



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **FREE STATE GLOBAL INVESTORS TRADE BRIDGE (FSGITB)**

**Theme:** Pursuing Investment Growth

The hosting of the Free State Global Investors Trade Bridge (FSGITB) is about strengthening the international partnerships through investment in these and many other projects in the province. The expected delegates from 26 countries will participate in product exhibitions, scheduled back-to-back meetings, excursions, factory and company visits and optional business trips to different parts of the Free State. Most importantly, the trade bridge will facilitate the effective implementation of the various agreements and MOUs signed between the Free State Province and countries of the world to unlock trade and investment opportunities between the Free State Province and the rest of the world.

As pronounced by the Premier during the 2015 State of the Province Address (SOPA), the Free State Provincial Government in partnership with businesses and industrialists is preparing to host the Free State Global Trade Bridge on 5 – 7 October 2015, at the Old Greys Sports Grounds.

- The Free State Government will be hosting a high level delegation of dignitaries and business people from 26 countries.
- The objective of the Free State Global Investors Trade Bridge is to facilitate the effective implementation of the various agreements and MOUs signed between the Free State Province and countries of the world; to unlock trade and investment opportunities between the Free State Province and the rest of the world.
- The following trades will form part of the initiative: Tourism and Investment; solar energy; manufacturing; agro-processing and value chain integration; mining and



mineral beneficiation; infrastructure investment plans, information and communication technology seminars and exhibitions

- The event is a marketing tool to direct attention to the abundant lucrative business prospects in the Free State
- It will provide an opportunity for South African, Free State business and visiting international organisations to forge relationships and form business linkages with key players and decision makers in various sectors
- Essential characteristics of the trade bridge concept is product exhibition, scheduled business to business (B2B) meetings, excursions; factory and company visits and optional business trips to different parts of the Free State

The dignitaries attending the FSGITB include:

- The High Commissioner to India; Playfair Morule,
- SA Ambassador to Spain, Ambassador Smuts Ngonyama,
- Russian Ambassador to SA, Michael Petrakov,
- Bulgarian Ambassador to SA Katya Deleva and,
- Belarus Counsellor for Trade and Economics in SA, Stan Ventsel

Countries to attend include:

- Cuba,
- India,
- China,
- Turkey ,
- Germany,
- Botswana,
- Lesotho,
- Mozambique,
- Zambia,



- Zimbabwe
  
- Thus far, out of the relations with 26 Countries, 33 Agreements have been outlined in which we have received the following successes:
  - *Exchange student programmes*
    - China
    - Turkey
    - India
    - Cuba
  
- Out of the experiences and successes of the China Week (April 2015), the province has now extended invites for the FSGITB to 26 countries.
  
- The China Week successes are various businesses with whom we have built business relations in industries such as Steel, Solar, Mining and Manufacturing., as well as industrial partnerships and agreements with various universities in China.

**During the FSGITB we will have:**

- 200 exhibition stalls occupied
- Business to business engagements
- Match making opportunities
- Government to government engagements
- University to university collaborations
- Each entity to take control of their own interests and to drive them forward.

Our province has the potential to attract foreign investors through excellent infrastructure (roads, rail, airports, offices, education, banking and medical facilities); competitive land and building costs; low factory rentals; abundance of natural resources and most developed telecommunications network in Africa. We are



convinced that indeed the Free State is an ideal trading partner within South Africa and with other international markets.

*The Free State Province is indeed pursuing investment growth!.*

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