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Gauteng's trade and aerotropolis ambitions unveiled

The Gauteng province will this year be undertaking 29 industrial initiatives under the banner of the aerotropolis to revitalise manufacturing, aviation, transport and logistics industries linked to OR Tambo International Airport.

“This will dramatically transform the current industrial structure of the economy of Ekurhuleni,” Premier David Makhura told the Gauteng legislature in his State of the Province address on Monday, adding that the footprint of the aerotropolis would also cover Lanseria Airport in Johannesburg and Wonderboom Airport in Tshwane.

Among the projects in the corridor will be the Tambo Springs Inland Port Development with an estimated R7.5-billion investment over five years.

This forms part of the reconfiguration of the Gauteng City Region's space and economy along five development corridors that have distinct industries and different comparative advantages.

These are:

- Central Development Corridor: anchored around the City of Jo'burg as the hub of finance, services, ICT and pharmaceutical industries;
- Eastern Development Corridor: anchored around the economy of the Ekurhuleni Metro as the hub of manufacturing, logistics and transport industries;
- Northern Development Corridor: anchored around Tshwane as the country's administrative capital city and the hub of the automotive sector, research, development, innovation and the knowledge-based economy;
- Western Corridor: which encompasses the economy of the current West Rand district and the creation of new industries, new economic nodes and new cities; and
- Southern Corridor: encompasses the economy of the Sedibeng district and the creation of new industries, new economic nodes and new cities.

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