

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. GENERAL OVERVIEW

1.1 Introduction

The Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECDC) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Provincial Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs. It is the official economic development agency for the Eastern Cape.

The ECDC reports to its Board of Directors which represents government, business and labour, as appointed by the provincial MEC for Economic Development and Environmental Affairs.

The Corporation operates from a Head Office located in Ocean Terrace Park, Moore Street, East London, and extends its operational activities through five Regional Offices in Port Elizabeth, Queenstown, Butterworth, King William's Town and Mthatha.

1.2 Services rendered by the ECDC

The ECDC renders a variety of services related to the following operational areas:

- Development Finance
- Investment Promotion
- Trade Promotion
- Enterprise Development Services
- Project Development
- Spatial and Rural Development
- Property Management and Development

2. VISION, MISSION AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The ECDC's vision and mission statements were developed within the frameworks of the national and provincial governments, and are aligned with the Eastern Cape Provincial Growth and Development Plan (PGDP).

2.1 The government of the Eastern Cape envisages:

An Eastern Cape which is devoid of the inequalities of the past and unified through integrated and sustainable economic, social and cultural development; thus providing an acceptable quality of life for all its people in the context of a united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa.

The ECDC is in the position of being a critical interface between the public and private sectors. Hence, it is ECDC's vision that: "The socio-economic goals of the Eastern Cape Province can be achieved through innovative and developmentally conscious private sector development".

2.2 Mission Statement

To positively contribute to government's development objectives for the Province and to overcome the constraints of poverty, unemployment, inequality, under-development and apartheid inheritance.

2.3 Priorities

To facilitate and support private sector development in the Eastern Cape through:

- Supporting existing business
- Creating opportunities for new business
- Growing and sustaining existing markets and developing new markets
- Improving access to enterprise finance
- Ensuring that skills, infrastructure and policies support business development

With the above priorities in mind, the following strategic goals have been identified in terms of the Corporation's five year strategic plan:

- Establish a sound approach to implementing the DTI Micro-economic Reform Strategy and the Associated Integrated Manufacturing Strategy
- Establish operational and budgetary alignment of the ECDC and the Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs' activities, as well as with the PGDP
- Ensure that the Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) formulated by metro, district and local municipalities reflect achievable programmes and measures for sound and sustainable Local Economic Development (LED)

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- Establish and maintain appropriate organisational systems to efficiently manage and administer the financial, operational, personnel, information management, communications and legal resources within the ECDC and its associated institutional structures
 - Provide targeted support services to the private sector to enhance their contribution to the growth of the provincial economy
 - Facilitate the financial stability of the ECDC
 - Build institutional capacity and improve internal efficiencies
 - Strengthen economic partnerships between investors, the public sector and business, from large to small scale, as well as community structures

3. LEGISLATIVE MANDATE

The ECDC draws its mandate directly from the Eastern Cape Development Corporation Act (Act 2 of 1997) and is led by the economic development priorities of the provincial government, as detailed in the Provincial Growth and Development Plan (PGDP).

The ECDC Act states that Corporation will: “plan, finance, co-ordinate, market, promote and implement development of the Province and its people in the fields of industry, commerce, agriculture, transport and finance”.