



# feed

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

## **DIRANG-KA-NATLA WOMEN'S COOPERATIVE CALL FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPORT**



*Dirang ka Natla Co-operative showing their products to the MEC*

Cooperatives around the world are significant economic actors in any national economy. They are considered the engines of economic growth in developing countries like South Africa. These small enterprises play a vital role in creating jobs, inspiring innovations, and creating new products, and thus contributing to the state economic strength and growth. Taking these experiences into account, South African government should not overlook the importance of supporting SMMEs. Despite the importance of SMMEs, barriers do exist for them which engender the collapse of many. Most notable challenge to those in operation seems to be a lack support from government and private sectors. According to Ms. Sylvia Plaatjie and Elizabeth Tsie from Motlosana Dirang-ka-natla women's cooperative, the government is not doing enough to support them in terms of procuring their products and services.

Nonetheless, these enthusiastic women entrepreneurs appreciate the effort the government is undertaking to develop SMMEs and have hope that things will change for the better. The cooperative believe that the only way thing that can assist them to grow is through receiving support government and private sectors and their suppliers.

They cooperative came all the way from Klerksdorp to personally thank the Department of Economic and Enterprise Development for the support shown to them during the Nelson Mandela Day commemoration and encouraging such support from other departments and municipalities. The Department procured 200 overalls during its cleanup campaign for 67 minutes, Nelson Mandela Day.

Motlosana Dirang-ka-natla women's cooperative is based stilfontein, Klerksdorp. The cooperative manufacture garments – overall, T shirts, uniforms and boots for hard labour line of work. Much of the support they get is from contractors in the mining sector and construction, and private companies.

This is one of the cooperatives that benefited from the Departmental economic empowerment programme of assisting enterprises with much needed equipments for their businesses. The cooperative is striving hard to survive despite the challenges confronted with. It was started by 3 women and so far managed to recruit 33 women. "We have lots of equipments which some of them have no operators as the company is not making enough money. With the resources we have and the support of government departments, municipalities, private sectors and their suppliers, we may be able create about 100 jobs," said Ms Plaatjie.

Ms. Tsie, who is the cooperative chairperson also appeal to the government to urge their suppliers to recognise them and not only give business to well established companies as well as external suppliers. She further wishes to advise women in cooperative business to not rely on government stipend as it makes people lazy and thus slacks company's momentum for growth.

