

FACT SHEET

South Africa's 2nd International Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Conference

16-17 July 2026

1. Brief Overview of the SEZ Programme:

- South Africa has 13 SEZs that have been designated across eight of the country's nine provinces
- The zones are delimited areas to attract investment that contain high-quality infrastructure, expedited customs and administrative procedures and incentives
- The designated SEZs hosts 224 tenant companies with a combined investment of R31,744 billion
- The main sectors that are represented across the zones are automotive (30%), logistics (29%), general manufacturing (14%), agro-processing (8%) and chemicals (6%)
- Collectively, the SEZs have created 28 821 direct jobs
- The zones are designed to create new industrial hubs, promote industrial capabilities, promote natural resource beneficiation and value addition, attract foreign and direct investment, accelerate economic growth and innovate economic activities
- More SEZs are proposed and are at various stages of planning or assessment by **the dtic**.

2. Strategic Importance of Special Economic Zones:

- Pro-industrialisation instruments that contribute to economic growth in developing countries
- Enable the consolidation of government spending and private sector investment into one geographically concentrated area



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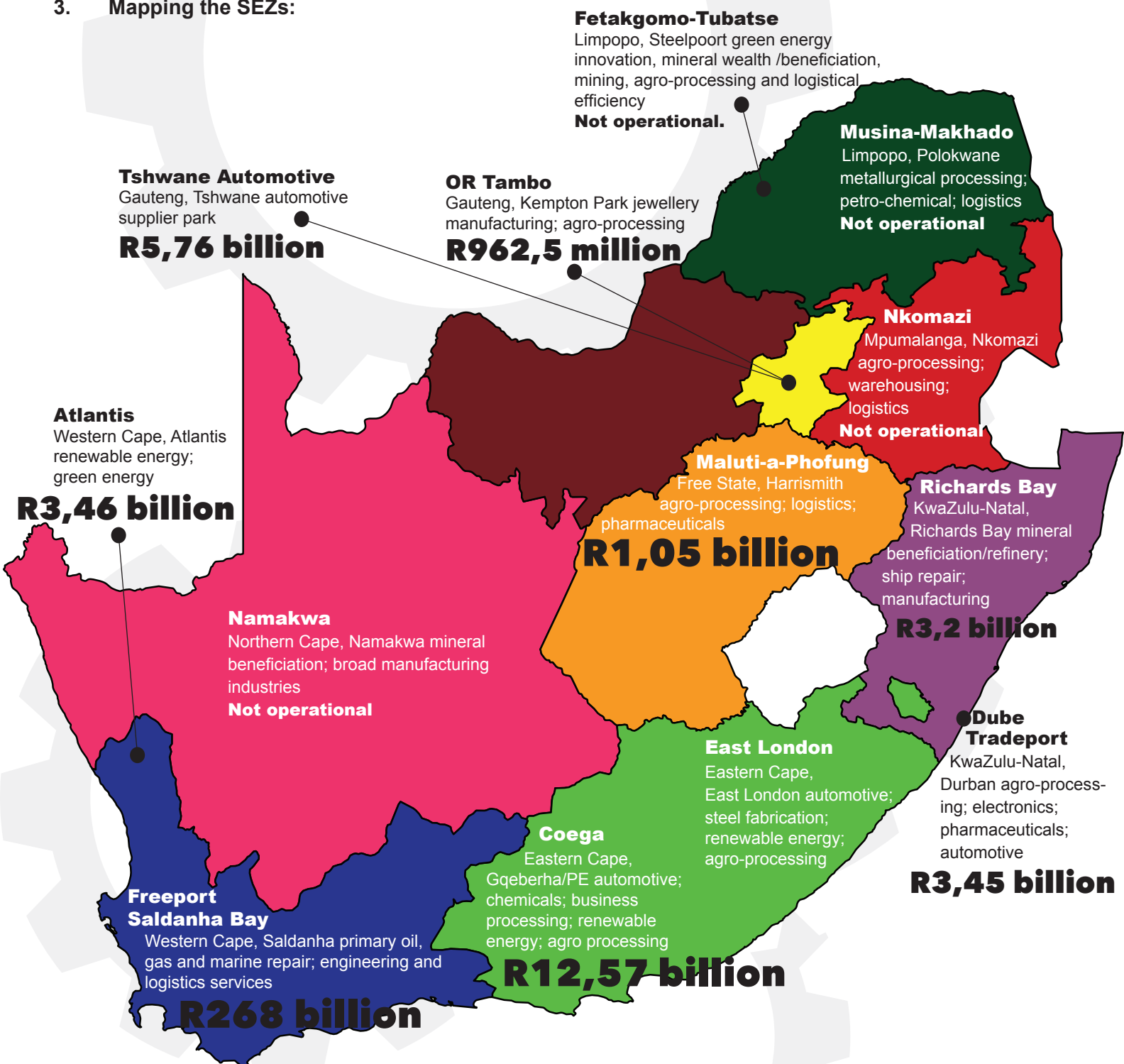


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- Catalyse industrial activity within specific regions to create jobs
- Increase the value and diversification of the country's export basket with value-added goods
- Facilitate technology transfer and innovation
- Enable the integration of MSMEs into the mainstream value-chains.

3. Mapping the SEZs:



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4. Purpose of the 2nd National SEZ Conference:

Reignite industrialisation through world-class SEZs.

5. Role of the Reimagined Spatial Industrial Development (SID) Strategy in the context of SEZs:

- Enhance the effectiveness of the SEZs in unlocking private sector driven investment and increased socio-economic impact
- Seeks to leverage regional comparative and competitive advantages to attract catalytic industrial projects
- New projects attracted will incorporate economic benefits for individuals and micro, small, medium enterprises (MSMEs) residing within the region.

6. Concrete Conference outcomes:

- Renewed policy clarity
- Actionable AfCFTA-SEZ linkages
- Sustainable financing solutions
- Strengthened public-private-community partnerships that reignite industrialisation through world-class SEZs.

7. National and Regional Stakeholders:

- The Presidency
- **the dtic**
- National Treasury
- Provincial Economic Departments
- SEZ Operators
- Investors and Corporates
- Development Finance Institutions such as Industrial Development Corporation and the Development Bank of Southern Africa
- Africa Economic Zones Organisation (AEZO) and the SADC Secretariat
- GCIS
- Brand South Africa
- National and International Media



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- Universities and Think Tanks
- Local Communities
- The media.

8. International Stakeholders:

- Ministry of Trade of Türkiye
- Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China
- MozParks of Mozambique
- Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Republic of Indonesia through the Batam Indonesia Free Zone Authority
- Republic of Tanzania.



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