



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**  
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**SAUBC APPLAUDS THE GAUTENG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE LEAD BY MEC MR. PARKS TAU FOR INCLUSIVE CONSULTATION WITH TOWNSHIP BUSINESS**

The South African United Business Confederation (SAUBC) would like to take this opportunity to applaud MEC Mr. Parks Tau and the entire Gauteng Economic Development office for an inclusive consultation with business on the Gauteng Township Economic Development Bill 2020 for comments.

The Gauteng Township Economic Development Bill 2020 seeks to provide for the promotion and development of the township economy and to create a conducive environment for the attainment of that purpose; to provide for licensing of township based enterprise, to provide for management of the Fund through the Gauteng Township Economic Development Fund; to provide for principles to be adopted by municipalities in drafting and adopting by-laws and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

SAUBC President, Mr. George Sebelela said, “Amid the difficult time for South Africa mainly due to the increased effects of COVID-19 as a global health and economic emergency. The pandemic has exposed and exacerbated the structural deficiencies of our economy reflected in South Africa’s record high inequality, poverty, and unemployment”.

The impact of Covid-19 is even severe in townships and rural areas. The SMME sector has suffered worst in our townships since research in Gauteng alone, shows that 42% of SMMEs are likely to have closed their doors permanently.

“The SAUBC recognises the achievements made by the department which include the Township Economic Revitalization Programme, Critical Infrastructure Programme, Multi-tier SEZs and High Growth Sector Programme, Tshepo 1Million and the Youth Workforce Development Programme, Mr. George Sebelela added”.

The SAUBC continues to support the mandate of the Gauteng Department of Economic Development (GDED) which aims to facilitate, promote, and develop economic growth in the Gauteng City Region which is done with targeted commitment to focus on enhancing inclusivity in the economy, whilst not neglecting to improve its competitiveness.

In conclusion, President of the Soweto & Surrounding Industry Chamber Councils Forum (SSICCF) Mr. Bheki Twala added, “We are proud and happy that the goal to turn the township economy into a future growth node that will fundamentally change the characteristics of the Gauteng economy in the medium to long-term has finally been acknowledged. It is time that township economies are known to be very special as they contribute to the overall economy in important ways. They cater specifically to economic growth in non-urban areas, ensuring that growth isn’t limited primarily to urban clusters. Not all economic activity takes place in central business districts (CBD’s) and urban hubs. Township economies promote and foster job creation in more rural, non-urban areas where most of the population lives”.



**ENDS.**

**Picture 2:** SSICCF President Mr. Bheki Twala (left), Gauteng MEC of Economic Development Mr. Parks Tau (Middle), SAUBC President Mr. George Sebelela (Right)



**SAUBC**

**South African United Business Confederation Issued By:**  
**Nomthandazo Tshobeka**- SAUBC Communications Officer For more information:

**Ms. Nomthandazo Tshobeka**- 076 555 2782  
**Mr. George Sebelela** – SAUBC President- 082 331 5271  
**Mr. Sello Rasethaba**- SAUBC Chairman- 083 325 3847

### What is SAUBC

South Africa United Business Confederation (SAUBC) is a non-profit & non-racial, business & economic federation that represents cross-cutting business interests in South Africa. SAUBC consists of members representing Export Councils, Industry Associations and Joint Groups (Business Chambers)

## ECONOMIC PROFILE OF SAUBC

