



## MEDIA ADVISORY

### INDUSTRY LEADERS GATHER TO TACKLE DECLINE IN MANUFACTURING SECTOR

*On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015, Industry leaders will gather at the Sandton Based, Gauteng Investment Centres to deliberate on the decline in the manufacturing sector which is currently seriously threatening growth in the South African economy. CEOs and Chief Economists from key industry bodies including SEIFSA; The Manufacturing Circle (one of the leading manufacturing sector associations) key association in the industry will form part of a panel to engage with at least 100 industry CEOs and Senior Executives and Government to look at alternatives and new industries to ensure growth in the economy.*

There are deep challenges that face the manufacturing sector, these include the lack of access to inputs (feedstock), high cost of inputs, skills shortages and mismatch as well as cheap imports. Between the years 2006 and 2013, employment in the gold jewellery production and exports declined by more than half while imports of the same increased during the same period. In this period jewellery permit holders reduced by 70 % ( from 2600 to 875) and employment in the jewellery manufacturing sector halved from 5000 to 2400 (*Jewellery Council of South Africa, 2014*).

Local jewellery manufacturing capability has declined so significantly that, in many cases, it would not be viable to produce or finance export orders. The main purpose of this thought leadership session is to ensure dialogue amongst key sector players, examine in depth the issues in the manufacturing sector and jointly map out ways to mitigate them.

The audience for this critical thinking session is specific and requires the involvement of Business communities, Government, Industry associations, sector bodies, experts, academics, export councils, FDI companies as well as other relevant government agencies.

The session will be held as stated below:

**Date** : **Wednesday, 4 November 2015**  
**Time** : **9h00 – 12h30**  
**Venue** : **Gauteng Investment Centre**  
**1 Sandton drive**

End.

***About the Gauteng Growth and Development Agency (GGDA)***

*The GGDA plays a vital role in attracting investment and new business to the Gauteng Province and renders services and assistance to various projects and businesses. The GGDA's Mandate therefore is; to be the implementation arm of the Gauteng Department of Economic Development (GDED) and to assist the department to lead, facilitate and manage sustainable job creation and inclusive economic growth and development in the Gauteng City Region.*

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