

PRESS RELEASE

Date: Friday, 10 February 2023

GAUTENG ACCELERATES THE VAAL SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE'S (SEZ) ECONOMIC VALUE CHAIN BY PARTNERING WITH THE NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY AND THE VAAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

The establishment of a Vaal Special Economic Zone in the Gauteng southern economic corridor is intended to re-vitalise economic activity in the Sedibeng District Municipality and the local municipalities of Lesedi, Midvaal and Emfuleni.

Special Economic Zones (SEZ) are inherently a designation of commercial land parcels within a set location, earmarked to stimulate localised commercial value chains through the establishment of sector based economic catalytic industries. The SEZ programme is part of the Growing Gauteng Together 2030 (GGT2030) economic development strategy. The GGT 2030 is operationalised through the Gauteng Growth and Development Agency's mandate of facilitating foreign and domestic investors to expand manufacturing throughout the greater Gauteng community nodal zones located in the five (5) economic corridors of the province.

On Friday 10 February 2023, the Vaal Special Economic Zone signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate with the North-West University and the Vaal University of Technology in the Vaal, Sedibeng District Municipality. The purpose of the collaboration is to ensure that Gauteng investors and industry players in high technology sectors are supported in the development of new technologies, applied research and innovation and technical skills sets. The Vaal SEZ high technology sectors are green energy generation; green hydrogen; green steel; greenhouse farming and Agro-processing, aerospace and defence parts and component manufacturing and gateway logistics. The Vaal SEZ has at present secured Mitochondria Energy Systems (Pty) Ltd as an anchor tenant in the Special Economic Zone, the focus of the company is green hydrogen fuel cell manufacturing.

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