

CHAMBER UPDATE

How do we respond to the economic challenges we are facing?
We start doing something about it ...

View from the Chairpersons desk

Content:

- View from the Chairpersons desk
- 2020 Focus
- Quotes
- Engagement with the Youth
- Sponsors

During the past 2 years we have aimed at identifying and addressing, what we believe are the core fundamental issues in re-aligning our economic model to be a sustainable inclusive economy. This journey has led us to engagements with, amongst others, Local, District and Provincial Government, Uniondale Business Chamber, George Community Business Chambers, AHI Western Cape, SCEP, WCEP, SACCI and other Chambers such as Cape Town, Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth, Graaff Reinet and East London. Discussions covered topics such as Land Reform, Corruption and mal-administration, actions required pertaining to the AG audit of George Municipality, Red Tape Reduction, Safety and Security, Sustainable City Development, Alternative Power/ Energy Solutions, Socio Economic Risks and the cost thereof and the potential impact of the Forestry Exit Agreements. We further engaged with you, our Affiliates, in various forums on of these topics to ensure that we stay aligned and get your guidance on these matters.

January to April 2020 Focus

As a Board and Exco we have agreed that this year is the year of actioning. To achieve results we will be focusing on short term deliverables of which we will keep you informed. The following objectives for implementation by 1 May 2020 are:

1. Digital communication platforms to be optimal as our budget allows. (Website, LinkedIn, Blog page, Facebook)
2. Establishment of the George Business/ Community Chamber Forum. As Business we need one integrated voice
3. Facilitation of a Sustainable Resilient City (Energy/ Power) Solution workshop on 19 March 20 with the aim at defining a solution/s for George and the Garden Route
4. Engagement with George Municipality for the reduction of Red Tape and the creating of Special Rates Areas for the implementation of a City Improvement District.

"Mboweni warns that without big reforms it's 'game over' for SA"

Clem Sunter "Land Reform needs to be settled in a way that provides an equitable solution for all our citizens while maintaining the high level of productivity and quality of agricultural products for which South Africa is renowned. The possible effects of *climate change* must also be figured into the equation."

Our focus in addressing solutions to the infrastructure challenges, which includes Eskom, is continuing and we will keep you updated as these engagements take place.

Engagement with the Youth

To understand the economic model of the future it is imperative that we engage the youth on the subject of what is the economy of the future. Their insights would assist us in defining not only the economic model but also informing the skills required and how Educational bodies need to align their curricula. Councillor Lisa Stroebel invited the Chamber to come and address the new Junior Council. Dennis (Chamber Chairperson) shared the important role which the Jnr Council needs to play in engaging their peers on these matters.

We will be working with Councillor Stroebel and the Jnr Council in areas such as Coaching



February– March 2020 calendar

View our events calendar

on <https://georgechamber.co.za/events/>