

THE ZONE NEWS



RBIDZ

Special Economic Zone

ISSUE 21

ISSUED: 2022/2023



GATEWAY TO WORLD MARKETS



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 on 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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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Not so long ago we were just at the race-track to start planning our 2022 year and how we intend to turn the tides around into realities amid all that has occurred in the last 2 years.



Stakeholder and Communications Manager: **Choice Sihya**

The year gave us new possibilities to do better and recuperate ensuring that we are still on the journey towards the articulation of our mandate. With all said we have realised the possibilities of the new dawn and we got to work like we never were in the helm of finding our footing at some point. A year of limitless possibilities saw us practically making the mark as the organisation through investment projects that have come to the fore seeing various opportunities being created significantly in the adverse of high unemployment in the province and the country as a whole.

Today we are pleased to witness various projects that have taken shape on the ground and others being completed; those are the Nyanza Light Metals' Product Testing and Development Centre that is currently operational and busy with product testing in preparation for the commercial plant that is to be constructed in the near future.

Wilmar Processing, an edible oils facility being a R1.5 billion investment has also shaped, pacing ahead towards targeted completion in 2023.

Collectively the construction of the two (2) key anchor projects in the two (2) estates of the RBIDZ have contributed impactfully towards job creation and will also be contributing over 2000 operational jobs once all their facilities are fully operational. Prostar Export Paints, a R141 million investment project to be located in Phase 1A estate also commenced with site preparations that will lead to construction.

This project is also one of its kind and specialising in the manufacturing of consistent high-quality decorative and industrial coatings that conforms to international standards. Completion of construction is targeted for the 2023/24 financial year. The key listed projects will not only stimulate the economy however they articulate the agenda of the day aimed at creation of jobs, value chain business opportunities, skills development and transfer as well as prioritisation of inclusivity, local labour and content for the benefit of various categories of people.

Indeed it is pleasing to note that the year 2022 has been a better year following the 2-year vacuum consequential to the global pandemic and other issues related to social instability and weakened economy. One can only hope for limitless possibilities and growth in all fronts that will see the socio-economic landscape changing for the better.

So Long..... Enjoy the Read!

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RBIDZ OFFICE COMPLEX, 4 HARBOUR ARTERIAL, RICHARDS BAY, 3900	PRIVATE BAG X1005	EDITOR IN CHIEF: MUZI SHANGE		 RBIDZ Special Economic Zone	 South Africa KWAZULU-NATAL Zulu Kingdom. <i>Exceptional</i>
	RICHARDS BAY, 3900	EDITOR: CHOICE SIHIYA choice.sihya@rbidz.co.za	CONTENT: CHOICE SIHIYA		
	TEL: +27 35 797 2600	CONTRIBUTORS: SINDISWA THUSI			
	EMAIL: INVEST@RBIDZ.CO.ZA (Investment enquiries)	BRAND AND MARKETING ENQUIRIES: ZODWA ZIKALALA zodwa.zikalala@rbidz.co.za			
	WWW.RBIDZ.CO.ZA				
<div><div> RBIDZ Special Economic Zone</div><div> RBIDZ Special Economic Zone</div><div> @Richardsbay_idz</div></div>					



RBIDZ
Special Economic Zone



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

The Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone Company (SOC) Ltd (RBIDZ) is a purpose-built and secure industrial estate on the north-eastern coast of KwaZulu-Natal, linked to the international deep-water port of Richards Bay. It is tailored to the manufacturing of goods and production of services to boost beneficiation, investment, economic growth and the development of skills and employment. The RBIDZ is deemed to be 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)
- 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;
- To provide world-class industrial infrastructure.

THE RBIDZ'S KEY FOCUS SECTORS



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

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)

Company SOC LTD (RBIDZ) Industry sector: Manufacturing

Year established: 2002

Year licensed to operate: 2009



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Responsibility has always been a strong, guiding value at the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone, with responsible management being an intrinsic component of the company's long-term sustainability and value creation strategy.



Chief Executive Officer: Thabane Zulu

We understand that as a company we play an important role in addressing economic and societal related challenges. Besides the various adversities we endeavour to build our company on a foundation of integrity and ethical conduct, with responsible management and investments being an intrinsic part of our commitment to sustainability. We continue to reinforce this commitment, which is fundamental to our business success, enabling us to mitigate risk, create long-term value and earn the confidence of our investors, business partners, shareholders, employees and the communities.

The achievements that the company continues to achieve are evidence of our commitment to good governance and not so long ago the RBIDZ attained the Clean Audit opinion, and this has been an achievement for the past three years.

In recognising the job well done, Board Chairperson, Dr. Sakhile Ngcobo congratulated the RBIDZ and management for such a profound achievement stating that it shows commitment towards ethical conduct and adherence to good governance. He further stated that the audit outcome is as a result of concerted efforts by the company in implementing proper internal controls to manage performance and financial information.

"Driven by the significant role of this Special Economic Zone, the commitment is embedded in our hearts that we deliver to our mandate prudently to maintain the integrity of the entity", emphasized Ngcobo.

'We are indeed pleased with the recognition and findings from the Auditor General and we extend our gratitude for the continued guidance and support'. Moreover, the 2021/22 financial year closed on a positive note for the RBIDZ when it achieved 82% in its overall performance, this achieved amid global and regional challenges that weakened stability in the entire province and the country as a whole.

Zooming into the investment pipeline, the company was able to drive various investments such that the board approved a whopping R29.8 billion investments in different sectors of the economy by end of 2021/22 financial year, which to date the company prides itself with various energy related projects that it hopes to bring to the Richards Bay area as interventions towards the energy challenges facing the country.

"In our achievements as the company we continue to value our employees and key partners as they thrive to elevate our existence and delivery to our mandate"

We also take seriously our relationships with various stakeholders and are very much aware that they will make the realisation of our mandate possible and enhance our Company to be steadfast in its operations.

Over the course of the year, we have come up with various initiatives aimed at strengthening our strategies aimed at operationalising investments and to date we can proudly point out to the operational Nyanza Product Testing and Development Centre which is valued at R210 million and has been able to create 286 construction jobs and 13 operational jobs to date.

We also pride ourselves with the progress attained by Wilmar who is still in the construction phase, however has contributed immensely on job creation with over 800 construction jobs created to date. Completion of Construction is targeted for the end of 2022/23 financial year. Moreover means to support our investors remain a priority to us as they are the corner stone of what we do and aim to achieve with regards to changing the economic landscape of our region and province as a whole. The drive and support displayed by our shareholder, newly appointed MEC for EDTEA, Siboniso Duma confirms the intents towards changing

the lives of our people through inclusivity, participation and transformation. In various platforms he is vocal about what he wants to see from the entities, and such strides should not leave the masses out but should integrate everyone and ensure that they also benefit through labour, wealth generation, local content and transformation. He has emphasised that as the leadership they would have failed the people of KwaZulu – Natal if the people are not part of the government's Agenda.

In all our efforts therefore, we are reinforcing our strategies and want to ensure that the results are visible and also inspire our investors and stakeholders; and this can only be realised when the mandate of the RBIDZ translates what it stands for and moreover inspires and gives confidence mainly to our investors.

"Our call to investors to recognise Richards Bay as the prime destination for investments still stands and is supported by our value proposition."

COMPANY OUTLOOK: CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER

Doing good is what all categories of staff aspire. As the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone we want to achieve more, and we want to see radical changes impacting our stakeholders in the most practical way we could ever imagine, therefore we are always driven by our mandate but most importantly we also want to excel in what we do.



Chief Operations Officer: Muzi Shange

We believe that we would not have done justice if we don't leave the legacy through the betterment of the people. To this end our role is being responsible and accountable for excellence performance.

The yester-year has proven that we can do it; this is evidenced by achieving 82% in our overall company performance, this means that the bar for the 2022/23 financial year is even higher.

Having put behind all the obstacles that hindered us in the past couple of years, we are ushering this era with so much zest and optimism of new possibilities. The company has embarked on implementing interventions that aim to unlock hindrances that may affect the company's performance. This has been done through intense strategic planning involving Senior leadership of the company as well as the Board Members giving strategic guidance on the journey ahead.

Significantly, the shareholder has also been much involved in giving direction on expectations from the perspective of driving the governments programme of action which in the main makes reference to service delivery, transformation, inclusivity and job creation. In the main the marching orders have been

clearly articulated since the MEC for EDTEA, Mr. Siboniso Duma took office in August 2022 and moreover during the commemoration of his 100 Days in office where he embarked on a series of roadshows with the aim of inspecting what the public entities have achieved thus far. In the main, Duma intended to find alignment to the programme of action as well as fast track interventions that hinder development and development of socio-economic landscape.

Similarly, the RBIDZ Board Members have made their needs clear with regards to performance and delivery on the focused targeted goals by the company since they are linked to service delivery and sustenance of the company. As the RBIDZ we acknowledge the recommendations and reiteration of our mandate and its bearings on the company's resilience and sustainability.

The recent strategic plans undertaken to pave the way forward will serve as the compass driving what the company works towards in terms of key performance indicators'; and through those strategic engagements and planning the company keeps on sharpening its capabilities geared towards greatness.

Future Outlook of the Company

- Achieving the set targets and going beyond.
- Attaining Clean Audit as we have previously done in the last 3 years.
- Completing construction of Wilmar Processing SA that is earmarked for the end of the 2022/23 financial year.
- Commencing construction of the investment projects that are already preparing to break ground.
- Converting as many investments as possible idling in our investment pipeline to assist in driving industrialisation and creation of a value chain opportunities.
- Aggressively tackle and engage on energy crisis that hinders industrialisation and elevate discussions through energy related projects that are on the investment pipeline; to date the energy projects form 80% of the investment value in our pipeline.
- Improve on relationships with our key stakeholders to ensure that alignment and support is enhanced.
- Improve on programmes aimed at developing SMMEs.
- Increase programmes geared towards transformation, inclusivity and job creation.
- Ensure optimum operationalisation and value-add of the RBIDZ Nal'ithemba Enterprise Development Programme located at Empangeni.
- Develop solid and focused transformation strategy that will drive impactful programmes aimed at transforming the socio-economic landscape of the region and province.
- Develop efficient and coherent processes for labour opportunities.
- Solidify Social Compacts as means to strategise programmes aimed at community development.

RBIDZ FORGING AHEAD

In these promising times of change within the structures of leadership, the RBIDZ will continue to robustly explore available options to fast-track conversion of investments and integrate interventions aligned with the provincial strategies aimed at reconstructing and rebuilding the economy.

Together with the entire leadership of the RBIDZ, we are certain that we will make the best out of what we are mandated to do....

Let our existence make History and leave a Legacy.....



INVESTOR CONFIDENCE AND COMMITMENT REIGNITED DURING THE INVESTOR ENGAGEMENT CONVERSATION

The Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone (RBIDZ) recently hosted a pool of domestic and international investors in its shorelines with the intention to elevate confidence and commitment towards investments already injected into the Zone's operations as well as those that are in the pipeline finding their way towards finalising compliance processes.



L-R Elphas Mbatha (Board Member), Thabane Zulu (RBIDZ CEO) and Mduduzi Mhlongo (Board Member) during the Investor Engagement session

The Investor Engagement session materialised post various unprecedented occurrences amongst them the global pandemic, social instabilities and the KwaZulu-Natal floods that have battered ease of doing business and physical gatherings across borders.



Nyanza Light Metals' was recognised with the award for highest audited investment value, with Mosima Kgaswane receiving the award on behalf of the Company from RBIDZ Board Members.

The engagement endorsed the province of KwaZulu-Natal's strategies aimed at recovering, reconstructing and rebuilding the economy that has been weakened by aforesaid occurrences.

Amongst other endeavours the engagement platform with investors and captains of industry in the Region underpinned commitment towards reviving industrial activities as well as seek collective partnerships that draw together resources and capabilities aimed at fast-tracking sustained industrial balance, recoveries and economic stimulation as well as aligned development agenda.

In attendance amongst others, were local captains of industry such as Richards Bay Minerals (RBM), Foskor, South32, Transnet, Zululand Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Trade and Investment KwaZulu – Natal, Ithala DFC, KZN Growth Fund, University of Zululand, Umfolozi TVET, local and district municipalities.

The Stars of the Evening, RBIDZ's very own investors, also came from across the globe as they have capitalised the investment value and have ensured that RBIDZ has sound investment pipeline, valued at

R29.8 billion by the end of 2021/ 2022 Financial year,

representing various sectors of the economy. Driven by its mandate of attracting domestic and foreign direct investments, the RBIDZ regards its responsibility as paramount in driving industrial activities and ensuring that all endeavours aimed towards such realisation are fully supported and yield prosperous outcomes for all partners; in the main job creation and articulation of the transformation activities and inclusive economic growth.



Wilmar Processing SA was recognised with the award for creating the most local labour construction jobs, with Theiva Muthu receiving the award on behalf of the company from RBIDZ Board Members.

In all major platforms, government leaders always point out that the realization of economic transformation and job creation depends strongly on the performance of KwaZulu-Natal, and this has been cemented by on-going highlights that Special Economic Zones are vehicles through which economic transformation and job creation objectives will be achieved as well breaking the shackles of poverty.

Accepting the quest from RBIDZ CEO, Thabane Zulu, for collective efforts towards a prosperous future and betterment of the people, investors such as Wilmar Processing SA (edible oils manufacturer), Nyanza Light Metals' (chemical plant producing titanium dioxide pigment), Lovemore Brothers and others treasured the support and concerted efforts aimed towards industrialization and emergent need to operationalize investments whilst also acknowledging the recognition afforded to them by the RBIDZ leadership, Board of Directors and provincial leadership such as the entity's shareholder, MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Mr. Siboniso Duma.

Acknowledging positive contribution by investors was the awarding ceremony which recognized the impact in different categories such as; Most Improved investor after the pandemic (Lovemore Brothers), Most Impactful Operational Investor - highest employer with operational jobs and most impactful through business linkages with emerging businesses (Sizabantu Piping Systems), Most Impactful International Investor (Molecor an international company in a joint venture with Sizabantu Piping Systems), Highest Audited Investment Value (Nyanza Light Metals'), Most Construction Jobs created for local labour (Wilmar Processing SA).

WHERE WE ARE- RBIDZ PROJECTS AT A GLANCE

RBIDZ INVESTMENTS AND INVESTMENT PROJECTS STATUSES

The RBIDZ investors have displayed resilience in terms of retaining investments and security of jobs during the business downtime. Operational locators such as Sizabantu Piping System (SPS) and Lovemore Brothers have expanded their investments, creating more job opportunities and even replacing the jobs that were shed during the pandemic period.

Investors busy with construction such as Wilmar Processing SA (Edible oils manufacturer) have increased their investment value to R1.5 billion from R1.3 billion, and that is a positive nod to economic recovery strides. Wilmar's construction site is one of the anchor tenants to marvel in the RBIDZ's Phase 1A estate, and progress made thus far elevates assurance that completion and commissioning will take place by the end of this financial year - March 2023, promising an array of direct operational jobs over and above the jobs that the investor is creating during construction.

Nyanza Light Metals' (Titanium dioxide chemical company) Product Testing and Development Centre valued at R210 million is operational in Phase 1F estate and busy with testing their products that will feed to the main commercial plant to commence construction in 2023/24 financial year as Phase 2 of the project.

Prostar Export Paints a manufacturer of consistent high-quality decorative and industrial coatings that conforms to international standards with an investment value of R141 million geared to create close to 80 construction jobs and 50 operational jobs is well underway with site preparations for commencement of construction.

NUMBER OF JOBS CREATED IN 2021/22 FINANCIAL YEAR THROUGH INVESTMENT PROJECTS

Through the construction projects by RBIDZ's investors during the 2021/22 financial year, 887 construction jobs were created with majority secured for local labour. KZN Government has set an ambitious target of increasing total employment to 4.5 million in 2035.

This means that an annual growth rate of 5.43% is required in order to achieve the job creation targets. Navigating the investment pipeline and activities taking place, the RBIDZ is well on track with positively contributing towards job creation and poverty alleviation.

PRIORITISATION OF ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AND LOCALIZATION

To date the RBIDZ has developed an Enterprise Development Programme in partnership with the City of uMhlathuze that represents the company's commitment towards development of emerging businesses and create a platform where they can be able to grow and eventually play in the bigger space of economic development as well as being linked to investor opportunities.

As the implementation phase, the RBIDZ has identified eleven (11) local enterprises representing different sectors of the economy to be part of the development programme.

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 uMhlathuze, Transnet, Development Agencies (KZN Growth Fund, IDC, DBSA, Ithala), the dtic, 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).

KZN MEC FOR EDTEA VISITS RBIDZ FOR OVERSIGHT INSPECTION AS HE COMPLETES 100 DAYS IN OFFICE



THE Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone (RBIDZ) is KwaZulu-Natal's Special Economic Zone for sustainable quality investments, world-class industrial infrastructure and attracting local and foreign investors.

Recently, as part of commemorating his 100 Days in Office and beyond, RBIDZ hosted leader of government business and MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), Siboniso Duma for an oversight inspection. The MEC inspected multi-billion rand catalytic investment projects such as the operational Nyanza Light Metals' Product Testing and Development Centre that forms part of the first phase of the multi-billion rand titanium pigment processing plant.

He also assessed the advanced construction progress of the R1.5 billion edible oils refinery, Wilmar Processing SA. These projects are set to further grow KZN as an investment destination of choice, while also economically positioning South Africa as the ultimate "gateway to Africa" among foreign investors. "It is a special day for us to visit these two strategic catalytic projects as we have surpassed 100 Days in office. It's a big day for us and we are happy to be here.

In the morning, we launched the Mkhuze Airport terminal building, which is going to cover the length and breadth of the uMkhanyakude District. The government's scope is to create enabling environments," said Duma. Significantly, both projects continue to play a vital role in ensuring sustainable development and demonstrate RBIDZ's efforts to deliver on its mandate amid the weakened economy post the global pandemic, civil unrest and recent KZN floods.

Moreover, these projects add value to strides directed at rebuilding the economy, driving inclusivity, job creation, skills transfer and development, and accelerated growth, while positioning KZN as a preferred investment hub – for local and international. Domestic and foreign direct investments and catalyst investments, by their nature, have proven to be key drivers of economic stimulation and job creation by virtue of their labour intensive and absorptive nature, while improving domestic production.

RBIDZ INVESTMENT PROJECTS INSPECTED BY MEC FOR EDTEA ; SIBONISO DUMA

Wilmar Processing SA

A subsidiary of leading Asian agri-business group Wilmar International, Wilmar Processing SA is constructing a palm oil processing facility that will refine edible oils at the RBIDZ Phase 1A estate. The company has increased its investment value to R1.5bn from R1.3bn, which is a positive nod to the economic recovery strides being made.

Wilmar is one of the anchor tenants in RBIDZ Phase 1A estate – and with the progress made thus far at its construction site, completion and commissioning by March 2023 is assured. The new manufacturing facility promises an array of direct operational jobs, over and above those created during construction.

Nyanza Light Metals'

The Nyanza Light Metals' Product Testing and Development Centre, valued at R210 million, is operational in Phase 1F estate. The titanium dioxide chemical company is currently testing its products that will feed to the main commercial plant, which will commence construction in the 2023/24 financial year as phase 2 of the project.

Nyanza's manufacturing plant will produce more than 80 000 tonnes per annum of titanium dioxide pigment as well as other related products including water treatment chemicals such as gypsum, iron and aluminium sulphate. Chairperson of the RBIDZ board, Dr.Sakhile Ngcobo, said RBIDZ is a preferred

destination not just for South African investors, but also for international ones – and the entity is strategically guided by its mandate. "We are proud of the work which we have done and continue to do.

"Our aim is to attain a R10 Billion company by the end of next year and we believe it is achievable."

Nyanza Light Metals' is a multi-billion-rand investment, with R250m already spent. "We are busy with a number of other projects, one of them being the R74bn gas to power project for Eskom, which will supply the provincial and national grid with about 3 000 megawatts."

Driven by its mandate of attracting domestic and foreign direct investments, RBIDZ takes paramount responsibility to drive industrial activities and ensure that all investment endeavours are fully supported with prosperous outcomes for all partners. In the main, these outcomes should include job creation, the articulation of transformation activities, and inclusive economic growth.



Wilmar Processing SA construction site at RBIDZ Phase 1A



Nyanza Light Metals' Product testing and Development centre



DEPUTY MINISTER NOMALUNGELO GINA

VISITS TITANIUM DIOXIDE PIGMENT PROCESSING PLANT IN RICHARDS BAY



The Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic), Ms. Nomalungelo Gina says government is happy with the progress made at the titanium dioxide pigment processing plant based at the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone (RBIDZ).



Gina was visiting the Zone and Nyanza Lights Metals' to evaluate the phase one completion of the infrastructure construction being built by the company for their chemicals plant. According to Gina, the visit highlighted the need to support highly technical sector plants that have a potential to create sustainable jobs and train graduates in the scarce skills.

"South Africa is the second largest producer of titanium-bearing minerals in the world after Australia and has a potential to benefit the local industry and create much-needed jobs in the country. More than 90% of all titanium feedstock is consumed by the

pigment sector, which drives demand for titanium mineral concentrates," said Gina. Gina added that titanium dioxide was a key component in many industrial applications and consumer goods, such as paints, plastics, cosmetics, paper, rubber, ceramics, and textiles.

"Previously government had invested in initiatives that were primarily concerned with the metals beneficiation through research, so now it is encouraging to see companies willing to work with government and invest in plants and skills development," she said.

The Chief Executive Officer of Nyanza Lights Metals', Mr. Donovan Chimhandamba said when the construction of the Nyanza mineral beneficiation plant starts in 2023/24 financial year, between two and three thousand jobs will be created. He added that once the plant was fully commissioned, 1 200 direct jobs will be created.

COMPLETION AND OPERATION OF NYANZA LIGHT METALS' PRODUCT TESTING AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE ELEVATES HOPE TO BIGGER EFFECTS

The completion of the Nyanza Light Metals' Product Testing and Development Centre affirms the commitment and determination made by the investor to being a locator in the Zone.

The Multi Billion Titanium Dioxide Processing project which will be rolled out in three phases has already set its tone by the recent completion and operation of the Product Testing and Development Centre. The PTDC is the first phase of this gigantic project already set to change the economic landscape of the province as well as the lives of the people through a basket of opportunities in the pipeline. Nyanza Light Metals' is a chemical manufacturing company that will produce over 80 000 tons of titanium dioxide pigment per annum.

Titanium dioxide pigment is widely used in the manufacturing of products such as paint, industrial coatings, plastic, paper, ink, food, and medicine as well as toothpaste. The Product Testing and Development Centre will produce sufficient

titanium dioxide pigment volumes for its customers to use in their manufacturing processes, while bulk volumes will be produced by the main plant coming in the next phases.

Moreover, the centre will also be used to train the technical teams for the main operation whilst also up-skilling recently qualified personnel and re-skilling individuals, as a commitment towards skills development. The completed building comprises of the administration block, laboratory and the workshop for engineering maintenance. The PTDC is already operational and has employed thirteen (13) employees and two (2) interns whilst others will be recruited in the coming months as the process progresses.



Laboratory Product testing at Nyanza PTDC



The Complete building of the Nyanza Light Metals' Product Testing and Development Centre





LOVEMORE BROTHERS DELIVERS OUTSTANDINGLY TO SPECIALISED SUPPLIER STORAGE CAPACITY

Logistics Company ; Lovemore Bros., which is located within the Richards Bay Special Economic Zone has had an exciting year based on its operations.

Following the establishment of 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, Lovemore Bros. are breaking ground and have serviced specialised projects.

The machine moving , rigging, and warehousing specialists have successfully concluded a substantial materials handling, storage, and delivery project of 73 parts weighing 307.1 ton for a client based in Witbank, Mpumalanga.

The material came from a complete gas plant that was dismantled in Witbank, to be re-erected in Egypt, and once assembled,

it will deliver 330 tons of low-pressure oxygen per day, combined with a large amount of liquid oxygen co-product.

The material was transported through the Richards Bay Harbour utilising both internal and external storage facilities for the various parts sent to the company and a total of 31 containers were stored at the Richards Bay warehouse , with the "Super Stacker" enabling ease of the work with its ability to stack containers three (3) times higher.

The Richards Bay location is one of Lovemore Bros. many strengths, 'with the East Entrance to the Harbour being only 500m from our warehouse front door'. Lovemore Bros. Low beds team also transported 80% of the cargo, responsible for 47 break bulk loads and 31 containers in total; as tabulated below:

- Heaviest Break Bulk Crate: 30,1 tons
- Largest Abnormal: 17,5m long, 23 tons
- Heaviest container: 21,5tons

Between the day-to-day Machine Moving and Rigging work, Lovemore Bros. had a second staging project where it off loaded and stored parts for a Liebherr 350 ton crane that was being exported from Richards Bay to Madagascar. The cargo was off-loaded with the Company's overhead gantry, reach stacker and crane trucks operated by the experienced crews.

All cargo was then staged the yard and warehouse to allow for an efficient load out and cross haul in the sequence requested by the client.

Lovemore Bros. is proud to announce that it has advanced their operations at the Richards Bay branch with the new subdivision, namely; Mechanical Projects which is headed by Mr. Maxwell Zuma, who boasts twelve (12) years of experience within the Mechanical Rigging field at Lovemore Bros.

For business services, Logistics needs and information, potential clients may contact Lovemore Bros. located at RBIDZ Phase 1A.

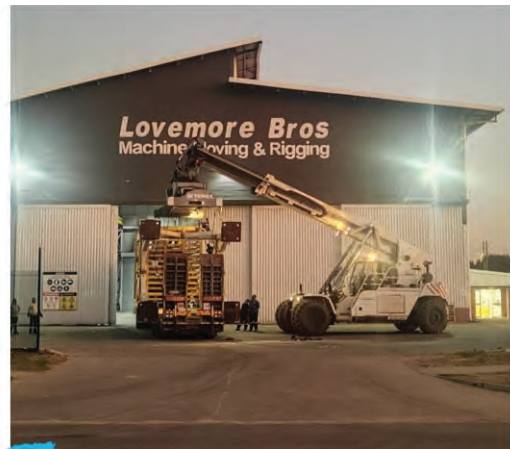
Lovemore Bros. Richards Bay

Contact details: +27 35 007 0070

Joel Martin: +27 74 103 4548

Email: joel@lovemore.co.za

Website: www.lovemore.co.za



BREAKING GROUND INVESTOR

PROSTAR EXPORT PAINTS R141 MILLION INVESTMENT

Prostar Export Paints is a Durban based company that was established in 2006 in Overport. The small plant in Overport currently produces over 120 tonnes of paint per month, however the high demand for supply has pressured them to consider expansion, hence the location in RBIDZ.



They manufacture consistent high-quality decorative and industrial coatings. Prostar's product quality is of the highest standards and conforms to international standards and its quality compares directly with global brands available in the local market such as Dulux and Plascon.

Prostar prides itself with local content inputs and innovation driven manufacturing for the South African market. Prostar Export Paints has tremendous experience supplying large scale infrastructure projects. The planned expansion in the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone SEZ is viewed as the launch pad for growing Prostar brand offering

into the region, seeking new markets in Swaziland, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Zambia while also supplying the local branches in Durban, Johannesburg, and Cape Town. As such, Prostar Export Paints has obtained all required export certification and now requires the expanded production capacity of an additional plant to service this opportunity.

Current Status of Prostar Export Paints at RBIDZ PHASE 1A

They will be locating at Phase 1A, and have already commenced with site preparation for construction.

MAKING YOURSELF AT HOME WHERE BUSINESS MEETS PROSPERITY

Perfectly located at uMhlathuze Local Municipality and surrounded by its cultural attractions, the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone is tailor-made for the investors looking for both worlds, being business ventures and a place they can settle in.

Situated just a kilometre from the deep sea-water port of Richards Bay, the RBIDZ makes ease of business practical, for import and export purposes. This port is one of the country's largest harbours and coal terminals.

The city is located on the northern-coast of KwaZulu-Natal in the heartbeat of Zululand, South Africa, and boasts an urban lifestyle supported by well-crafted state-of-the-art infrastructure; amongst them being the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone (SEZ), which provides well-developed Customs Controlled estates to investors, for the manufacturing of export-oriented production.

The RBIDZ is at the helm of inviting companies from the globe to come and explore investment opportunities. Within the Richards Bay area, there is an array of mineral resources like: aluminium, titanium, ferrochrome, iron-ore, manganese, and sands.

Taking a close look at this developing city with cultural diversity and what it has on offer in terms of business prosperity, those opting to interact with us for business prospects will never regret the decisions they make to invest in Richards Bay, as others regard the area as one where business meets prosperity.

FAST FACTS ABOUT RBIDZ

- Boasts world-class and secure Customs Controlled Award-winning infrastructure;
- Located within close proximity to the deep sea-water Port of Richards Bay, with easy access to rail, road, and sea, for ease of transportation;
- Located in the city enriched with an abundance of mineral resources: aluminium, iron-ore, ferrochrome, titanium, and sands.
- Location for internationally-acclaimed industries, including: Bell Equipment, Mondi, Foskor, South32, Richards Bay Coal Terminal, and Richards Bay Minerals, amongst others;
- Offers a wide range of Incentives to qualifying investors;
- Has favourable access to markets with a potential of business prosperity;
- Is home to an operational heavy logistics company; specialising in machinery logistics, abnormal loads, mechanical projects, machine transportation, and engineering drafting;
- Located within the best-performing local municipality, uMhlathuze Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal;
- Located within the city that offers a favourable cost of urban living, with diversified cultural, cuisine, and sporting activities all year round, favoured by good weather conditions; and
- Offers energetic and capable workforce.



RBIDZ state-of-the-art Phase 1A gate complex and winner of Seminal Sustainable Design Award 2018



RBIDZ land portfolio depicting Port of Richards Bay



Deep sea-water Port of Richards Bay



Richards Bay Industrial landscape.

CONNECTING THROUGH TRANSPORT



AIR

The Richards Bay conducts flights daily between the city and Johannesburg.



ROAD

The well-developed road infrastructure feeds between Richards Bay and the N2 highway from Durban South and northern KwaZulu-Natal, up to Vryheid on the R34 provincial route up to Johannesburg.



SEA

The Port of Richards Bay serves as an entrance and exit for import and export purposes. It is regarded as the first port of call with world-class facilities for vessels.

UNLOCK YOUR INVESTMENT POTENTIAL

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E-mail | info@rbidz.co.za

Telephone | 035 797 2600



RBIDZ
Special Economic Zone

RBIDZ ELEVATES TRANSFORMATION AND INCLUSIVITY THROUGH EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVES

RBIDZ invests in development and mentorship programmes for local SMMEs.



Acknowledging the importance of development for the SMMEs, the RBIDZ continues to implement various programmes aimed at equipping the small businesses with the knowledge and skills that will empower them and assist in sustaining their businesses.

In the weakened state of the economy as emphasized by the CEO, Thabane Zulu, it is important to focus on programmes aimed towards economic development and job creation; and ensure that such programmes are centred around inclusion to propel economic growth. Economic growth is most likely to be fast-tracked if the basis and structure of the economy is changed; as such broad-based transformation should be intentional towards growth, inclusion, job creation, skills development and transfer as well as empowerment.

The meaningful impact will be realised if resources are created to support change. To drive this cause the RBIDZ through Business Development and Support Unit is implementing the Nal'ithemba Enterprise Development Programme that aims to develop and support SMMEs for active participation in investment activities through business linkages with the intention to promote production efficiency, production growth

as well as technology know-how. With this Enterprise Development Programme, the RBIDZ further aims to complement the industrial investment through upstream and downstream participation by local SMMEs resulting in job creation and inclusive economic growth.

The sector focused programme will ensure that SMMEs in the programme are developed and supported with the aim of ensuring that they are well equipped for participation in economic development and job creation. To date the initial phases of the Enterprise programme have been activated through the call for application from interested and sector focused SMMEs and selection process.

The Nal 'ithemba Enterprise Development Programme office is operational, accessible and located at Empangeni SMME One Stop Shop.

SUPPORT TOWARDS BRAND BOOST BY RBIDZ WELCOMED BY LOCAL SMMES

This initiative emanated from a gap analysis that was conducted, which identified the need for proper working gears and equipment; that would also distinguish SMMEs from other businesses and assist in propelling more opportunities for them.



Part of the branded items and equipment handed over to benefitting SMMEs.



SMMEs who were beneficiaries of the programme, received branded items handed over by the RBIDZ CEO; Thabane Zulu with the assistance of Simangele Mvelase (CFO) and Nombuso Nsele (Executive Manager: Corporate Services)

The relationship between the RBIDZ and local black-owned SMMEs, has over time been evident through the availed non-financial support such as mentoring and coaching, training, professional services, incubation, and marketing activities. The intent of the RBIDZ is to actively foster strategic relationships with SMMEs to participate in the supply chain opportunities, with a mission for inclusive growth. Officiating the handover was the RBIDZ CEO; Mr. Thabane Zulu's whose sentiments leaned on the importance of SMMEs and RBIDZ's presence in the region for ensuring that economic development initiatives are prioritised for a thriving economy that will see them growing economically in the KZN Province in accordance with the Provincial Growth Development Strategy. He marked the position of social responsibility, and an emergent need for entities; as mandated by government

to rebuild and a transform the economy through various programmes, most critically, post the social challenges and COVID-19, that contributed to the severe instabilities experienced by businesses. During the 2021/22 fiscal, the benefitting SMMEs collectively contributed to the creation of 80 indirect job opportunities, which directly feeds into the RBIDZ's mandate for job creation and developed communities. This was achieved through prioritising BBBEE efforts and creating opportunities for Black- Youth Owned, Black- Women Owned and Enterprises owned by the Disabled, deriving into a total procurement spend of 87 million. The RBIDZ continues to encourage more SMMEs to remain committed in the entrepreneurship course as they have the potential to be the established and largest employers for local job seekers and in turn, help grow local economies.

FEMALE RURAL AGRIPRENEUR

ON THE MARK TO BECOME THE DISTRICT'S CREAM OF THE CROP



A successful farmer needs to have passion for nature and land, and mostly plenty of courage and determination, those are the words of a rural female farmer; stemming from Izindophi reserve in the rural Eshowe. Mrs. Phumzile Ntuli, is an avid farmer, Founder and Director of Qalekhaya Primary Cooperative which was established in 2005. The cooperative is owned by a majority of women who specialise in growing vegetables using readily available land.

Mrs. Phumzile Ntuli; Qalekhaya Cooperative Founder and Director

Mrs. Ntuli , prioritises learning and advancing within the agricultural space inorder to remain competitive and thrive within the demanding sector. During the initial stages , Qalekhaya farmers underwent training at the uMfolozi TVET College sponsored by the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) , which included training in basic management of cooperatives.

The cooperative operates more than 30 hectares of agricultural land and produces different grains and vegetables such such mielies, butternut , sweet potatoes, cabbages, onions and beans.

Their commitment towards farming led them to supplying different renowned supermarkets such as Super Spar, Boxer, Pick 'n Pay in Eshowe, Durban markets and uThungulu Fresh Produce (School Nutrition Programme).

"Our main objective as the cooperative is to create employment opportunities in rural areas, promote self-dependence especially for women, fight against poverty through transferring skills such as planting, that will also be useful to the unemployed citizens, said Mrs. Ntuli.

To date, the cooperative has been successful in employing (20) twenty individuals and aspires to grow so that it can create more opportunities. It has also taken in TVET College students for work experiential learning and exposed them to the practical world of farming.

Qalekhaya Cooperative has been widely recognised by provincial government as the most sustainable agri-business and that is attested by the support they have received thus far. They have also won several awards for their dedication which includes; obtaining first position at the Amaqhawe oKhozi Awards which were conducted by uKhozi FM, best 2016 community builder in KZN by Zululand FM and first position at the Imbokodo Iyazenzela Awards which were conducted by Ithala Bank.

Mrs. Ntuli carries strong passion for agriculture and always advocates that a farmer should have a sense of business, be able to sell their product where and when it is most profitable, and above all, plan their production to take advantage of the most favourable markets.



Qalekhaya Agricultural site at Izindophi reserve

The cooperative is eternally grateful for being selected to benefit from the CSI Agri-business support programme by the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone, where they were assisted with a 4WD tractor and equipment, amongst other items, which has optimised their operations and saved them financially as they had to borrow some during ploughing and sowing session before owning their own machine.

"My goal is to inspire many, and shift the youth's mindsets around the fact that farming is hard labour for senior rural people only, I want to make them realise that it can benefit everyone, and it is doable."

"I want to elevate Qalekhaya Cooperative and make it a household name, I want to pioneer an approach that encourages rural farmers to build and advance through local-scale networks and shift from being fresh produce suppliers and distributors to farmers that have potential to positively make an impact nationally."

"Our mission is to continuously learn and grab all opportunities whilst also advancing ourselves in the technology space".





ARE YOU AN SMME OR A CO-OPERATIVE LOOKING FOR FINANCE?

Did you know that sefa can finance your business up to R15 million. sefa provides a range of developmental financial products to qualifying enterprises through Direct and Wholesale Channels. sefa also provide targeted programs tailored to assist businesses with different challenges.

For entrepreneurs with disabilities sefa provides funding through Amavulandlela Funding Scheme at concessionary interest rates.

For more information on sefa visit www.sefa.org.za

sefa is a registered credit provider. Terms & Conditions apply.

sefa
Small Enterprise Finance Agency

RBIDZ ACKNOWLEDGED AND SCOOPS AN AWARD FOR SERVICE EXCELLENCE AT THE ZCCI BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS



RBIDZ receiving the award; L-R: Donovan Matlala (Wilmar Processing SA Project Director), Nombuso Nsele (Executive Manager: Corporate Services), Muzi Shange (Chief Operations Officer), Zainul Shiekh (Executive Manager: Zone Development and Operations) and Hlengiwe Mvubu (Chamber President)

The Zululand Chamber of Commerce and Industry's (ZCCI) Annual Business Excellence Awards were held on the 25th November. The atmosphere was filled with excitement as captains of industry and guests arrived in numbers to be a part of the auspicious event and witness excellence in service and operations.

The event aimed to recognise and celebrate companies that have made it a priority to deliver exceptionally and go beyond the call of duty when it comes to service delivery and operations. The recognition encompassed various components such as professionalism, efficiency, economic impact, social impact and competitiveness in respective fields of operations. Hosted at the Umfolozi Casino and Convention Resort a number of companies, ranging from emerging to renowned and seasoned corporates, competed for honours in the various categories.

It must be acknowledged that no matter how little the company may be, however service excellence is the future as it paves direction for the company and what

it stands for when it comes to its values, customer satisfaction, its value proposition and vision.

The success of any business can be on making profits, but its growth and sustainability will be determined by various positive and impactful factors.

In the mist of the auspicious occasion the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone was also recognised standing against other industry giants and scooped the runner up award for Service Excellence: Business, which proved that the SEZ is indeed living on its commitment to serve and deliver on its mandate that also contributes to the development of the City as well as socio-economic landscape whilst competing with the industry giants.

CORPORATE SOCIAL INVESTMENT AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE RBIDZ



RBIDZ PARTNERS IN THE CAMPAIGNS FOR “LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND” AT THE WORLD FOOD DAY CELEBRATION



Maqhama Primary School learners delivering their educational word around food security

Access to quality and healthy food is fundamental to human existence. Secure access to food can produce wide range of positive impacts, including; economic growth, job creation and mostly poverty reduction.

Although progress and endeavours are made towards building a better world for all, however food security, hunger and poverty are still regarded as the main social ills globally.

In the face of global crises, government and entities have joined their efforts and initiated programmes which propose to eradicate poverty and ensure food security in communities, one which is through the observation of World Food Day on the 16th of October, a globally celebrated day to raise awareness about healthy diets and what bodies need.

Playing their collective part, the City of uMhlathuze in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, EDTEA, RBIDZ and Mondi visited Maqhama Primary School, in the rural Mandlankala, to commemorate the renowned World Food Day, which this year was observed under the theme; “Leave NO ONE behind”.

It is undisputed that education has grown about healthy diets in schools and social settings, and World Food Day offers a great opportunity to further education and awareness in this area. Equalling the awareness it is significant that education goes as far as educating society on ways to generate their own food utilising their own spaces.

During the activation learners demonstrated their knowledge on safe and sustainable methods of food production for subsistence farming, with RBIDZ supporting the course with a bulk of promotional material and leveraging on the opportunity to hand out career guidance booklets, that will impart knowledge and empower learners to choose appropriate career streams aligned with market demands which amongst them are agricultural and science subjects.



The learners held RBIDZ branded items high in excitement at the support for World Food Day Celebration

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, worldwide, more than 80 percent of the extreme poor live in rural areas and many rely on agriculture and natural resources for their living. They are usually the hardest hit by natural and man-made disasters and often marginalized due to their gender, ethnic origin, or status.

Gardening has been promoted as a way of living and life skill for the younger generation, hence, the attending officials had an opportunity to unveil the school's vegetable garden, which received sponsorship from the DARD Land Care section. The garden helps the school raise funds by selling mature vegetables to local residents. It practices permaculture, which applies a holistic approach to subsistence farming and the practices are more sustainable and environmentally friendly than conventional farming methods.

This year's donations will help improve production fields to gain more funds in order to support the operations of the school. Poverty alleviation remains one of the most rigorous governments' efforts to deal with social poverty that escalates to social instability and all sorts of society ills.

In support of the call for action to contribute towards socio economic development and the RBIDZ remains committed towards supporting emerging rural Agri-business programmes that are evidently transforming communities and enforcing a culture where communities work together to identify food security programmes within their own communities. Not so long ago the RBIDZ handed over various agricultural implements such as tractors, fencing and Agri-implements to assist the agri- businesses pace forward with their community projects.

As the RBIDZ, we continue to thrive for inclusive economic growth and participation by all.



RBIDZ STUDY ASSISTANCE SUCCESSES

Celebrating the achievement of young professionals who have benefitted from the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone (RBIDZ) Study Assistance Programme, bursary beneficiaries were commended for successfully completing their tertiary studies at the Bursary Awarding Ceremony.



RBIDZ Board Chairperson; Dr. Sakhile Ngcobo during the Bursary Awarding Ceremony

The formality was attended by the new beneficiaries, former study assistance beneficiaries, parents, RBIDZ board members and external officials from the education sectors. The initiative has made funds available to assist needy students from across King Cetshwayo District municipality to further their studies. It forms part of RBIDZ's responsibility to plough back into communities, as well as the prioritisation of education and skills development, accommodating studies identified as scarce skills in the area such as; Applied Geology, Actuarial Science, Quantity and Land Surveying, Built Environment, Accounting, Construction Management and Chemical Engineering, amongst others. Officiating the event was, Board Chairperson, Dr. Sakhile Ngcobo who encouraged the beneficiaries to be ambassadors of RBIDZ and identify themselves with the company's core value.

"We would like to see our students and graduates become innovators; problem solvers who find solutions to issues plaguing society, including unemployment, inequality, water and electricity challenges, poverty, and load-shedding.

"Our students must look to solve problems, not just to graduate to find work. The youth must open businesses and create jobs, as not enough focus is given to entrepreneurship".

"They have to become fearless; take risks and make choices to surround themselves with the right people who can propel them forward," said Ngcobo.





L-R : Mr. E. Mbatha (Social and Ethics Committee Chairperson), Dr. S Ngcobo (RBIDZ Board Chairperson) , Ms. C. Vilakazi (Board Member), Mr. T. Zulu (RBIDZ CEO) and Professor Majuqwane (University of Zululand) Back: Study Assistance Beneficiaries

Also speaking at the ceremony was RBIDZ CEO, Mr. Thabane Zulu who concluded by stating that the bursary is one step towards making it possible for students to pursue their careers. With the chance to further education, each student is given the opportunity of a better economic future, he said.

“Education is the foundation of individual capacity and competitiveness and the most important factor in economic development, for it is the acquisition and utility of knowledge that drives nation”.

Appreciation was extended to the former group who were the first beneficiaries of the programme when it was implemented in 2017. They were recognised for having paved the way for the current and future beneficiaries, through their demonstration for the commitment and exceptional performance in their field of study. Xolile Mbambo, Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT) Accounting graduate together with Thabani Mkhwanazi, Durban University of Technology (DUT), Bachelor of the Built Environment in Geomatics graduate representing all beneficiaries expressed their gratitude for the bestowment and being chosen to benefit from the programme.



Xolile specifically recapitulated back to when she was still desperately searching for funding opportunities and how the RBIDZ truly came through for her. She encouraged the upcoming students to chase their dreams and make hard work and discipline the centre of their journey. The programme was supported by the City of uMhlatuze leadership, represented by Chief Operations Officer, Ms. Thembeke Khumalo-Sikhakhane, who steered the programme and commended the RBIDZ for the impactful initiative that prioritises local youth, also citing the dense need for youth to be centralized, capacitated and sharpened for the evolving market demand.

RBIDZ ENCOURAGES SELF-SUSTENANCE THROUGH AGRI- IMPLEMENTS PROVISION



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The Richards Bay Industrial Development once again, delivered upon its objective and handed over much needed Agri-implements in support of Agri-businesses from the wider Zululand region through its CSI Agri-business support programme.

The strategic programme was initiated back in the year 2018 , through recognising the gap and the need to elevate agriculture as one of the sectors that contribute to socio-economic development and further encourage job creation and self-sustenance amongst communities. Following a Call for Expression from interested participants in the agricultural space, the RBIDZ correspondingly considered six (6) cooperatives based in various parts of the Zululand, who showed potential and carried the passion for farming with the determination to advance within the field. The alignment to support agri-businesses is further enforced by one of the RBIDZ's focus sectors- being Agro- Processing, which refers to the subset of the manufacturing sector that processes raw materials

and intermediate products derived from the agricultural sector. Given the foregoing sentiment, the RBIDZ is optimistic in reviving the agri-sector by developing the land, mentoring more small-holder farmers, and creating linkages with investors, formal markets, as well as creating commercialisation pathways for them. The qualifying beneficiaries who were selected ranged from women , youth and 100% black owned cooperatives including; Qalekhaya Cooperative (Eshowe) , Partners in Development NPO (Mahlabathini), Madondo Cooperative (kwaHlabisa), Mkhayideni Primary Cooperative (kwaMbonambi) and Mpukunyoni Community Property Association (Mtubatuba) and Injobo Community Farmers (Mkuze).



The assistance provided to these projects has yielded visible results in a sense that they are now able to supply market-ready produce such as mealies, butternuts, cabbages, green peppers, onions, sweet potatoes, and grains such as beans to different markets at a small scale in local markets, feeding or schools' nutrition programme and communities to generate income. Since the inception of the programme, the RBIDZ has availed assistance to the cumulative total of over R 2,5 million, where it provided equipment and infrastructure to beneficiaries in order for them to enhance their operations and optimise their produce .

The assistance ranged from fencing of agri-sites to secure their produce from creatures, borehole drilling and irrigation systems for water access and tractors with equipment to plough and harvest their crops optimally. Officiating the handover for Agri-implements, was RBIDZ Social and Ethics Committee Chairperson ; Mr. Elphas Mbatha, who expressed his sentiments around how the RBIDZ is esteemed with being involved in these projects as they evolve communities and eradicate poverty, he indicated that, " the RBIDZ is very much committed to continue

playing an imperative role towards these projects, and also do recognise that there is still a bunch of needs from the ground'. I believe that much would have been achieved by now if it wasn't for any constraints'. The handover marks an enduring relationship between the beneficiaries and the SEZ as the intention is to elevate them into seasoned farmers who will in future form part of the supply chain within the RBIDZ and beyond'. Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, Mrs. Phumzile Ntuli , founder and director of Qalekhaya Primary Cooperative, recognised the RBIDZ for standing beside them and nurturing them with much dedication up till this day.

"The support has contributed immensely to our agricultural productivity growth through the availed robust agriculture infrastructure", she indicated . The RBIDZ took it upon themselves and committed to further develop the agribusinesses by enhancing their knowledge capacity through specialised training and mentorship , which is another critical element that supports innovation and exposure to current farming technologies and farm management practices to boost profitability.



Left: Elphas Mbatha (RBIDZ Social and Ethics Board Chairperson) handed over various agricultural implements to beneficiaries of the CSI Agri-business support programme on behalf of the RBIDZ.



RBIDZ KEY ENGAGEMENTS & INVESTMENT ATTRACTION ACTIVITIES

ENERGY DIALOGUE DURING THE AFRICA ENERGY INDABA IN CAPE TOWN FOCUSING ON JUST ENERGY TRANSITION



The purpose of the dialogue was to bring together various perspectives from the energy sector, policymakers, think tanks, academia, community, environmental groups and other key stakeholders for constructive debate and formation of solutions with regards to Just Energy Transition focusing on alternatives such as Gas and others.

The dialogue in the main was part of the many discussions around the world that are moved by the urgency of seeking ways of dealing with emissions and decarbonising energy systems by increasing energy efficiency, and by accelerating the retirement of coal power and the deployment of renewables.

In the main, South Africa is one of the countries that are emissions intensive and very vulnerable to impacts of climate change; and as such a need for transition becomes vital.

As an energy and emissions intensive middle-income developing country, SA recognises the need for it to contribute its fair share to the global effort to move towards net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, considering the principle of common BUT differentiated responsibilities and the need for recognition of its capabilities and national circumstances.

The session therefore provided a platform for exclusive networking opportunities, presentations, panels, and roundtable discussions with different views on the subject matter that promote meaningful dialogue around industry developments, commercial opportunities, and strategic collaborations.

Bringing the wealth of knowledge as an expert around the energy subject as well as how the energy sector should change the economic landscape for the majority, RBIDZ CEO Thabane Zulu delved deeper into the subject of Just Energy Transition going beyond just the shelf view of coal being the emission propeller, however deliberated on the various alternatives of energy that could be brought for deliberations and be part of the dynamism aimed at bringing the Just Transition in the Energy sector.

Thabane's view was well accompanied by the challenges that the country faces in terms of energy supply, however also highlighting that there is a bigger picture of energy poverty that goes beyond the monetary value and economic stimulation.

Unpacking the Just Energy Transition, he further highlighted that the process cannot be a drastic one since such should consider involvement of various stakeholders from top to bottom, therefore vigorous consultations should precede implementation.



Further, whilst in the deliberation processes impeding issues should not be forgotten such as threat to economy for the majority, employment, inequality, and skills.

Moreover, he mentioned that it is common that people on the ground are forgotten whenever transition and innovation is deliberated and implemented reason being that the investors usually put investments first before the people whereas this should not be the case because wealth cannot be made without healthy societies.

It is therefore in this background that all key stakeholders should be consulted, and ways of reskilling existing talent being put to the fore and discussed when deliberating about Just Energy Transition. Energy Dialogue during the Africa

Thabane, further stated that whilst the economy helps to develop the countries as well as create much needed opportunities for people, however existing talent cannot be forgotten when moving to alternative energy mixes, perhaps reskilling and upskilling could be the first step to ensure that the process of moving forward is fair to all stakeholders even those on the ground.

Supporting his statement, he said, government should look into various factors when considering investments in other energy alternatives and these factors should look into the needs of the developed and under-developed countries because for developed countries

the urgency is imminent yet for under-developed countries it is not. As we all know that for under-developed countries government still needs to first prioritise human development with the focus towards reducing poverty, improving living standards and increasing energy access above everything else.

Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Mr. Gwede Mantashe also attended the session, in his address he highlighted that, as government they are committed to the move towards net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, however they want to follow a balanced approach that will ensure that the transition is Just not only in words but in the actions, thus ensuring that a gap between the previously marginalised is not widened.

He said, "our overall response must be a fair, balanced, and inclusive transition. At its centre must be the people and their livelihoods". 'The transition resets present economies, changes the nature of industries; gives newer logics to jobs and skills sets required'. 'We, therefore, need to engage with this reality in a pragmatic manner, and refocus the debate away from the narrow techno-determinist view to one that focusses holistically on what this means for developing African societies'.

Gwede further highlighted that his department (DMRE) is finalising its policy inputs on the Just Transition Framework for the Energy and Mining Sectors with consultations to commence towards the end of the year.



RBIDZ CEO; Thabane Zulu, (third from left) with other panelists during the Africa Energy Indaba in Cape Town

PRIORITISING THE ENERGY SECTOR AS THE DRIVER OF STABLE INDUSTRIALISATION & OPERATIONS



Adv. Keith Harvey (RBIDZ Legal Manager), (sixth from left) during panel discussion at Africa Oil Week Conference



Muzi Shange (RBIDZ Chief Operations Officer), (fifth from left), pictured with other panel members at Africa Oil Week Conference

RBIDZ TAKES ITS POSITION DURING AFRICA OIL WEEK

The RBIDZ continues to prioritise initiatives aimed at finding solutions towards addressing the energy crisis and poverty. This quest and pursuance is driven under one of the RBIDZ's focus sector which is Energy.

It is a fact that the downtime caused by shortage of energy supply has a negative impact on business operations and industrialisation activities as well as endeavours aimed at investor attraction. Looking into the status quo for energy supply in the country it is clear that focused interventions will be a solution to this trajectory, hence the RBIDZ is at the forefront in attracting investors in the sector. To date the RBIDZ has approximately 72% of energy related projects in its pipeline and in the main the Gas projects.

The recently held Africa Oil Week conference held in Cape Town is one of the many engagements that the RBIDZ plays in to ensure that it is well vested and positioned with the direction that is taken towards energy solutions that will not only focus on one energy alternative but many that will ensure that new technologies are integrated into improving energy space taking into account the need for preserving the environment, reskilling, job retention and creation as well as economic stimulation.

Participating on the Panel Dialogue with experts in the industry were COO, Muzi Shange and Legal Manager, Adv. Keith Harvey who engaged in the following topics **Energy Just Transition** and **The State of Energy, a deep look into the current energy scenario and the national roadmap to sustainable energy security.**

In the main all these discussions aim to find solutions that will alleviate the shortages of bulk electricity supply, the growing backlog and on-going deterioration of electricity redistribution infrastructure, poor households' energy insecurity and the absence of a credible liquid fuels policy, and comparatively low crude oil stocks among other issues.

The solution is to capitalise on opportunities supported by government policies, social compacts that are consultative with different structures such as organised labour, communities, and government. This approach will minimise the threats that the transition poses, whilst in the process it optimises an array of opportunities. It is also important to note that the legal framework developed to guide the implementation of the transition can also determine the pace in which the country sees itself implementing the process.



DRIVING INVESTMENT PROMOTIONS AT THE AUTOMECHANIKA CONFERENCE 2022



Simthembele Mapu (Executive Manager: Business Development and Support), having a one-on-one discussion with businesses in the automotive sector

Not so long ago, RBIDZ partook in the Automechanika Conference held in Johannesburg. This conference is one of the biggest platform for investor and investment promoters in the automotive industry to converse.

This unique international trade platform facilitates industry related discussions key to the sector opening interaction between key associations, investors, and key stakeholders across the globe. The significance of this platform for the RBIDZ is its narrative around the automotives sector which is the sector aligned to metals beneficiation which is one of the RBIDZ sectors of focus.

Further to the interest of RBIDZ is the fact that this Special Economic Zone is closest to the largest industries that play in the sector such as South 32 which is the largest aluminium smelter in the southern hemisphere and BELL Equipment a global equipment and machinery manufacturer and supplier. Key to the RBIDZ is to actively promote the sector with the intention of activating this sector whilst also aligning it to one of its focus sectors that drive investment promotion and attraction.

Partaking in the world renowned and leading international trade fair for the automotive industry demonstrates the RBIDZ's commitment and purposeful strategies in driving industrialisation in the Zone.

Emphasising the importance and reason for the RBIDZ to partake in the conference, Investment Promotions Officer, Mzamo Zwane said, 'We are here to explore investment opportunities in line with one of the RBIDZ's focus sector being metals beneficiation and attract investors in the automotives sector. To date we have an investor in the sector called Nqanawe Holdings that has partnered with the Belarus company.

They will be manufacturing tractors in the Zone and in turn creating various opportunities once they commence.



RBIDZ investor and Gandaganda/HIA Director, engaging with a delegate at the Automachenika Conference

RBIDZ WOMEN IN ENERGY SECTOR DIALOGUE INSPIRES

While an enabling environment must be created for women to access opportunities - particularly within sectors critical to the growth of the economy - they must be equipped with the knowledge and skills to carve their spaces within these sectors; these were among the sentiments shared by female leaders in the energy sector who participated in the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone's Women in Energy Webinar.

Nombuso Nsele (Executive Manager: Corporate Services)



Elizabeth Marabwa; (DMRE Chief Director: Programme and Projects Management Office)

The webinar unpacked various opportunities in the energy sector, as well as the need to balance the gender scale in this male dominated field. RBIDZ Executive Manager- Corporate Services; Nombuso Nsele highlighted the aim of the webinar as to empower and educate and to help increase the participation of women in this industry.

Delivering a presentation during the webinar, Chief Director for the Programme and Projects Management Office at the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, Elizabeth Marabwa highlighted opportunities within energy and shared challenges confronting women in the sector. These include lack of access to information. "This is particularly evident in procurement opportunities," said Marabwa.

"Access to finance is also another challenge and, at times, even when women have the desire to get into business, many do not have the requisite skills. "Enterprise development is therefore critical to support women."





Valerie Geen (Independent consultant in Gender and the Green economy)



Ayanda Mvimbi (Programme Management Specialist at the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) in the South Africa Multi-Country Office (SAMCO))



Paige Bowen (ABSA Group Agricultural Economist - New Sector Development: Manufacturing, Renewable Energy, Transport and Logistics sectors)



Princess Mthombeni (Award Winning Communication specialist and nuclear technology advocate)

For women already in leadership positions in the sector, Marabwa said mentorship programmes are important to ensure they remain in these positions and expand their roles even further. "Be in information sharing spaces, be in forums and form strategic partnerships to access this information which will assist you to tap into the different markets," said Marabwa.

Independent consultant in gender and the green economy, Valerie Geen shared insight on the transition into green energy and the role of women. "It is apparent that there is a big transition coming - irrespective of whether we say we want to hold onto coal, or our economy is breaking down - this is a change that is inevitable, and we must be prepared.

"We have witnessed transitions in other sectors, and we are fortunate that in the energy space, we can see the train approaching and we can prepare for it. "Our responsibility as women is to read, to listen to the impacts this is going to have, and even educate our girl children to become artisans and engineers. "If you are a lawyer or accountant, for example, consider what your role is going to be if you are going to be involved in the financing of a renewable project," said Geen.

Other expert panellists included programme management specialist at the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women; Ayanda Mvimbi, Nuclear specialist; Princess Mthombeni, and Paige Bowen, a sector analyst for manufacturing and renewable energy at ABSA Group.

RBIDZ PARTOOK IN THE WORLD HALAAL CONFERENCE IN DURBAN

The RBIDZ partook in the World Halaal Conference held at the Durban ICC. The conference hosted by the KZN province aimed to position the Province as Halaal's economic hub.



RBIDZ representative; Gcinile Lembede explaining the RBIDZ's involvement in the agricultural sector to conference attendees

The 8th of its kind World Halaal conference in conjunction with KwaZulu – Natal government aimed to create a platform for local businesses to explore the lucrative international Halaal market. KwaZulu-Natal Trade and Investment Indaba and World Halaal Conference discussed how to position Durban as the country's economic hub of Halaal products. The United World Halaal Development, an organisation that focuses on the development of the Halaal industry globally, estimated that the global Halaal economy is worth some seven trillion dollars. From the dialogue and discussions, it was highlighted that there are various opportunities for the South African markets from the central Asian and European countries.

Therefore, a platform created by the conference aimed to connect the dots where SA products can be exposed to untapped markets. The RBIDZ's participation was propelled by one of its focus sectors being Agro-processing and a need to transform the sector whilst also aligning upcoming farmers into the agricultural space.

This was even emphasized by Executive Manager for Business Development and Support, Simthembele Mapu when he said, "we are excited to partake in the conference by virtue of our focus sector, and our partnership with the Department of Agriculture intended to implement the Agri-hub aimed at developing emerging farmers in targeted sectors of farming that may be aligned with the investors that the RBIDZ attract".



The RBIDZ exploring opportunities at the Halaal Conference in Durban



RAISING THE VOICE OF YOUTH THROUGH CAMPAIGNS AND ACTIVATIONS ACROSS THE REGION

INKOSI MKHWANAZI CAREER AND SKILLS EXPO

The RBIDZ headed the call from Inkosi Phalane Community Trust and formed part of the Career and Skills Expo, which aimed to capacitate young people on various career paths they can pursue. The event was an enabler for local companies and entities to share critical information about the opportunities available for the youth that can be tapped into.

The event formed part of the RBIDZ's intention to harness community relations and raise awareness about the core mandate of the SEZ, whilst ensuring that the youth is equipped with the information around the skills that are required by current and forthcoming investment projects at the RBIDZ for their alignment.

Inkosi Phalane Community Trust Director; Sanele Mhlongo, addressed the mass and elaborated on the intention of the engagement which mainly forms as a foundation to invite opportunities and create a conversation that will contribute towards thoughts on the ways to eliminate poverty in the community. He further, indicated that, under the directive of Inkosi Mkhwanazi, the Trust is planning on establishing a Techno-Hub facility in the area, which will become an information centre for the youth that aspires to venture into business.



YOUTH DAY COMMEMORATION THROUGH YOUTH PARLIAMENT DAY

The Office of the Premier joined the community of Mtubatuba in commemorating Youth Day on June 16.

The resolve and defiance of the young people were evident at the event as the generation gathered to discuss and seek answers on some of the social issues they raised that concern their progress and how the government intends to respond to the crisis that the youth is experiencing.

Unemployment, skills shortage, inequality, gender-based violence, and access to opportunities, were amongst many others that were specified. MECs present addressed some of the issues that were brought forward for discussions and commended the courage of the current generation, whom they recognise as catalysts for change.



The leadership specified that, during Youth Month and beyond, the government encourages the nation to work together to strengthen the collective resolve in the battle against the endemic socio-economic challenges facing the youth.

The event was concluded with the launch of the R 100 million Youth Business Empowerment Fund which is an economic transformation programme by government that has created successful youth business entrepreneurs who have created employment opportunities in the province.

CITY OF UMHLATHUZE YOUTH IN BUSINESS OPEN DAY

In support of Youth Month, the RBIDZ partook in the Youth in Business Open Day at ESikhaleni. The occasion was derived by the City of uMhlathuze aimed at celebrating youth month through supporting young people in business, unemployed graduates, and giving entities and departments a platform to engage with the youth on the opportunities they offer to the business community as well as the youth, particularly the unemployed graduates and residents at large.

The Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone amongst others was invited to participate and give support to the City of uMhlathuze by showcasing opportunities afforded to youth through different programmes whilst also assisting with career guidance.



Cllr. X. Ngwezi, shared the sentiments that; as local government leadership, they understand the challenges the youth of today are confronted with, which is the reason the City has deliberated to initiate the Graduate Unemployment Indaba that will unite unemployed graduates, various departments at the Municipality and the companies operating under the City of uMhlathuze. The aim is to allow a platform with an open discussion on the outcries and seek interventions where possible in partnerships with stakeholders.

Delivering the closing remarks, Deputy Mayor; Cllr N. Ngubane encouraged the youth to continue acquiring skills from higher institutions of learning .



RBIDZ PRIORITISES YOUTH DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ON-THE-JOB TRAINING



Graduates from different academic fields who are on the RBIDZ internship programme

Acknowledging the high rate of unemployment amongst the youth in the country as well as adhering to the Provincial Growth and Development Plan (PGDP) goals for skills development, the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone continues to afford the young graduates with the opportunity to participate in the Internship programme which assists them with on-the-job training and experience.

The programme is a well-structured 2- year programme that exposes the graduates to various operational components of the company and practical aspects of doing the job in their chosen careers.

The Internship Programme provides an affluent opportunity for jump starting the career growth and development for the newly qualified graduates and discovering new talent.

MEET RBIDZ INTERNS ENROLLED IN THE PROGRAMME



DUMISILE MABASO

Brand & Marketing Intern

- BA Communication Science



ANDILE MYENI

Stakeholder & Communications Intern

- Diploma in Marketing
- Advanced Diploma in Marketing; and
- Post Graduate Diploma in Marketing Management



MHLENGI MATHE

ICT Intern

- National Diploma in ICT (Applications Development); and
- Higher Certificate in ICT



BABALWA DAMOYI

Investment Promotions Intern

- Diploma in Marketing



NOMVULA ZUNGU

Human Resources Intern

- National Diploma in Human Resources Management



MTHOKOZISI QWABE

Supply Chain Management Intern

- BTech in Public Management; and
- National Diploma in Public Management



NKOSIKHONA FAKUDE

Environmental Intern

- Bachelor of Social Science (Environmental Science)



NTOMBIZETHU MBATHA

Monitoring & Evaluation Intern

- Post Graduate Diploma in Marketing and Supply Chain Management; and
- Bachelor of Public Administration



STAFF MATTERS

RBIDZ NEW APPOINTMENT

Introducing Mr. Jacques Bhengu, a well-versed professional, employed as the Zone Operations Manager under the Zone Development and Operations Business Unit.

Under his belt as a professional engineering technologist, Jacques holds a BTech in Electrical Engineering from the Durban University of Technology (DUT) and National Diploma in Electrical Engineering from the same institution, coupled by professional training in Project Management and SAIEE membership.

He possesses over 13 years' of experience in electrical engineering, electrical project management and execution of massive infrastructural projects; having worked at eThekweni Municipality - Senior Electrical Technologist and Projects Manager, SMEC SA (Pty) Ltd - Section Manager: KZN Region and Bosch Consulting Engineers (Pty) Ltd - Senior Projects Manager, to name just a few.

His vast skills extend to building services (commercial, industrial & residential), energy efficiency & management, maintenance of MV and LV substations, electrical investigations and reporting, as well as training and mentoring Junior Engineers in his former services.



Jacques Bhengu: Zone Operations Manager

His roles within the RBIDZ include among others; giving strategic guidance in the scope of the entire operations and primarily being involved in the aspects of the company's project monitoring and reporting, as well as overseeing the application of relevant policies and procedures.

As the RBIDZ welcomes Jacques on his new venture, he alluded that he is looking forward to operating within a Special Economic Zone setting. 'He anticipates gaining more exposure on infrastructure projects as one of his specialities and expressed his enthusiasm towards delivering on operations and support'.

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**RICHARDS BAY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
ZONE COMPANY (SOC) LTD**

RBIDZ Office Complex,
4 Harbour Arterial,
Richards Bay

Private Bag X1005,
Richards Bay 3900

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

www.rbidz.co.za

 RBIDZ Special Economic Zone  RBIDZ Special Economic Zone  @Richardsbay_idz