



SEZ SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNATIONAL SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES -
INFRASTRUCTURE & INVESTMENT CONFERENCE.



*Reigniting Industrialisation
through World Class SEZs*



the dtic

Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



KWAZULU-NATAL

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PROGRAMME OUTLINE



Accreditation: 15 July 2026

08H00 – 18H00

Venue: Durban Exhibition Centre – Coast of Dreams Hall,
11 Walnut Rd, Durban Central



WELCOME

Welcome to the **2nd International
Special Economic Zones -
Infrastructure & Investment
Conference.**

As we Reignite Industrialisation through
World Class SEZs, this platform brings
together leaders, investors,
policymakers and innovators to unlock
opportunities, drive sustainable growth
and shape a prosperous future for
South Africa and the continent.



PROGRAMME: DAY I

DAY I | THURSDAY, 16 JULY 2026

Accreditation: 08:00 – 18H00

Venue: Durban Exhibition Centre – Coast of Dreams Hall, 11 Walnut Rd, Durban Central

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER/S
11h00 – 16h30	Business - to – Business (B2B) engagements: Rooms	
12h00 – 12h30	EXPORT MASTERCLASSES AND FIRESIDE CHATS (limited spaces) (Explore practical export strategies, market access opportunities and real-world exporter experiences through a series of interactive masterclasses and fireside chats designed for manufacturers, investors and businesses interested in exporting or already exporting)	
	Masterclass 1: [Export Readiness & Support for Emerging Exporters]	Facilitated by Mr. Kwanele Mkhwanazi - Director: Export Development & Support, the DTIC
12h30 – 13h00	Lunch Break	
13h00 – 13h30	Fireside Chat 1: Practical insights from an experienced exporter Masterclass 2: What International Buyers Actually Look for in a New Supplier	Ms Azande Ndebele - CEO, Shlobo Designs Facilitated by DHL Express Mr. Carl Erasmus - Direct Channel Supervisor & GoTrade Champion - DHL Express
13h30 – 14h00	Opening and Exhibition Tour	Honourable Minister, Parks Tau
14h00 – 14h30	Fireside Chat 2: From Local Business to International Trade: Practical Export Readiness Lessons for African SMEs	Ms Vusi Madi - Programs Manager, DHL Express
14h00 – 14h30	Opening and Exhibition Tour	Minister Parks Tau
14h30 – 15h00	Masterclass 3: Beyond the Booth: A Strategic Guide to Mastering International Exhibitions	Facilitated by Ms Nerisha Jairaj - Executive Director, SAFLEC
15h00 – 15h30	Fireside Chat 3: The Anatomy of an Export Deal: Inside the Mind of a Trade Expert	Mr. Claude Moodley Executive Manager – Export Development & Promotion, TIKZN
15h30 – 16h30	Networking and Engagement with Export Support Partners	
17:30 – 22:30	Gala Dinner (By Invitation)	



PROGRAMME: DAY 2

DAY 2 | FRIDAY, 17 JULY 2026

Accreditation: 08:00 – 17H30

Venue: Durban Exhibition Centre – Coast of Dreams hall, 11 Walnut Rd, Durban Central

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER/S
08h00 – 09h00	Accreditation	All
09h00 – 09h15	South African National Anthem	All
09h15 – 09h30	Special Economic Zone Investment Promotion Video	
09h30- 09h45	Welcome by Executive Mayor of the eThekweni Municipality	Councillor Cyril Xaba
09h45 – 10h00	Remarks by the Premier of KwaZulu Natal	Honourable Premier Thamsanqa Ntuli
10h00 – 10h20	Scene Setting and Introduction of the President	Honourable Minister Parks Tau
10h20 - 10h50	Keynote Address by the Deputy President	His Excellency Deputy President Paul Mashatile
10h50 - 11h20	TEA	
11h20 – 12h00	Why Invest in SEZ Now? A Panel Discussion investor perspective • The South African value proposition. • What are some of the success stories? • Why should SEZs be considered as investments of destinations of choice? Facilitated by: Ms. Vuyiswa Ramokgopa - The MEC Gauteng Department of Economic Development	Panel Members: • Ms Phumzile Langeni – Non-Executive Director, DP World • Mr Neale Hill - President of FORD Africa, FORD Motor Company SA • Dr Stavros Nicolaou - Snr Executive Strategic Trade, Aspen Pharmacare • Mr Corrie Kotze - CEO & Co-Founder, AIH Group • Mr Donovan Chimhandamba - President & CEO, Nyanza Light Metals (Pty) Ltd • Mr Andrew Masuwe-Director - Client Relations-Southern Africa, AfreximBank



TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER/S
12H00-12H45	Panel Discussion: SEZs as engines for Spatial Industrial Development Deliberations will focus on: • Repositioning SEZs as multi-faceted industrial ecosystem-based Zones (that include skills, logistics, integrated human settlement, recreation, services). • Repositioning Special Economic Zones as resilient, innovation driven Zones. Facilitated by: Mr David Makhura - Board Chairperson, Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA)	Panel Members: • Hon. Pinky Kekana- Deputy Minister, Public Service and Administration, RSA • Hon. Dr Phophi Ramathuba- Premier, Limpopo Province • Cllr Nasiphi Moya- Executive Mayor, City of Tshwane • Cllr Dada Morero- Executive Mayor, City of Johannesburg
12H45-13h30	Panel Discussion: Cross Boarder Collaboration through the Spatial Development. Deliberations will focus on: • Implementation & impact of the AfCFTA on SEZs in Africa. • Harmonisation of regulations across African markets. • Leveraging SEZs for export-led growth. • Strengthening Competitiveness of Special Economic Zones in the region: What are the critical enablers. Facilitated by: Rev. Musa Zondi - The MEC for Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs in KwaZulu-Natal	Panel Members: • Ms Emily Mburu-Ndoria - Director, Trade in Services, Investment, IPR and Digital Trade, AfCFTA Secretariat, Ghana • Ms Michelle Phillips - Group CEO Transnet • Mr Sibane Mgomzulu - CEO Eswatini Investment Promotion Authority • Dr Onorio Manuel - CEO MozParks, Mozambique • Mr Saveshen Pillay - CEO CRA Global Development
13h30 - 14h15	Lunch All Media interviews during break for principals	



TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER/S
BREAKAWAY SESSIONS		
14h15 – 15h00	Breakaway Session 1	
	Panel discussion: Critical Considerations for Policymakers and Project Developers Prior to Committing to Investing in Special Economic Zones and Industrial Parks. Deliberations will focus on: • MSMEs value-chains and supplier development and local and international linkages. • Innovation and technology improving competitiveness and sustainability. • SEZs as strategic platforms to leverage regional markets and trade frameworks.	Facilitator: Hon. Blennies-Magage MEC Northern Cape Panel Members: • Mr Themba Koza - CEO Coega Development Corporation • Mr Lionel October- Executive Director, National SEZ PMU/IZP • Ms Tanya van Meelis, SEZ Advisory Board Member and Head of Policy unit, COSATU • Prof Busani Ngcaweni, Director-Centre for Public Policy and African Studies
	Breakaway Session 2	
	Panel Discussion: Public Private Partnerships as drivers for Special Economic Zones Infrastructure and Logistical Support. Deliberations will focus on: • Public-Private Partnerships as enablers of SEZ and Industrial Parks success. • The use of PPPs to leverage private implementation of SEZ (capital, infrastructure & logistics). • PPPs unlocking blockages. • New and alternative financing mechanisms to support infrastructure development and economic activity in SEZs. • Structured projects risks.	Facilitator: Dr Nkosenye Zulu: HOD Economic Development, Tourism and Environment Affairs (KZN) Panel Members: • Dr Phindile Masangane - Group Executive-Programmes, DBSA • Advocate Phylis Difeto – Managing Executive Western Region TNPA • Mr. Hamish Erskine - CEO, Dube Tradeport Special Economic Zones • Mr Lufuno Ratsiku – Managing Director, Gentec Consulting



TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER/S
14h15 – 15h00	Breakaway Session 3	
	Panel discussion: The role of Special Economic Zones in Export and Trade Diversification Deliberations will focus on: • Strengthening trade facilitation to enhance the number and value of exported products. • Using trade agreements to strengthen exports from SEZs • Using export strategies to enhance the performance of Special Economic Zones.	Facilitator: : Hon. Bitsa Lenkopane, MEC for Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism, NW Panel Members: • Delia Ndlovu, Board Chairperson, ECIC • Ms Innocentia Madau – Managing Director, Potlako Global Logistics (Operating under MSC) • Mr Donald MacKay – CEO XA Global Trade Advisory • Ms Thandiwe Ngqobe - CEO ORTIA • Linda Seroka- Export Credit Insurance Corporation of South Africa (ECIC)
15h00 – 15h45	Panel Discussion: The role of Finance Institutions in accelerating the competitiveness of Special Economic Zones Deliberations will focus on: • The role of Financiers in accelerating the effectiveness of SEZ. • DFIs derisking for long term industrialisation. • Financing Infrastructure projects in the SEZs. • Accelerating investments through Blended Finance.	Facilitator: Honourable Mzwandile Masina – Portfolio Committee Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Trade, Industry and Competition Panel Members: • Mr David Makhura, Board Chairperson, DBSA • Mr Patrick Makape, Boad Chairperson, SEDFA • Mr Zweli Sapula, CEO, SADC Development Finance Resource Centre (DFRC) • Ms Zen Dlamini, Global Head: Infrastructure, ABSA • Mr Rian Coetzee-Executive: Industry Planning and Project Development, IDC
15h45- 16h00	TEA	ALL



TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER/S
16h00 – 16:45	Panel Discussion: Re-imagined Special Economic Zones: The new role of Special Economic Zones in Industrialising SA	Facilitator: Honourable Mzwandile Masina – Portfolio Committee Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Trade, Industry and Competition Panel Members: • Hon Parks Tau - Minister, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition • Councillor Cyril Xaba-Executive Mayor, City of Ethekwini , KZN • Hon Tshitereke Baldwin Matibe, MEC for Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism • Ms. Nonkqubela Ntomboxolo Pieters, MEC for Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT), Eastern Cape
16h45 – 17h00	Conference Resolutions	Deputy Minister, Hon. Zuko Godlimpi - Deputy Minister Department of Trade Industry and Competition
17h00 – 17h15	Vote of thanks and Closing Remarks	Fish Mahlalela, SEZ Advisory Board Chairperson





THANK YOU

Together, let's shape the future of industrialisation and investment through world class SEZs.

HOSTS



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