# DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM

#### **UPDATE ON COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION AND RECOVERY PLAN**

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this submission is to provide an update on progress on the COVID-19 Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

This document presents an update on the work of the Economic Recovery Workstream, which forms part of the Provincial Disaster Operations Committee (PDOC). This work stream consists of all the Economic Cluster departments and their respective public entities, together with key national departments and state-owned entities.

Furthermore, the Provincial Economic Reconstruction and Recovery plan has been aligned to the National Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan. Its main objectives are enabling economic growth and job creation.

#### 3. DISCUSSION

The discussion section provides an update on the provincial economic situation, as well as a progress report on the Key Results Areas of the Plan based on latest available information.

# 3.1 Economic Impact and Economic Outlook

The COVID-19 outbreak has had major effects on economic performance, social and health systems globally.

#### 3.1.1 Key and recent information from Q2 2021

- The official unemployment rate of the EC increased by 3.3 percentage points, up from 43.8 percent in 1Q2021 to reach 47.1 percent in 2Q2021.
- The unemployment rate according to the expanded definition in the EC increased by 3.4 percentage points from the previous quarter to reach 53.0 percent in 2Q2021 (see below).

- As observed over the last quarters, the Provinces' unemployment rates consistently remain above the national average and are the highest in the country while absorption rates are hovering at low levels.
- In addition to structural labour market challenges faced, such as the proportion of men in employment being higher than that of women, these figures largely represent the complexity in dealing with the adverse impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on employment, businesses and the provincial economy as a whole.

# 3.2 Reporting on Key Results Areas.

The workstream reports on key results areas in alignment with the five pillars of the Provincial Economic Recovery Plan Framework. These are as below:

- a. Infrastructure Development to enable economic growth placing a focus on sectors that account for a growing share of production and employment through development and revitalization of provincial industrial platforms and implementation of strategic infrastructure projects, including strengthening the process of accessing national infrastructure funding opportunities.
- b. **Industrialization and Sector Development** Managing the risks, while harnessing the emerging opportunities associated with agri-industry, automotive manufacturing, tourism and oceans economy, among others.
- c. **Equitable and Inclusive Transformation** Including strengthening collaboration and integration between National Relief Instruments and Provincial and Local Government to enhance access to national and provincial relief funds by SMMEs and informal traders.
- d. **Digital Transformation**: Leveraging economic growth opportunities associated with the Digital Economy through Science, Technology and Innovation.
- e. **Public Finances** Ongoing investor mobilisation, leveraging private capital and provision of fiscal and economic stimulus through the various provincial instruments.

# **3.3 Progress on Pillar 1: Infrastructure Development to enable economic growth**

Please note that only updates relevant to the last month have been included in the progress section.

#### **Industrial Park Revitalisation**

#### Komani IP

- Project currently at 92% completion.
- Practical completion extended from April to Sept 2021 due to construction delays created by Covid-19 challenges.
- So far 168 constructions jobs have been created and 12 local SMMEs were supported.
- CHDA submitted a 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase application to DTIC in Dec 2020. Included is the establishment of an ICT hub. MOU in progress to be finalised with DTIC by end of the Q2.

#### Somerset-East:

- The 1st phase project is currently in construction phase with an overall progress of 80%.
- The Contractor has completed the Sewer Reticulation, Potable Water Reticulation, Stormwater Reticulation and Road Works.
- Currently busy with electrification upgrades which is at 60%.
- 30 construction jobs created thus far and supporting 3 local SMMEs.
- Practical completion is extended from July 2021 for a further 3 months due to outstanding EIA for electrical works.

#### Vulindlela:

• Practical completion extended from April to Dec 2021 due to delay on delivery of metal roofing sheets. Material on site now and construction to commence on the 6 Sept 2021. So far 122 constructions jobs have been created and is supporting 6x local SMMEs.

# **Infrastructure Related Jobs and SMME participation**

The following jobs and SMMMe participation has arisen from the Economic Stimulus Fund.

- Queendustria Substation upgrade: 12 locals employed with 9 being youth and 3 being women. Security fencing undertaken by a local SMME (electrical works too specialised)
- Somerset East Industrial Park: 95 Jobs created by the project.
- R 4.7M benefitted 24 local construction SMMEs with 8 being youth owned, 16 being women owned.
- Revitalisation of Dimbaza Industrial Park: 52 people employed to-date with 10 being women, 26 being youth and 16 being men.
- 30% of the construction value will be subcontracted to local SMME's and 9 packages have been earmarked for the Local SMME's.
- Mt Ayliff Informal Trade Infrastructure: The anticipated number of jobs to be created on the project is 40. The total number of people employed to date is 14 comprising of 7 local labours, 2 interns, 2 Security Guards, 1 CLO and 2 labourers from the Contractor

- Wildcoast SEZ: A total number of 8 SMME's and 43 general workers have been employed in the fencing project and they are all locally based
- Rafi Packhouse: 41 jobs created during construction
- Abalone Farm Infrastructure at Coega SEZ: 23 SMMEs employed todate with a value of R 64M targeted. 162 jobs created to-date during construction.

# **Agricultural Infrastructure Development**

# **Strengthening Red Meat Value Chain**

2 Animal handling facilities in Joe Ggabi were completed.

# **Strengthening Wool & Mohair Value Chain**

- 25 shearing sheds have been awarded across the province and construction has commenced.
- Shearing shed equipment for the eight (8) sheds across the province has been awarded.

# **Revitalization of Irrigation Infrastructure**

- Zanyokhwe irrigation (18ha): Site handing over has been done, Contractor working on finalising the design and bush clearing & exposing of pipes is in progress.
- Kibiti Project weedmat: The weed mat has been partially delivered and delivery will be completed in the month of September as the remaining stock is still under production.
- Shilo Irrigation Scheme: Tender closed, and the contractor is expected to be on site in September and complete in February 2022.
- Masibazise Irrigation (Small Scale): Construction works are complete and testing and commissioning done in of August 2021.

## **Energy Infrastructure**

- Three Risk Mitigation Power Procurement Programme projects have been awarded to the Eastern Cape.
- The deadline for financial close for the projects has been extended to the end of September 2021.
- One permit related item remains outstanding for one project.
- The Karpowership EIA were refused by DFFE for project in all ports including Coega/Nggura. The refusal is currently under appeal.

## 3.4 Progress on Pillar 2: Industrialization and Sector Development

Please note that only updates relevant to the last month have been included in the progress section.

# **Investment landing**

- As a result of the recent launch of the W206, the ELIDZ has been able to operationalise 9 new manufacturing facilities in the automotive sector:
- These facilities were for the following investors
  - Metalsa Southern Africa Division, Valeo Automotive Systems, Ebor Automotive, Polytec, Auria, Wheel Assemblers, IAC, AIH, Permalox WWS
- Additional expansions in the automotive sector have been operationalised
  - Yanfeng Expansion South Africa Automotive Interior Systems
  - Molan Pino Expansion
  - Automould Expansion

# **Incubation development programme**

- The ELIDZ was able to sign on a new incubator into the ELIDZ.
- The incubator, Schubert Park Textiles Incubator will see entrepreneurs in the textiles industries being supported from the ELIDZ.

# **Tourism Smart Marketing**

# Pivot to digital / virtual / remote platforms PR and Partnerships

- **Provincial Tourism Month Media Launch** was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 at The Cradock Four Memorial site in Cradock.
- **Virtual Tours** 15 iconic EC experiences and locations were captured to provide an interactive virtual tourism experience for the potential visitor. These are available on our website.
- Mobile Application EC destination mobile application reflects current update trends and a new user experience. The new APP has a strong focus on the domestic market and will give users access to promotions, events and competitions.
- Deals website Eastern Cape deals' platform serve as a central hub to access
  Eastern Cape travel deals; To drive domestic tourism and product support; it
  was announced in September and will be launched in December.
- QR Codes will be designed for access to virtual tours, 100 things to do in EC and also the visitors guide.
- Summer launch plans are underway.
- Amongst South African travellers, the Eastern Cape was the most visited province in 2020, and the destination to which more domestic tourists travelled for holiday than any other. The Eastern Cape was also the only province to record more domestic travellers (in total) and holiday makers than in the previous calendar year.

Purpose of visit (domestic): Holiday						
Province	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 Trend	
Eastern Cape	283 636	33 441	162 142	396 794	548 905	
Free State	29 676	28 628	68 156	218 007	136 059	
Gauteng	617 148	1 404 196	999 703	2 567 702	1 191 773	
KwaZulu Natal	256 684	129 004	308 573	986 414	777 125	
Limpopo	517 933	410 778	224 550	476 622	58 856	
Mpumalanga	65 224	231 063	236 591	420 032	137 606	
Northern Cape	10 251	22 120	44 858	187 888	90 410	
North West	54 552	101 008	135 054	518 244	112 523	
Western Cape	980 265	538 006	426 699	1 280 137	923 296	
	2 815 370	2 898 244	2 606 327	7 051 840	3 976 554	

Province         2019         2020         ranking           Eastern Cape         2 096 776         △ 3 798 971         8           Free State         3 537 526         ✓ 2 052 872         5           Gauteng         6 674 593         ✓ 3 332 164         1           KwaZulu Natal         6 198 264         ✓ 3 407 452         2           Limpopo         4 170 850         ✓ 1 478 520         4           Mpumalanga         2 546 151         ✓ 1 567 653         6	2020 ranking 1 5
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	7
Northern Cape 868 736 V 596 347 9	9
North West 2 395 704 7 1 623 660 7	6
Western Cape 4 431 140 7 2 642 302 3	4
TOTAL 32 919 740 20 499 942	
SA Tourism 2020 provincial data National Department of Tourism Release date: 21 September 2021	inCo

Spend (domestic	- by DESTINAT	10N province			
Province	2019 (R billion)	2020 (R billion)	Chang (R billio		% change
Eastern Cape	3.200	7.391	_	4.191	131%
Free State	4.897	2.171	$\blacksquare$	2.726	-56%
Gauteng	7.704	9.298	_	1.594	21%
KwaZulu Natal	8.043	16.443		8.040	104%
Limpopo	5.508	3.025	$\blacksquare$	2.483	-45%
Mpumalanga	2.752	4.957		2.205	80%
Northern Cape	0.850	0.770	$\blacksquare$	0.080	-10%
North West	3.197	2.208		0.989	-31%
Western Cape	7.730	6.867	_	0.863	-11%
TOTAL	43.882	53.129	R	9.248	21%

# **Provincial Support to distress businesses and famers**

**Manufacturing Support Centre (MSC)** 

## Since 26th March 2020 to 29nd Aug 2021:

- 180x tickets were logged in portal impacting 7524 jobs;
- 164x tickets were closed impacting 6391 jobs for various reasons (financial and non financial support);
- 16x tickets which impacts 1133 jobs are in progress and awaiting supporting information all companies seeking financial support;

# Covid-19 Distress Portal (Business Support Centre – BSC) Since 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021 to 20<sup>th</sup> Aug 2021:

- 123x tickets were logged portal impacting 1404 jobs.
- 116x tickets were closed impacting 1297 jobs for various reasons (financial and non financial support);
- 7x tickets which impacts 107 jobs are in progress awaiting supporting information all companies seeking financial support

#### **Job Stimulus Fund**

Since 1st April 2021 to 24th Aug 2021

- 12x companies approved to a value of R 5.891million and will save 394 jobs;
- Sector breakdown: Manufacturing 1, Ocean's Economy 1, Construction 1, Tourism 5 and Services 4;
- Geographical spread: NMBM 3, BCM 2, Chris Hani 2, Alfred Nzo 1, Amathole - 1 and OR Tambo - 3.

No	Business name	No of Jobs	Amount	Working Capital	TOTAL	Sector	District
1	BuckinghamGuesthouse	6	60000,00	79457,00	139457,00	Tourism	NMBM
2	LorenetTourism	11	110000,00	302528,00	412528,00	Tourism	AlfredNzo
3	LunaniConsultant	6	60000,00	309428,00	369428,00	Manufacturing	всм
4	MLogMotorSpares	7	70000,00	193400,80	263400,80	Services	ORTambo
5	KingGeorgeGuesthouse	6	60000,00	166987,00	226987,00	Tourism	NMBM
6	TlaliMotors	31	310000,00	-	310000,00	Services	ORTambo
7	DynamicAccountantand Solutions	5	50000,00	129306,40	179306,40	Services	ORTambo
8	WildCoastAbalone	296	2960000,00	-	2960000,00	OceanEconom y	Amathole
9	ForestHallGuestHouse	10	100000,00	341177,40	441177,40	Tourism	NMBM
10	UyaandEmihleTrading	5	50000,00	105388,00	155388,00	Construction	ChrisHani
11	KholNewmanB&B	5	50000,00	156827,00	206827,00	Tourism	ChrisHani
12	MotorVehicleElectrical(P TY)LTD	6	60000,00	166987,00	226987,00	Services	ВСМ
Tota	ıl	394	R3940000,00	R1951486,6 0	R5891486,60		

#### **Vegetables Value Chain**

- Beneficiaries have been approved
- Soil classification and testing has been completed
- Framework agreements for procurement of production inputs have been finalized, quotations are sourced for deliveries to commence in August and finalized in September

#### **Pineapple Value Chain**

• Finalization of framework agreements to procure production inputs for 300 ha has been done and sourcing of quotations has commenced.

#### **Citrus Value Chain**

- **Waterfal, Krila and Craighead citrus:** Land preparation, fencing and irrigation system have commenced except for irrigation, and these will be completed in the third quarter.
- **Citrus tree seedlings for above farms had** to be re-advertised due to non-response from the first and second tender advertisements. First delivery is expected in the fourth quarter.
- The signing of the MOU between Land Bank & DLRRAD has been done towards a grant allocation and write off the Kat River Citrus farmers debts to LONA.

#### **Red Meat Value Chain**

- A total of 384 veterinary certificates issued for export facilitation and a total of 600 cattle were exported to Mauritius and 108 to Zimbabwe.
- Support to 17 custom feedlots has continued.
- The procurement of bulls has commenced and deliveries are targeted for the 3rd quarter in line with the breeding season.

#### **Deciduous Fruit Value Chain**

- The Environmental Impact Assessment for Gubenxa is ongoing.
- Dam Design preliminary report issued and detailed soil surveys are conducted.
- The EIA will be concluded in 2023 while the detailed soil surveys will be completed in the 4th quarter.
- Weed mat for Upper Gxulu Blue Berries have been awarded to the contractor,

#### **Grain Value Chain**

- Cropping beneficiaries have been approved.
- Soil classification and testing has been completed.
- Framework agreements for procurement of production inputs have been finalized, quotations are being sourced.
- Marketing channels have been identified and the farmers have been advised
- 249 km fencing at OR Tambo, Alfred Nzo and Chris Hani is progressing well.
- 3 grain storage facility renovations were completed in Joe Ggabi
- 3 fencing sites (10.42 km) in OR Tambo have been completed.

## **Conduct Covid-19 inspections in various businesses**

As at 23/08/2021, 1745 inspections conducted Overall compliance level is 74% (1298/1745)

Targeted Sectors and compliance level; 67% (1145/1560)

- Agriculture and Forestry 72% (205/283)
- Chemical 32% (23/80)
- Iron and Steel 54% (380/567)
- Construction 82% (537/630)

Non-targeted Sectors compliance level:

82% (153/185) and these include the following:

- Food and beverage
- Manufacturing
- Government buildings
- Community sector
- · Warehouses and Wholesalers

# **Monitoring of CCMA - Section 189 referrals**

As from 15/03/2020 to 05/08/2021:

Dismissal due to operational requirements

- East London, there were 196 referrals and 782 affected.
- 349 referrals and 596 affected in Port Elizabeth.

Operational requirements facilitation (+50 employees)

- There were 28 referrals and 4 802 affected in East London.
- 40 referrals and 6660 affected in Port Elizabeth.

Totals: 613 referrals and 12 840 affected.

# **Progress on Pillar 3: Equitable and Inclusive Transformation**

Please note that only updates relevant to the last month have been included in the progress section.

# **Skills Development and Empowerment (Tourism)**

Many tourism businesses could not receive the tourism grant both at a National and Provincial level because of non-compliance with various government regulations and service standards, as such ECPTA empowered these businesses with training and guidance on compliance.

Businesses were supported as follows:

- Tourism B-BBBEE scorecard = 175
- UIF -Department of Employment and Labour = 21
- Financial Management = 51
- Tourist Guiding = 252 (Adventure, Nature and Culture as well as First Aid)

# **Skills Development and Empowerment (ELIDZ)**

- A partnership between ELIDZ and the Department of Employment and Labour provided for the training of 125 beneficiaries in Automotive Manufacturing Assembly and Electrical Engineering through the ELIDZ. This training was part of a 12-month learnership programme between the two institutions.
- The ELIDZ has been awarded funding by DEDEAT for a 4IR Skills
   Development Initiative for the ELIDZ STP and R10 million was awarded in Q4.
   The project kicked off in Q1 and first project Hackathon was implemented
   and finalized.
- The Hackathon Challenge 2021 took place from 04 06 June 2021.
- 13 teams participated across the Eastern Cape with the top 3 teams chosen by a group of judges including ICT technical experts, Academic partners and industry partners. MEC Mvoko handed over prizes of the winners in June 2021 at ELIDZ Conference Centre.

## 3.5 Progress on Pillar 4: Digital Transformation

Please note that only updates relevant to the last month have been included in the progress section.

#### **Broadband Infrastructure**

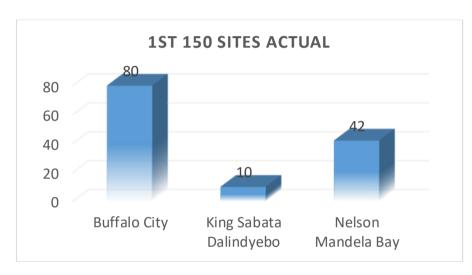
Elevate the strategic role of Broadband Infrastructure

- Of a total of 4887 site list provided, LIT has identified 2700 site list to connect.
- 132 sites activated in the 1st rollout.
- 2nd rollout still in the initial stages of performing Site Surveys and doing Right of Way (ROW) applications.

Milestone 1: 600 sites

- 1st 150 site rollout
- 2nd 150 site rollout
- 3rd 150 site rollout

Milestone 2: 1200 / 600 sites Milestone 3: 900 / 1500 sites





#### **Broadband Roll-out: Skills**

Ensure skills, capacity and access for connected and digitally included SMMEs and Entrepreneurs:

Target:

- A minimum 30% of Contract Value excluding cost of equipment.
- Supplier development plan must include training and development for the development of accredited utilizing 30% of the BBBEE Supplier.

#### Performance:

- R 23,094,000 (2%) of R 1,138,075,742 (30%) of R 3,793,585,808 (adjusted contract value). The contract value is R 4,157,000,000.
- 21 Level 1 vendors accredited by SITA in June 2021.
- 5 Level 1 vendors appointed by LIT in July 2021.
- 2 weeks training of Level 1 vendors took place in July 2021.
- RFP re-opened for the remaining 16 vendors.

# **Smart Marketing (Tourism)**

# Social media statistics and performance for period 18-24 September 2021 compared to 18-24 September 2020

For the period dated 18-24 September 2021 the ECPTA's social media platforms have shown consistent organic growth in following compared to the same period in 2020.

The ECPTA social media platforms secured a total increase in followership of **70%** for the reporting period.

Facebook brand page following grew from **22 553** page likes to **28 248** page likes resulting in an increase of **25%**.

Facebook impressions decreased with **33%** and engagement for the period was down with **13%**.

This drop in impression count could be attributed to various paid for social media campaigns that were run during this period in Tourism Month in 2020.

In addition to this, Twitter followers grew from **2 633** to **3 858** followers securing a growth of **46%**. In addition to this Twitter engagement decreased with **63%** and impressions decreased with **53%** for the period.

The photo sharing social network, Instagram, has secured a total following of **6 013** followers compared to **2 505** for the same period last year and shows a growth of **140%**.

Instagram post engagement increased with **363%** and impressions showed an decrease of **53%**.

It is interesting to note that although impressions have dropped that engagement percentage increased significantly.

Although various platforms have shown a decrease with impression count it is to note these figures balance out over a longer reporting period such as the quarter.

#### 4. IMPLICATIONS

#### 4.1 FINANCIAL

- DEDEAT has been allocated R114m to be ring-fenced to unlock potential investment and save and create jobs at the Provincial SEZs and for small businesses. On further advice from Provincial Treasury, it was indicated that these funds should be gazetted as entity allocations. R53 095 000 was disbursed to entities in the 20/21 FY and 61 123 000 has been allocated in the current FY.
- In the current FY R 36 Million funding has been allocated to support companies in distress.
- DRDAR is establishing agricultural infrastructure this year. This infrastructure is as follows:

DISTRICT	NO. OF PROJECTS	2021/22 BUDGET
ALFRED NZO MUNICIPALITIES	21	17,514,400
AMATOLE MUNICIPALITIES	13	21,949,600
BUF BUFFALO CITY	2	4,807,400
CHRIS HANI MUNICIPALITIES	18	38,177,400
JOE GQABI MUNICIPALITIES	18	17,905,600
NMA NELSON MANDELA BAY	2	1,684,000
O.R. TAMBO MUNICIPALITIES	17	31,611,600
SARAH BAARTMAN MUNICIPALITIES	21	16,749,000
Grand Total	112	150,399,000

#### 4.2 HUMAN RESOURCES

Under the Provincial Disaster Operations Committee (PDOC) for the COVID-19 Response process, 8 work streams have been constituted, including the Economic Recovery Workstream. Key functions of the Workstream include, among others:

 To ensure an integrated and well-coordinated planning, preparedness, response and intervention process for COVID-19 in respect to economic development cluster departments.

- To coordinate all the preparedness, response and recovery plans from all relevant sectors in an effort to develop a coherent, comprehensive, substantive and practical Economic, Tourism and Business response process.
- To effectively gather all relevant information to ensure positive communication and a coordinated flow of information.
- To report and make recommendations to the Provincial Committee Structures.

#### 4.3 LEGAL

It is noted that in all COVID-19 related funding and procurement processes with attention paid to compliance with the PFMA.

#### 4.4 COMMUNICATIONS

Communication on the plan and progress is provided to the stakeholders and the public in general through the government communication channels.

#### 5. IMPACT

The plan and outlined instruments are aimed at saving threatened jobs, sustaining businesses and providing for the revival of the provincial economy.

#### 6. CONSULTATIONS

- Other Departments
  - The workstream is represented by the following departments and their agencies: DRDAR, COGTA, DSRAC, DPW, DOT, PT.
- Other spheres of Government
  - The workstream also includes the national Department of Employment and Labour.
- Affected stakeholders
  - The Workstream presents to other stakeholders through the Economic Cluster.

# 7. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is recommended:

Recommendation	Responsibility	Supported by
It is recommended that the	DEDEAT	DRDAR
progress on the COVID-19		COGTA
Economic Response Process		DSRAC
and Recovery Plan be noted		DPW
·		DOT
		PT
		National DE&L

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT	DATE
DATE	