



MEDIA STATEMENT

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GPL HOUSE SITTING UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTS THE GAUTENG TOWNSHIP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BILL

Today marks an important milestone for township-based entrepreneurs as the Gauteng Township Economic Development Bill was unanimously adopted during a House Sitting of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature (GPL).

The Bill, once enacted into law soon, will bring about significant developments that will change the landscape of how businesses in Gauteng townships has been conducted, by dismantling barriers that have for many years prevented the growth of township-based businesses when compared to those in affluent areas.

It will make it possible for people living in townships to start and run thriving businesses, enterprises and co-operatives in an improved enabling environment, such as the upgrading of trading zones into fully fledged business districts.

The Bill establishes specific procurement regulations and support that will from now on allow government and its main contractors to buy from a large group of township-based enterprises, with systems linking them so they can supply as if they are one large enterprise. It also compels enterprises that obtain

government contracts to spend a certain percentage of their procurement spend on township-based enterprises or entrepreneurs and co-operatives.

The Gauteng Township Economic Development Bill promises to be the 'answered prayer' for many township-based businesses, entrepreneurs, taxi operators, real estate business and many others to enjoy equal opportunities as their counterparts in the CBDs and upmarket neighbourhoods of the province.

This progressive Bill further aims to create an enabling environment for township-based retail malls, supermarkets and other formal sector players to partner with businesses and enterprises owned by township residents, for the sourcing, production and manufacture of goods.

It also enables municipalities to develop taxi ranks into micro central business districts and to support the taxi economy to use its scale to grow supporting value chains and industries.

"It aims to support the development and promotion of a township-based real estate development model to convert areas with high commercial densities into township high streets; and promotes and supports the development of representative associations of township-based enterprises and non-profit organisations.

The Bill got adopted today after a rigorous consultation progresses across all the five regions of the province - led by the Gauteng Legislature's Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environment, Agriculture & Rural Development (EDEARD).

The Committee would like to extend its gratitude to every member of the public who made inputs into the Bill to ensure the fast tracking, strengthening and development of the township economy.

ISSUED BY GPL'S MEDIA SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE ACTING
CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
HONOURABLE FASIHA HASSAN

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