# THE PRECINCT Q2







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THE OR TAMBO SEZ
Special Economic Zone

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GGDA
GAUTENG GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY





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# Foreword

As we step into the season of spring, we are reminded of the power of renewal, growth, and new beginnings. Spring encourages us to reflect on our journey, celebrate our progress, and embrace the opportunities that lie ahead with renewed energy and optimism.

The period from July to September 2026 was an exceptional one for OR Tambo International Airport SEZ, marked by significant milestones, memorable celebrations, and well-deserved recognition. These achievements are a testament to the dedication, resilience, and collaborative spirit of our employees, stakeholders, and partners who continue to drive the growth and success of the SEZ.

A defining moment of the quarter was our national recognition at the 2026 SEZ Achievement Awards in Durban, where OR Tambo International Airport SEZ was honoured as South Africa's Most Improved SEZ Operator. This prestigious accolade reflects the commitment, hard work, and excellence demonstrated across the organisation every day. It is a proud achievement for the entire OR Tambo SEZ family and a reminder of what we can accomplish when we work together towards a shared vision.

As we celebrate these successes, let us also remember the importance of maintaining a healthy balance between our professional and personal lives. Sustainable growth is not only about achieving business objectives but also about taking care of our wellbeing, supporting one another, and making time to recharge. By doing so, we ensure that we remain motivated, productive, and ready to seize new opportunities.

This edition of the newsletter captures the highlights, achievements, and inspiring stories that defined the quarter. Most importantly, it celebrates the people behind our success. Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment. Let us carry the spirit of spring forward, continue building on our momentum, and embrace the next chapter of our journey with confidence and purpose.

Happy reading!



# A Shared Purpose: GGDA Group CEO Outlines the Future of OR Tambo SEZ



NEHAWU representatives at the town hall.



Ms Yvonne Chauke showing off a prize she won during the ethics quiz at the town hall.




Ms Boitumelo Khutswane, Senior Manager: Enterprise Risk, Compliance and Ethics presenting on risk matters during the town hall session.

Understanding the vision of the organisation one works for is not a privilege, but a necessity. Group CEO Sthembiso Dlamini shared her vision for OR Tambo SEZ at the staff townhall on 30 July 2026, held at the Superblock. The team came together for an open, honest, and energising conversation about the road ahead.

This session outlined a range of critical areas that shape the day-to-day and long-term direction of the organisation. The Group CEO outlined the operational strategies driving the GGDA Group objectives and how the OR Tambo SEZ fits in. The Group CEO spoke candidly about financial sustainability and revenue growth and then addressed the importance of risk management, ethics, and fraud prevention in maintaining the integrity that the organisation is built on.

The town hall also provided an opportunity for labour representatives to address the team on pertinent issues that surround the labour bargaining unit, ensuring that every voice in the organisation was heard and represented in the room. A need for staff active participation in labour matters was raised and a call to action was shared with the team to avail themselves for shop stewardship opportunities.

Sessions like these are important as they close the gap between leadership and the broader team, aligning everyone around a shared purpose, and serving as a reminder that OR Tambo SEZ's success is a collective effort, built by every person who shows up and gives their best every day.

# Department Updates & Announcements

### Facilities - Meet The Pearl

The boardrooms on the ground floor have recently received a facelift, including the installation of new glass doors to minimise disruptions and create a more private and professional meeting environment.

We are also pleased to announce that the Ground Floor Auditorium has officially been renamed The Pearl. When booking the full, unpartitioned auditorium space, tenants are kindly requested to refer to it as The Pearl in all booking requests and correspondence.









### Infrastructure - Giving Back to the Community

Tisol Engineering, the electrical subcontractor for the Precinct 2 bulk infrastructure development, went above and beyond the building site on Saturday, September 19, 2026, to make a significant impact in the local neighbourhood.

Tisol Engineering's Corporate Social Investment commitment included a donation of school shoes to 110 students from five informal settlements around the Precinct 2 project site, a comforting reminder that building a better future extends beyond infrastructure.

OR Tambo SEZ is proud to collaborate with contractors and partners who invest not only in development, but also in the community. Well done, Tisol Engineering.





# South Africa's Most Improved SEZ Operator: OR TAMBO SEZ Takes The Crown




The annual SEZ Achievement Awards took place on July 16-17, 2026, during the International SEZ Infrastructure and Investment Conference in Durban, one of South Africa's most distinguished conferences of Special Economic Zone operators, government officials, investors, and industry leaders. The awards honour outstanding performance, progress, and effect across South Africa's SEZ network, highlighting the zones that are promoting industrialisation, investment, and economic growth throughout the country.

At this ceremony, OR Tambo International Airport SEZ was voted South Africa's Most Improved SEZ Operator for 2026, a source of great pride for the entire organization and a tremendous affirmation of the zone's daily operations.



OR Tambo SEZ team receiving the award

The award acknowledges significant achievement across various key areas, including infrastructure development, investor facilitation, MSME support, and operational excellence. OR Tambo SEZ, strategically placed near to Africa's busiest airport, continues to expand as a gateway connecting local manufacturers to global markets, owing to tighter governance, faster turnaround times, and greater collaboration across Gauteng's industrial ecosystem.



MSMEs that showcased their products at the 2nd SEZ conference in Durban

The SEZ's Jewellery Manufacturing Precinct is a prime example of beneficiation in action, transforming locally mined gold and platinum into high-value export products in industries such as jewellery, pharmaceuticals, and aerospace.




This achievement is more than simply a trophy; it is a national recognition that OR Tambo SEZ is on the right path toward success. Gauteng is influencing South Africa's industrial future, and OR Tambo SEZ is happy to be in the center of it. Here's to the entire crew, whose devotion, hard work, and commitment enabled this moment.

*"Celebrating not only excellence, but also the possibility of a South Africa that manufactures more, exports more, innovates more, and creates far greater opportunities for its people."*

# OR Tambo SEZ Reaffirms Commitment to Transparency and Good Governance

Accountability is more than just a value at OR Tambo SEZ; it is a practice. In September 2026, the Zone participated in two key engagements with the Gauteng Provincial Legislature's Economic Development Portfolio Committee, demonstrating the organisation's commitment to transparency and good governance.

OR Tambo SEZ held a pre-Portfolio Committee session on 20 August 2026 to prepare for its formal engagement with the committee. This preliminary session enabled the team to ensure that all information, data, and presentations were thoroughly prepared and aligned ahead of the formal meeting, highlighting the organisation's commitment to accountability and preparedness when engaging with oversight structures.

On 10 September 2026, OR Tambo SEZ had the honour of hosting the Portfolio Committee. The visit gave committee members a firsthand look at the work being undertaken on the ground, including the history and vision of the Gauteng Industrial Development Zone (GIDZ) as a Special Economic Zone (SEZ), the progress of Phase 1 and Phase 2 infrastructure development, investment activity, and socio-economic benefits such as MSME empowerment, skills development, and job creation. The visit also highlighted the roles and responsibilities of key partners and stakeholders.

The engagement provided an important opportunity to showcase progress, acknowledge the work that still lies ahead, and reaffirm OR Tambo SEZ's commitment to delivering on its mandate with integrity and purpose in service of Gauteng's economic growth and the communities it serves.

It was an opportunity to highlight achievements, recognise ongoing efforts, and reaffirm OR Tambo SEZ's commitment to fulfilling its mandate with integrity and purpose.



Pre-Portfolio Committee







Portfolio Committee members at the Finestar Jewellery & Diamonds Pty Ltd office



Portfolio Committee members at the OR Tambo SEZ Precinct 2 construction site with the project team



# Celebrating the Elegance of Womanhood

Not only one day, but all days must be dedicated to women. 09 August marks the historic day that over 20 000 women of all races marched to the union buildings in Pretoria to stand against the pass laws, a moment of extraordinary courage that changed the course of South Africa's history. In honour of this legacy, every year OR Tambo SEZ recognise the contribution of women. The nation dedicates the entire month of August to celebrating women and the generations of battles that built the foundation for gender equality and women's empowerment today.



OR Tambo SEZ celebrated the women of the organisation on Friday, 07 August 2026. Recognising not only their professional contributions, the strength, grace and resilience they bring to the workplace every single day. It was a moment of joy, appreciation, and sisterhood. This is a reminder that the spirit of those 20 000 women lives on in every woman who dares to show up, lead and excel.



# A Small Act of Kindness, A Lasting Impact: OR Tambo SEZ Delivers Hope to Kids Haven

What started as a call to action has become a beautiful display of generosity. On 4 September 2026, the OR Tambo SEZ Team made their way to Kids Haven in Benoni to drop off the donations collected for the Mandela Charity Food and Clothing Drive. The response from the team made it a moment to be proud of.

Kids Haven is a non-profit organisation based in Benoni that provides a safe haven for abandoned, abused and vulnerable children, offering them shelter, care, education and the chance of a better future. To be able to support an organisation doing such important work in the community is a privilege and not one that the OR Tambo SEZ takes for granted.

The donations included non-perishable food items and clothing. These donations were a direct reflection of the generosity and compassion of the OR Tambo SEZ team. Every item collected represents someone who chose to give and make a difference in the lives of the children at Kids Haven.

To everyone who donated,

thank you.





OR Tambo SEZ Team at Kids Haven Benoni



# Manufacturing Indaba: Made in Africa



Noxolo Mseleku, founder of Elegante at Manufacturing Indaba 2026.



Kamogelo Phago, founder of Luxity Fine Jewellery at Manufacturing Indaba 2026.

On 14-16 July 2026, OR Tambo SEZ had the honour of attending the Manufacturing Indaba; hosted at the Sandton Convention Centre. Industry leaders explored the technologies, automation strategies and digital innovations. The convention brought together government leaders, manufacturers, investors, policymakers, industry experts and innovators across Africa under the theme “Made In Africa: Scaling Growth and shaping trade”. The program also highlighted how rising technology, innovation, and strategic alliances are altering manufacturing operations, increasing productivity, and preparing African firms to capitalise on new regional and international market opportunities.

The Exhibition floor was the highlight of the event. It served as a platform that brought together African businesses connected directly with decision-makers, procurement professionals and investors, creating new commercial opportunities and partnerships that will extend long after the event. This year OR Tambo SEZ was proud to expose two exhibitors at the Indaba.

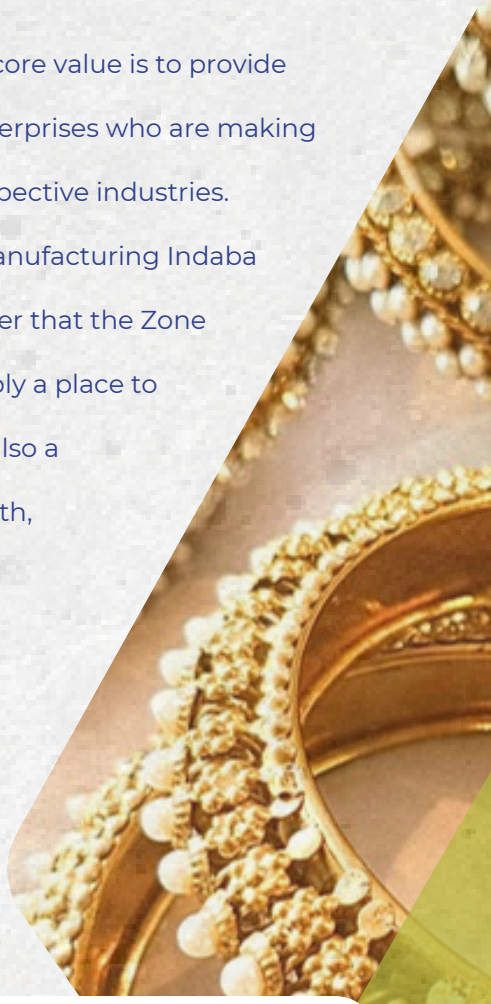
# Manufacturing Indaba: Made in Africa. Continued

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Elegante, set up in 2017 by Noxolo Mseleku, is a South African jewellery business built around the concept of everlasting beauty. Each piece is meticulously designed to be polished, elegant, and appropriate for royalty. At the Manufacturing Indaba, Noxolo displayed a spectacular assortment of custom-made products that wowed attendees and wonderfully captured the spirit of the Made in Africa theme.

Luxity Fine Jewellery showcased a daring blend of international craftsmanship and African elegance on the exhibition floor. Luxity is a company founded on authenticity, innovation, and confidence, with unique designs that reflect uniqueness and the depth of African luxury.

OR Tambo SEZ's core value is to provide a platform for enterprises who are making waves in their respective industries. Events like the Manufacturing Indaba serve as a reminder that the Zone is more than simply a place to do business; it is also a platform for growth, visibility, and opportunities.





# Showcasing Excellence: OR Tambo SEZ Showcases MSMEs at Jewellex Africa 2026

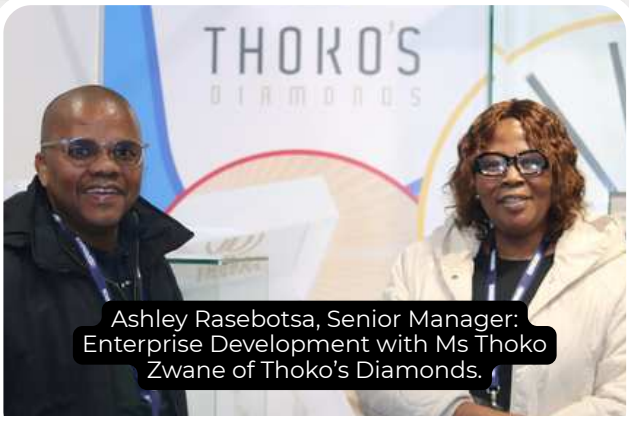
The precious metals and jewellery sector is one of OR Tambo SEZ's key focus areas, and Jewellex Africa provided the ideal platform to demonstrate why. OR Tambo SEZ attended and exhibited at this year's expo, showcasing two of its talented tenant enterprises while highlighting the strength of the Zone's Jewellery Manufacturing Precinct.

On 6 and 7 September 2026, OR Tambo SEZ had the honour of participating in Jewellex Africa 2026. OR Tambo SEZ was proud to have Isabella Jewellers & Refiners and Thoko's Diamonds represented at the event, showcasing the calibre of manufacturing, refining, and craftsmanship emerging from Gauteng's gems and jewellery sector.

Thoko's Diamonds attracted visitors with a spectacular display of jewellery pieces while promoting its specialised services, including diamond cutting, polishing, and sales. Its presence at the expo provided a compelling demonstration of the full diamond value chain operating within the OR Tambo SEZ ecosystem.

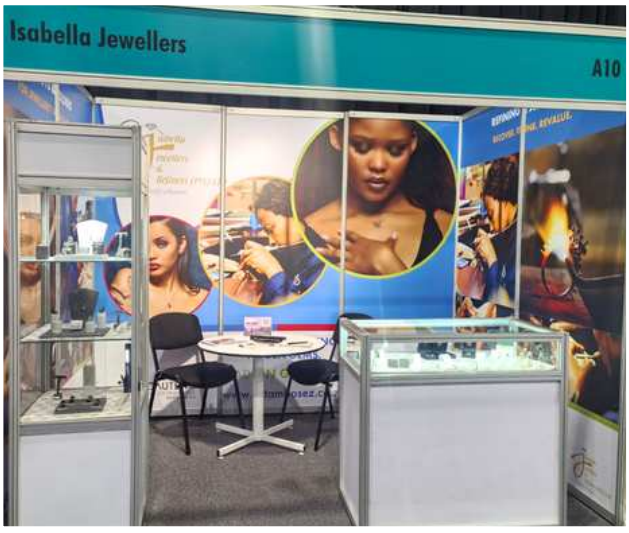
Isabella Jewellers & Refiners showcased its exquisite jewellery collections alongside a comprehensive range of professional services, including precious metal refining, smelting, in-house assaying, and technical services. Its participation at Jewellex Africa highlighted the depth of expertise and capability available within the OR Tambo SEZ Jewellery Manufacturing Precinct.

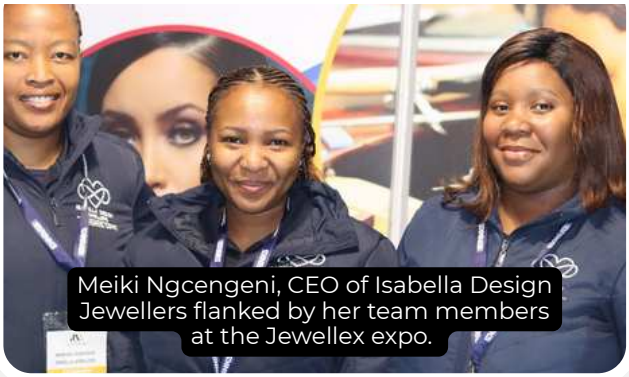
Jewellex Africa 2026 brought together stakeholders from across the jewellery industry for an inspiring showcase of craftsmanship, innovation, technology, and the future of jewellery manufacturing. The expo continues to provide an important platform for industry players to connect, exchange ideas, explore emerging trends, and discover new technologies.



Ashley Rasebotsa, Senior Manager: Enterprise Development with Ms Thoko Zwane of Thoko's Diamonds.





Meiki Ngcengeni, CEO of Isabella Design Jewellers flanked by her team members at the Jewellex expo.

# Africa Ready MSME Workshop: Unlocking Africa's Single Market



Investment Promotion Facilitator of OR Tambo SEZ, Maidei Matika



Tshegofatso Motaung, CEO of Cadarleb Africa






OR Tambo SEZ, in partnership with the Gauteng Growth and Development Agency (GGDA), Cedarleb Africa, SARS, the dtic, and other ecosystem stakeholders, hosted the Africa Ready MSME Workshop on 21 September 2026 under the theme, "Unlocking Africa's Single Market: Positioning South African MSMEs for Continental Growth."

The workshop brought together entrepreneurs, business leaders, government institutions, and trade experts to explore opportunities created by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Participants were encouraged to view Africa not simply as an export destination, but as a market where South African businesses can contribute to industrialisation, economic integration, and shared prosperity.

Industry experts provided valuable insights on AfCFTA opportunities, SEZ benefits, export incentives, trade compliance, cross-border finance, and banking solutions available to support MSMEs looking to expand across the continent.

The session reinforced a powerful message: South African MSMEs must position themselves not only as exporters to Africa, but as African businesses creating value across the continent. OR Tambo SEZ is proud to support platforms that equip entrepreneurs with the knowledge and tools needed for continental growth.