

**ADDRESS BY GAUTENG PREMIER DAVID MAKHURA AT
THE GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP CONGRESS.
SANDTON CONVENTION CENTRE. 15 MARCH 2017**

President of GEN Global, Jonathan Ortman;

South African Minister for Small Business Development, Hon.
Lindiwe Zulu;

Ministers and Deputy Ministers, here present;

Ambassadors and High Commissioners;

Former Minister of Niger and CEO of NEPAD, Assane Mahala;

Representatives of the United Nations Conference on Trade &
Development (UNCTAD);

Leaders of local government;

Entrepreneurs and Leaders of business;

Senior Government Officials;

Distinguished Delegates to this Congress

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like to add my voice of warm welcome to our beautiful
country, our continent and in particular our province, the
Gauteng City Region.

We are honored to host the Global Entrepreneurship Congress, together with our National Government and the City of Johannesburg. This Congress provides us with the opportunity to showcase Africa's potential and capabilities.

Yesterday, the Deputy President shared with you SA's work and policy perspectives on economic transformation and role of entrepreneurship in this regard. Minister Lindiwe Zulu is driving Agenda to place the SMME sector at centre of our national efforts to build an inclusive economy and shared prosperity.

I join you this morning to share with you a few ideas on the role and place of Gauteng in our country's efforts of economic transformation and entrepreneurship development as part of the South African story. My speech will focus on Gauteng's economic profile and policy interventions in order to promote entrepreneurship, innovation and inclusive economic growth and development.

The Gauteng City Region is the economic engine of South Africa and the industrial and advanced manufacturing hub of Sub-Saharan Africa. We contribute 35% to SA's GDP and 10% to Africa's GDP. Our economy generate more than 60% of SA's exports. More than 46% of SA's SMMEs are located in our province. And therefore Gauteng is the home of small, medium and micro enterprises. We are the home of innovation and entrepreneurship. I say this not to boast but to make the point

that we Africa and South Africa has capabilities and ecosystems that need to be strengthened and supported for the benefit of the entire continent.

As Africa's most industrialized sub-national economy, we are at the cutting edge of promoting our country's National Development Plan and the African Union's Agenda 2063. We have placed innovation, entrepreneurship, economic integration, infrastructure development and Africa's industrialisation at the top of our agenda.

Africa's youth and women are among the most entrepreneurial people in the world. From North to South, East to West, Africa is buzzing with dynamic small, micro and medium enterprises that are providing income and livelihoods to hundreds of millions of people. However, more needs to be done to create ecosystems that ensures growth and sustainability of the SMME sector and its integration with Africa's corporate giants.

It is estimated that more than 90% of enterprises across the world are SMMEs, accounting for approximately 60% of private sector employment.

This Congress is about sharing experiences on creating or strengthening the ecosystems that support the culture of entrepreneurship and innovation.

The Gauteng Provincial Government is working very closely with the national government in promoting the growth of a more innovation-driven and entrepreneurial economy. We do so in the context of our policy for radical economic transformation in order to ensure that black people, women and youth are at the centre of economic development.

Accordingly, we have adopted four inter-related policy interventions:

Firstly, we are investing significantly in the rollout of industrial infrastructure such as Innovation Hubs and Industrial Parks that provide a supportive ecosystem for SMMEs, cooperatives and township enterprises to thrive. This includes creating Technology Labs in the townships for young techpreneurs. The Gauteng Innovation Hub in Tshwane, the Tshimologong Precinct in Johannesburg, Township Industrial Parks and the eKasi Labs are very important infrastructure to support entrepreneurs by providing office space and business training as well as skills development. National government agencies provide greater financial support than we are able to do.

The second policy intervention which is part of radical economic transformation is using public procurement to ensure that SMMEs, cooperatives and township or village enterprise get a significant share of the government's buying power,

especially the enterprises that are owned by black people, women and youth. We have been very successful in this regard - 91% of our public procurement budget goes to black owned, women owned and youth owned enterprises.

The third intervention is about getting big business to open opportunities for SMMEs, black owned businesses and township enterprises in their supply chains and value chains so that they have access to markets, technology, leadership development and skills. Big corporates have a duty to support SMMEs through supplier development and empowerment initiatives, especially black owned businesses and township enterprises.

The fourth intervention is we have a Programme that focuses on promoting entrepreneurship among the youth. Tshepo One Million, seeks to reach a million young people in Gauteng by providing skills development and entrepreneurship opportunities in partnership with the private sector. 15 000 youth owned businesses are being supported by the Gauteng provincial government up to a tune of R10 billion.

The Gauteng Enterprise Propeller, the Growth and Development Agency and the Innovation Hub are three of our

agencies that are supporting entrepreneurship and innovation in our province.

This how we are contributing, at a sub-national level to the national, continental and global effort of promoting entrepreneurship and innovation in pursuit of inclusive growth and shared prosperity. Minister Lindiwe Zulu will tell a much more comprehensive story of our national effort and drive.

I would like to commend the initiative of moving towards the Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN) Africa. It will go a long to provide the necessary platform for African entrepreneurs and policy makers to work together in building the appropriate and supportive ecosystems across our continent.

As the Gauteng City Region, we want to attract some of the best African entrepreneurs and innovators to come and set up their businesses in our province so that they can create jobs and helps to transform our economy.

I trust that this Congress and GEN Africa will help us to contribute to Africa's renegeration and sustainable rise.

Siyabonga. Re a Leboga. Asante sana. Thank you. Merci Buku.

