



for California companies and institutions to expand economic, educational, and scientific engagement with Africa.

- 5) Acknowledges that California State University, Sacramento has established a memorandum of understanding with the Province of Gauteng addressing shared social and academic priorities, demonstrating that the foundation for meaningful people-to-people and institution-to-institution collaboration between California and Gauteng is already underway.
- 6) Recognizes that Gauteng played a central role in South Africa's transition from apartheid and continues to advance internationally recognized work in truth and reconciliation, restorative justice, and community healing, offering valuable insight for California's pledge to equity and justice for all.
- 7) Acknowledges that both California and Gauteng are committed to sustainable development, climate resilience, workforce training, and building inclusive economies that reduce inequality and expand access to opportunity.
- 8) Invites the people and government of the Province of Gauteng in South Africa to enter into a sister state relationship with California focused on high-impact cooperation in economic development, innovation, education, sustainability, and cultural exchange.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown. This resolution is not keyed fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

**COMMENTS:**

1. **Purpose.** The Author is the sponsor of this resolution. According to the Author, "Gauteng Province is South Africa's economic engine, generating roughly one-third of the nation's GDP, attracting billions in annual investment, and serving as the financial and innovation hub of sub-Saharan Africa. It is a region that shares our values on climate resilience, equity, and inclusive economic growth, and it is already home to partnerships with California institutions like Sacramento State University. Yet without a formal state-level framework, these connections remain isolated and underutilized. ACR 210 changes that. By establishing a sister state relationship between California and Gauteng, we create an official foundation for collaboration that benefits our businesses, our universities, our workers, and our communities. We open doors for California companies to access one of the continent's most investment-ready economies. We strengthen academic and research ties that expand opportunities for our students. And we signal clearly that California sees Africa not as a distant concern, but as a vital partner in building the future we all want to see."
2. **Background.** According to Statistics South Africa, Gauteng is South Africa's largest provincial economy, contributing 33.2 percent of national GDP in 2024, despite being the country's smallest province by land area. The province includes Johannesburg, Tshwane/Pretoria, and Ekurhuleni, and functions as the country's core commercial, financial, industrial, and transportation hub.

According to the Gauteng Provincial Treasury, the province remains South Africa's "economic powerhouse," although it faces the same pressures affecting the national economy, including weak growth, fragile demand, and employment challenges. Its economy is driven heavily by finance, real estate, business services, trade, manufacturing, logistics, and government services.

According to the U.S. Department of State, South Africa remains an important investment destination with a diversified economy, while the World Bank describes the country as holding a significant regional "anchor" role in southern Africa. Within that broader national context, Gauteng's concentration of corporate headquarters, financial markets, infrastructure, skilled labor, and public institutions makes it central to South Africa's economic competitiveness and a key gateway for investment into the region.

A 2024 feature in *BestColleges* reported that California State University Sacramento (CSUS) President Dr. Luke Wood and Gauteng Provincial Legislature Speaker Morakane Mosupyo signed a memorandum of understanding between the university and the Gauteng Provincial Legislature during the launch of CSUS' Black Honors College in August 2024. According to the publication, the MOU is intended to promote international academic, cultural, and scientific exchanges between Sacramento State and the Gauteng Province. *BestColleges* further reported it is intended to support future educational collaboration, including opportunities for South African students to participate in CSUS' Black Honors College and related academic programs.

#### **SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION:**

##### Support:

None received

##### Opposition:

None received

**-- END --**