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South Africa's investment drive intensifies

As part of building "a South Africa we want", President Cyril Ramaphosa says government will intensify its already successful investment drive.

This will build on the R300 billion worth of investments announced during the 2018 inaugural Investment Conference. Of these, just over R250 billion worth of projects have entered implementation phase.

"We continue to build a pipeline of investments, which will be showcased at the second South African Investment Conference to be held on 5 to 7 November," said the President.

The President made the announcement at the State of the Nation Address (SoNA) held recently in Parliament.

President Ramaphosa had appointed investment envoys to search for investors with deep pockets last year.

The President's Special Envoys on Investment include finance heavyweights such as former Finance Minister Trevor Manuel, former Finance Deputy Minister Mcebisi Jonas, the executive chairperson of Afropulse Group, Phumzile Langeni and chairman of Liberty Group and former CEO of Standard Bank Jacko Maree.

"At a time of uncertainty, the work of the investment envoys has built important bridges between government and the business community. From their feedback, it is clear that much more still needs to be done to improve the investment climate," said the President.

This, he said, includes reviewing the way government coordinates work to resolve challenges faced by investors and reforming investment promotion policy and architecture.

The private sector has committed to invest R840 billion in 43 projects over 19 sectors and to creating 155 000 jobs in the next five years. **SAnews.gov.za**

Jong siviele ingenieurs baan die weg vir 'n opwindende toekoms

'N ONDERNEMING wat onlangs in die konstruksiebedryf bekendgestel is, merk al die regte blokkies: Dit staan onder leiding van vroue, is in swart besit en ernstig daaroor om 'n bydrae tot die ekonomie te lewer.

Twee jongmense skep werk vir die jeug, te danke aan 'n lening van die Nywerheidsontwikkelingskorporasie (NOK). Die eienaars van Maloka Machaba Surfacing, Kate Machaba en Matshela Maloka, het 28 mense in diens geneem, meestal jongmense, by hul asfaltonderneming in Polokwane.

Kate en Matshela is albei siviele ingenieurs, 32 jaar oud, en is passievol daaroor om dryfkragte van die ekonomie te wees.

Hulle onderneming bied drie hoofdienste: die vervaardiging, oppervlakbehandeling en vervoer van sowel warm- as kouemengselasfalt.

Warmmengselasfalt word hoofsaaklik in die konstruksie van teerpaaie gebruik, terwyl kouemengselasfalt weer hoofsaaklik gebruik word om slaggate mee op te vul. Sowel warm- as kouemengselasfalt word by die onderneming se aanleg gemeng en word uitgereik met 'n sertifikaat van goedkeuring van die siviele-ingenieurslaboratorium Mocha Labs.

Maloka, wat die hoof uitvoerende beampte van Maloka Machaba Surfacing is, sê dat 'n lening van die NOK hulle gehelp het om die gespesialiseerde masjinerie te koop wat nodig is om in die asfaltbedryf te werk, soos vragmotors, baanmakers, rollers en verspreiders.

NOK Limpopo-streeksbestuurder, Kgampi Bapela saam met die eienaars van MM Surfacing, Kate Machaba and Matshela Maloka.

Aansoek om 'n NOK-lening

Die maatskappy se leningsaansoek het verskeie prosesse by die sakebefondsingsentiteit deurloop. Machaba, wat die hoof uitvoerende beampte is, vertel dat hulle 'n deeglik nagevorste sakeplan moes indien toe hulle om die lening aansoek gedoen het.

"Maak seker dat jy vooraf behoorlik navorsing gedoen het oor die bedryf waarin jy jou wil begeef," beveel sy aan, en voeg by dat entrepreneurs ook moet onthou dat die geld 'n lening is wat terugbetaal moet word.

Maloka Machaba Surfacing is op die pad na sukses te danke aan die hulp wat dit van die NOK ontvang het.

Befondsingsaansoeke kan op die NOK-webwerf of by hulle kantore ingedien word. Applikante word deur die organisasie aangeraai om seker te maak dat al die tersaaklike dokumentasie die aansoek vergesel. Wanneer die NOK 'n aansoek ontvang, erken dit ontvangs en kan die applikante versoek om ekstra inligting of dokumente te verskaf.

Die NOK gee dan skriftelik terugvoering oor die uitslag van 'n aansoek. Indien die NOK tevrede is met die onderneming se bona fides, word 'n applikant gevra om 'n leningskontrak te teken.

Skills development crucial for economic growth

More Matshediso

Skills development made it to the list when President Cyril Ramaphosa outlined the top seven priorities of the sixth administration during the State of the Nation Address (SoNA).

He read out 'education, skills and health' to be the second priority of government after 'economic transformation and job creation'.

The President said government will expand South Africa's high tech industry by ensuring that the legal and regulatory framework promotes innovation, scaling up skills development for young people in new technologies, and reducing data costs.

"Wherever we have gone young people have continuously raised the issue of the excessive high data costs in South Africa," said the President.

The President said he was aware of how data costs in the country affect youth's participation, skills development and contribution to the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).

Broadly speaking, 4IR speaks to the changes that are taking place in technology. These changes bring a new way of thinking in terms of how technology is used at work, for everyday use and how people relate with one another.

He said within the next month, the Minister of Communications will issue the policy direction to the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) to commence the spectrum licensing process.

"This process will include measures to promote competition, transformation, inclusive growth of the sector and universal access," he said.

"This is a vital part of bringing down the costs of data, which is essential both for economic development and for unleashing opportunities for young people," he added.

The President also called on the telecommunications industry further to bring down the cost of data so that it is in line with other countries in the world.

Paid workplace experience

Government will expand its programmes to enable young people to gain paid workplace experience through initiatives like the Youth Employment Service, and also facilitating work-based internships for graduates of technical and vocational programmes.

President Ramaphosa said government will continue to develop programmes to ensure that economically excluded young people are work ready and absorbed into sectors where 'jobs demand' is growing.

These sectors include global business processing services, agricultural value chains, technical installation, repair and maintenance and new opportunities provided through the digital economy and the fourth industrial revolution. V

Juweliersmaker vind goud in entrepreneurskap

'N JONG GOUDSMID van Limpopo hoop om 'n naskoolse program bekend te stel om vakmanne op te lei om juwele te maak.

Silusapho Nyanda

U Kgaugelo Molope (24) verbeter voortdurend sy juwelemaak-vaardighede deur nuwe stukke te ontwerp.

Die goudsmid, wat in Polokwane woon en vanuit die Seda Limpopo Jewellery Incubator (SLJI) sake doen, sê dat vakmanne gereeld moet werk om hul kuns te verbeter en nuwe vaardighede te ontwikkel.

"Tyd verfyn vaardigheid … My huidige vaardigheid as 'n goudsmid verbeter met die hoeveelheid tyd wat ek neem om 'n stuk te maak. Ek is ook meer doeltreffend wat betref die sogenaamde verbruiksitems. Dit is die gereedskap wat breek of vinnig opraak. Ek gebruik deesdae veel minder daarvan," verduidelik hy.

Eienaar van KG Jewellery, Kgaugelo Malope met sommige van sy juweliersware.

Vanaf 2015 tot 2017 het Molope as 'n juwelemaker in Italië opleiding ontvang, te danke aan beurse van die Mynwese-kwalifikasiegesag (MQA) en die Nasionale Vaardigheidsfonds van die Departement van Hoër Onderwys en Opleiding.

Na afloop van sy tweejaar-studie oorsee, het hy 'n opleidingsprogram by die Staatsdiamanthandelaar voltooi.

"Die MQA het studente voorsien van 'n beurs na Italië … Daarna het die MQA, in vennootskap met die Diamanthandelaar, die mentorskap hier in Suid-Afrika befonds," sê hy.

Sy ambagsertifikaat, wat die hoogste erkende juweliersmaker-kwalifikasie in die land is, stel hom in staat om as goudsmid te werk.

Sonder die SLJI sou sy onderneming nie bestaan het nie, omdat hy nie oor die hulpmiddels sou beskik het om dit te bedryf nie. "Die SLJI help my met die vuurproses, wat fundamenteel vir produksie is," verduidelik Molope, wat silwer, olifanthare en edelmetale gebruik om sy juweliersware te skep.

Die vuur wat Molope gebruik om die materiaal wat hy gebruik te smelt, brand teen ongeveer 1 000 grade Celsius.

Molope verkoop sy produkte deur persoonlike aanbevelings en bemarking, en ook deur sosiale media.

Hy beoog om in die toekoms 'n ambagvaardigheidsprogram te begin om vakmanne op te lei wat die terrein van juweliersontwerp wil betree. "Ek probeer tans om 'n naskoolse program te begin om vakmanne op te lei," sê hy. V

HET JY GEWEET?

Die MQA-beurs is beskikbaar aan studente wat by universiteite, Tegniese Beroepsonderwys-en-opleiding (TBOO)-kolleges en universiteite van tegnologie geregistreer is.

Vir meer inligting oor die MQA-beurs, skakel: 011 547 2600.