

Dr. Mzukisi Qobo is Head of Wits School of Governance corporate and a member of the Presidential Economic Advisory Council. He is a thought leader on strategy geopolitics, and public policy

Facilitation Questions

19 February 2021

1. What are the major questions or take-aways from this programme? How do various stakeholders feel and think about it thus far?
 - What are some of the highlights that have stayed in your minds?
 - What new insights has this programme sparked about the ecosystem challenges and how these could be overcome?
 - If we did not have a programme of this nature, would we invent it and in what form?
2. The ESDSE programme was launched before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - In your view has it been sufficiently responsive to the current realities?
 - What are some of the lessons from the pandemic that this programme can reflect on and possibly take on board?
 - What are some of the pandemic-specific challenges you can think of, which may have affected the delivery of the programme? And what opportunities does the pandemic present to the programme?
3. What is the end in mind that we envisage of this programme?
 - Given where we are at in the lifecycle of this programme, what are the main wins it should aim for?
 - What legacy projects do you think the programme should yield?
 - What can each partner contribute to the success of this programme?
4. How can we build the outcomes of this programme to the ongoing masterplan on small business development?
 - What would we need to do to create strong linkages between this programme and the masterplan process?
 - How should we think about structuring the remaining activities and milestones of this programmes to bolster the masterplan?
 - What should be done to keep all stakeholders committed to the programme to ensure its success? And how should we unlock some of the obstacles to effective participation?
5. What are your thoughts on the key outcomes such as competitiveness, access to finance, and improving policy outcomes? What are we able to achieve realistically across those pillar?
 - Competitiveness
 - Access to finance
 - Red-tape reduction and institutional policy support
6. How do we further strengthen the EDSE programme especially to ensure effective implementation?

- What do we do to encourage sustainability beyond the lifespan of the EDSE Programme?
 - How do we amplify the demonstration effects and learning from the Programme?
 - How do we leverage additional resources (financial and non-financial) from the public and private sectors.
7. **Vision:** By October 2022 we will see strengthened Government capacity and appropriate institutional arrangements collaborating and coordinating SMME development and ecosystem strengthening across all three spheres: local, provincial, national.
- What do we need to do between now and October 2022 to realise this vision?
 - What are we able to do to realise this vision?
 - What are some of the leverages that are made possible by the pandemic or by developments related to masterplans?
 - Apart from the small business development masterplan, what are other masterplans can we leverage to ensure that some of the key outcomes of the programme are achieved?
8. How do we structure this programme to promote innovation in the SMME sector?
- What policy interventions are required to support tech startups and uptake of technologies by SMMEs
 - Apart from building capabilities in SMMEs, what are some of the opportunities to promote market access?
 - Are there interventions or activities we can think of that can boost SMMEs that are operating in the township economy, strengthen supply chain linkages, and encourage greater local content through capacity building and technical assistance and various other suite of incentives?
9. What forms of partnerships we build for this programme's success?
- Partnerships with between government and industry
 - Government and higher education
 - Government and social enterprises
 - Government-industry-higher education?
10. How can we support SMMEs in the industries of the future, including those related to green economy and tech start-ups?
- What kind of capabilities should we be focusing on?
 - Digital skills?
 - Linkages between SMMEs/start-ups with big firms both locally and internationally?
 -