

EASTERN CAPE EXPORT SYMPOSIUM

AND EXHIBITION & CONTINENTAL ENERGY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND INVESTMENT PROGRAM

19 - 21 August 2026



EASTERN CAPE EXPORT SYMPOSIUM AND EXHIBITION & CONTINENTAL ENERGY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND INVESTMENT PROGRAM: 19-21 AUGUST 2026

WOMEN IN TRADE BREAKFAST SESSION PROGRAM		PREMIERS ECONOMIC STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT	
DATE: 18 AUGUST 2026 Time: 09:00-11:00 East London Golf Course, KuGompo City MEC DEDEAT – KEYNOTE ADDRESS		PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT TO BUILD SHARED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENDA, IDENTIFY BARRIERS CONSTRAINING INVESTMENTS AND JOB CREATION DATE: 18 AUGUST 2026 TIME: 13:00 East London Golf Course, KuGompo City	
SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: MR. PETER NDORO			
DAY 1 – Wednesday 19 August Exhibition and Conference Venue: East London Convention Centre			
SESSION 1 – PLENARY Facilitator: Mr Mbulelo Sogoni- Director-General: Office of the Premier			
NATIONAL ANTHEM EASTERN CAPE PROMOTION VIDEO			
08:45:09:00	WELCOME	Councillor Princess Faku Executive Mayor: Buffalo City Metro	
09:00-09:30	SCENE SETTING	Hon. MEC Nonkqubela Pieters MEC Department of Economic Development & Environmental Affairs - EC	
09:30-10:00	KEYNOTE ADDRESS	Hon. Lubabalo Oscar Mabuyane Premier of the Eastern Cape Province	
10:00– 10:45 TEA BREAK Ministers, Premier, MEC, and Executive Mayors open the expo in the expo venue			
SESSION 2 Capital Attraction - Energy + Infrastructure as the Edge: Harnessing foreign direct investment (FDI) and forming cross-border joint ventures.			
10:45-11:20	Geopolitics, Conflict, and Supply Chains: Turning Disruption into Opportunities The impact of geopolitics on trade is significant, with each conflict potentially increasing shipping costs by R10,000 to R50,000 per container. However, these	Moderator: Mr Quintin Levey Ms Pinky Zungu Harbour Master for Transnet National Ports Authority, Port of East London. Mr. Ayabonga Cawe	

	disruptions also pave the way for new trade corridors that can be advantageous for companies in emerging markets. This creates opportunities for businesses to strategically position themselves in the evolving global trade landscape.	High Commissioner: ITAC Celeste Oberholzer Director: Commercial Projects DHL Express SSA
MODERATOR: MS NOZIPHO BOOI CHIEF DIRECTOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
11:20-11:40	Overview of DBSA Funding Instruments	DBSA
11:40-12:10	EC Project Pitch SEZ/DEDEAT/TRANSNET to lead the session 3-4 pre-vetted EC project pitches: number, MW, timeline, investment ask, 15 minutes each. Audience to include delegates from local and international financial institutions, such as DBSA, IDC, AFC, AfDB, ECIC, New Development Bank, GIZ, EU Commission, Business France, etc.	Dr. Chris Ettmayr Manager Sustainable Energy-Digital Economy and Logistics Sector: East London Industrial Development Zone Mr. Baphelele Mhlaba Head: EC Investment & Infrastructure Eastern Cape Development Corporation Ms Zanele Ntantala Port Engineer Mr. Mandla Madwara Business Development Director: Electrocoat Mr. Zirk Jansen Senior Manager Business Development Global Markets
12:10-13:10	PANEL DISCUSSION Critical Minerals and the Global Energy Transition: Securing Africa's Place in the Future Industrial Economy The panel will explore the role of critical minerals in the global energy transition, the geopolitics shaping supply chains, ethical and responsible extraction practices, and the opportunities for African countries to move up the value chain through beneficiation and regional industrial cooperation. Critical minerals have become the foundation of the global energy transition, underpinning the manufacture of electric vehicles, battery energy storage systems, renewable energy technologies, transmission infrastructure, and digital technologies. Africa possesses some of the world's largest reserves of copper, cobalt, lithium, manganese, graphite, nickel, rare earths, and platinum group metals, positioning the continent as a strategic player in the future global economy. However, a key challenge remains whether Africa will continue to export raw materials or leverage these resources to drive industrialization, local manufacturing, skills development, and economic transformation	Mr Peter Ndoro, Broadcaster and Pan-Africanist Proposed Panelists Mr Justin Kabongi, Representative for the Ministry in International Relations, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Mr Fisho P Mwale, Director and Chairman, STARKCOM Global, Past Chairman of the Board, Zambia Development Agency Mr Solomzi Mhlana, Diplomat: Resource and Minerals Diplomacy, Department of International Relations and Corporations, South Africa Dr. Justin Sadack K. Saidi, Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet and Board Chairman, Engenco Malawi (TBC) Mr Sisanda Mtwazi: Director of Primary Minerals Processing and Construction, the dtic

13:10-13:50	PANEL DISCUSSION LEVERAGING TRADE AGREEMENTS FOR EXPORT DIVERSIFICATION South Africa's Butterfly Strategy targets export growth reaching R3 trillion by 2030, with market diversification at the heart of this ambition. For Eastern Cape exporters, trade agreements with African, European and UK markets offer important opportunities to reduce barriers, access new markets and strengthen export resilience. This session brings together experts from the AfCFTA Secretariat, SADC, the European Union and the UK to unpack the practical opportunities available through the AfCFTA, SADC trade framework, EU-SADC EPA and UK-Southern Africa trade arrangements. The discussion will focus on how businesses can turn these agreements into real commercial opportunities, from preferential market access and tariff benefits to rules of origin, certificates of origin, standards and compliance requirements. Participants will gain practical insights into identifying the right agreement for their products, meeting key market requirements and using trade preferences to diversify export markets, strengthen regional value chains, increase competitiveness and unlock new growth opportunities. Join the conversation and discover how trade agreements can work harder for your business.	Moderator: Mr. Kwanele G. Mkwana Director: Export Development & Support the dtic Panellists Mr. Themba Khumalo Principal Advisor: Value Chains AfCFTA Secretariat Ms. Motheba Malibeng Program Officer: Regional Trade Southern African Development Community Mr. Michael Matongo Trade & Economic Policy Officer Delegation of the European Union in SA Willem van der Spuy Acting Deputy Director-General: Exports, the dtic			
13:50-14:10	SUMMARY DAY 1	Hon. Mlungisi Mvoko MEC EC Treasury			
14:10-15:00 LUNCH					
11:30-15:00 THEMATIC WORKSHOPS <table border="1"> <tr> <td> 12:00-12:30 Brand South – Strengthening South Africa's Global Reputation for Trade and Investment Speaker: Mr. Andile Themba Relationship Consultant: Government </td><td> 11:20-12:00 Proudly South Africa Topic – Localization & positioning the Made in South Africa Concept Speaker: Ms. Jeannine van Straaten (Executive: Strategy, Stakeholder Relations and Legal) </td><td> 12:30-14:00 Export Council Showcase: Ms. Karen Swanepoel, Southern African Essential Oil Producers Association Mr. Rolland Eboru – South Africa Leather & Footwear Export Council </td></tr> </table>			12:00-12:30 Brand South – Strengthening South Africa's Global Reputation for Trade and Investment Speaker: Mr. Andile Themba Relationship Consultant: Government	11:20-12:00 Proudly South Africa Topic – Localization & positioning the Made in South Africa Concept Speaker: Ms. Jeannine van Straaten (Executive: Strategy, Stakeholder Relations and Legal)	12:30-14:00 Export Council Showcase: Ms. Karen Swanepoel, Southern African Essential Oil Producers Association Mr. Rolland Eboru – South Africa Leather & Footwear Export Council
12:00-12:30 Brand South – Strengthening South Africa's Global Reputation for Trade and Investment Speaker: Mr. Andile Themba Relationship Consultant: Government	11:20-12:00 Proudly South Africa Topic – Localization & positioning the Made in South Africa Concept Speaker: Ms. Jeannine van Straaten (Executive: Strategy, Stakeholder Relations and Legal)	12:30-14:00 Export Council Showcase: Ms. Karen Swanepoel, Southern African Essential Oil Producers Association Mr. Rolland Eboru – South Africa Leather & Footwear Export Council			

		Sandile Ndlovu – South Africa Aerospace & Maritime Export Council
EXHIBITIONS / B2B MINISTERIAL DINNER & KEYNOTE Master of Ceremony: Peter Ndoro		
Arrival of Guests 19:00 - Master of Ceremony - Peter Ndoro 19:05 - 19:10 - Welcome by ECDC Board - Mr Vuyani Jarana 19:10 - 19:15 - Setting the Scene. Hon Lubabalo Oscar Mabuyane 19:15 - 19:45 - Minister dtic Hon Parks Tau 19:45 - 20:15 - Minister DSBD - Hon Stella Thembisa Ndabeni 20:15 - 20:30 - Closing Remarks & Vote of Thanks – Hon Nonceba Nkontsiwe		
DAY 2 – Thursday 20 August London Export Symposium Exhibition and Conference Venue: East London Convention Centre PROGRAM DIRECTOR PETER NDORO: 08:15-08:20		
08:30-09:00	SCENE SETTING South Africa-EC Economic Reality Check: Where we stand for Trade and Investment Overview of the current state of trade and investment relations between South Africa and other regions. It highlights key economic indicators, evaluates recent trends, and assesses the opportunities and challenges that exist. By examining the existing frameworks and the overall environment for business, we aim to present a clear picture of where the region currently stands in terms of economic collaboration. Whether you are an investor, a policy-maker, or a business leader, this analysis will offer valuable insights into the dynamics shaping trade and investment activity	Dr. Martin Cameroon Managing Director, Trade Advisory
09:30-10:00 TEA BREAK NETWORKING		
10:00-11:00	PANEL DISCUSSION Beyond Export Readiness: Connecting Eastern Cape Products to Global Buyers, Markets and Off-Take Opportunities in 2026	Moderator: Ms. Ncumisa Mcata-Mhlauli, Chief Director, Agro-processing, the dtic Panelist Dr. Victor Thindisa – National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) Dr. Shikisha Gallow – Eastern Cape Cannabis Industry Ms. Mpumi Maesela – SE Holdings / Tiger Brands Aggregator

		Dr. Modisane – Department of Agriculture Mr. Misumzi Xata - Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB) Mr. Marco Coetzee – Mohair South Africa
11:00-11:45	PANEL DISCUSSION Digital Exports 101 Building Africa's Next Export Industry Through Connectivity, Cloud, AI, and Digital Trade Digital tools provide African enterprises with unprecedented visibility in some of the world's most lucrative markets. Through search engines, e-commerce platforms, cloud-based services, digital advertising and artificial intelligence, African businesses can reach customers in Europe and North America while operating from their home countries. The challenge is therefore no longer simply access to markets. The challenge is ensuring that African businesses are visible, competitive, and trusted in digital marketplaces. Success will depend on improving digital infrastructure, strengthening online discoverability, leveraging AI and digital marketing tools, enabling cross-border digital payments, and creating policy frameworks that allow African businesses to trade seamlessly across borders. This session will explore how governments, telecommunications providers, cloud infrastructure companies, digital platforms, and trade institutions can work together to ensure that African businesses (particularly SMMEs, women-owned enterprises, youth-owned enterprises, and startups) can leverage digital platforms to grow from local enterprises into regional and international exporters.	Moderator: Mr. Dean Hoff - Director Services Industry, the dtic Panelist Mr. Craig Van Rooyen Chief Commercial Officer Liquid Telecom Mr. Lukhanyo Zahela Sales Manager: Direct Public Sector Mr. Carl Erasmus Direct Channel Supervisor DHL Express South Africa Ms. Lynn Davis Regional Executive BPESA Nalinda Ajanaku Managing Director, Mbono Professiona Ms. Milisa Mabinza Director, UK-South Africa Tech Hub British High Commission
11:45-12:30	PANEL DISCUSSION Financing Exports To maximize your effectiveness as a buyer, it's crucial to ensure you can adequately finance production and make timely payments. It's important to align the size of your deals with the right funding sources to achieve successful transactions.	Moderator: Mr. Claude Moodley Executive Manager: Export Development & Promotion, Trade and Investment KwaZulu-Natal (TIKZN) Panellists Mr. Kingsley Dell-Robertson Industrial Development Corporation Ms. Ntombifuthi Mdluli Head: Short-Term Insurance

		Export Credit Insurance of South Africa Mr. Luthando Vuba Head: International Trade Business & International Standard Bank Ms. Doreen Fick Head: Specialised Trade Solutions Nedbank Xolani Meva EC Provincial Manager SEFDA
12:30-13:15 LUNCH		
13:15-14:00	BRICS Real Market Opportunities The impending tariffs imposed by the US under AGOA at a rate of 25%, combined with the EU CBAM costs of 35%, are set to exert significant pressure on exports from the EC by the year 2026. While these challenges loom, nations within the BRICS coalition—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—are emerging as enticing alternative markets that offer counter-seasonal buying opportunities with an appealing tax rate of 0%. China introduced a 0% tariff policy starting May 1, 2026, which is likely to further enhance its attractiveness as a trading partner. Meanwhile, Russia is currently offering a premium on winter fruits, reflecting a robust demand for these seasonal products. In India, the appetite for imports has astonishingly quadrupled, even as the country imposes substantial tariffs of 50% on certain goods. For EC, this evolving landscape highlights an urgent need to diversify export strategies. Failure to adapt could result in a detrimental loss of market share in both the EU and US markets. The BRICS countries present not only a hedge against potential losses but also a promising growth opportunity for EC exports, particularly in sectors such as citrus fruits, automotive parts, and manganese, which could significantly benefit from redirected trade flows.	Moderator: Mr. Yamkela Fanisi Director: Exports Dr. Martin Cameron Managing Director, Trade Advisory Dr. Mtheza Mtyopo Head of Research and Content BRICS Business Council Mr. Siphamandla Kumkani Director: Export Promotion the dtic
14:00-14:40	The Automotive Industry in a Changing Global Trade Environment	Moderator: Tawfeeq Abrahams Project Manager: Component Supplier and Investor Support: AIDC-EC Mr. Thembinkosi Maduna, AITEF Mr. Mandla Madwara, Electrocoat Mr. Themba Khumalo, AfCFTA Secretariat
14:40-15:00	CLOSING REMARKS	Mr. Vuyani Jarana



		Board Chairperson	
09:00-15:00			
Thematic Workshops			
Export Finance Made Simple			
Grants, Loans, Trade Finance & Support Available for EC Exporters			
10:00-10:30 Ise Meyers Nedbank: Strategic Sales Manager Global Trade Business and Commercial Banking	10:30-11:00 UK-SACU Trade Workshop	11:00-11:30 Caren Cornelius ABSA: Regional Manager, International Banking - Integrated Channels	13:30-14:00 Xolani Meva SEDFA: EC, Provincial Manager
EXHIBITIONS AND B2B			
14:00 INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES TRAVEL TO GQEBERHA			
Day 3 Friday 21.08.2026			

EASTERN CAPE EXPORT SYMPOSIUM & CONTINENTAL ENERGY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND INVESTMENT PROGRAM

PROGRAMME

Objective: *Eastern Cape Export Symposium delegation visit aims to gain insights into the Coega Special Economic Zone (SEZ).*

Friday, 21 August Enkundleni Boardroom, Coega Business Centre Programme Director: Zuko Mqhatu Executive Manager: Operations		
Guests to Arrive from 09:00 Session 1: Welcome and Introduction		
09h00 – 09h05	Welcoming Remarks & Introductions	Mr. Zuko Mqhatu Executive Manager Operations Coega Development Corporation
09h05 – 09h10	Safety Briefing	Ms. Kanya Mlauli Health and Safety Officer Coega Development Corporation
09h10 – 09h20	Introduction of the Delegation & Purpose of the visit	Ms. Chiboni Evans Chief Executive Officer South African Electrotechnical Export Council
09h20 – 09h25	Route of the Guided Site Tour	Mr. Zirk Jansen Senior Manager Business Development: Global Markets Coega Development Corporation
Photograph of the Group in front of the main building Session 2: Guided Site Tour of the Coega SEZ		
09h30 – 11h00	Coega Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Site Visit 1) Drive & Guided Tour of the SEZ Zones 2) Walkabout at Coega Human Capital Solutions (HCS)	Mr. Zirk Jansen Senior Manager Business Development: Global Markets Coega Development Corporation Mr. Craig Luckman Unit Head Coega Human Capital Solutions Coega Development Corporation
Session 3: Introductory Presentation on the Coega SEZ & Coega Africa Programmes		
11h00 – 12h15	Presentation on the Coega SEZ Presentation on Coega Africa Programmes	Mr. Zirk Jansen Senior Manager Business Development: Global Markets Coega Development Corporation
12h15 – 13h00	Questions and Discussions	All
13h00 – 13h45	Lunch	All
13h45 – 13h55	Closing Remarks	Ms. Chiboni Evans Chief Executive Officer South African Electrotechnical Export Council
13h55 – 14h00	Closing Remarks	Mr. Zuko Mqhatu Executive Manager Operations Coega Development Corporation
Closure & Departure		



Scan the QR code to participate in Coega's Satisfaction Survey



Password:
Guest@CDC123!@#





15:00-18:00

Travel from Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha) to Johannesburg

OR LEISURE EVENING