZulu-Natal One-Stop-Shop is an integrated central hub designed to assist investors looking to do business in the province and local exporters seeking to expand their reach into new markets, by providing all-in-one specialised services with the support of national government departments to ease red tape. If you are ready to invest, we at the investSA KwaZulu-Natal One-Stop-Shop will guide you, every step of the way.

The following entities operate from the investSA KwaZulu-Natal One-Stop-Shop located at Trade & Investment KwaZulu-Natal's premises.



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TRADE & INVESTMENT KWAZULU-NATAL

OUR MANDATE

Trade & Investment KwaZulu-Natal is a South African trade and inward investment promotion agency, established as a Schedule 3C Public Entity, to promote the province of KwaZulu-Natal as an investment destination and to facilitate trade by assisting local companies to access international markets. The organisation identifies, develops, and packages investment opportunities in KwaZulu-Natal; provides a professional service to all clientele; brands and markets KwaZulu-Natal as an investment destination; retains and expands trade and exports activities, and links opportunities to the developmental needs of the KwaZulu-Natal community.

Trade & Investment KwaZulu-Natal aims to deliver effective services and support to its clients and stakeholders through job creation, spatial development, sector development, promotion of economic transformation, and rural development. This will be achieved through attracting, developing and retaining high performing employees who have the skills and competencies required to manage key internal business processes, including the marketing of Trade & Investment KwaZulu-Natal as an investment promotion agency; enhancing the research and knowledge capabilities of Trade & Investment KwaZulu-Natal and making use of technology as an enabler for Trade & Investment KwaZulu-Natal's business; ensuring compliance with corporate governance and financial reporting standards; and advocating for a conducive business environment in KwaZulu-Natal and marketing the province as a premier business destination.

SERVICES OFFERED BY TIKZN

- Project Appraisal
- Black Economic Empowerment Financial Assistance
- Technical Financial Assistance Fund (TAF)
- Site Identification and Evaluation
- Sector Economic Data Provisioning
- Backward and Forward Linkages
- Business Retention and Expansion
- Business Permits (under the auspices of the Department of Trade Industry and Competition)
- Agreement Brokering
- Joint Venture Facilitation
- Capital-Raising
- General Business Advice
- After-Care Services
- Incentives
- Inward and Outward Investment Promotion missions
- Project Profiling
- Policy Advocacy
- Project Packaging
- Sector Economic Data Provisioning
- Export Training
- Export Registration
- Lead Generation
- Exporter Mentorship Support (SIPPO, PUM, SES GERMANY)
- Export Market Development
- Export Advisory Services
- Market Intelligence and Analysis
- Export Incentives
- Trade Events
- Intra-Trade Linkages



Trade and Investment KwaZulu-Natal Offices

INVESTSA KWAZULU-NATAL ONE-STOP-SHOP

The InvestSA KwaZulu-Natal One-Stop-Shop is a collaboration between investment South Africa (the dtic), KwaZulu-Natal Government, and Trade & Investment KwaZulu-Natal.

InvestSA is a division of the South African Department of Trade Industry and Competition, providing a One-Stop-Shop service to investors. It provides investment promotion, facilitation, and aftercare, which is geared to fast-tracking projects and providing investors with services to fast-track projects and reduce government red-tape when establishing a business.

INVESTSA OBJECTIVES

InvestSA facilitates an increase in the quality and quantity of foreign and domestic direct investment by providing an investment recruitment, problem-solving and information service to retain and expand investment in South Africa and into Africa. InvestSA actively markets, promotes, and facilitates investment in key high-yielding growth sectors of the South African economy.

INVESTSA ONE-STOP-SHOP SERVICES

SPECIALIST INVESTMENT ADVISORY AND FACILITATION SERVICES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- Economic environment
- Regulatory environment
- Legal environment and compliance
- Industrial development and financial support
- Investment guides
- Investor surveys
- Retention and expansion services

PERMITS

- Business permits and Visa Facilitation Service
- Facilitation with UIF and Compensation Fund
- Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA)
- Facilitation with SARS and Customs
- Facilitation with Mining Permits
- Facilitation with NRCS, ITAC, and SABS

FAST FACTS ABOUT ONE-STOP-SHOPS FOR INVESTORS

In the endeavours to make ease of doing business in SA, the One-Stop-Shop initiative was launched in 2018, and a number of OSSs have been rolled out in various provinces with KwaZulu-Natal being one of them. The One-Stop-Shops are geared towards providing investors with services under one roof to fast-track projects and reduce the door-to-door run around when establishing a business in the country.

In KwaZulu-Natal the main One-Stop-Shop can be found in Durban, Trade and Investment KZN (TIKZN) one of the RBIDZ's sister companies under the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA). Investors intending to access the OSS can make an appointment to meet a government representative and be guided face to face or telephonically through the processes.

Currently, the RBIDZ is finalising its in-house Satellite One-Stop-Shop to ensure that the investors also get close by assistance required whenever they engage with the RBIDZ directly.

To make ease of doing business, One-Stop-Shops houses government entities such



RBIDZ Satellite One-Stop-Shop underway for activation

as the South African Revenue Service (SARS), Home Affairs, Environmental Affairs, Department of Labour, and others.

The One-Stop-Shops simply administers procedures for issuing business approvals, permits, and licences and thereby removing

holdups that investors may face in establishing businesses with speed.

OSSs in the country can be utilised by all investors to access services regardless of where they will be locating.

INVESTMENT MADE EASY

LOOK NO FURTHER – RBIDZ OFFERS:

- Fully serviced industrial land on long-term lease
- Easy access to deep-water Port of Richards Bay
- Business facilitation (for all required approvals)
- Customised and valuable incentives

Let's Do Business Together

web: www.rbidz.co.za or email: invest@rbidz.co.za



RBIDZ - Prioritising Job Creation and Inclusive Economic Participation

Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone Company SOC Ltd
 Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone

@RichardsBayIDZ
 @Richardsbay_idz



RBIDZ Driving Corporate Social Investment Initiatives

Agri-business cooperatives ELATION at the delivery of much-needed Tractors by RBIDZ



Site work for the development of an Irrigation System at Mkhayideni, as part of the RBIDZ CSI Agri-business support programme



Qalekhaya Primary Co-operative members during the tractor delivery

A VISION to uplift the communities and intent to relate to long-term sustainable projects by the RBIDZ has paid off for various cooperatives in various parts of the region.

A couple of years ago, the RBIDZ developed the Corporate Social Investment Strategy which was aimed at driving sustainable and impactful community development projects as opposed to handouts that would be exhausted the next day.

In the quest of implementing the strategy the RBIDZ called for interested agribusinesses to submit proposals for assistance sought from the RBIDZ and that is how six (6) agribusinesses were identified as those that the RBIDZ would assist with various agricultural items amongst them being boreholes, fencing of the produce farms, chemicals, and tractors.

Recently the RBIDZ delivered tractors to three (3) agribusiness cooperatives valued at just less than R2million. The said cooperatives were overjoyed as their days of borrowing the tractors from the neighbouring farmers were over. They mentioned that a daunting exercise of borrowing and waiting for the roving tractors was over as they now had their own resources that would be used optimally.

One cooperative even mentioned that they would pay over three thousand rands at a time, to a neighbouring farmer just for a one-day use of the tractor and that added on their financial burdens given the fact that they are not making huge profits from their produce.

The various cooperatives are producing various seasonal vegetables like beans, mealies, spinach, cabbage, green peppers, butternuts, and many others. One cooperative based in Eshowe has advanced a lot compared with the time when they submitted a proposal for assistance at the RBIDZ 2 years ago. The cooperative is now selling its produce to the local supermarket, neighbouring schools as well as the Durban market. This milestone ties back with the cooperative's

initial intent and vision of being a leading cooperative whose vision is to commercialise its produce and create much-needed employment opportunities in the community as well as develop and skill community members to be self-sufficient using the available land, hands, and available assistance offered to small scale farmers by government departments and other institutions.

Another cooperative based in KwaHlabisa that received the tractor also mentioned that their beans and mealies produce also provide communities with food security and is also sold to neighbours, schools, and local markets at a small scale, however now that they have a tractor they will be able to plough various plots of land that they have in order to sell produce at a bigger scale since their intent is also to grow from being a small cooperative into known farmers that would create employment opportunities to their communities whilst also sustaining their agribusinesses.

The donation of tractors saw all members of the cooperatives being inspired and encouraged to work even harder in fulfilling their long outstanding vision. Jubilation was displayed by all through dancing and singing.

Moreover, the RBIDZ is currently busy with the installation of boreholes and irrigation systems for the other cooperatives amongst the six (6) that were identified who had raised challenges of water in their areas. The installation of water systems will ensure that these cooperatives are able to source water that will assist in their farms critically during drought seasons. One of the cooperatives that was in dire need of water is based in Mzingazi, Richards Bay, and is growing Macadamia trees for the future selling of Macadamia nuts.

Going forward, the RBIDZ will work closely with the cooperatives to offer support, identify gaps that may call for further assistance, monitor progress of the cooperatives to ensure that they are delivering towards the desired goals and further that the donated items are utilised for the purposes that they were donated for.

SECTORAL
CONTRIBUTION TO
SOUTH AFRICAN GDP

2,7 %

SECTORAL
CONTRIBUTION TO
KWAZULU-NATAL GDP

5,4 %

KWAZULU-NATAL - GROWING THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY

When you buy local, you are helping unlock the agricultural potential of the province & encouraging trade with small businesses like the fresh produce corner shop owned by uCynthia - a young woman who's growing her business and boosting local economy.

You are attracting investment to KwaZulu-Natal & helping people like Cynthia feed and educate her family while feeding her community, you're helping create jobs and creating hope for small business owners who take pride in sourcing and supplying local goods.

WHEN YOU BUY LOCAL,
YOU GROW LOCAL

RBIDZ STUDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME BEARS FRUITS AS LOCAL STUDENTS COMPLETE THEIR UNIVERSITY STUDIES



Fakazi Mthembu -
Bachelor of Applied Geology



Xolile Mbambo -
Diploma in Accounting



Thabani Mkhwanazi - Bachelor of
Built Environment in Geomatics

“

To date, the RBIDZ prides itself that three (3) beneficiary students have completed their studies attaining Bachelor of Science Applied Geology, Bachelor of the Built-Environment in Geomatics, and Diploma in Accounting respectively whilst the others have registered for their final year of studies in 2021.”

Three years ago the RBIDZ introduced a Study Assistance Programme that aimed to assist disadvantaged matriculants in pursuing their studies at different tertiary institutions. The assistances' objective was to take away the financial burden from the parents and students

from disadvantaged backgrounds and act as a bursary that provides for full academic tuition, accommodation, and meals.

The RBIDZ adopted seven (7) local matriculants for enrolment in 2018 for studying in different tertiary institutions and afforded them financial support to further their studies. The recipients were expected to successfully perform on their academic studies failing which the study assistance would be terminated.

To date, the RBIDZ prides itself that three (3) beneficiary students have completed their studies attaining Bachelor of Science Applied Geology, Bachelor of the Built-Environment in Geomatics, and Diploma in Accounting respectively whilst the others have registered for their final year of studies in 2021. For the students that have completed their Junior degrees, this is a great start towards a bright future and RBIDZ is proud to have been part of these learners' study journey as well as contributing meaningfully to the communities. The RBIDZ intends to continue assisting other local students with funding to pursue their tertiary education focusing on scarce skills, market-related demands as well as investors' requirements to ensure competitiveness and employability in the future.

CONTINUANCE OF COMMUNITY WELLNESS WITH SOCIAL PARTNER – LIFELINE NPO



Lifeline Zululand with social partners, including RBIDZ during the GBV Imbizo in Manguzi

“

As the RBIDZ we acknowledge that the thriving community is driven by the impactful and meaningful collaborations hence the continued partnership and assistance through our Corporate Social Investment programme which ensures that we meet some of the needs of the NPO through various donations.”

The growing epidemic of gender based violence is a cause for much concern. Victims of domestic violence are amongst the most vulnerable in our societies and this calls for all social partners to fight against this injustice and assist the victims who are mostly women and children. The RBIDZ takes priority for community wellness, understanding that the community it operates in, is part of who the company is. Over the

past years, the RBIDZ has partnered with various local Non-Profit Organisations, including, Lifeline Zululand particularly as a pillar that supports and looks after displaced victims of domestic violence. The support and interventions offered by the NPO amongst others include counselling, shelter, restoring of dignity and raising awareness.

As the RBIDZ we acknowledge that the thriving community is driven by the impactful and meaningful collaborations hence the continued partnership and assistance through our Corporate Social Investment programme which ensures that we meet some of the needs of the NPO through various donations. Community wellness is at the heart of the RBIDZ as it supports initiatives and good causes such as the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence and Community campaigns intended to drive awareness on GBV and other dominating social ills. Through the Corporate Social Investment programme, the RBIDZ aims to reach out to communities and contribute towards the well-being of the communities in line with good corporate citizenship.

Working with key social work programme managers like Ms. Nompilo Maphumulo at Life Line has seen the work of the Lifeline spreading to rural areas across Zululand region where there is still limited understanding on issues of domestic abuse and protocols to follow in reporting such and seeking assistance.

Defying the Odds to Restore the Victimised with Nompilo from Lifeline Zululand

Regardless of the stance that the government has undertaken in a course for human rights regain, to date, societal issues remain part of the problems that influence many citizens in South Africa, depriving them of their right to freedom and security.

The common concerns include crime, rape, child abuse, and most predominating, gender-based violence. It is often the consequence of factors extending beyond an individual's control that leads to these offenses, which are perceived as a solution to a situation or make one feel better from their current state.

Nompilo Maphumulo, who was bred in the deep rurals of Gingindlovu at Mabhokweni, is a mother, wife, and seasoned Junior Social Work Manager who describes herself as a community servant, entrusted with the role to empower all kinds of people to solve and to cope with an array of different problems. "I grew up in an environment where many societal issues were prevalent, the situation prompted me to contemplate on how I can contribute to remedy the situation around me and reach out to those that are vulnerable. Rape cases back then were a norm that was confined within families to protect the immediate perpetrator.

My deepest concern was those that have been victimised and left to cope with their ordeals alone, where do they find restoration? I enrolled for a Bachelor of Social Work through UNISA and since then I prepared myself to serve and use my capacities for empathy, self-care, and patience to be of assistance".

Nompilo's breakthrough was getting an opportunity to be part of the Lifeline Zululand family, a Non-Profit service organisation that responds to emotional trauma and individual crises, with a view to providing emotional support. The NPO provides a wide range of services focused on supporting and developing individuals, enabling them to cope more effectively with the emotional effects of trauma, covering the whole Zululand Region.

"I am a strong advocate for freedom and I believe that no individual should be subjected to any form of abuse, regardless of age and gender. GBV has impacted many communities critically and it is disturbing to note that a significant increase in domestic violence cases reported were related to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Many individuals have experienced the burden of the pandemic which has caused financial strain, and impacted on their employments, businesses, and possessions".

She reported that in 2020, during the time of the hard lockdown alone, more than 20 579 cases were reported telephonically and 30 abused women were accommodated in White Door Shelters both in Belgrade and KwaMsane. The victims are now being trained under Lifeline's Economic Empowerment programmes to empower them to be financially independent as most GBV cases occur through an intimate partner who feels superior because he provides for his female counterpart.



Lifeline Zululand: Junior Social Work Manager - Nompilo Maphumulo

“

We work tirelessly, engaging communities through campaigns and pleading them to work with us to report such crimes and being instrumental in breaking the chain for violence.”

“We work tirelessly, engaging communities through campaigns and pleading them to work with us to report such crimes and being instrumental in breaking the chain for violence”.

Lifeline Zululand services are available through Victim Friendly Rooms at Police Stations within the King Cetshwayo, uMkhanyakude, Zululand Districts nationwide, and White Door shelters, which accommodate abused women and children.

“Our doors are always open and our professionals are always willing to listen and provide emotional support, alternatively, there is an option to use the GBV toll-free number 0800 150 150, where there is always a counsellor on standby to intervene”.

LOVEMORE BROS' RICHARDS BAY WAREHOUSE LOCATED IN RBIDZ OFFERS BONDED STORAGE FACILITY

Lovemore Bros. has rapidly established itself as a market leader in Southern Africa in the field of rigging and machine moving services. The logistics company distinguished itself as a fully-integrated service, geared to improve reliability and efficiency for machinery logistics needs, operating a fleet of 32 heavy duty rigs, numerous internationally recognised specialised equipment and more than 6 000 sqm of custom-designed warehousing for goods storage.

The company's fleet and specialised equipment consists of crane trucks with hydraulic cranes, abnormal load rigs with extendable trailers, forklifts and numerous specialised hydraulic lifting gear including mobile gantries and it prides itself on high quality, substantial infrastructure, reliable equipment and a team of skilled personnel with many years' experience in the rigging, machine moving, warehousing and abnormal low-bed logistics industry.

Being one of the RBIDZ operational locators, the logistics company has further established a Bonded Storage Facility within its Richards Bay Warehouse in RBIDZ Phase 1A estate which is sited 500 metres from the eastern harbour entrance of the Port of Richards Bay, making it an ideal location for easy and fast accessibility to the harbour.

The facility will operate as a warehouse for the retention of imported goods pending duty levy payments from customers.

The Lovemore Bros bonded warehouse aims to provide the following benefits to clients:

- Safe and secure storage facility;
- Duty and VAT payments which can be deferred during storage up to 6 months;
- Electronic Bond Book Register held to ensure correct reporting to SARS;
- Electronic set of the documents kept for ease of access when required; and
- The SOS facility allowing for repacking of products while in storage.

For business services and information contact:

Nicoll Joubert – Lovemore Logistics Specialist

Richards Bay Offices: 035 007 0070

Cell: 060 582 3840

Email: nicoll@lovemore.co.za

www.lovemore.co.za



RICHARDS BAY WAREHOUSE IS NOW A BONDED STORAGE



RBIDZ Phase 1A located in close proximity to the Port of Richards Bay



RBIDZ

Special Economic Zone

Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone Company (SOC) Ltd

RBIDZ Office Complex, 4 Harbour Arterial, Alton, Richards Bay
Private Bag X1005, Richards Bay, 3900

Tel: 035 797 2600 ▪ **Email:** info@rbidz.co.za

www.rbidz.co.za



Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone



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Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone Company SOC Ltd



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GATEWAY TO
world
MARKETS