

INVEST, SPUR DEVELOPMENT

Ford and Nestlé show way



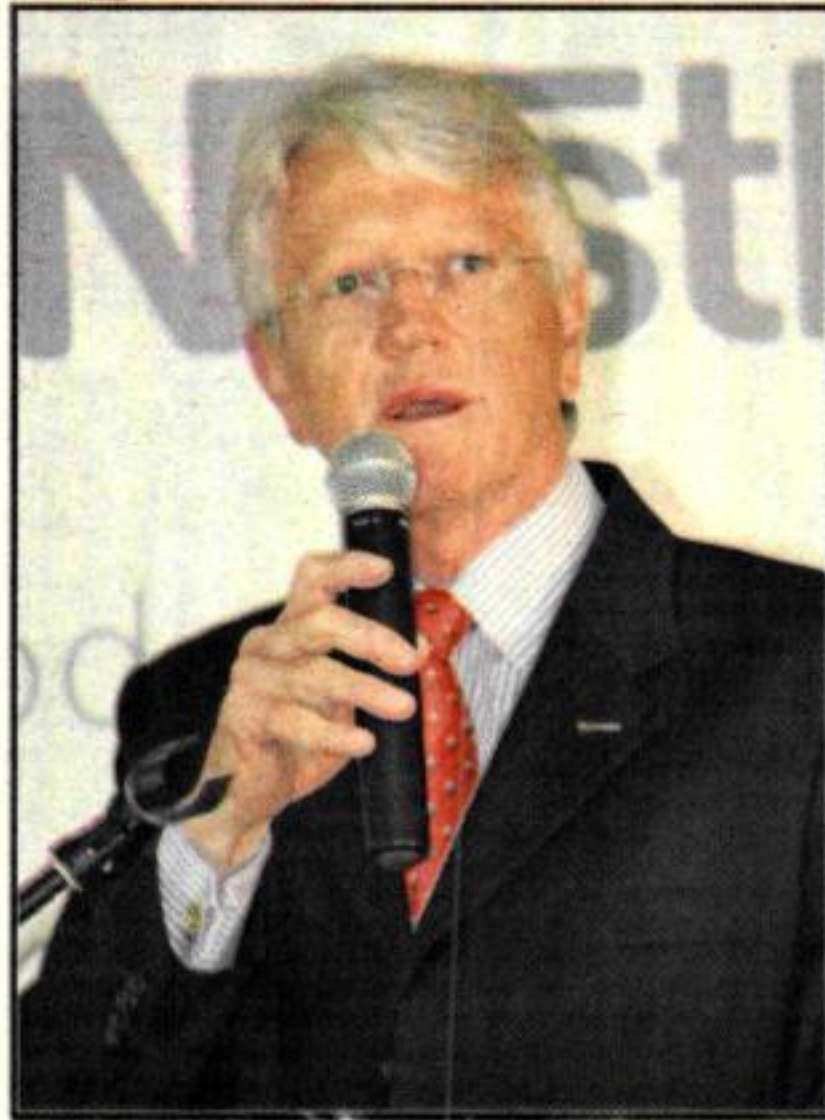
THE Ford Motor Company of Southern Africa (FMCSA), along with the Gauteng provincial government, has opened a production simulator facility.

The facility is attached to the company's assembly plant in Silverton, Pretoria. This follows FMCSA's announcement that it is investing about R3.4bn to produce its new Ford Ranger pick-up truck in South Africa.

The production simulator facility will focus on improving the assembly process capabilities of current and future FMCSA employees, in preparation for the Ford Ranger production.

The facility will enable the company to train employees by simulating production processes off the line, long before production of the new vehicle starts.

Once all FMCSA employees



COMMITTED TO GROWTH: MD of Nestlé South Africa Sullivan O'Carroll

have been trained, the facility will be used to provide practical training for mechanical and industrial engineering students from the Tshwane University of Technology and other tertiary institutions.

President and CEO of FMCSA Jeff Nemeth says while the facility will enable the company to develop

the assembly sequence and processes for the new product without disrupting the production of current models, it will also be used to improve the skills of its employees.

Gauteng MEC for economic development Qedani Mahlangu says: "The provincial government



OPTIMISTIC: Gauteng economic development MEC Qedani Mahlangu. Picture by Tsheko Kabasia

has demonstrated its commitment to growth in the automotive industry by including this sector in its industrial policies and future strategies."

Ford Southern Africa has allocated R32m for training and development programmes at the assembly plant, giving a

much-needed boost to skills development in this sector.

Meanwhile, Nestlé, one of the largest food companies in the world, this week invested R505m in the construction of two new factories in South Africa.

Nestlé South Africa also announced its recent acquisition of a soya processing and specialised protein products company in Potchefstroom in the North West at the cost of R106m.

These investments will create 350 permanent jobs and, according to chairperson and MD of Nestlé South Africa Sullivan O'Carroll, demonstrates Nestlé's "ongoing commitment to investment in South Africa".

He says these initiatives are in line with Nestlé's long-term commitment to business sustainability and economic development.

Nestlé South Africa is investing R244m in the construction of a 16 000 square metre factory for the production of Milo and Cheerio breakfast cereals.

The construction phase will create 70 permanent jobs and at least 100 indirect jobs and some of the permanent employees will receive skills development and training abroad.

A further R155m will be invested in the construction of a factory in Babelegi north of Pretoria for the production of Maggi food products.

This will create 160 permanent jobs and at least 200 indirect jobs in the construction phase.