

**MEC'S CLOSING REMARKS AT THE EVENT OF FSGITB
BLOEMFONTEIN.**

07 October 2015

Thank you Programme Director,

Honourable Premier

Our honourable Ambassadors for India and Spain,

MECs

Executive Mayors and Mayors present

All our Esteemed invited Guests and Participants

All Protocol Observed,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

We find it compelling first and fore-most Honorable Premier to acknowledge and appreciate your foresight because here we are, having successfully hosted the **Free State Global Investment Trade Bridge!**

How can we forget how you took time during the tabling of your 2015 State of the Province Address and eloquently made us to understand the dynamics at play when it comes to our efforts to woo national and international investors to come and invest in our Province, Free State?

You certainly have made it possible for us even this morning to stand tall, as we equally extend our gratitude to our guests, both international and local South African delegates that have attended the **Free State Global Investors Trade Bridge** this week.

As the exhibitions come to an end today, we are excited about the prospects that are about to be explored after this initiative. The value of this very first FSGITB reflects the overpowering interest by the provincial

government on the future of our provincial economy and the intended influence through international business partnerships. Similarly, a concerted effort is provided by the provincial government to ensure that our local businesses do find space to infiltrate and participate in the Global market system, a market that has been brought to our Free State SMME's under a single roof in the past three consecutive days.

The inaugural **Free State Global Investors Trade Bridge** therefore is a summit which reflects the momentum that the Free State Provincial Government has been building to facilitate local and international business interaction this year through various missions.

The success from this FSGITB has been the active and increased participation in this event by our SMME's. We have hosted 120 exhibitors that are in the Arts and Crafts markets as well as an additional 300 exhibitors within various sectors of our Free State economy.

We are delighted to advise that from the electronic match-making registration lines, 120 Match-Making calls have been achieved, 44 meetings took place during the two days, and partnerships have been formed across various sectors. The attendance of business people was more than anticipated, with interest of more than 1200 delegates per day.

Our concluding objective will be to follow up on these 44 meetings to ascertain whether we are able to support any partnerships in the future and outline them in our programmes for radical economic transformation

We are in a position already to announce that Russia is ready to partner with us on further exploration of investment opportunities in Agro-processing and Educational Exchange programme. Germany has is also ready to work with us on mining revitalization programme in Matjhabeng while our intension to

upscale cooperatives has also received a major boost and by-in from India, which is prepared to assist in this regard.

Let me also indicate Programme Director that Spain will also come on board in terms of Renewable energy, Tourism and Agro-processing investments. To this end, we have already been invited to the 2016 Renewable Energy Summit, which Spain will be hosting.

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Your contribution to making a success of this Free State Global Investment Trade Bridge is highly valued!

Moving forward, the Free State province's commitment to grow the economy and to create employment for our clientele, the people of this Province, remain unflinching hence we look forward to sustaining every single agreement which accrued from this event!

Thank you.

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