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DEDECT MEC ADVANCES INVESTMENT EFFORTS FOR NORTH WEST AT MINING INDABA 2026

The North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT) is advancing its investment attraction programme at the 2026 Investing in African Mining Indaba, where a series of bilateral engagements led by MEC Bitsa Lenkopane yielded tangible outcomes and culminated in several strategic investment opportunities towards industrialization.

The province's participation reflects a deliberate effort to chart a new path for investment that places communities at the centre of economic activity and ensures that local beneficiaries play an active and meaningful role in the provincial economy.

During the Indaba, MEC Lenkopane and Head of Department Mr. Relebohile Mofokane have been engaging industry leaders, investors, and partners across the exhibition floor, using every interaction to profile the North West as a competitive and investment-ready province. MEC's walkabout through the exhibition hall created opportunities for continuous dialogue with mining companies, technology innovators, financiers, and other role players, while also showcasing the depth of investment opportunities at the North West Province exhibition stall. These engagements highlighted district-level strengths and emphasised the province's readiness to welcome transformative investment.

The MEC also held several strategic meetings with investors and partners. Day one included fruitful engagements with Glencore Empire Investment Bank, Shaanxi Non-Ferrous Metals Group, Valterra Platinum, Sibanye-Stillwater, and Limpopo Provincial Government. Day two consisted of bilateral meetings with Glencore, Free State Provincial Government, and many others who are actively working with the department to advance economic interests. The sessions explored investment prospects in mineral beneficiation, manufacturing, renewable energy, agro-processing, and community development initiatives. Through these engagements, MEC reinforced that the North West is land ready, infrastructure ready, SEZ ready, and Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) ready, with a portfolio of opportunities geared toward job creation, economic diversification, and inclusive local growth.

A notable feature of the first day was a high-level bilateral meeting with Glencore CEO, Mr. Jappie Fullard. During these bilateral and other meetings, parties reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening collaboration, expanding the province's investment pipeline, and advancing the development of the Special Economic Zone (SEZ). The discussions underscored a shared vision to promote local industrial participation and ensure that mining-related investments and post-mining economic plans and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria bring direct benefits to communities across the province.

MEC Lenkopane emphasised the significance of the province's mission at the Indaba, noting that DEDECT is actively reshaping the investment landscape to open new opportunities for local stakeholders. MEC highlighted that this platform creates unmatched opportunities for the province to foster strategic investment partnerships, drive local market expansion, beneficiation, explore post mining opportunities, and secure long-term sustainable growth within the Province.

With over 1,400 mining companies, 1,300 investors, and more than 300 exhibitors, this is the premier platform where deals are made and where both power and capital converge, creating unmatched opportunities for strategic partnerships, market expansion, and long-term sustainable growth.

The MEC further highlighted that the province is committed to building partnerships that drive sustainable development and broaden economic participation. Through deliberate investment facilitation, the Department is laying the groundwork for communities, cooperatives, SMMEs, and local suppliers to participate more fully in the province's economic value chains.

As the Mining Indaba continues, the North West delegation remains focused on attracting investment, expanding opportunities, promoting local beneficiation, and positioning the province as a destination where every investment opportunity translates into real, measurable development on the ground.

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