

**Minister of Trade & Industry Dr Rob Davies to address Western Cape Manufacturing Indaba**

**Cape Town** – The dti Minister, Dr Rob Davies, will address the upcoming Western Cape Manufacturing Indaba on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November in Cape Town.

In what will be a not-to-be-missed opportunity, manufacturing role players and interest groups can also look forward to hearing from the MEC of Economic Opportunities, Alan Winde and Tim Harris, CEO of Wesgro, the province's trade and investment promotion agency.

Taking place on Friday the 6th November 2015 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, the Western Cape Manufacturing Indaba will bring together the province's manufacturers to workshop and network with government's policy makers and the province's leadership to unlock the growth opportunities of the sector, in line with the National Development Plan, which sees the country's manufacturing industries as key job creators.

The Manufacturing Indaba will be hosting a programme focused towards issue impacting manufacturers in the Province. The conference will create a platform to raise awareness and for players in the automotive, chemical, tooling and general manufacturing sectors to address issues to enhance sustainability in manufacturing industries.

The conference programme will include plenary sessions as well as debate sessions to unpack and encourage active participation at the event.

Topics to be discussed include: Advanced manufacturing design and innovation, investment promotion and export opportunities in manufacturing, energy solutions and alternative power for manufacturing, localisation for supply chain development and local production,

spatial development opportunities (IDZ/SEZ), access to finance, manufacturing opportunities in Africa,

Manufacturing is the second biggest sector in the Western Cape after the financial services sector and contributed 15% to the South African manufacturing sector output of R300 billion in 2012. The manufacturing sector in the Western Cape attracts large amounts of inward investment, and enjoys substantial state assistance as an employment-creating industry. Manufactured products include heavy-duty industrial equipment, vehicle parts and electrical equipment. Exporters in this sector have experience in supplying large quantities to buyers from developed and developing countries.

Minister Rob Davies will deliver the keynote address. Dr Rob Davies is serving his second term as Minister of Trade and Industry. During his first term (2009-2014) he oversaw the implementation of the annual three year rolling Industrial Policy Action Plans as well as steering South Africa's participation in trade relations, including the Tripartite SADC-COMESA-EAC Free Trade Area, BRICS, Economic Partnership Agreement with EU, the US Africa Growth and the Opportunity Act. An ANC MP since 1994, Rob Davies served as Chairperson of the Portfolio Committees of Finance and Trade and Industry and the Constitutional Assembly Sub-Committee responsible for drafting Charter 13 (Finance). An anti-apartheid activist for many years, Dr Davies holds an Honours degree in Economics from Rhodes University, a Masters in International Relations from the University of Southampton in the UK and a Doctorate in Political Studies from the University of Sussex.

Brought to you by the Manufacturing Indaba in conjunction with the Department of Trade & Industry (dti) and the Manufacturing Circle, the programme has input from collaborators such as Wesgro, NCPC-SA, the Western Cape Tooling Initiative and Green Cape, and will address the challenges that are particular to manufacturing businesses based in the Western Cape.



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[www.manufacturingindaba.co.za](http://www.manufacturingindaba.co.za)

**PRESS RELEASE ENDS**

**Note to editors://**

**More about the Manufacturing Indaba:**

Although only the national event's second instalment; the 2015 Manufacturing Indaba in Ekurhuleni surpassed all expectations. The Gauteng Indaba hosted 486 conference delegates, 68 conference speakers, 74 exhibitors, 1 216 exhibition visitors, 34 media houses and achieved a total AVE value across all media platforms of R10 million.

**More background on the Western Cape**

\* Economic development in the Western Cape is characterised by a broad sector base, with good growth potential in several major sectors, a range of significant niche sectors and a number of large new investment projects. Rapidly decreasing communication cost levels mean the disadvantages of Cape Town's distance of 1 500 kilometres south of the economic hub of Gauteng and several thousand kilometres from European, American and Asian centres is less and less significant. In line with worldwide trends, South Africa's export-oriented industries tend to shift towards port cities and coastal industrial belts – the drop in import duties and the establishment of Saldanha Steel as a basis for Western Cape heavy industry add more momentum to this shift. The Western Cape has an open economy with foreign trade making up close to 30% of the gross regional product. The province's exports have traditionally been dominated by primary products such as fruit, fish and vegetables,



but with beneficiation adding increasingly higher value.

\* Information courtesy of Wesgro



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