Special Report **Special Report** 

## Makhura looks back with a smile as ordinary Gautengers' lives change

Gauteng Premier: David Makhura

**Themba Monare** 

Makhu-Gauteng, he immediately adopted a multi pillar programme of Transformation, Modernisation and Reindustrilisation. The programme is meant to give the provincial economy "vava-voom" that brings ordinary citizens aboard economic mainstream.

Critics believed the premier then was punching above his weight when he rolled out the TMR programme. As his term draws to the end, Premier David Makhura is happy with the progress.

Since the dawn of Democracy, Gauteng has been going through a radical journey, regarding social structure, economy, infrastructure and the quality of lives of citizens. Historically, Gauteng has always been known as a place where streets are paved in gold, and for years it has been a home for dreamers, mostly from other provinces and the rest of the continent and the world. The population has doubled, from 7.8 million in 1996 to 14.7. million people, making Gauteng the most populous province in the country. One in every four South Africans lives in Gauteng. The economy has grown five times, from R290 billion in 1996 to R1.5 trillion in 2017.

"Gauteng is not only the economic and industrial hub of South Africa, we are also the seventh largest economy in Africa. The number of people employed in the Gauteng economy has also doubled - from 2.6 million in 1996 to 5.163 million in 2018" said Makhura during the state of the province address on 18 February 2019.

Despite socio-economic challenges in the country, according to research by the Gauteng City Region Observetory, Quality of Life Survey (2017/2018) access to basic services is much higher and more inclusive than it was prior to the new dispensation.

measure the quality of life has im- ress during the twenty-five years proved in Gauteng. Access to basic of our democracy" continued the services has increased from an avpremier. erage of 60% in 1994, to an average of 85% in 2018.

The survey also records that, access to formal dwelling is at 81%; removal is at 83%. It goes further among the poor is very high in justice, equity and inclusion". Gauteng. The government housing programme has delivered more than 1.2 million houses in Gauteng, providing decent shelter to more than 4 million people. Conseand their level of satisfaction with basic services and infrastructure is above the national average.

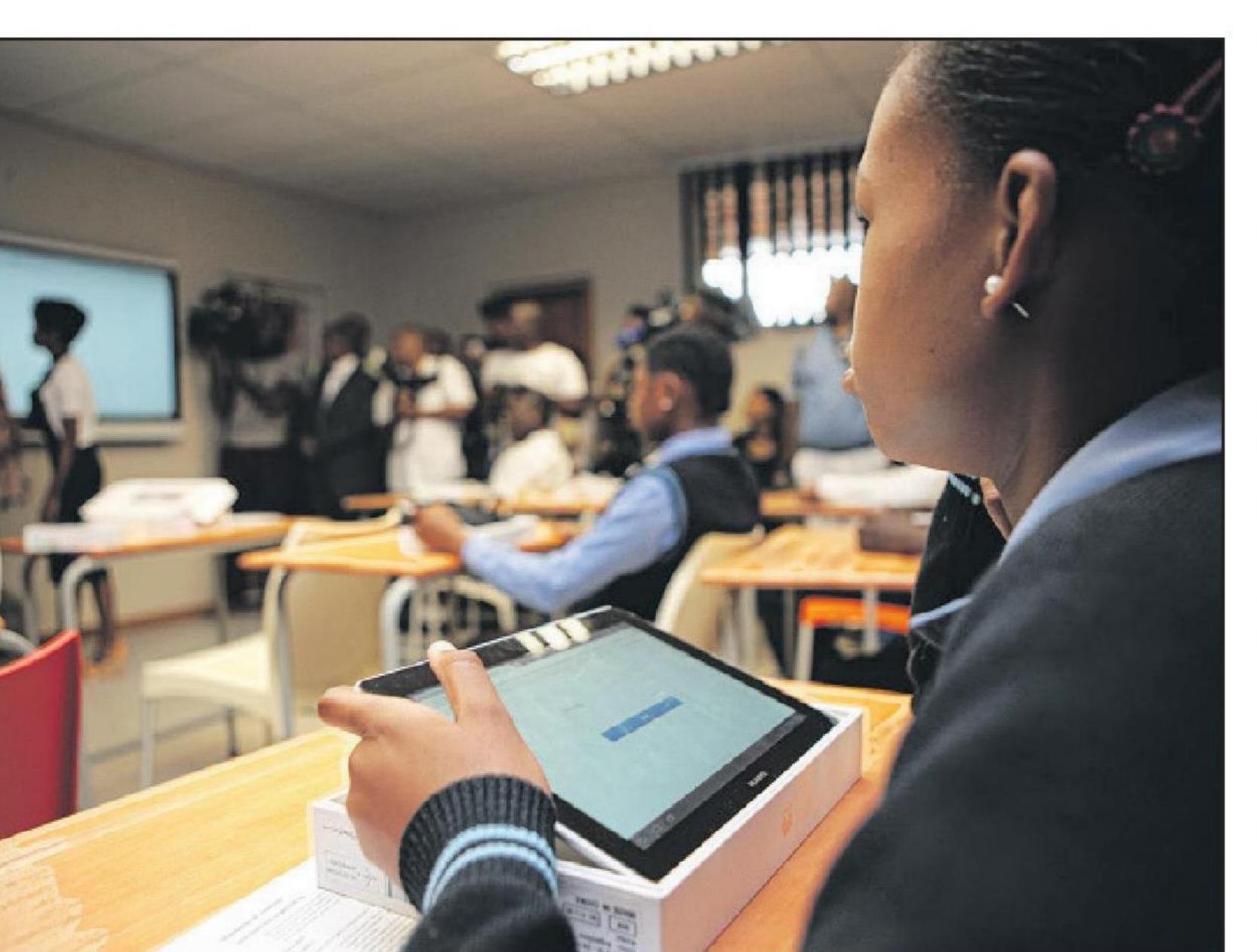
"Our province is a zone of opportunity that offers better living standards to millions of people. Hence, the high rate of immigra-



Opening of Kekana Gardens Clinic in Hammaskraal 06 March 2019



Kekana Gardens Clinic in Hammaskraal



Learner using tablet in a classroom "Smart School"



Rhodesfield Engineering School in Atteridgeville City of Tshwane



New X-Ray equipment Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital

the lives of the people represent By all possible standards of a towering monument of prog-

"We have been working togethskills, services, infrastructure and institutions that empower citizens piped water at 91%; electricity at to take full charge of their lives 92%; sanitation at 91% and refuse and pursue their dreams, while contributing actively to the creby stating that home-ownership ation of a society underpinned by

"We have made huge investments in the transformation, modernisation and expansion of educational infrastructure and human resources to cater for the growing quently, Gauteng residents have population and meet the needs of experienced continuous significant the new economy and society in improvement in the quality of life—the digital age or fourth industrial

revolution" said Makhura. The Gauteng Government has also invested in Early Childhood Development (ECD). This is one important aspect of education that

was neglected for a long time. The Gauteng government also tion. These qualitative changes in invests money to assist deserving

students in tertiary education.

Since 2014, more than 13 000 students have received bursaries worth over a billion Rand. In 2019, the Provincial Government, er with the people to provide the Academy awarded 2743 Bursaries worth R 261 million. The four-year tuition fees, as well as prescribed study material. Funded learners have not disappointed, producing a 70% success rate on average which is way above the the estimated national pass rate of approximately 50%.

The premier did the unthinkable, when he advised his executive council to sell his official residence, the decision that would make him sacrifice all the luxuries that come with living on the property to help poor students fulfill their dreams.

tives is the revitalisation of town- its budget procuring goods and ship economy. Gauteng is the services from businesses owned pioneer, laboratory and leader by women. More than 7 000 in the revitalisation and transfor- women-owned cooperatives have mation of township enterprises received financial and non-finan- on primary healthcare, it has the

into sustainable and job-creating businesses.

As part of this programme, the provincial government provided financial and non-financial support, through the Gauteng City Region assisted with access to markets and invested substantial resources in industrial infrastructure such as bursary includes registration and agri-parks, industrial parks, automotive hubs and eKasi Labs.

Prior to 2014, the provincial government's procurement spent on township businesses was R600 million. Over the past five years, the provincial government has procured goods and services from township businesses, worth more

than R22 billion. "One of the key objectives of our programme for Transformation, Modernisation and Re-industrialisation is to bring women into the mainstream economy of our province". Currently, the Provin-One of the premier's big initia- cial Government spends 23% of cally reduced mother-to-child HIV

cial support from government. highest number of clinics (75%) of the beneficiaries of most of the agri-enterprise programme; 55% of the bursary programme; 60% of Tshepo 1 Million and 65% of housing delivered.

Over the past two years, more than 100 000 women have benefitted from public employment opportunities such as Expanded Public Works and Community Works Programmes.

challenges, Despite many Gauteng's health outcomes are improving due to the fact that there are many centres of resilience. The average life expectancy has improved from 54 years in 2006 to 64

The successful rollout of the anti-retroviral treatment has drastitransmission in Gauteng to 0.68%, which is very close to our target

Gauteng province is the leader

Women constitute the majority that meet the highest national core standard of ideal clinic. These programmes of this administra- clinics are clean, open on time, of the National Health Insurance" tion – 60% of the beneficiaries of well run, have reduced waiting premier Makhura attested.

times and have high rates of medicine availability. "This is crucial in preparation for the introduction

**KEKANA GARDENS** 

GAUTENG CLINIC

## All key factors:

and entrepreneurship development.

- Through Tshepo 1 million programme, more than 510 000 young people have benefited from demand-led skills training
- Gauteng Government spent more than R22 billion procuring
- goods and services from township businesses.

• Gauteng attracted R 199 billion Foreign Direct Investment

- in 5 years. • The number of people employed in the Gauteng economy has
- doubled from 2.6 million in 1996 to 5.163 million in 2018.
- More than 100 000 women have benefited from the Expanded Public Works and Community works Programme.
- More than 7000 women-owned co-operatives received finan-

cial and non-financial support from Gauteng government.

• 36 000 young mothers were transitioned from social grants to employment training and skills development.

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