

MEDIA RELEASE

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PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TUNES IN TO EASTERN CAPE'S AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

Measures to support the Eastern Cape's automotive sector, were central to discussions between the AIDC EC and Eastern Cape Finance, Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism MEC Mr Mlungisi Gerald Mvoko in Port Elizabeth today.

AIDC EC Board Chair Weza Moss said the engagement with MEC Mvoko, was part of the AIDC's strategy to develop an understanding of the collective actions required to support the South African Automotive industry Masterplan (SAAM2035).

The MEC - appointed on 28 May 2019 and still less than 100 days in office after replacing Oscar Mabuyane, now Premier - and his team was briefed on the obstacles and opportunities faced by the automotive supply chain with the development of skills identified as a key focus area.

Moss said the sector would need to position itself to contend with the potential impact of destructive trends around mobility, including Autonomous driving , digitization and electrification and acquire skills to develop this business and to achieve the objectives of the South African Automotive Masterplan 2035.

Consequently, one of the major initiatives planned, Moss said, is the establishment of a Smart Industrial Academy in Port Elizabeth. He said the AIDC EC was working with VWSA, Jendamark, the DTI, provincial government, academia and international partners to bring the country's first Smart Industrial Academy to life.

"The project is supported through the longstanding co-operation agreement between the Eastern Cape and The Lower Saxony in Germany ." Moss said.

"Access to cutting edge technology, research, training material and support from our German partners and the international network of academies or similar centres around the globe will ensure the region secures jobs and growth by developing a highly skilled labour pool to deal with smart technologies", he said.

Moss said the project was "at an advanced stage" but did not want to speculate on timeframes.

The AIDC EC is the automotive policy implementation agency of the Eastern Cape government.

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