



MEDIA ADVISORY

For immediate release

21 SEPTEMBER 2026

MINISTER STELLA NDABENI TO ENGAGE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR MSMEs IN GQEBERHA ON THE ONE NATIONAL PLAN

The Minister of Small Business Development, Ms Stella Ndabeni, will on Tuesday, 22 September 2026, lead an Automotive Sector Business Breakfast and Consultative Engagement in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape, as part of the development of the One National Plan for the MSME Ecosystem.

The engagement will bring together micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), automotive industry stakeholders, development finance institutions, business formations, the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality, provincial and national government, and other role players within the automotive value chain.

The consultation forms part of the Department of Small Business Development's sector-focused engagements aimed at identifying practical interventions required to unlock the growth and participation of MSMEs in key sectors of the economy.

The automotive sector is a significant component of the Eastern Cape economy and presents opportunities for MSMEs across the value chain, including component manufacturing, vehicle servicing and maintenance, panel beating, aftermarket services, logistics, technology and emerging opportunities associated with electric vehicles.

The engagement will provide automotive-sector MSMEs with an opportunity to engage directly with the Minister and other stakeholders on challenges affecting their businesses, including access to finance and markets, skills development, certification and compliance costs, access to appropriate infrastructure and business premises, technology adoption, institutional support and participation in automotive supply chains.

The engagement will contribute directly to the development of the One National Plan for the MSME Ecosystem, which seeks to strengthen coordination between government, development

agencies, the private sector and other stakeholders in addressing barriers affecting small enterprises.

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover the engagement as follows:

Date: Tuesday, 22 September 2026

Time: 08h00 – 13h00

Venue: The Boardwalk Hotel & Beach Convention Centre

Location: Gqeberha, Nelson Mandela Bay, Eastern Cape

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