

**CLOSING REMARKS BY PREMIER DAVID MAKHURA AT
THE 2017 JOHANNESBURG, GAUTENG SOUTH AFRICA-
ITALY SUMMIT. PARK HYATT HOTEL, JOHANNESBURG.**

25 October 2017

Mr Paolo Borzatta, Senior Partner at The European House - Ambrosetti;

Hon. Boris Zala, Member of the European Parliament and Vice Chair of the Delegation for Relations with South Africa;

Ambassadors and High Commissioners;

Ministers and former Ministers;

Minister Casseli, Deputy Mayor Serena and your delegation;

Governor Mutjavikua and your delegation;

Representatives of governments from South Africa, Italy, Zambia, Zimbabwe and other parts of our continent;

Speakers and panelists at this Indaba;

Leaders of business;

Head of state owned enterprises;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have come to the end of this year's South Africa-Italy Indaba, which is part of marking the Centenary of Oliver Tambo and a celebration of the enduring friendship and solidarity between the peoples of Italy and those of South Africa, under the firm guidance of Oliver Tambo and Giuseppe Soncini.

We emerge from this Indaba with a renewed sense of optimism and determination to increase levels of mutually beneficial trade between Gauteng, South Africa, SADC and Africa on the one hand, and Italy and continental Europe, on the other. The tide is turning more favorably in the trade relations between South Africa and Italy.

Trade between South Africa and Italy has increased by 35% in the past five years, from R32 billion in 2011 to R44 billion in 2016.

In the past two years, imports from Italy to South Africa declined by 5.2% while exports increased by 45%, thus reducing the trade deficit from R17 billion in 2014 to R10 billion in 2016. This is massive progress on the road to achieving the goal of balanced and mutually beneficial trade between the two countries.

Italy is SA and Gauteng's major trading partner - it accounts for 7% of South Africa's trade with Europe and 8% of Gauteng's global trade.

Gauteng's trade with Italy has increased by 34% over the past five years, from R19 billion in 2011 to R26 billion in 2016. Gauteng accounts for 60% of South Africa's trade with Italy.

It is my considered view that the SA-Italy Summit is contributing enormously to the changing relationship between Italy and South Africa in the volumes and quality of trade and investment patterns so that there greater balance and mutual benefit.

I wish to commend all the organizers, panelists and speakers at this Summit, for such high quality conference. I have no doubt that I speak for everyone who attended this year's Indaba when I say that the relocation to Gauteng has improved the quality of SA-Italy Summit.

There is greater participation of Black business, cooperatives and township enterprises in the events linked to this Summit. This is important because the Summit must also serve as a platform for economic empowerment and increase the participation of black business in the export and investment opportunities in our continent, in Italy and Europe.

Let me also commend the Summit Chairperson and Moderator, Ms Lynette Ntuli for the excellent manner in which she facilitated discussions at this Indaba. We are truly encouraged

by such depth of knowledge and professionalism from a young lady. We encourage you to keep up the good work!

I was particularly encouraged by the active participation of business people talking among themselves on specific matters that are of concern to them. Far too often as government we tend to think we have all the solutions. As Zambian Finance Minister, Hon Mutati pointed out, we need the private sector to work with us as governments to find practical solutions to the challenges we face as countries.

The African Economic Outlook Report 2017 correctly assert; *“With dynamic private sectors, entrepreneurial spirit and vast resources, Africa has the potential to grow faster and more inclusively.”*

I am also very pleased that we had the participation of Ministers and Governors from SADC countries - Minister Mutati from Zambia, Minister Mandiwanzira from Zimbabwe and Governor Mutjavikua from Erongo Region in Namibia.

I commend the delegation from Emilia Romagna Region in Italy, led by Minister Casselli. This delegation includes the Deputy Mayor of the City of Reggio Emilia.

We are expanding our Regional-Provincial collaboration among Governors, Premiers and Mayors at city, provincial and regional on trade and sustainable development goals in the different regions of our continent and across the world. This is the age of cities. This is the age of regions. We as local and regional leaders have an important role to play in changing our countries for the better.

Next year I would like the organizers to invite more Regional Governors from Sub-Saharan Africa - Nigeria and Ghana in West Africa; Kenya and Tanzania in East Africa, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mocambique in SADC region.

I want to remind you that last year we signed a cooperation agreement between Gauteng and Emilia Romagna at the Summit. Yesterday, we signed another cooperation agreement with Namibia's Erongo Region. This Summit is not a talk-shop.

Next year, I also suggest we bring the universities and other innovation, research and development institutions into the Summit programme. As the SADC Executive Secretary, Madame Tax pointed out yesterday, science, technology, R&D and innovation are major drivers of unprecedented and rapid change which is taking place under the rubric of "the fourth industrial revolution".

This Summit should help us to bring the 4th Industrial Revolution to Africa and take African products and services to Europe and Italy. As we resounding agreed: "Made in Italy" must meet "Made in Africa". Gauteng is Africa's workshop and advanced manufacturing hub.

Africa is the place to be over the next 50 years. It is a growing continent – real GDP is expected to increase from 3.5% in 2017 to almost 4% in 2022. Her mineral resources, her youthful population expected to double to 2.4 billion by 2050, remain valuable resources to be used for the benefit of all her people.

What I want to emphasize is that as long as the SA-Italy Summit takes place in Gauteng, it will focus on strengthening mutually beneficial trade and investment among Africans on the one hand, and between SADC countries and Italy.

I would like to use this opportunity to bid farewell to our dear sister, Ambassador Tembi Tambo, as she prepares to take up a new diplomatic posting in the United Kingdom. She contributed enormously to the success of the SA-Italy Summit over the past four years.

I wish to congratulate the European House Ambrossetti, our partners and sponsors for yet another successful South Africa-Italy Indaba.

Those who are still around on Friday, I invite to join us in celebrating Oliver Tambo's 100th Birthday. Former President Thabo Mbeki will address a Memorial Lecture on Oliver Tambo at Wits University on Friday afternoon. I will play soccer at the Tambo-Soncini Games on Saturday.

In conclusion, I wish to bid all of you a temporary farewell till we meet again next year at the 2018 South Africa-Italy Summit to be hosted again here in Gauteng.

Arive derchie!

Thank you. Grazie!