

Regions need investors to boost growth

South Africa's diverse and fertile provinces offer lure of opportunity

South Africa's far-reaching growth and development plans are being rolled out across all nine provinces with the regional governments fully on board.

From resource rich territories and industrial bases, to unique wildlife habitats, this stunning country continues to impress investors and embodies a nation that is alive with unique possibilities.

Mpumalanga, for example, home of the world-famous Kruger National Park and a host of other attractions, is the country's energy heartland.

The province, that also boasts the world's third deepest canyon, 3 billion-year-old caves and has a fascinating gold-rush history, generates 80 percent of the country's electricity and contributes about 80 percent of the country's coal.

It houses around 60 percent of Eskom's power generation facilities, as well as provides manufacturing, agriculture, and trade and wholesale revenues.

It provides a base for some of the biggest manufacturing companies in South Africa, including Sasol, SAPI and Columbus Stainless, and the opportunities for investment are vast.

As YN Phosa, newly appointed master executive council for the Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism explained, the province is looking to create around 720,000 jobs by 2020.

"Arising out of our growth path,



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YN PHOSA
MASTER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
MPUMALANGA DEDET

we have identified around 15 high-impact projects for the province, ranging from a high level training academy to facilitating the sending of agricultural products to the rest of the world," she said.

"We are actually very big on agriculture and the production of fruit and vegetables and want to focus on

processing these and sending them as a finished product.

"We will be building a university to increase the skills development of our people and to assist us in pin-pointing the key strategic sectors for value addition, as well as research and development. Everybody needs to collaborate and cooperate so we can deliver at both the private and public levels.

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As well as its multiple natural resources, Boyce Mkhize CEO of the Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency said the province's location is a significant advantage.

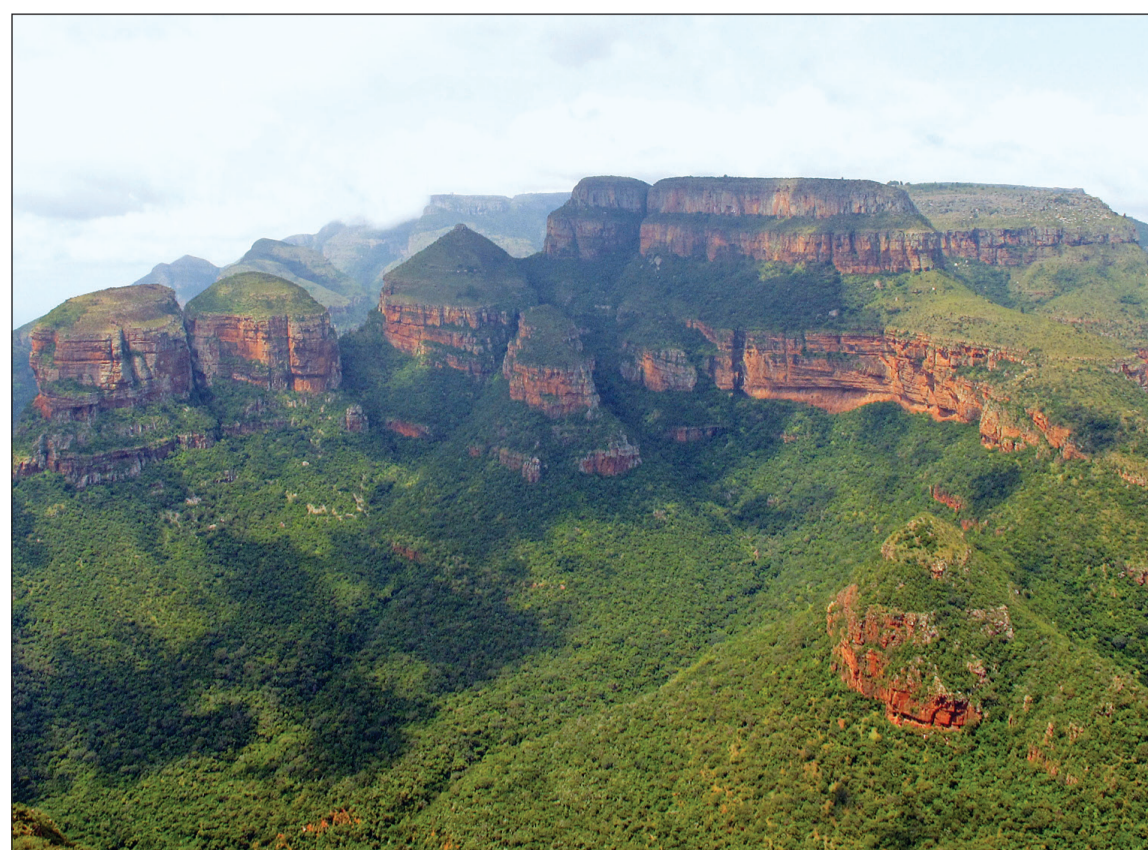
"We are about 100 kilometers from the Maputo Port, so there are transport access and export opportunities," he said. "We are responsible for ensuring that there is sufficient water in the industrial parks. It is a huge project that will require a lot of investment, and we therefore welcome potential investors.

"Recent delegations from here that have participated in Chinese exhibitions have generated almost 50 business leads. A pathway has certainly been opened which we now need to build upon."

As far as the BRICS summit is concerned, Mkhize said: "People will see with their own eyes that the area is thriving and that things are happening on the ground. They can see that they can live and do business here."

Replicating good practices

Meanwhile, with more than 3 million inhabitants, North West province is the home of South Africa's



Three Rondavels are one of the major icons of Mpumalanga.

PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

platinum reserves and a host of famous tourism sights that include Sun City, Pilanesberg National Park, Madikwe Game Reserve and Rustenburg Nature Reserve.

"There is a lot we can bring from China and replicate here, in particular in the textiles industry," said MEC of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism, Motlalepula Rosho.

"China is doing very well in terms of managing environmental issues in the energy sector. We also want to focus on renewable energies, especially solar power, because we have

more sunlight here than in any other province.

"We are strategically placed and can work together with the Chinese government and business investors. We could, for example, manufacture solar panels.

"The BRICS summit is bringing a lot of opportunities, so we have made a conscious decision to be part of, and involved in, the build-up to the BRICS summit by organizing a BRICS Expo."

In the meantime, international visitors will be given a warm welcome at the award-winning Regent Luxury

Apartment Hotel in Johannesburg.

Within easy reach of the city's coolest shopping area and finance and business hub, the Regent boasts five star luxury and elegance in its beautiful penthouses and residential units that combine home comforts with hotel benefits, such as concierge services and 24 hour gate control.

"There has been a 27 percent and 28 percent increase in visitors from China and India respectively," said General Manager Cori Terblanche.

InFocus provided the story

A sound, well-regulated financial system buoys economy

Country's banking sector has resisted knocks and proven resilient in the face of crisis

Backed by a sound regulatory and legal framework, South Africa's sophisticated financial services sector features dozens of domestic and foreign institutions providing a full range of services.

As one of the largest financial services companies in the world, Citibank needs no introduction.



South Africa's financial sector did well during the global crisis and has continued to do well because there is a strong central bank."

DONNA M. OOSTHUYZE, COUNTRY MANAGER, CITIBANK SOUTH AFRICA

The bank enjoys a strong position within South Africa as an international bank with global expertise that works to understand the local market while helping domestic investors launch operations outside of South Africa.

Today, Citibank operates in 15 countries across Africa, spanning corporate, consumer and private banking.

"South Africa's financial sector

did so well during the global crisis and has continued to do well because there is a strong central bank and competent people who provide hands-on supervision of the industry," said Donna M. Oosthuyze, country manager of Citibank South Africa.

"South Africa has also main-

tained exchange controls and the intention is for the exchange regime to be both a strengthening element of the economic environment, and one that facilitates investment into the rest of Africa.

"In addition, South African banks did not have a lot of off-balance sheet activity, so they are very well-capitalized. It is important to remember that 92 percent of the industry is concentrated in the

hands of the top five banks.

"We do have world-class talent here, but maybe not enough of it. The banks emerged from the crisis strong, and going forward they can rest on all these strengths."

The bank, which has been in Africa since 1914, sees huge potential in South Africa.

"First, we recognize the compelling nature of the market," said Oosthuyze. "It is a large economy, with large and important corporations. The economy of South Africa is about a third of the entire continent and out of the top 500 companies operating in Africa, about 175 are right here.

"This is an industrialized country, with large companies, which was attractive. Also, we saw South Africa as being an engine of growth for the rest of Africa and in the internationalization of the new South Africa.

"It is a country that has world-class economies, industries and a rich endowment of natural resources. We knew it was going to internationalize and that is exactly how we positioned our business."

Professional law firm ENS

Meanwhile, as the largest law firm in Africa, Edward Nathan Sonnenbergs, ENS for short, has a growing footprint across sub-Saharan Africa.

Whether dealing with the complexity of a multi-jurisdictional project or the start-up process in one particular country, ENS's localized experience and expertise ensures that clients obtain the benefit of their scale and scope when doing business anywhere in Africa.

ENS offers clients quality and cost-effective legal advice wherever they choose to do business on the continent. Importantly, its professionals speak English, French and Mandarin and have excellent experience of Chinese clients.

"I am confident in saying that I do not believe there is any other law firm on the continent that can service Chinese needs in Africa as well as we can," CEO Piet Faber said.

Ernie Lai King, executive, agreed: "ENS has a significant Chinese client base. Through our experience, we understand the challenges Chinese companies have when they come here in terms of the cultural and linguistic barriers."

InFocus provided the story



The Regent Luxury Apartment Hotel.

www.theregent.co.za



the DEDECT

Department:
Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism
North West Provincial Government
Republic of South Africa

North West is on a new path of industrialization. Eleven (11) key high impact value projects that will provide investors with above average Return on Investment have been identified:

- Infrastructure
- Agro processing (Live stock and game beneficiation)
- Agro-processing (small scale milling)
- Mining supply park
- Metal fabrications, capital and transport equipment.
- Automotive products and components
- Platinum beneficiation
- Plastics and chemicals
- Green economy (Renewable energy) projects
- Electronic components.
- Business process service

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NECSA's main activities lie in the production and manufacture of medical isotopes for the cure of diseases such as cancer, using low-enriched uranium for extra security. A leading name in nuclear science, NECSA is open to partnerships and knowledge-sharing across the globe.



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green & renewable energy

The future demands a sustainable power supply. Working in collaboration with local, national and international institutions, the South African National Energy Development Institute is committed to undertaking and applying the research needed to ensure a cleaner and more efficient energy future.



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