

Friday, 22 August 2025

TASEZ WELCOMES THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW CHAIRPERSON AND NEW MEMBERS OF ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Tshwane Automotive Special Economic Zone (TASEZ) is pleased to announce the appointment of the new chairperson and new board members by the shareholders of the company. The appointments are expected to bolster oversight and strategic leadership at a time when the SEZ is scaling up its operations and expanding the South Africa's flagship in industrialisation projects, accelerating its role in positioning the City of Tshwane as Africa's automotive city.

Chairperson of the Board

Maoto Nape Molefane is an experienced manager and leader with a proven track record in the public sector, which spans over 20 years. Significantly, he has spearheaded a plethora of initiatives pertaining to the country's Special Economic Zones Programme, including SEZ policy and strategy development, SEZ planning and development, spatial industrial framework development as well as the conceptualisation of catalytic industrial projects in line with the country's comparative and competitive advantages.

His expert knowledge in regional industrial development and public policy development, analysis and implementation has contributed immensely in the establishment of many SEZ's across South Africa, including TASEZ.

Speaking after his appointment, Molefane said he is looking forward to leading the implementation of the mandate of the shareholders and the SEZ, which is anchored on promoting national economic growth through the attraction of targeted foreign and domestic investments as well as technology that is suitable for advancing the country's automotive sector and to cement TASEZ's role as a driver of industrialisation and job creation.

"It gives me great pleasure to be appointed as the TASEZ chairperson. My focus is to work collaboratively with the board of directors, shareholders and all broader stakeholders to continue building and positioning TASEZ as a world-class special economic zone," he said.

The zone is now in full operation.



Maoto Nape Molefane
Chairperson of the TASEZ board of directors

"One of our key focus areas is to leverage our city's existing competitive edge to build and position the City of Tshwane as an automotive city by attracting more OEMs and component manufacturing firms," he added.

Molefane will also focus on strengthening and gearing up the TASEZ Training Academy-related programmes for the benefit of more young people, including the facilitation of placement opportunities, technology and skills transfer to small, medium and micro enterprises through the creation of an incubation programme and creation of multi-industrial clusters through the acquisition of additional land parcels.

"Our SEZ should make a meaningful contribution towards the country's industrialisation agenda."

The shareholders of TASEZ also appointed four new board members.

New TASEZ board members:

Matome Kgowedi is an experienced leader in the public sector, which spans over 20 years. His experience includes formulating and implementing, sector policies to develop and grow industries such as the automotive and forestry-based industries. Having served as a foreign economic representative, he also brings in a wealth of knowledge and experience in trade and investment facilitation.

Apart from being involved in implementing the South African Automotive Masterplan, Kgowedi is a project manager for the quality and productivity improvement (KAIZEN) project being implemented nationally by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency, focusing on lower-tier component suppliers in the automotive value chain, including the plastic and metal sectors.

Kgowedi is looking forward to contributing immensely at TASEZ as a board member.



Matome Kgowedi
TASEZ board member



Rhys Davies
TASEZ board member

Rhys Davies is an experienced leader in the private sector, with over 20 years in the automotive industry. He is the operational director for Ford Motor Company of Southern Africa since 2020 and has held various leadership roles across multiple countries, including China, Australia and Thailand.

He has been engaged with the TASEZ development since 2020 and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in managing large establishments and business relationships.

He is dedicated to further developing South Africa into a leader of manufacturing by ensuring the technology advancement and workforce development remain at the forefront of the industry.

Thandi Seemise has more than 20 years' experience as a leader in the public sectors. She has expertise in the steel, engineering and heavy industries as well as in strategy development and policy implementation.

She continues to provide thought-leadership to South Africa's industrial policy and to driving key programmes aimed at deepening industrialisation, localisation and job creation.

She is passionate about governance, driving change, monitoring and evaluating the performance of programmes.

Seemise's other directorship positions include being a member of the Intsimbi-National Tooling Initiative and the Trade and Industry Policy Strategies (TIPS) board of directors.

She also served on the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) and South African National Accreditation (SANAS) Board.



Thandi Seemise
TASEZ board member



Themba Sehokwana Mathibe
TASEZ board member

Themba Mathibe is the current Chief Executive Office of the Joburg Development Agency, an entity of the City of Joburg.

He brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise in strategic leadership and management, setting growth strategies and implementation plan to contribute towards the national and provincial government objectives.

In his 10 years work experience in leadership positions, Mathibe has acquired strong knowledge and skills in supply chain management, financial planning, monitoring and evaluation, housing development, public policy and project management, corporate governance, legal compliance and risk analysis.

His board directorship experience includes being a non-executive director of Constitutional Hill.

Mathibe's vision is to utilise his legal acumen to enhance good governance, and provide sound legal and strategic advice that will have a positive impact on the lives of the people of South Africa, including the broader stakeholders of TASEZ.