



Mpumalanga Service Excellence Awards

The Department of Economic Development Environment and Tourism (DEDT) will be awarding the tourism industry with Mpumalanga Service Excellence Awards, for their quality service to the industry.

Businesses in the tourism industry are invited to participate in the Mpumalanga Service Excellence Awards. The forms are available at <http://www.mpumalanga.gov.za/dedet/latestnews/form.pdf>.

The Awards function will be hosted in the beginning of November 2011. Members are urged to participate. This offer a means to bench marks other facilities in the province against our excellent facilities. Members interested in more information can contact Anna-Marth Ott at 013 243 2253.

Royalty; Rubies & Diamonds A Women's day success

The very first Women's Day celebration, hosted by the Middelburg Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI), was held on 5 August 2011 at Riverside and what a day it turned out to be.

We had beauty, brains, fun, food, entertainment, prizes, fashion shows and even a professional photographer that offered the ladies an opportunity to have a studio photograph of herself.

Bianca le Grange had every woman dancing on their feet, making us feel loved and special and Steve D added the final touch of elegance to the morning.

All 340 ladies received a pamper parcel filled with goodies, as well as an additional gift from lucky-draws. The response of the business community towards pamper parcels was evident of their support towards women.

The MCCI extends a special thank you to the business that added to the success of the day. They are: main sponsors Shanduka Coal, Exxaro lyanda, and Kanhym Estate. Other sponsors in alphabetical order Alveston Manor, Aqua Car Wash, Botterblom rustic décor, Columbus Stainless (Pty) Ltd, Delegacy Enterprise, Dr Kobus Neethling, Eastdene Liqueur Store, Eastdene Pharmacy, Granted Beauty, Inhaca Day Spa, Larum Jewellers, Loskop Dam Forever Resorts, Olifants River Lodge, PG Glass, Sindisa Guesthouse, Steve Dickenson Pharmacy, Storm Rekordz, Tee Vee Electric, The Bookshelf, The Hydro Shop, Virgin Active, Wonderpark Kelders

Thank you again to everybody that participated in this wonderful day. See you next year.

Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Path

The South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Friday hosted a bilateral engagement on the draft Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Path document with the MEC Mr Norman Mokoena and officials of the Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government.

The Middelburg Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) and SACCI pledged support to the Mpumalanga DEDET in its main objective of creating 719 000 jobs by 2020 in order to bring unemployment down to 15 per cent.

Through the provincial chamber movement, MCCI will facilitate further engagements with the department on the drafting and design of an industrial strategy for the Mpumalanga province. MCCI and SACCI believes that only through increased cooperation and communication between local business and the government will the small and medium enterprise sector, in conjunction with big business be able to create the necessary employment opportunities to eradicate poverty and reduce unemployment.

The establishment of local technical task teams that consists of local businesses as well as government and other stakeholders will significantly contribute to the viability and practicality of industrial policies, incentives and initiatives designed to create employment. Issues that negatively affect business and job growth such as infrastructure, labour activities etc. will also be put on the table to ensure we can achieve these goals.

The MCCI is in the process of finalising this provincial forum meeting. This meeting will be held before the end of September 2011. Members interested in attending are welcome to contact Natasja Hattingh at 013 253 2253.

The Future of Labour Courts

Business view was tabled before the Justice Portfolio Committee on the Superior Courts Bill [B7-2011] and Constitution 17th Amendment [B6-2011], at parliamentary hearings, both of which were recently tabled at Parliament. The Bills seek to consolidate South Africa's high court system and to make the Chief Justice the head of the judiciary.

STATUS QUO

- The Labour Court has the same status as a High Court
- The Labour Court adjudicates labour disputes between employer and employee arising from the Labour Relations Act
- The Labour Appeal Court hears appeals of decisions from the Labour Court and is the highest court for labour disputes
- The High Court has concurrent jurisdiction on certain labour matters, particularly those underpinned by common law
- The Supreme Court of Appeals hears appeals arising from the High Court

Labour Courts

Business drew attention to schedule 2 of the Superior Courts Bill, which proposed a consequential amendment to a section of the Labour Relations Act (LRA) that was concurrently under discussion at NEDLAC as part of a review of SA's labour legislation.

Section 152(2) of the LRA sets out the powers and jurisdiction of the Labour Court. At NEDLAC, organised labour was calling for the labour courts to be the sole courts having jurisdiction over labour matters.

To date however, the High Court has had inherent jurisdiction over labour matters and has heard labour disputes, particularly those underpinned by common law or contract or administrative law, which falls outside the ambit of the LRA. Disputing parties have had, in some circumstances, the opportunity to choose whether to refer their dispute to either the Labour Court or High Court.

Business recommended to Parliament that the proposed amendment of s152(2) remain at NEDLAC where social partners could put their effort into resolving the matter. It was suggested that it might be premature for the Committee to be seized with this matter in terms of the Superior Courts Bill, as the issue would come before Parliament again as part of the package of proposed labour law amendments.

The Department of Justice has indicated at NEDLAC that it intends conducting a study of the framework of all SA courts. Should the study make recommendations on the future of the labour courts, the Department undertook to bring the matter to NEDLAC for deliberation.

AUGUST 2011

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SEPTEMBER BUZZ:



Date: 22 September 2011
Time: 17:30 for 18:00
Venue: Busmid Auditorium
292 Walter Sisulu
Middelburg
RSVP Natasja on
013 243 2253
secretary@middelburginfo.com



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Thank you to the following sponsors of the Women's Day Celebrations

Picture Gallery

Women's Day Celebration



WHAT THE CHAMBER DID

- Valerie Pienaar trained SMME's on Marketing, Finance and Tendering. The training was held over a period of 6 days with 25 SMME's.
- Mpumalanga Tooling Initiative has meeting with TASA – Hannes Venter and Ebrahim Patel attended.
- Working dinner with Mayoral Committee at Silver Spoon Restaurant – Anna-Marth Ott, Ebrahim Patel, John Mabena, Anton Meerkotter, Hennie Viljoen, Arthur Gee, Albert Myburgh, Loggie van Loggenberg, Owen Maroleni and Eugene Rossouw attended.
- SACCI Council and Forum Meeting – Anna-Marth Ott attended.
- Regional Tourism Organization (RTO) meeting – Anna-Marth Ott, Mildred Daniels and various other tourism members attended.
- STLM Council meeting was attended by Anna-Marth Ott
- Women's day celebrations – 340 ladies attended
- Middelburg West Mining Forum – Anna-Marth Ott and various members attended.
- Mpumalanga Stainless Steel Cluster Board Meeting – Pieter la Grange, Owen Maroleni and various other members attended.
- CPF meeting – Alta Baartman and various other members attended.
- Tourism Excellence Awards was held at Nkangala District Municipality – Anna-Marth Ott attended.
- The MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule, invited Anna-Marth Ott to the Provincial HR Development Strategy Summit at Ingwenyama Lodge in White River.
- Regional Tourism Organization (RTO) meeting – Anna-Marth Ott, Mildred Daniels and various other members attended.
- Valerie Pienaar (BLC) attended the BBSDP workshop at SEDA Nelspruit.
- Steve Tshwete Local Municipality hosted a Women's Summit – Anna-Marth Ott attended.
- Highveld Priority Area Air Quality Management Plan Final Multi Stakeholder Reference Group Meeting – Anna-Marth Ott attended.

THE END