

PRESS RELEASE

SANEC and East London IDZ sign representation agreement

EAST LONDON 12 August – SANEC (Southern African Netherlands Chamber of Commerce) and the East London IDZ (East London Industrial Development Zone) have signed an agreement in which SANEC is appointed to represent the IDZ in both South Africa and the Netherlands. The new agreement caters to a variety of activities that promote East London IDZ and provide access to the Netherlands, furthermore attracting Dutch investors to the IDZ.

Since the East London IDZ was established 10 years ago, the two organisations have cooperated on a number of occasions, with this agreement taking the cooperation to the next level.

The main areas of focus shall be investment- and export promotion from and to the Netherlands.

Furthermore the partnership will increase the exchange of information in the fields of renewable energy, agro processing, manufacturing, transport and logistics and port and corridor development based on various complimentary programs that SANEC is involved in or has access to.

Holland, agro-hub

The Netherlands is one of the leaders in the development and implementation of agro-processing technology and methods. East London IDZ aims to establish an agro-processing park in the near future, which presents opportunities for Dutch investors and technology. This was confirmed by Froke Gilsing, General Manager of the SANEC office in Johannesburg: “We have strong connections with relevant organisations in the agro-processing industry, which can ideally be used to source and introduce investors and partners to East London IDZ.” Additionally Mark Agterdenbosch, General Manager SANEC office The Hague, is pleased that the East London IDZ have chosen The Netherlands as a first point of entry to further develop the IDZ with Dutch knowledge, know-how and investment potential in the field of IDZ’s development and agri-business. “The partnership with SANEC is an exciting one for us and will play a critical role in upgrading our capabilities and improving our efficiencies in the agro-processing sector. The partnership is also meant to assist in marketing some of the opportunities in the ELIDZ for strategic investors in the Netherlands,” said ELIDZ Agro-processing sector Manager, Mzokhona Mvemve.

Renewable Energy and manufacturing

The East London IDZ and Sanec will also be co-operating on the development and marketing of renewable energy opportunities in the Eastern Cape. The East London IDZ is ideally positioned for renewable energy projects. Other than the large tracts of available land for the generation of renewable energy, the province also has competitive feed-in tariffs, abundant natural resource availability and suitable raw material supply for manufacturing opportunities in the sector. For investors that specialise in wind energy, the East London IDZ’s location will be an added competitive advantage. The Eastern Cape has an abundance of this natural resource, with coastal areas offering wind speed of up to 6-7 m/s and mountainous areas offering speeds of 7-9m/s.

Wind energy is fully exploited in the Netherlands with many wind parks, even offshore, and the Netherlands can therefore be an important partner in developing the sector. Manufacturing is a hot topic in South Africa for its potential to reduce unemployment. Due to lack of efficiency, the sector often cannot compete with other emerging markets, losing out on an important market. The Netherlands has recognised South Africa’s enormous potential in this sector and realises the importance of putting systems in place for improving efficiency and saving costs.

During the course of the agreement, which will initially be for a year, an important effort will be made to bring investors and stakeholders around the table, aiming to result in foreign investments, increased exports and ultimately into economic development for the region.

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