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Orion Engineered Carbons – South Africa increases its export to the European markets

PATHING THE WAY FORWARD: OEC Group CEO, Orion Engineered Carbons – South Africa increases its export to the European markets.

The Coega Development Corporation (CDC) continues to demonstrate the success of its 9003ha Coega Special Economic Zone (SEZ), as a preferred investment destination on the African Continent, by recently jointly hosting a successful sod turning ceremony with its new global investor, namely Orion Engineered Carbons (OEC). OEC announced that for the first time in history, its South African operations started to export its products to Europe, mainly because of the global geo-economic instability caused by the Russian/Ukrainian war, said the OEC's Chief Executive, Corning Painter.

“The new exports to Europe, due to this tragic situation that we hope will be resolved peacefully soon, are an example of how working together here in South Africa to solve local challenges can create opportunities for support elsewhere,” Painter said. “Our European customers are looking to replace approximately 40% of their carbon black needs that were served by Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. This is a chance for our South Africa operation to fill a gap and provide crucial support to Europe.”

Painter added, “Because of the new confidence we have in the Coega SEZ project, we are upgrading several key pieces of equipment and feel excited about the facility’s potential and future. Overall, we have a terrific story in South Africa. We import raw materials from the U.S., perform high-value manufacturing in Nelson Mandela Bay and export high-grade carbon black to Europe. Let’s keep this great momentum going.”

The OEC black oil tank project investment at the Coega SEZ is valued at more than R60 million with the Department of Trade, Investment, and Competition (the dtic) providing an additional R200 million to facilitate the solution for Orion Engineered Carbons to preserve jobs in the province and municipality and ensure the sustainability of the industry. The project entails the development of two 18,000 m3 tanks for the storage of carbon black feedstock with ancillary infrastructure over a 10-month period and is estimated to create over 150 jobs (50 construction phase, and 100 jobs during the operational phase of the project). This was announced at the Sod Turning ceremony in April 2022 that was attended by the Honourable Deputy Minister of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic), Fikile Majola and the Honourable MEC for the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs, and Tourism (DEDEAT), Mlungisi Mvoko, who were amongst the leaders of business in the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM).

Had it not been for the interventions, collaboration and support of the parties involved, the region would have lost a project of significant value which would have led to an increase in unemployment, loss of government revenue, and formed a perception that the region is not an attractive investment location. Approximately 7,000 people are employed in the associated tyre manufacturing value chain, most of whom would have lost their employment. It is with thanks to the collaborative effort of the CDC, OEC, TNPA and the dtic that such a risk has been averted, and it is against this backdrop that the CDC sees all these parties as strategic stakeholders for this project.

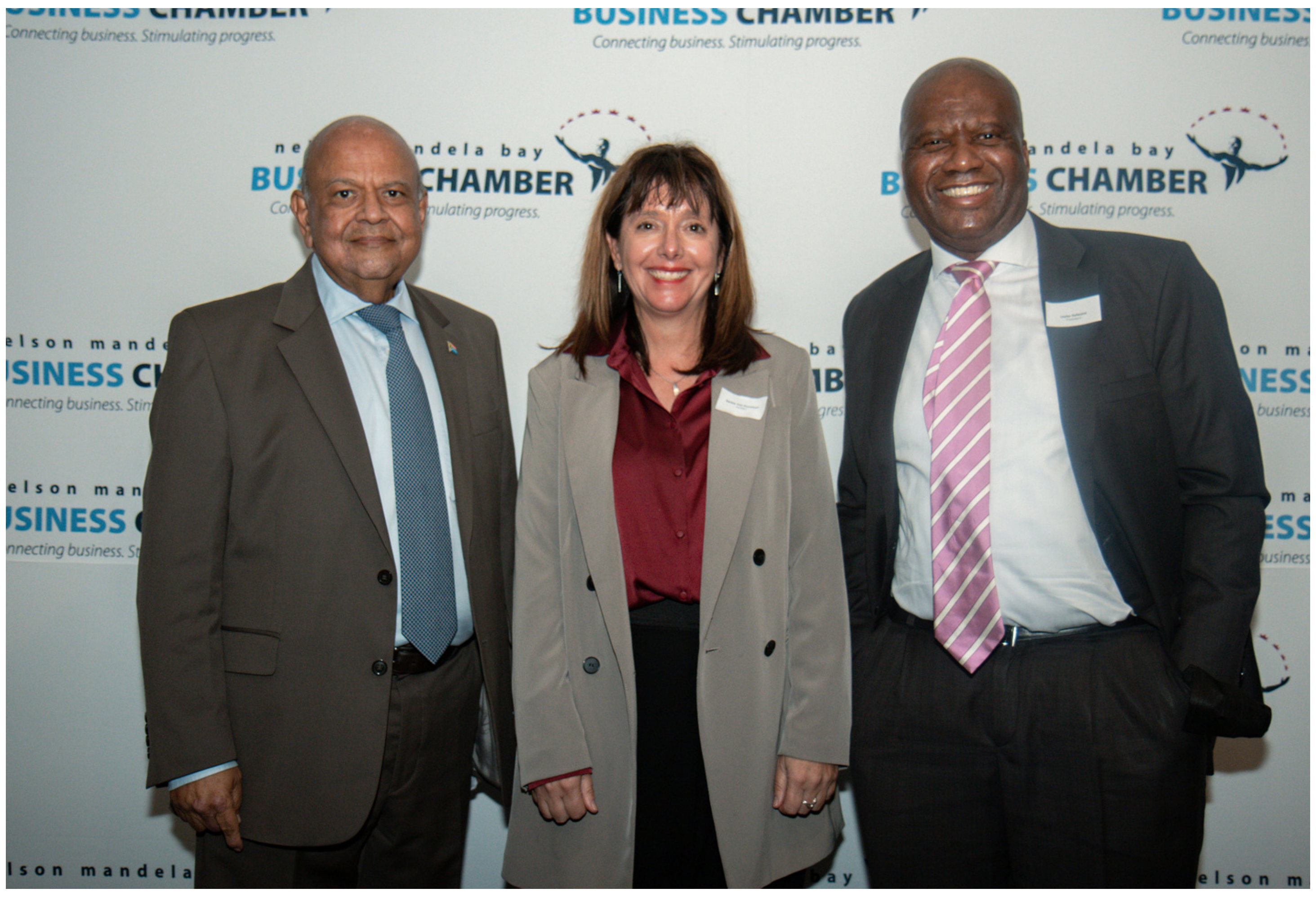
Orion’s CEO, Corning Painter, emphasised the importance of the OEC black oil tank project to the company and how it will stimulate the entire value chain of the automotive sector. This project is in line with Orion’s identity as a premium supplier of carbon black, generating long-term benefits for stakeholders while remaining committed to responsible business practices through a focus on team culture, reliability, and sustainability.

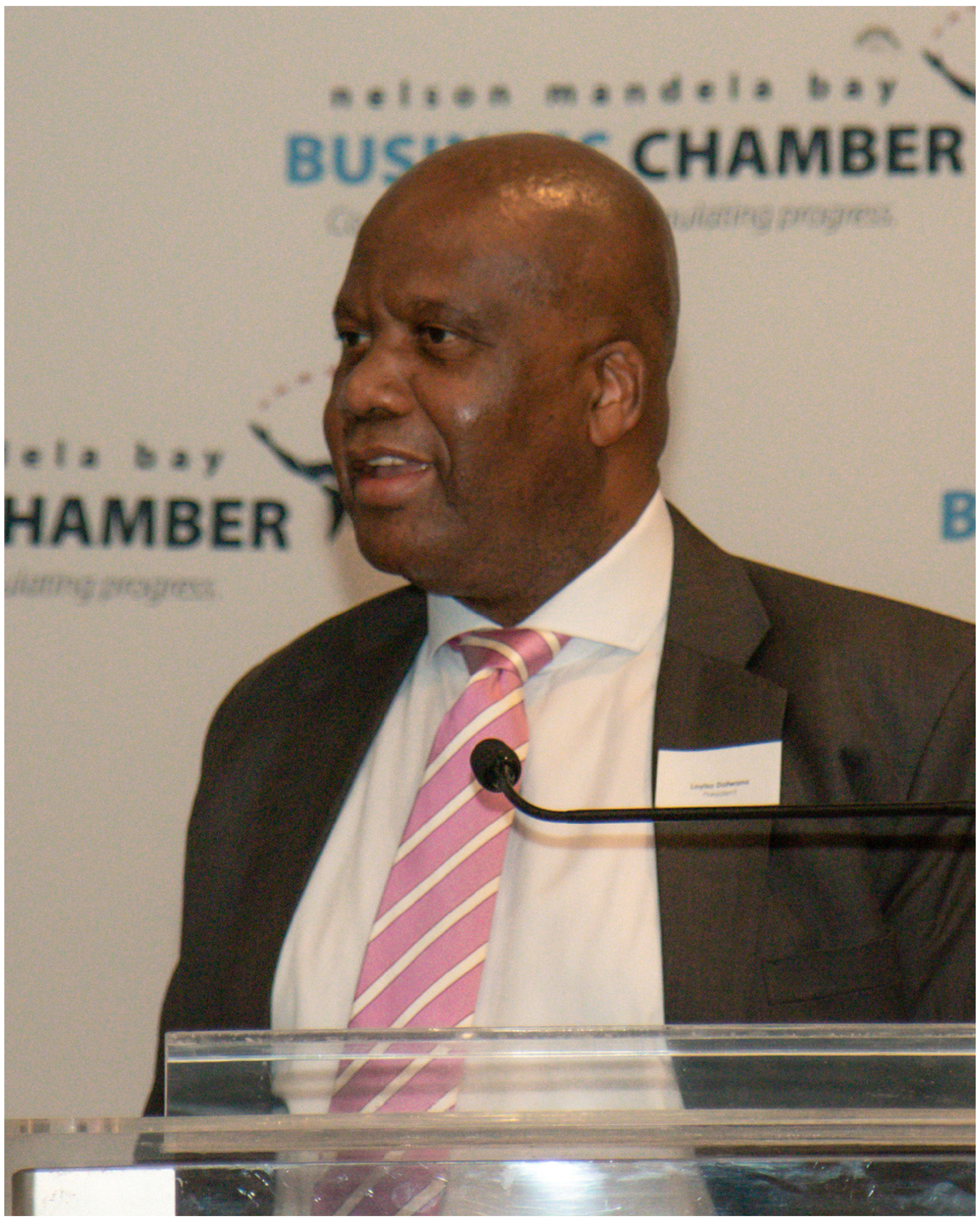
“The project will see the relocation of the liquid fuel storage facilities (Dom Pedro Tank Farm) from the Port of Port Elizabeth (PoPE) to the Port of Ngqura. The Dom Pedro Terminal in the Port of Port Elizabeth is due to be closed to liquid vessels by the end of December 2022,” highlighted TNPA, Managing Executive-Central Region, Siyabulela Mhlaluka.

“As the Coega SEZ, it is important that we can respond to complex problems that seek to disrupt the value chain in a positive way. When we were called upon by the dtic and TNPA to intervene to find a lasting solution to the project, we sought to do so in a way that would have a meaningful impact for the people of the Eastern Cape, and country as a whole, said Asanda Xawuka, CDC’s Executive Manager of Business Development. Moreover, the Coega SEZ is forecasting significant growth in the number and value of its investors in 2022. This is further strengthened by the recently conducted Coega’s Investor Perception Survey at the end of 2021 in which the following results demonstrated the Coega SEZ’s prowess, as the global investment destination of choice in Africa:

The Chamber's 12th Annual General Meeting

Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan





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Chamber extends special recognition to cluster chairpersons for their commitment in supporting Metro businesses

The Chair of the Perseverance Cluster, Siyolo Dick, who is the Divisional Executive for Spar Eastern Cape

Kieron Jordaan, the Managing Director of Purem and Chair of the Deal Party Cluster

Angus Clark, General Manager of Facilities and Maintenance for Isuzu Motors South Africa

The Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber has recognised cluster chairpersons for their willingness to lead businesses in their precincts in response to the challenges in the operating environment, and in particular relating to the non-delivery of basic services.

“Given the degradation and neglect around the Metro, this past year has seen the rise of a need for businesses to be more self-reliant through a targeted cluster approach. This is all about combining efforts and resources to address issues of common interest and as a collective unit lobbying and advocacy efforts are strengthened, instead of businesses trying to do this alone. This is a space where out of the box solutions can be developed to solve problems,” says Chamber CEO, Denise van Huyssteen.

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There are two types of clusters which the Chamber has initiated namely sectoral and geographic. On the sectoral side, we have clusters grouped as follows: mining sector, high energy users, bulk liquid fuel operators and more recently renewable energy. On the geographic side, these clusters include Deal Party, Perseverance and Struandale. We have also been requested to consider establishing additional clusters in other parts of the Metro."
Addressing members at the Chamber's Annual General Meeting, van Huyssteen emphasised that the Chamber wished to recognise and show appreciation to those individuals who have stepped up as volunteers to lead the respective geographical clusters and these included:

• Kieron Jordaan, the Managing Director of Purem and Chair of the Deal Party Cluster, leads a forum that operates in an area where 284 businesses which employ over 15 000 people, are located.

• The Chair of the Perseverance Cluster, Siyolo Dick, who is the Divisional Executive for Spar Eastern Cape, is driving a very strategic approach to ensuring that high impact priorities are adopted. There are 46 companies located in the area, which employ over 10 000 employees, including large multi-nationals as well as SMMEs. Over R1,6 billion has been invested in this area over the past three years.

• Angus Clark, General Manager of Facilities and Maintenance for Isuzu Motors South Africa, has stepped up to lead the Struandale Cluster. Over 150 businesses are operating in the area, many of which are in the automotive and related sectors. Clark has been actively involved in the Chamber for years and in particular, has played an instrumental role in the Chamber's Water and Electricity Task Team.

Van Huyssteen says: "The Chamber stands firmly behind this initiative as it perfectly aligns with our strategy of resurging Nelson Mandela Bay's economy through an action orientated approach. We are actively involved in initiating and supporting clusters as we believe that they are critical in retaining existing investment and jobs in the Metro."

LEADING IMPORTER CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO LIFT RED-TAPE AT GQEBERHA PORT

Frederick Hume, the Managing Director of Hume International

A major import-export business has warned that the critical lack of cold storage space seen in the wake of the Durban floods is aggravating supply chain disruptions, increasing the risk of potential food shortages.

Hume International, a leading food distributor which imported over 180 million kilograms of food products last year, notes that in addition to the destruction of vital road, power and water infrastructure, damage to commercial cold stores in KwaZulu Natal has placed serious pressure on Gqberha's port facilities.

As a result, the company is now calling on government to implement a State of Emergency concession for Gqeberha, and lift some of the port's red tape in order to facilitate the greater movement of food and other goods into the country.

Frederick Hume, the Managing Director of Hume International, explains that a number of container ships were forced to bypass Durban during the April floods, and were diverted to Gqeberha instead.

The situation has remained ongoing, however, owing to damages to numerous cold storage facilities, and the long-term impacts of the loss of key infrastructure. Additionally, remaining Durban cold stores had already begun to build up stock in anticipation of the upcoming citrus season, leaving many without any spare capacity to absorb the overflow of goods.

"Importers are therefore being forced to turn to Gqeberha, but the number of import cold storage facilities in the area which have been approved by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development are very limited," says Hume.

Those who pursue this option are then being faced with severe constraints in terms of the number of containers that may be unpacked each day because of regulatory restrictions on food and meat imports.

"This has left many importers unable to draw cargo from the port and is causing significant congestion, which in turn risks deepening food supply chain disruptions with potentially far-reaching consequences for the local economy," he notes.

"On behalf of all importers, we would like to respectfully urge government to alleviate the situation by granting an emergency concession for businesses to unpack a larger number of containers at the port. This would ease some of the delays and remove pressure on commercial cold storage facilities by enabling goods to be distributed more quickly."

Precedent for special concession set in last year's riots.

Notably, an emergency concession would provide an immediate solution to difficulties regarding the application of Veterinary Procedural Notices (VPNs) at Gqberha which are responsible for limiting the number of unpacks.

"In terms of these VPNs, a veterinary inspector must be present whenever the seal on a container of imported goods is broken to verify that the contents match the packing list, and to draw samples for microbiological testing," says Roy Thomas, Operations Director at Hume International. "But Gqeberha's secondary port status means that there is significantly less capacity and fewer inspectors available to perform the duty."

In the aftermath of last year's riots, however, during which two cold stores in Durban were burnt down and a third damaged, government granted Hume International a special concession to utilise the Gqeberha port for containers originally destined for Durban. To manage this extra workload, the previous Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) further granted Hume's request to appoint a secondary inspector or assignee to its facilities for 24 hours a day to comply with VPN requirements. DAFF appointed private company ASFQ for the supply of these inspectorate services, Hume International footed the bill for the service, and assignees reported directly to the local DAFF office.

Thomas states this agreement enabled the company to immediately expand its services and business within the Eastern Cape. "Before the concession, we were only able to unpack seven containers a day in Gqeberha or 35 containers a week. After the concession was granted, we were immediately able to double this volume, moving to a double-shift unpacking system and hiring additional staff to help manage the workload," he says.

But once the Durban concession expired in October 2021 DAFF notified Hume International that it would no longer be allowed to use the services of assignees, forcing the organisation to again reduce the number of containers unpacked each day. "Allowing the concession for the appointment of assignees to remain in place offers a perfect solution to the issue of the verifying of containers and comes at no extra cost to the department, so we are hoping that government will consider making the arrangement permanent," says Thomas.

“Cold stores at Durban and Cape Town are able to break container seals without inspectors present, as long as they keep a register and are able to present samples for testing once the vet arrives. The application of VPN laws seems inconsistent, and we hope that government will urgently consider our request for a concession.”

Isuzu Motors South Africa teams up with Mandela University’s MobiTutorZA Academy programme to help Grade 12s ace maths

Attending an event to celebrate Isuzu Motors South Africa’s support of Mandela University’s efforts to assist matric maths learners were (back from left) Natalie Gill, MobiTutorZA Academy coordinator at Mandela University’s Govan Mbeki Mathematics Development Centre (GMMDC), Anovuyo Tshemese, Isuzu’s events and corporate social responsibility officer, Ethembeni Enrichment Centre matric learner Emihle Maqungo, GMMDC mathematics facilitator Patrick Mutoredzanwa, Paterson High matric learner Dylan Mintoor, Paterson High deputy principal Kenneth Prins, St Thomas High matric learner Siphosethu Ncudu and (front, from left) GMMDC director Prof Werner Olivier, Ethembeni High principal Nobatembu Mandimo, Ethembeni Grade 12 teacher Noluthando Jakavula, Paterson High principal Rose De Doncker, and St Thomas High principal Jackie Gorgonzola.

Sixty Grade 12 pupils at three Gqeberha schools have a chance of improving their maths marks, and their chances of getting into university – thanks to a generous donation by Isuzu, enabling an innovative maths programme to run at their schools.

The entire matric maths classes at Ethembeni Enrichment Centre, Paterson High and St Thomas High – along with an additional 15 past pupils outside of these schools who failed matric maths and are repeating the subject – now have access to Mandela University’s MobiTutorZA Academy, and the broad range of teaching and learning resources offered through its structured programme, which is available both online and offline.

These resources include technology-blended lessons linked to the Grade 12 curriculum, learner support in several different languages, mobile-based assessments, feedback via Zoom and many other tools, which have been tried and tested over the past 10 years by the university’s Govan Mbeki Mathematics Development Centre – and have proven to help push learners’ marks up in provinces throughout the country, even over the past two COVID-affected years.

"The MobiTutorZA Academy programme integrates technology to support the teaching and learning of maths and is aimed at self-directed learning outside of school hours," said GMMDC director Prof Werner Olivier. "It's all about giving learners skills for the future and creating jobs for our young generation."

"I'm so happy and excited that we've been given the chance to make use of all these wonderful resources," said Paterson High matric pupil Dylan Mintoor. "Not a lot of schools have these opportunities … I'm also aware that we have a two-year gap in content [because of the COVID pandemic] and I know that with these resources, we will be able to fill those gaps and make everyone proud at the end of the year."

"The programme will give us the tools to expand our knowledge, and to get the future we want, and the careers we are going for," said St Thomas High's Siphosethu Ncudu.
Mandlakazi Sigcawu, Isuzu Motors South Africa's department executive of corporate and public affairs, said the company was excited to investing in the future of these learners.
"Investing in someone's future is one of the greatest things you can do … We are also really happy to be able to give young people a second chance.

"South Africa is facing the challenge of unemployment, and there are a high number of people that are depressed, especially among the youth. So, I think it is important that we do afford [people] those second chances. And it's great that there are skilled individuals, teachers, and professionals, willing to plough back into the community, by doing something great like this for students."
Olivier said Isuzu had also supported GMMDC to pilot the MobiTutorZA Academy last year. "In the pilot, we saw more than 10% improvement in all the participants' marks … We are thrilled that they are continuing their involvement with us."

ISUZU appoints Penelope Mkhwanazi as Senior Vice President: Revenue Generation Rest of Africa and International Markets

Penelope Mkhwanazi

Isuzu Motors South Africa (IMSAf) has appointed Penelope (Penny) Jabulile Mkhwanazi as the Senior Vice President for Revenue Generation Rest of Africa and International Markets. In her new role, Penny is responsible for all revenue generation in the Rest of Africa markets, including Sales and Aftersales.

Penny joins Isuzu from Isanti where she held the role of Chief Executive Officer and says, “I join Isuzu at a very exciting and transformative time where our call to action is that of breakthrough and growth. The rest of Africa markets are our greatest opportunity to fulfil this call to action. I am humbled to be part of this journey and confident that the Isuzu team will relentlessly, and with passion, answer this call to action”.
Penny’s impressive work experience spans over 20 years in various industries such as manufacturing, mining, construction, fast-moving consumer goods, and entrepreneurship.
Some of Penny’s previous leadership roles include Executive Head Customer Fulfilment for Barloworld Equipment Southern Africa, Country Manager and Director for Zambia Barloworld Equipment, and General Manager Free State Lesotho.

Penny obtained a BSc (Biochemistry and Microbiology) qualification from Wits University in 2002 and completed a Management Development Programme from the Cyril Ramaphosa World of Learning in 2003. She went on to achieve a brewing qualification from the Institute and Guild of Brewing of London in 2003 and later achieved a Master Brewer Diploma from the same institution in 2006.

In 2009 Penny achieved a qualification as PMI Certified Associate in Project Management and an MBA from GIBS in 2011. Amongst Penny’s most prestigious accolades are her (A+) achievement for her thesis called Conspicuous Consumption and Black Youth in Emerging Markets; her GIBS Nomination Shortlist Association of MBAs; receiving the DELL Financial Services Award in Information and Knowledge Management; achieving the Organisational Design and Transformation Award, and receiving The Evolution of Strategic Thinking and Scenario Planning Award.

President and CEO of IMSAf Billy Tom, says the Isuzu leadership is delighted to welcome Penny on board. “Her vision for the business and extensive experience across the various sectors make her ideally suited to lead and build the long-term growth and sustainability of IMSAf in African markets.”- said Billy Tom.

Algoa FM expands footprint via DStv

Algoa FM has extended its reach into millions of more homes through all of DStv’s South African packages.

The Eastern Cape diaspora and lovers of contemporary adult music can listen to Algoa FM on Channel 837.

“This has been a work in progress as well as a business objective for many years and I am delighted that we have finally extended our reach for audience and advertisers alike”, says Alfie Jay, managing director of Algoa FM.
“Over the course of many years, holidaymakers returning home after a stint in Algoa Country, as we like to call it, have written to us asking why we’re not on DStv’s audio bouquet. Finally, we can answer in the affirmative”, says Jay.

Algoa FM connects with its audience through a transmitter network stretching from the Garden Route to the Wild Coast and inland through the Karoo, as well as live via its stream at www.algoafm.co.za.

Jay says that, until recently, the barrier to entry had been a prohibitive monthly cost to distribute the station’s signal to the Multiplex Satellite Input Port at DStv’s Midrand premises in Gauteng.

“Recent advances in technology coupled with innovative solutions by the Algoa FM technical team and investment in equipment by Algoa FM, have finally made this long term business goal achievable. This is a proud time for Algoa FM. I am pleased for many of our listening fans throughout South Africa. I am also delighted for our clients who will now be receiving the added value of National exposure via DStv Channel 837!” says Jay.

Algoa FM is an award-winning commercial radio station which features relevant news, traffic and weather as well as a great mix of music appealing to adults aged 25 years and older.

“The station is available on various DStv platforms at no extra cost.”

VWSA produces its 1-millionth Polo for export

The Kariega plant has been building Polos for export since 2002

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic and an ongoing semi-conductor shortage, Volkswagen Group South Africa (VWSA) reached a momentous milestone when the plant in Kariega built its 1-millionth Polo for export.

The plant has been building Polos since 1996 and began exporting Polo models in 2002. VWSA currently exports the Polo built in Kariega to 38 countries, building this vehicle for all right-hand-drive markets and supplementing production for left-hand-drive markets. The Kariega plant is also the sole manufacturer worldwide of the Polo GTI, and builds the popular Polo Vivo for the local market.

By the time the 1-millionth export Polo rolled off the line on 3 May, the plant had manufactured a total of 4 181 031 vehicles to date, of which 1 292 793 vehicles were built for export.

“Given the current climate, with the pandemic and the semi-conductor crisis, this milestone is an especially strong moment for VWSA,” said Robert Cisek, VWSA Chairman and Managing Director. “VWSA is the biggest private employer in Nelson Mandela Bay and a significant player when it comes to exports from this region. As a corporate citizen in Kariega and the Bay, and as the VWSA family, we are proud to have achieved this milestone and we look forward to the next million mark. I would like to thank every employee who has contributed to this achievement.”

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Goodyear South Africa appoints new Managing Director

Goodyear South Africa Managing Director Richard Fourie

Goodyear South Africa has appointed Richard Fourie to the position of Managing Director effective from April 2022. Richard takes over from Piotr Czyzyk who led the company for two years.

With over 25 years of management and leadership experience from various industries across the globe, Richard returns to South Africa from Singapore, where he was the Asia Pacific Marketing Director for Goodyear. Born and raised in Ermelo in the Mpumalanga province, Richard is thrilled at the opportunity to lead the Goodyear team in his country of birth.

"I am very excited to be back home in South Africa to take up this new challenge", says Richard. "Goodyear has been an active contributor to the development of South Africa's mobility sector for over seven decades. I look forward to building on our successful legacy to continue delivering on our promises to customers, consumers and stakeholders while playing an active role in enabling a seamless, smoot h and safe mobility experience today, and into the future", he adds.

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