

2026 CONFERENCE

BENEFICIATION, INNOVATION & THE NEXT 5 YEARS



COLUMBUS
STAINLESS
[Pty] Ltd



22 July 2026, 09:00 to 16:00

Radisson Hotel & Convention Centre, Middelburg

Hosted by the Middelburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry

A note from MCCI

The next five years will shape what Middelburg becomes. Steve Tshwete's industrial base, built on stainless steel, ferrochrome, carbon steel, coal, and the manufacturing that surrounds them, faces a period of decision. The MCCI Beneficiation Conference 2026 brings together the businesses, financiers, OEMs, and government voices who can engage seriously with a practical question:

What would it take to deepen value chains around Middelburg's metallurgical base, and what do we realistically know and not yet know?

This is a working conference, not a booster event. It is designed to produce shared understanding among the people who can act on it, and to surface what is genuinely achievable in the Middelburg context, and what is not.

How to think about the conference

Four pillars frame the day. They reflect a simple recognition: beneficiation cannot scale in isolation. Each pillar reinforces the others, and each is essential.

Mining. Life of Mine for the coal mining extends to 2070, with several new mines now in operation. Linked to the supply to Eskom Power Stations, reliable energy, water, transport, and industrial zones: the physical backbone that makes competitive production possible. Without it, every other pillar stalls.

Beneficiation. Moving beyond extraction and bulk processing toward higher-value activity, anchored in what is realistically achievable across mining, manufacturing, and energy in the Middelburg context.

Innovation. Smart industrial systems, data-driven logistics, and the digital connectivity that links local industry to global markets. Increasingly, this is what distinguishes competitive industrial regions from the rest.

Investment. The enabler that turns strategy into reality. Long-term capital, public-private partnerships, blended finance, and the policy stability that gives investors confidence to commit.

Who attends

The conference is designed for decision-makers and implementers:

- Executives and plant managers from manufacturing, fabrication, engineering services, and metallurgical operations
- SMME owners and industrial suppliers operating in Tier 2 and Tier 3 supply chains
- Mining and energy sector leadership across coal, ferrochrome, and emerging energy value chains
- Banks, development finance institutions, and private investors active in industrial finance
- Municipal leadership (Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Province)

The audience is deliberately practitioner-heavy: people who read operating environments for a living and make capital, policy, or supply decisions on the back of them.

Role of MCCI

- Neutral convenor and business voice
- Project pipeline aggregator
- Ongoing facilitator between business, government, and SOEs
- Monitor of implementation progress

This conference forms part of MCCI's broader mandate to protect local industry, enable growth, and ensure Steve Tshwete remains an engine of regional economic activity.

Practical

- **Date:** 22 July 2026
- **Time:** 09:00 to 16:00 (registration and welcome coffee from 08:00)
- **Venue:** Radisson Hotel & Convention Centre, Middelburg
- **Bookings:** energyiseconomy.co.za
- **Sponsorship enquiries:** secretary@middelburgchamber.com
- **General contact:** admin@middelburgchamber.com | 013 243 2253

Call to Participation

The next five years will determine whether Steve Tshwete:

Declines through an unmanaged transition

or

Reposition itself as a **beneficiated, resilient industrial hub**.

In closing

The goal of this MCCI conference is to give businesses guidance for capital choices, financiers insight into risk, policymakers data for policy, and SMMEs a clear picture of opportunities. Everything—the schedule, the speakers, and the handouts—is made for that test.

MCCI's conferences follow an organic system that started with coal mining, Just Energy Transition for Business, Energy and Investment, Special Economic Zones, and last year, Eco-Industrial Zones. For each conference, specific outcomes were investigated and action items identified.

This conference invites partners who are serious about **execution, collaboration, and long-term local value creation**.

We invite you to join us in Middelburg on 22 July 2026.

Issued by the Middelburg Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI)