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Furniture sector forum – let's talk!

On Wednesday, at the Furniture Sector Forum, we will discuss the challenges facing the local furniture manufacturing sector and the opportunities for growth and collaboration among all members of the industry.

As reminder: The Forum will be held at The Canvas in Riversands, Fourways, from 9:00 – 15:00 on Wednesday 17 July and is co-hosted by the South African Furniture Initiative (SAFI), the Department of Trade and Industry, Proudly South African and PG Bison.

The Furniture Sector Forum is a platform where representatives from every part of the furniture manufacturing value chain can meet, discuss challenges, ideas and best practices and commit to growing the sector in the future. As such, we will welcome representatives from government, unions, buyers, sellers (both trade and retail), interior designers, architects and specialists in areas such as exports, marketing and design.

We believe that the furniture manufacturing sector can contribute meaningfully to South Africa's goals for job creation, economic growth and

import replacement as agreed upon at the Buy Local Summit held in March 2019 and last year's Job Summit.

Our belief is supported by the fact that South Africa imports in excess of R7 billion on furniture and fittings every year. We believe that the forum will allow buyers and local manufacturers to meet, network and discuss opportunities from local suppliers to channel some of that spending to local providers.

Speakers at this week's forum will include Penwell Lunga, Chairman of SAFI, Stephanie Forbes, National Manager of the Kitchen Specialists Association, Ncumisa Mhlauli-Mcata, Chief Director for Agro Processing and Resource Based Industries at the Department of Trade and Industry, and Eustace Mashimbye, CEO of Proudly South Africa.

The forum will also host a high-level panel discussion with representatives from the furniture manufacturing sector, the labour union and South African furniture retail stores.

Following the presentations and panel discussions, Proudly SA, SAFI and the dti will facilitate the signing of a Furniture Buy Local Pledge and the awarding of Proudly SA Membership Certificates.

Interested parties are welcome to register for the forum at

www.furniture.org.za.



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