

## Middelburg Chamber and Nkangala FET Partnership goes from strength to strength

It is with pride that the Middelburg Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Chamber) can announce our partnership with the Nkangala FET College (NFETC).

It was with concern that the Chamber noted in 2009 that the NFETC was not accredited with the Manufacturing SETA (Merseta), as we have several members and large companies in the area that are contributing to this SETA.

The Chamber approached both Merseta and NFETC in order to facilitate a meeting between Merseta and the Nkangala FET College on the issue of accreditation. The outcome of this meeting was successful and resulted in Merseta accrediting several of the NFETC's courses.

## Nkangala FET College grant approval

The Chamber and its Business Linkage Centre Officer Valerie Pienaar assisted with a grant application to the Eskom Development Foundation. The successful grant of R684 253 was donated towards material and equipment for the Fitting and Turning and Automotive workshops for Trade test Centre accreditation.

## Boilermaking Workshop Accredited at Mpondozankomo Campus of Nkangala FET College

NFETC announced that the Boilermaking workshop at Mpondozankomo Campus in Emalaheni was accredited by the MERSETA in March 2011. This accreditation entitles the campus to offer short skills courses in Boilermaking as well as learnerships and enables the campus to prepare students for trade testing.

The Chamber and NFETC are planning other exciting projects that will be for the benefit of all. For further information, please contact Valerie Pienaar at 013 2433 2253.

## Effortless Enterprise Development Points for Businesses

Businesses supporting the Middelburg Chamber of Commerce & Industry's Business Linkage, Enterprise Development projects are effortlessly achieving full scores on their Enterprise Development points on the Broad Based Black Economic Development score card.

The Business Linkage Centre has developed several Enterprise Development projects in which businesses can participate to score their Enterprise Development points.

The most recent successfully completed project was training Small and Micro businesses in Source Documentation, Tendering and in total over 300 businesses participated.

It is important to the Chamber that the enterprise development projects that businesses are getting involved in should support our local economy, as in the end all will benefit from these activities. We also understand that in the current economic situation it is difficult to spend time on activities such as Enterprise Development. We therefore created these projects so that businesses can concentrate on their core business and still score full marks on the Enterprise Development Score.

Businesses or Rating agencies interested in more information can contact Valerie Pienaar at 013 243 2253 on how to participate in these successful projects.

## Trade Inquiries

The Chamber received the following trade inquiries from interested parties within South Africa:

### Mozambique

The government of Mozambique is offering short-term opportunities exist in developing and modernising post-harvest of Shrimp farming.

### Swaziland

The Swaziland investment promotion agency is seeking investors to establish a chipboard manufacturing plant in Swaziland. The country's national saw mills will provide plenty of feed stock for the proposed plant

The government of Swaziland is inviting partners to build a coal -fired thermal power station in Swaziland in an area with coal reserves estimated at 150 million tons.

### South Africa

The Ehlanzeni District Municipality is looking for investors interested in partnering with municipality in developing agricultural projects.

Tender and investment enquiries are sent on a continual basis to Chamber members. The Chamber cannot accept responsibility for the standing of the enquirers. Members are advised to make the usual inquiries should they decide to negotiate business transactions. The accepted business practices associated with international trade must be followed.

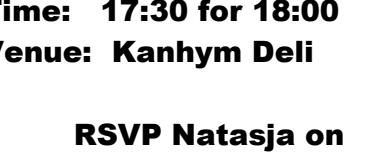
Please contact Natasja if you are a member and have not been receiving the trade and tender enquiries via e-mail, on 013 243 2253.

**MAY 2011**

## Newsletter Spotlight

- MCCI & Nkangala FET Partnership
- Nkangala FET Grant Approval
- Workshop Accredited
- Enterprise Development
- Trade Inquiries
- Lost Opportunity
- SACCI
- Rubies & Diamonds
- What the Chamber did.

## JUNE BUZZ:



**Date: 23 June 2011**  
**Time: 17:30 for 18:00**  
**Venue: Kanhym Deli**

**RSVP Natasja on**  
**013 243 2253**  
**secretary@middelburginfo.com**

## Women's Day Celebrations 2011

*Royalty: Rubies & Diamonds*

Date: 5 August 2011

Venue: Riverside Estate

Time: 08:00 for 08:30

Cost: R200p/person

*Dr Kobus Neethling, Bianca La Grange, Steve D. Lucky Draws, Champagne, Pamper Parcels, Cullinan Diamonds and many more surprises.*

Contact Middelburg Chamber of Commerce & Industry

013 243 2255

marketing@middelburginfo.com

## Happy Birthday!!

Congratulations to our Executive Committee members who celebrated their birthdays in March!!!

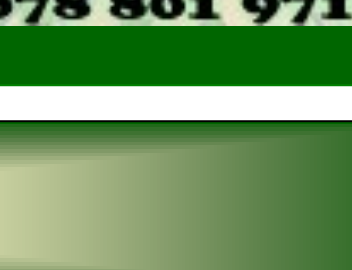
Anton Meerkotter  
17 May 2011

Chris Niehaus  
19 May

Solly Masango  
28 May 2011

## Information Centre

### Accommodation reservations



All the SAN Parks & other

Accommodation in SA

013 243 2253

078 801 9719

## Lost Opportunity?

The Business Confidence Index (BCI) dipped to 86.9 in April 2011 – i.e. 1.4 points down on March 2011. Because of the decline in April 2011, the BCI was only 2.7 index points higher in April 2011 than in April 2010 compared to the 5.1 points annual improvement in March 2011.

However, there were important reversals in April 2011 in support of business confidence. A positive monthly impact came from liquidations, manufacturing output, export volumes and import volumes.

The SACCI Business Confidence Index (BCI) again showed a ratchet effect by retracting in April. However, the monthly volatility and the frequent changes in sub-index measures from positive to negative indicates a lack of sustainable momentum and a clear direction in business confidence. The annualised impact on the BCI remained positively biased as seven sub-indices were positive, five were negative and one sub-index was neutral.

Although gold reached record US dollar price levels owing to the weaker US dollar and a more risky global economic environment, domestic financial circumstances failed to find a balance in favour of positive performance. Underlying inflation (general inflation excluding volatile items) remained stable, but overall price stability weakened.

This month's dip in business confidence in South Africa comes in the wake of further uncertainty in the global economic environment. Lower economic growth than expected, increasing inflation, fiscal tightening and rising interest rates became more prevalent – a closing window of opportunity.

It is with concern that SACCI noted the decline in employment figures between quarter 4 of 2010 and quarter 1 of 2011. The significantly high number of youth unemployment is especially disturbing. By lowering the costs of doing business (especially for small enterprises) and easing the rigidity of the labour market, South Africa can catalyse job creation.

## SACCI AGENDA FOR NEW MUNICIPAL OFFICE BEARERS AND COUNCILLORS

In a media statement released today, the President of the South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, (SACCI) Mr Chose Choeu said:

The South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SACCI) congratulate the political parties and the citizens of South Africa on the fair, free and peaceful local government elections that took place on 18 May. This is indicative of the democratic progress that the country is experiencing.

The new office bearers and Councillors face a challenging five years and considerable pressure will be placed on them to improve service delivery at local level. In particular SACCI believes that in order to provide an environment that is conducive to economic growth that will facilitate business development and hence job creation and the reduction of poverty, local governments will have to address the following areas as a priority:

- Appoint competent staff that are appropriately qualified and experienced, to fill the many vacancies that currently exist in local government and ensure that they are accountable and adhere to service level agreements.
- Address shortcomings in financial management and administration and appropriately deal with fraud and corruption thereby ensuring clean audits.
- Contain the cost of doing business by keeping utility tariffs and rates and taxes at reasonable levels, smoothing the licensing process and cutting red tape.
- Road maintenance and water and electricity supply and quality.
- Consult and work together with stakeholders, particularly chambers of commerce, in the development and implementation of development plans and local economic development strategies.

Business is prepared to assist local government and looks forward to the successful implementation of the local government turnaround strategy that will ensure a better life for all.

## "Royalty: Rubies & Diamonds"

Middelburg Chamber of Commerce & Industry is organising a spectacular Women's day celebration and is inviting the businesses to spoil their staff to a Women's Day Celebration on 5 August 2011 in Middelburg.

Ladies will be spoiled with two performing artists, a key speaker (surprise), loads of prizes and a Pamper Parcel for each attendee.

Cullinan Diamonds will also be giving a presentation on Diamonds and Rubies.

Invitations and notices will be sent out to all businesses confirming final details. Tickets will be on sale as from July. If you or your company would like to be involved please contact Carina at 013 243 2253.

## WHAT THE CHAMBER DID

- Toll Road Presentation – Anna-Marth Ott attended
- Local Tourism Organization (LTO) meeting – Carina de Jager and Mildred Mlambo attended.
- Rotary Greatest Train Race meeting – Anna-Marth Ott attended.
- Middelburg Chamber Bosberaad – Anna-Marth Ott, Natasja Hattingh and various Executive members attended.
- Loskop Fun Run – Anna-Marth Ott, Natasja Hattingh, Carina de Jager and Mildred Mlambo attended.
- Regional Tourism Organization (RTO) meeting – Carina de Jager and Mildred Mlambo attended.
- Business Buzz sponsored by Tracker – Anna-Marth Ott, Natasja Hattingh, Mildred Mlambo, Hameem Tayob and Carina de Jager attended.
- Mpumalanga Stainless Steel Cluster Business Plan and Strategy Session – Anna-Marth Ott attended.
- Business expectations speech by Mr Gwede Mantashe, secretary general of the ANC – Anna-Marth Ott attended.
- West Middelburg Forum meeting – Anna-Marth Ott attended.
- SACCI quarterly chamber forum meeting – Anna-Marth Ott and Ebrahim Patel attended.
- Infrastructure build prog for the next 5 years by Minister Gigaba – Anna-Marth Ott and Ebrahim Patel attended.
- SACCI council meeting – Anna-Marth and Ebrahim Patel attended.

## THE END