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Department:
Economy & Enterprise Development
North West Provincial Government
Republic of South Africa

COOPERATIVES TO BENEFIT FROM R260.588 MILLION BUDGET FOR ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT



Co-operatives displaying their products at the budget speech luncheon

Enterprise Development MEC Wendy Nelson gave a concrete meaning to a commitment to set the province on a course of radical economic transformation. Nelson was tabling 260,588 million budget vote at the provincial legislature in Mahikeng, last Thursday, 21 August 2014.

"We are clear that our province expects us to make urgent and decisive interventions to grow the economy. We know that to launch an effective onslaught against the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality requires radical and bold steps".

"The province has developed a Provincial Industrial Development Strategy and Implementation Plan to turn the current status around characterized by industrial de-generation in most of our small towns. We have identified number of niche projects and will also revitalize projects such as Dirang ka Natla Co-operative in Stilfontein, said Nelson.

Nelson articulated on how her newly proclaimed department's programmes constituted to enhance support to small businesses, informal businesses and cooperatives, with emphasis on programmes that would advance entrepreneurship amongst women, people with disabilities and youth, to effectively contribute to job creation, economic growth and economic inclusion.

The key focus will be on production, development and management of enterprises for material wealth to ensure sustainable growth. The Department will strengthen the involvement in the development of co-operatives, which operate in the mainly informal and marginalized sector of the economy. Nelson highlighted that her Department have re-established the CEO's Forum which consists of state owned entities that have footprint in the province. Department will streamline growth and development of small businesses across all the sectors of the economy. Furthermore we will lead a massive entrepreneurship drive in order to create a nation of entrepreneurs.



As part of Premier Supra Mahumapelo "**Saamtrek-Saamwerk**" philosophy, MEC Nelson announced that Department in partnership with Royal Bafokeng Tribal Authority will establish an Incubation Centre for the Disabled at Phokeng. This pilot project and its three businesses will be housed at this centre, creating in the region 21 jobs. Nelson further announced that the department intends to host the Provincial Stokvel Exhibition, which is a mechanism equally aimed at financially aiding and advising Stokvels across the province.

This year, the Department will develop and implement the North West Provincial Cooperatives Strategy with a view to streamline the support and development of cooperative movement in the Province. This is as per Cooperatives Amendment Act No.6 of 2013.

She urged the community of North West to continue to work with government to ensure that they are empowered to realise the benefits of our freedom and democracy in their lifetime.



Stakeholders in attendance at the MEC's budget vote speech

