

# More than 200 companies on show at Buy Local Summit & Expo



The Proudly South African Buy Local Summit & Expo is featuring more than 200 high quality home-grown goods and service providers, who are showcasing everything from pharmaceutical and health products to stylish furniture and electronics for home and office use, delicious food and drink products, as well as jewellery and textiles.

This Proudly South African flagship event kicked off on Monday, March 27 at the Sandton Convention Centre. It offers an informative, jam-packed programme under the theme, 'Growing the Economy and Creating Jobs through Localisation'. The summit was opened by the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Ebrahim Patel, who gave the keynote address. A diverse range of industries and sectors are being featured in a not-to-be-missed showcase, which goes beyond mere product sales and makes a crucial contribution to strengthening local and international trade and the growth of economies. These sectors include, but are not limited to, agro-processing

(Krugersdorp's Qaboha Farming); automotive (Toyota); mining, and beneficiation (African Millennium Jewellers, Bokoena's Fashion Jewellery, Luxity Fine Jewellery Pty Ltd, Mmako Designs, MMH Jewellers CC, Ndalo Jewellery, Nolo M Jewellery Designs, Revelea Jewellery, Sibeko Jewellers, The Jewellery Village, TM Jewellery Pty Ltd). The plethora of manufacturing companies range from PG Bison, a proudly South African company driven to inspire and enable beautiful spaces with its comprehensive range of wood-based panel products to cement and lime provider PPC Ltd and tyre giant Goodyear. There's also leather goods manufacturer Wendy M (Pty) Ltd; water tank manufacturer and supplier SBS Tanks; glue manufacturer Makoya Adhesive; clothing company Chepa Streetwear; bottled water manufacturer Beige Butterfly and DermoProf skincare and more. Ziyakhala Manje unpacks South Africa's events industry, which has one of the biggest jobs value chains in the country, accounting

for approximately 9% of total output, employment and GDP.

The industry will have representatives from organisations including the DStv Delicious Festival, Joy of Jazz, RiSA, Makhelwane Festival and Back to the City, among others.

Companies in the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector include Bliss Brands, makers of laundry, household, and personal care products as well as Switch Energy Drink and fashion brand distribution business Skye.

The Buy Local Summit & Expo includes a fashion activation known as The Busy Corner showcasing local fashion ranges from a number of the country's leading designers and retailers including SB Kids by Bokang Montjane-Tshabalala and her husband Sphiwe, Biji La Maison by Biji Gibbs, Ledikana, Rubicon, and NN Vintage by Mafikizolo's Nhlanhla Mafu.

Nearly 50 food and beverage manufacturers and providers will be in attendance from Absolute Coffee and The Freshly Squeezed Juice Guy to Mopani Queens and Spices 4 Africa as well as The Salad Lab, Veg On The Go, Tolokazi Beer, and more. Each and every delegate and consumer who will walk the floor of the Expo will be spoilt for choice.

Eustace Mashimbye, Proudly SA CEO, said: "Aspiring and established SMEs and entrepreneurs will have access to the Business Solutions Hub, an area dedicated to entities and organisations that exist to regulate, legislate, and advise small businesses. The entities will be on site to resolve disputes, attend to queries and accept applications. These include CIPC, CIPS, CGCSA, the dtic, SEFA, SEDA, SARS, SABS, NEF and The BBBEE Commission.

"The ongoing electricity crisis was the focus for seasoned broadcaster Jeremy Maggs on day one, as a

facilitator of the panel discussion aimed at unpacking the country's energy status quo, as well as the localisation and industrialisation opportunities that exist in the Renewable Energy industry.

The panel aims to bring out feasible solutions to the crisis that can also create jobs within the country." Partners of the 2023 Buy Local Summit & Expo include ABSA, Sasol, Aspen, Sizwe IT, Southern Sun, GCIS, Coca-Cola Beverages South Africa, SA Breweries, the dtic, Brand South Africa and Trade and Industry KZN (TiKZN).

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# Estina dairy farm tax fraud trial underway

The State's first witness in the R37.7 million Estina dairy farm tax fraud trial continued his testimony in the Pretoria Magistrate's Court from Tuesday 28 March 2023. This is another matter from the main R280 million Estina farm fraud and corruption case, which implicated the former Minister of Mineral Resources, Mosebenzi Zwane.

National Prosecuting Authority Investigating Directorate (NPA ID) spokesperson, Sindisiwe Seboka, said the accused on trial are known Gupta associates Kamal Vasram and Saliesh Indurjeeth, who have pleaded not guilty. "The Pretoria Magistrate's Court heard evidence from the State's first witness, Piet Swart, a

SARS investigator [on Monday]. Swart testified about the customs clearance submission, which relates to nine shipping containers that carried different dairy equipment purportedly from Gateway Limited in the UAE.

"[Vasram and Indurjeeth] face charges of fraud, contravention of Section 54(1)(A) of the International Trade Administration Act and contravention of Regulation 22 of the Exchange Control Act - charges arising from a joint investigation by SARS and the Investigating Directorate," Seboka said. Meanwhile, the Johannesburg Specialised Commercial Crimes Court has sentenced a 47-year-old

man to 12 years' imprisonment for crimes related to fraudulent tax returns.

NPA spokesperson, Phindi Mjonondwane, said 47-year-old Harisu Bukari and his company were charged with some 19 counts of fraud, two of forgery and uttering after claiming undue VAT refunds worth over R2.7 million. Mjonondwane explained that Bukari's company was "was not legally entitled to claim VAT refunds" from the South African Revenue Service (SARS).

"A business entity is compelled under certain conditions to register for VAT with SARS. Once registered, the entity is then referred to as a VAT Vendor and it must levy VAT on the supply of goods and services. This is referred to as Output Tax. The VAT Vendor is also entitled to claim VAT on various expenses incurred, be it capital or operational expenses, provided it is for the furtherance of

the business as permissible by the VAT Act. This is referred to as Input Tax.

"Every VAT Vendor must submit periodic returns to SARS, accounting for both Input and Output Tax. The form rendered periodically is referred to as a VAT 201 return. SARS places upon the bona fides and honesty of each VAT Vendor to calculate and administer the amount payable to SARS or refundable to the VAT Vendor on a basis of trust between SARS and the VAT Vendor. "The NPA applauds Advocate Mzuhleli Mcosini and investigators from SARS' Criminal Investigations unit for ensuring that the accused faces the full might of the law for abusing the trust that SARS placed on him as a VAT Vendor and hope that the sentence imposed will serve to deter citizens from avoiding tax liability through criminal conduct," Mjonondwane said. – [SAnews.gov.za](http://SAnews.gov.za)