

Annual report 2019

Background

The Chairperson is elected on a rotational basis for a year to give all the provinces a chance. Ms Sunet du Plessis was elected as Chairperson at the 2018 Conference in Bela Bela, Limpopo with Mr Mohau Moahludi as the Deputy Chairperson.

Feedback on 2019

In 2019, the main activities of the forum were the quarterly steering committee meetings, benchmarking working sessions and the annual conference.

Steering committee meeting of 28 March 2019 in Pretoria

The first steering committee meeting of 2019 took place in Pretoria and was hosted by the City of Tshwane. A guest presentation was made by Dr Heinrich Bohlmann from University of Pretoria. The title of the presentation was *Big Bills Left on the Sidewalk: Making Proper Use of Models for Macroeconomic Planning*.

The key issues that were discussed at this meeting include:

1. Conference 2019 – Proposals on thematic areas, programme
2. Sharing of provincial departments' publications and loading of papers or presentations on the website
3. Training opportunities and conferences
4. Revised TOR
5. Sub-committees within the PSEF

Steering committee meeting of 27 June 2019 in Durban

The second steering committee meeting for 2019 was held in Durban and was hosted by KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Treasury. Prof Bonke Dumisa, Chairperson of KZN Planning Commission, made a guest presentation on the economic challenges and the national economy. Mr Roscoe van Wyk from National Treasury also made a guest presentation. His presentation was titled *Establishment of the Intergovernmental Relations Economic Policy Forum*.

The main issues discussed at this meeting include:

1. Conference 2019 – Progress update from Organising Committee
2. Revised TOR
3. PSEF website, uploading of papers from the 10th conference on the website and digital marketing of the forum

After the steering committee meeting, a working session was held to allow for benchmarking by the Provincial Treasury departments. These departments were given the opportunity to present their APPs, structure, challenges and other issues relating to their work. This provided

members the opportunity to discuss the similarities and differences in the approaches of the Provincial Treasury departments in achieving their targets as well as to learn from each other.

Steering committee meeting of 12 September 2019 in Johannesburg

The third and final steering committee meeting of 2019 took place in Johannesburg and was hosted by Gauteng Department of Economic Development. Two guest speakers presented to the forum. These guests were Ms M. Mofokeng and Mr S. Katumba. Ms Mofokeng presented a paper titled *A CGE Analysis: The Economic-Wide Impact of a Reduction in Fuel Levy*, while Mr Katumba presented a paper titled *Spatial Statistical Analysis of Dissatisfaction with Local, Provincial and National Government Performance in Gauteng: Evidence from Quality of Life Survey Data*.

The main issues that were discussed at this meeting include:

1. Congress 2019 – Progress update
2. Training opportunities and conferences
3. Revised TOR
4. *Economic transformation, inclusive growth, and competitiveness: Towards an Economic Strategy for South Africa*

After the steering committee meeting, a working session was held to allow for benchmarking by the Provincial Economic Development departments and divisions. These departments were given the opportunity to present their APPs, structure, challenges and other issues relating to their work. This provided members the opportunity to discuss the similarities and differences in the approaches of Economic Development departments and divisions in achieving their targets as well as to learn from each other.

Conclusion

It was an honour to be the Chairperson of the PSEF for 2019. I believe that members still have a lot to benefit from the Forum and that the Forum should continue to find ways to grow.