

BENEFITS OFFERED TO MEMBERS

Endless Potential, Limitless Possibilities

Organizations, Business owners and Entrepreneurs wear many different hats. Being a member of the MCCI gives them access to sources they might not otherwise have:

1. ADVOCACY

- MCCI Lobbies on critical issues affecting business as a whole, with government
- Members are invited to share, participate and comment as “**The Voice of Business**” in critical issues affecting business to tackle the issues with different tiers of government

2. NETWORKING & MARKETING

The Chamber supports its members by referring them to potential customers as well as newcomers or those who want to expand to this area. The MCCI is usually the first port of call for information sharing.

- Networking opportunities are available at all the events hosted by the MCCI, including the opportunity for members to distribute promotional and marketing material. ***These events were hampered by the COVID pandemic, but will be in full force once restrictions have been lifted.*** See 3 below.
- Members can contact the MCCI’s Marketing department to distribute information to the MCCI database. **Members can send marketing information or news letters to MCCI for distribution once a month.**

3. BUSINESS EVENTS

3.1 BUSINESS LINKAGE EVENTS

This is the first level event where every member attending gets an opportunity to introduce their businesses. It is an informal event with an attendance of about 40 people. To sponsor such an event, the company only needs to provide a venue (preferably at the company) and can offer tea/coffee/refreshments (which is optional). After the function the attendees can be taken on a tour of the business. **The company hosting the Business Linkage will be given more time to introduce its business.**

3.2 BUSINESS BREAKFASTS, LUNCHEONS, DINNERS

- The MCCI coordinates at least 2 events each month – a Business Linkage Event (see 4.1) and a Business Breakfast, Luncheon or Dinner - which facilitate huge networking opportunities amongst a diverse business community. Attendance range from +/- 100 and upwards. ***We adhere to all Covid Regulations.***
- These events are sponsored by organizations, companies and individuals. The event focusses on the sponsoring entities and they will have the floor for the duration of the event. The events can be targeted for a specific audience and the sponsor can indicate whom they would like to be invited for the event to be as relevant as possible.
- Many business relationships have been established at the Chamber's monthly events. Business Breakfasts/Brunches are amongst the most popular events. Innovative additions include **Hybrid events that are hosted at no extra costs so that the popular contact events can be complemented by digital platforms.** Please contact the office of MCCI for more information.

4. MEMBER SUPPORT MEMBER CAMPAIGN

- All new members are introduced to the existing membership through the distribution of its business offerings and profiles that are sent out via email, social platforms and on MCCI's website.
- Members can offer special deals to other members, which MCCI wants to encourage, to grow the economy of the region and the Free State from within.

5. TRAINING & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Training for Co-Operatives, SMME's and Individuals covering various categories, is conducted on a regular basis. ***Contact sessions will continue as soon as Covid regulations are eased.***
- Targeted workshops are arranged aiming at up skilling people in technical fields to address huge shortages.
- National Departments, Organizations and Companies can contact MCCI to arrange training and information sharing on their behalf.

6. EXTENDED BENEFITS

- MCCI gives practical credibility to the term "local economic development" – applicable not only to Mangaung, but other areas in the Free State as well. To achieve this the MCCI is a member of the **South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SACCI)** which offers huge incentives to all member chambers. One of these are to issue Certificates of Origin For more information, you can contact the MCCI president.
- MCCI is a strategic vehicle for the participation of member businesses in **Social Responsibility Programmes as well as Corporate Social Investments**

NEW FOCUS AREAS OF MCCI

7. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- MCCI opened a fully operational branch in the Township. *As soon as Covid Regulations have been eased MCCI will host a sponsored launch for the Township Branch.*
- MCCI considers community members to be experts in their lives, businesses and communities and values community knowledge and wisdom and support projects that are built around this. This empowers community members and creates stronger and more connected communities.
- MCCI's rural development is built on the five capitals of a community – physical, financial, human, social and environmental. Through this we can implement projects with the help of public/private collaborations to enhance economic activities in the rural Free State.

8. AGRICULTURE

- MCCI believes that the farming community, especially the start-up and small farmers, of the region and the province should also have a voice through the Chamber of Commerce & Industry.
- A strategic plan on incorporating this new sector into the MCCI, is currently one of the main goals for 2021/22. All benefits & services offered to the Bloemfontein / Mangaung branch will be extended to the new areas to unite not only the Metro, but also the Free State and Qwa-Qwa regions in the near future.

9. SECURITY

Today's businesses need to safeguard against both physical and cyber threats. As such, member companies offer consultation regarding the safekeeping of individuals, their businesses and their information.

10. CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN

A Certificate of Origin (CO) is an **important international trade document** that certifies that goods in a particular export shipment are wholly obtained, produced, manufactured or processed in a particular country.

Through SACCI the MCCI will be able to issue these certificate in the near future. Contact the MCCI president for more information.