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Department:
Economic Development, Environment,
Conservation and Tourism
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



LESEDI!

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Lets grow North West together

DEDECT Information Sharing Sessions Assist Community of Leporung and Logagane



Attendees were taken through the new North West Business licensing Act and various liquor and consumer legislation

The Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism hosted information sharing sessions with community of Leporung and Logagane villages situated in Ratlou Municipality during May 2023.

The initiative is part of the mechanisms of instilling the spirit of entrepreneurship amongst young people and the community at large due to a high unemployment rate faced by the North West Province. The sessions were graced by Magosi from both areas, DEDECT's Consumer, Liquor, Tourism and Integrated Economic Development Services, Department of Finance's Central Supply Database, SAPS, as well as agencies, such as SARS, NWDC, NRCSSAPS, and Ratlou Municipality.

The workshop focused on financial and non-financial assistance which includes facilitation of registration of private companies and cooperatives, funding in a form of grants/loans offered to small businesses, importance of submitting annual returns for both CIPC and SARS. Information on how to register on CSD as well as the tendering process was shared to the participants.

NWDC enlightened the participants on the program they have on Property development and bridging finance in the form of a loan with low interest.

The session afforded the participants a platform to interact with officials on issues relating to small business development and compliance with relevant legislations and also on programs such as Tourism (Hospitality, tourist guiding & tourism education). In addition attendees were informed about practicing their consumer rights and responsibilities. Part of which includes the rights to repair, replace and refund, as well as the importance of record keeping/purchase slips as prescribed by the Consumer Act.

National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) warned them on ensuring that products such as Safety boots, electricity plugs, water warming buckets, to name a few comply with their legislation. Participants were also enlightened on the rights and responsibilities with regard to Liquor Act. Liquor traders were encouraged to adhere to their license conditions of renewing their license annually and to avoid selling liquor to under age children.

Participants were taken through the new North West Business licensing Act which will be used as a way of increasing the province revenue, whereby small businesses (i.e beauty/ hair salons, tuck shops, tent rental, shoe makers, strip clubs, etc) will be required to register their businesses and renew annually. Department will conduct inspections to ensure compliance with the said Act.

The Department will continue to support and respond to the call by communities to change their livelihoods through the establishment of viable businesses. Communities should look out for information sharing sessions planned near their areas.

Local Entrepreneur's Business Flourishes with Government's Funding Support



Tshenolo Seboletswe, the owner of a fast food eatery in Itsoseng Zone 3, receiving catering equipment from the Department

Tshenolo Seboletswe, the owner of a fast food eatery in Itsoseng Zone 3, has experienced a significant boost in her business after receiving catering equipment from the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation, and Tourism's Empowerment Fund Programme. The assistance came at a crucial time when her business was grappling with the adverse effects of the COVID-19 lockdown and frequent power outages.

Seboletswe, who applied for funding to rescue her struggling business, expressed her gratitude for the department's support. She believes that this assistance will not only revitalize her establishment but also have a positive impact in growing the local economy. The equipment received includes a Mobile Kitchen with a cart, a Double Barrel Slush Puppy Machine, an Ice Cream Machine, a Popcorn machine, 5 Food warmers, a Display Fridge, a Manual Donut maker, a Double Deep Fryer, 2 Sweet and Chip Shelves Serving Hatch, Cutlery, and an Oven Stove.

The business, which operates directly from Seboletswe's home, caters to a diverse clientele. School learners, teachers, taxi drivers, and community members from Itsoseng, Verdwaal, and Bodibe areas frequent her establishment. Furthermore, she provides catering services for funerals, weddings, government functions, unveiling of tombstones, and various parties.

Seboletswe, reflecting on her journey, shared how her passion for entrepreneurship began after being retrenched from her permanent job at "The Star Bus Company" in the early 90s. Inspired by her late mother's successful tavern, known as "Ko ga Ghost," she started by cooking food for her mother's clients. The positive feedback she received motivated her to establish her own food outlet, not only to support her family but also to create employment opportunities for young people in the area.

Interestingly, the national electricity crisis, commonly known as load shedding, inadvertently contributed to the growth of Seboletswe's business. She noticed that during power outages, her clients flocked to her eatery for a hot meal. Her best-selling dish, bunny chows with chips, garnered immense popularity, and the slush puppy mocktails she prepared for weekend gigs became a hit among the younger crowd. Seboletswe emphasized the importance of starting her day early, with preparations beginning at 4 am to cater to the needs of early morning taxi drivers and local schools.

With the department's assistance she plans to increase production, expand customer base, and create more employment opportunities. She believes that the newly acquired equipment will add value to her business and bring her closer to realizing her dream of owning a self-sustainable catering enterprise and food outlet.

Seboletswe extended her heartfelt appreciation to the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation, and Tourism for their support. She expressed optimism about the future, as her business now has the potential to thrive, and serve as a source of pride for her community. DEDECT's Empowerment Fund was established as part of its intervention of offering support to small businesses and cooperatives operating within the North West Province with equipment worth R100 000 for start-ups and R200 000 for existing business. The fund excludes excluding those in the liquor & gambling industries, costs associated with tendering, cost of acquiring property (including renovations) constructions, fire and ammunition, primary agriculture and transport.

MEC Tlhapi leads the North West Province's participation at Africa's Travel Indaba 2023



MEC Tlhapi, KZN Premier Nomusa Dube-Ncube, NWPTB CEO, Ms Thami Matshego and Ms Sarah Manone; Chief Director for Tourism together with NW WiT members

The MEC for Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT), Ms Galebekwe Virginia Tlhapi led the North West Province delegation's participation at a 3 day Africa Travel Indaba which took place from the 9th – 11th May 2023, at Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre, Durban under the theme “Shaping Africa’s tomorrow through connection today”.

Africa’s Travel Indaba is one of the largest Tourism Marketing Events on the African calendar and one of the top three “must visit” events of its kind on the global calendar. It is an iconic African Leisure trade show, hosted annually by South African Tourism (SAT) with specific objective of creating market access for a vast range of African leisure tourism products.

Part of the MEC’s activities at the North West Provincial stand was to meet and greet tourism products owners/exhibitors with the view of knowing and understanding their business focuses in promoting tourism offerings which exists in the province. The province afforded approximately 26 tourism enterprises an opportunity to showcase their products which range from women in tourism, tour operators, tour guides, luxury accommodation establishments to wildlife and adventure.

“I am pleased, that the province is participating in this Africa’s biggest tourism promotion platform, which creates market access for small businesses as well as big tourism players. This provides a much needed opportunity for our participants to interact and share ideas with their counterparts both from our country and the entire captive market. In my interaction with exhibitors I am convinced that the province showcased a good mix of tourism offerings which can position the North West Province as one of the preferred tourism destinations in South Africa,” said MEC Tlhapi. At the official opening the Minister for Tourism: Patricia De Lille highlighted that as Africans, together we will craft a narrative that tells our story in our own words, sharing with the world the unique contributions we bring to the tourism community. This year’s indaba sees more than 350 tourism products being showcased, 1000 buyers from across the tourism ecosystem and just under 1000 exhibitors.

Tourism Department supported 123 local inbound tourism enterprises through its market access support programme to showcase their products and services at the hidden gems pavilion during Africa Travel Indaba. “This investment will enable these small businesses to display their unique products and services, expand their networks and foster partnerships that will drive the growth and sustainability industry in South Africa,” said Minister De Lille.

The Africa’s Travel Indaba also saw the newly elected National Women in Tourism interim structure Chairperson, Ms Khosi Tyobeka addressing the Women in Tourism Breakfast session with the Minister of Tourism. Tyobeka is currently serving as Chairperson for the North West Women in Tourism and part of her responsibilities as the National Chairperson of the interim structure is to drive the team to ensure there is a formalised national body which will be comprised of nine (9) chapters across all the provinces. Part of their job is to develop a framework that will guide the work of provincial chapters and ensure a uniform approach in the implementation of the WiT programme that seeks to ensure that women are respected, recognized, represented, and rewarded accordingly in the sector, and identify mechanisms to address the barriers faced by women in the tourism sector.

Lastly, The North West Province also received a Silver Award in the category Large Stands Exhibitors. Categories were Small, Medium and Large Exhibitors Stands with Platinum as the highest award and followed by Gold. North West is the only Province in South Africa to have walked away with an award during this year’s Africa’s Travel Indaba Award ceremony.

91 Youth Benefit from the Tourism and Hospitality Placement Programme for 2022/23



Some of the youth who have been placed by the department at various hospitality establishments

The North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism has created an opportunity for eligible unemployed youth graduates to be part of the North West Tourism and Hospitality Placement Programme for 2022/23. Through this programme, 91 unemployed youth were allocated work opportunities and placement at tourism establishments across all districts of the province.

The North West Tourism and Hospitality placement programme is a project under the auspices of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and aims to provide work opportunities for unemployed youth in the tourism and hospitality sector, through established host companies within the province.

Host companies include accommodation establishments such as guest houses, bed and breakfasts, hotels, lodges, resorts, conference centres, attractions, recreational establishments, tour operators and travel agents. The Tourism and Hospitality placement project further assists unemployed graduates with skills development and work experience, and provide the tourism industry with temporary subsidised labour. Successful youth were placed at various participating tourism and hospitality host companies in the North West Province for a period of up to six (6) months.

The applicants were subjected to an interview process to assess their suitability, and it is expected that they will demonstrate commitment and discipline throughout the programme. The host company will provide the beneficiary with the appropriate work based responsibilities, promote learning in the work environment and keep accurate work based records. The beneficiaries will receive a monthly stipend from the department, and the scope of their tasks and duties will be directly related to four key areas; food and beverage, housekeeping, guest relation and administrative duties.

“As the department we would like to extend our gratitude to the companies who have partnered with us in addressing the challenges of unemployment faced by young people throughout the province. We encourage the graduates to take full advantage of this opportunity to gain experience and knowledge,” said Ms Sarah Manone - Chief Director for Tourism Growth and Development within DEDECT.

Manone also added that the programme is part of the public-private partnership initiative that seeks to address issues of unemployment and work experience within the tourism sector in the North West Province, and will go a long way in developing skills and expertise required for a flourishing tourism industry.

MAHIKENG RECYCLING WORKSHOP TARGETS SEPARATION AT SOURCE



The workshop targeted waste reclaimers around Mahikeng who were empowered on general waste management and the benefits of re-use, recycling and the recovery of waste in public spaces.

The department working together with the North West University Mahikeng Campus have afforded students studying towards a degree iThe DEDECT has participated in the Mahikeng Recycling Workshop, which is a project on the Separation of Waste at Source that the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality together with the Local Municipality are piloting within the Mahikeng Local Municipality. The workshop which took place today at the DEDECT Office in the Industrial Site, Mahikeng, targeted waste reclaimers around Mahikeng who were empowered on general waste management and the benefits of re-use, recycling and the recovery of waste in public spaces.

Waste Separation at Source is one of the projects that contribute towards a continued implementation of the Good Green Deeds Programme that seeks to mobilise every citizen, and social partners' attitudes and behaviours towards responsible management of waste, and keeping their neighbourhoods clean, green and safe. The workshop aimed at increasing awareness amongst waste reclaimers on the work opportunities in the recycling industry, and to promote and strengthen the collaborative efforts between all levels of government, industry, civil society and research institutions to conduct studies and share information on waste management.

Other stakeholders in attendance at the workshop included the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Plastic South Africa, and PET Plastic Recycling South Africa (PETCO) who shared with the communities the recycling support programmes offered by their institutions to SMMEs. The presentations amongst other things covered the importance of plastics, plastics manufacturing process and the importance of recycling plastics. Ms Boitumelo Mokgwasa and Ms Sarah Mendle from DEDECT made a presentation on the importance of business registration which is a requirement for funding in government, as well as on the department empowerment fund programme which is an intervention aimed at leveraging enterprise funding through the procurement of equipment for start-up, growth and expansion of small

businesses who wish to expand their businesses and contribute to job creation and poverty alleviation.

The district and local municipality through this Waste Separation at Source initiative encourages communities to separate recyclable waste from other waste that cannot be recycled in their household. The benefits of separating recyclables in your home assists in keeping the recyclables clean (not contaminated by other waste), thereby enabling a higher price when being sold. The waste will also not be rejected by processors (recyclers) and end up being disposed to a landfill. Most importantly, the separation of waste makes the collection process much easier and more efficient as a truck with recyclables can go straight to a recycling facility and the other truck for other waste can go straight to the landfill.

The Waste Separation at Source project is currently being piloted with the Mahikeng Local Municipality and is intended to be moved to other areas of the province.



Reclaimers were also taken through the empowerment fund by Ms. Sarah Mendle

DEDECT CONDUCTS PROVINCE WIDE CONSUMER BUSINESS COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT INSPECTION



Joint operations teams get ready to inspect business for compliance and enforcement

The World Consumer Rights Day build-up programme led by DEDECT Consumer Affairs Office in collaboration with local, provincial and national regulators concluded a province wide enforcement and education campaign. The month long operation commenced in March 2023 in all districts, and concluded in the Rustenburg CBD and moved to Moruleng for the last day. The teams inspected compliance in terms of various legislations regulating the business industry.

A number of businesses including automotive spares stores, panel beaters, car dealerships, grocery wholesalers, retailers, saloons and tuck-shops were inspected for compliance in terms of legislation, which includes the Consumer Protection Act, the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, the general National Health Acts, as well as other legislation applicable in the regulation of vehicle spares, personal protective equipment, harmful plastics and electronic products.

Generally, many stores in these areas were found to be non-compliant with many receiving fines and non-compliance notices. Infringements include foodstuff and products not properly packaged and labelled with no important details such as the suppliers' name, contacts, manufacturing and expiry date. In some instances the business operators would tamper with the expiry date wherein consumable products were found to have in-house printed or stamped expiry dates. One of the concerning contraventions was a high level of noncompliance in terms of the general hygiene requirements which led to some of the tuck-shops being closed and ordered to rectify their transgressions. At other establishments non-compliant products were removed from the shelves and condemned while some of the stock was prohibited from being sold until further investigation.

Stores were also found not including pricing of items on the shelves, and no proper invoicing which is against the Consumer Act. It was also found that many stores implement a no-refund policy which is against the law, especially if the product is defective.

The operation is not conducted to penalize these business but aimed at protecting consumer's health, safety, the environment and to ensure a fair trade, as the inspectors regularly educate proprietors on their lawful obligations when operating a business in South Africa.

Roadshows were simultaneously being conducted where hundreds of community members were being advised to be aware of noncompliant products in the business market to safe guard against goods which may be harmful to consumers' health. Community members were also advised not to purchase certain products and not to sign contracts if there is any doubt, and to rather contact the Provincial Consumer Affairs Office for advice.

The government institutions which participated in the build-up programme include the Department of Home Affairs, Department of Employment and Labour, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Department of Trade industry and competition; National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS), National Consumer Commission (NCC), Motor Industry Ombudsman of South Africa (MIOSA), ICASA, Council for Medical Scheme, Faisombuds, Credit ombuds; Council for debt collectors, Financial Sector Conduct Authority, Consumer Goods and Service Ombudsman, National Energy Regulator South Africa, District Municipalities' Environmental Health Practitioners, Local Municipalities Waste units, Departmental entities, and SAPS.



Joint operations teams inspect business a tuckshop for compliance

DEDECT RESUSCITATES PROVINCIAL TOURISM SECTOR FORUMS FOR GREATER COORDINATION



The second consultation session with various stakeholders took place in Klerksdorp where many inputs were received from industry players

The North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation & Tourism's (DEDECT's) Tourism directorate has begun resuscitating Provincial Tourism Sector Forums (PTSF) and its terms of reference, in order to provide an open platform for communication and planning amongst the private and public tourism industry stakeholders.

The forums are currently meeting per district in order to synchronise planning, coordinate policy imperatives and gain insights into mechanisms to enhance the industry. In implementing and maintaining this initiative, the Tourism Unit has embarked on a province wide campaign hosting sessions as a collaboration platform focused on addressing the challenges for the travel industry in the North West.

The first meeting was held in the Dr. Ruth Mompati District on the 22nd February 2023 in Vryburg and then within Dr. Kenneth Kaunda District on the 23rd February in Klerksdorp. The third session held in Rustenburg, Bojanala took place on the 24th February, and finally Zeerust in Ngaka Modiri Molema next week.

The National Tourism Sector Strategy dictates that there should be tourism forum structures at provincial levels to coordinate planning and development between government and the private sector. In addition, the Provincial Tourism Sector Strategy (PTSS) highlights the institutional environment within the North West tourism industry to be fragmented because of a lack of integrated planning

and development, and also due to lack of involvement of the private sector in the strategic development of the tourism industry. In this regard the forums will ensure coordination and synergy in the implementation of tourism project within the North West through the District Developmental Model.

The forums are structured per district and comprise of the Provincial Department of Tourism, National Department of Tourism, North West Tourism Board, District & Local Municipalities, Tourism Associations representing the private sector, Educational Institutions and Community based interest Groups. To facilitate efficient and effective communication for integrated planning and development by all relevant stakeholders, the PTSF advocates for institutional structures that ensure participation at the local, district and provincial government levels together with private sector through tourism associations. The sessions combine the joint efforts of government, its agencies and industry stakeholders, to achieve sustainable development models for emerging travel markets, as well as devising strategies to ensure tourism growth.

DEDET's Chief Director for Tourism, Ms. Sarah Manone, chaired the first two sessions and noted its importance in developing a well-managed and synergized tourism industry in the Province. "We hope the impact of the forums will be felt throughout the North West tourism sector as we resuscitate the PTSF

and make sure our stakeholders are aware of what we as government are doing, in order to align our plans with their objectives," said Ms Manone. She further noted that the forums also provide a resourceful platform to gain access to opportunities which exist through government for tourism product owners. These include market access funding, tourism grading, expansion incentives, green tourism initiatives and much more.

Part of the sessions include presentations by agencies such as the Tourism Grading Council, Shot' left campaign, Green Tourism Incentive Programme (GTIP), National Empowerment Fund (NEF), National Department of Tourism and provincial and local government. The purpose of these presentations is to stimulate growth, development and transformation of the tourism sector as well as to improve the competitiveness of the North West as a tourism destination. Product owners were also taken through ways to unlock their market potential, access funding opportunities, go-green, upscale themselves into the tourism value chain and stimulate job creation.

It is envisioned that the Provincial Tourism Sector Forums will ultimately coordinate among the various levels of government and the private sector on policy, planning and infrastructure development and be an essential element for successful economic development. This will be done through a unified approach with the needs of the tourism market at the forefront of the programme.

DEDECT FORGES GREATER RELATIONS WITH EXECUTIVE OF THE NORTH WEST HOUSE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS



Chief Director for Business Regulations, Ms Onnicah Sithole aims to broaden relations with traditional leaders in the Province

DEDECT's Chief Directorate of Business Regulations met with the Executive of the House of Traditional Leaders yesterday at Lowe House, Old Parliament Building. The purpose of the meeting was to present the North West Business and Liquor Act to the house and to discuss the challenges and issues that traditional authorities confront when dealing with businesses, including liquor outlets, operating in their respective jurisdictions.

The engagement is a part of a series of consultations with various stakeholders to introduce the new Business Licensing Act and clarify the role of the traditional authority in the licensing process. A tribal resolution is one of the requirements when applying to operate a business or a liquor store in a tribal land. The meeting also discussed possible ways to strengthen the department's working relationship with the traditional council, which will assist in the regulation of business and the liquor industry, with a special focus on unregistered spazashops operating in villages and liquor outlets that are violating the law.

This is part of the department's education and awareness programme, which ensures that all stakeholders, including community leaders, have full access to information to enable them to make informed decisions. The department's Chief Director for Business Regulations, Ms Onnicah Sithole, explained to the house that the department has appointed data capturers for a year to assist in registering and verifying that all businesses operating in the province are licensed and registered on the provincial business licensing database.

She continued by explaining that the department is tasked with the responsibility of regulating the business sector by issuing business licenses to applicants who meet the requirements of the North West Business Licensing Act No.3 of 2019. All businesses that sell consumables, beauty or lifestyle products or services, or entertainment services are required to be licensed. Ms Sithole also urged the traditional house to work with the Data Capturers to ensure compliance with the act. She also stated that systems are in place to monitor their activities, and that they will be closely monitored to ensure that all businesses are registered in accordance with the act.

The Executive of the House of Traditional Leaders appreciated the presentation and discussions because it broadened their understanding of the department's legislative mandate. The meeting agreed that the department will present the act to the entire traditional council in the near future to ensure legislative compliance in all villages across the province.



The Executive of the House of Traditional Leaders appreciated the presentation and discussions because it broadened their understanding of the department's legislative mandate

PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENT DAY

“PEOPLES ACTION ON PLASTIC POLLUTION MATTERS”



The department donated wheelie bins and tools as part of the effort to eradicate waste in Leeudorinstadt

The North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT) commemorated the North West Provincial Environment Day at the Kgakala Location Sports Ground, Leeudorinstadt, in the Maquassi Hills Local Municipality. The day was commemorated under the theme “people’s actions on plastic pollution matters”, emphasizing the importance of sustainable living in harmony with nature and advocating for transformative changes in policies and individual choices towards cleaner and greener lifestyles.

The event aimed to foster environmental consciousness and action among community members, thereby promoting the preservation of our natural resources and inspiring individuals to become agents of change in safeguarding the environment for future generations. The department also in observing this day, calls on the North West communities to unite in a commitment to taking action against plastic pollution and embracing sustainable lifestyles for a greener and cleaner future.

Mr Tshepang Kgosiemang from DEDECT in addressing the community, highlighted amongst other things the importance of waste management and the maintenance of cleanliness within the communities which play a vital role in ensuring a healthy and sustainable environment. He discouraged littering, especially of diapers and illegal dumping which remains a pressing challenge within communities and contributes to the pollution of land, water, and air. According to him, conserving and protecting our natural environment is equally looking after our well-being.

Mr Kgosiemang further advocated for the establishment of more environmental clubs in schools and communities, denoting that these clubs serve as platforms for learning, advocacy, and community engagement in environmental conservation efforts. “Nurturing a culture of environmental activism assist in enhancing the effort to making communities aware of the environmental impacts of their actions and empowers them to make sustainable choices and inspire others to do the same”.

As part of today’s programme, the department launched EPWP Green Army and officially handed it over to Maquasi Hills Local Municipality with tools of trade which included wheelie bins, spades, rakes, trash tongs and refuse bags. The North West School for the Deaf in Leeudoringstad also receive a donation of wheelie bins from the department.

A Small Five Conservation Club from Kgakala location joined the government in raising awareness on the importance of greening of communities by showcasing their beauty pageant clothes made out of plastic to inspire communities, especially youth that plastic as a waste can be innovatively reused in many ways.

The North West Provincial Environment Day was supported by the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Maquassi Hills Local Municipality and learners from various school-based Environmental Clubs in the province.



Acting HOD Ms. Lebo Diale planting a tree as part of a greening initiative



2023/2024 BUDGET SPEECH



HIGHLIGHTS

Introduction

The Department of Economic Development Environment, Conservation and Tourism mandate is continuing in ensuring the creation of a conducive environment for economic growth to take place within the North West Province. In achieving this, the department will continue to forge partnership with the private sector to ensure job creation and transfer of skills for the development and growth of businesses operating within North West Province.

The total allocation 2023/24 financial year for the department is R1009 340 000 and summary is as follows:

Programme	Amount
Administration	R 209 543
Integrated Economic Development Services	R 97 188
Trade and Sector Development	R 115 474
Business Regulations Services	R 116 344
Economic Planning	R 12 377
Environmental Services	R 394 152
Tourism	R 64 262
Total	R 1 009 340

Out of the overall budget, the following amounts will be transferred to entities for the execution of the departmental mandate

Name of Entity	Amount
North West Development Corporation	R 102 988
North West Gambling Board	R 76 216
North West Parks and Tourism Board	R 221 844
Total	R 401 048

DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMMES

The department will during this financial year implement the following programmes:

1. INTEGRATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES:

1.1. Business Turn around Support:

The department is implementing this programme in partnership with Productivity South Africa. The programme is allocated an amount of R5 million to support 10 new qualifying Small Medium, Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) across all the sector.

1.2. Incubation establishment and support program

The department is implementing this programme in partnership with Productivity South Africa. The programme is allocated an amount of R5 million to support 10 new qualifying Small Medium, Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) across all the sector.

1.3. Township Bakery Support Programme

The department will offer assistance for the replacement of old equipment and skills development to existing bakeries. The intervention will provide for the resuscitation of 29 bakeries in the four districts, R1.3 million has been allocated to that effect.

1.4. Youth Tyre Fitment Centre Programme

In continuing to support Public Private Partnership (PPP), the department has partnered with DUNLOP for the establishment of 10 youth owned small scale tyre fitment centres around the Province. Each fitment centre, will receive a branded and fully fitted container to the value of R370 000. The programme will create 50 jobs for young people.

1.5. Departmental Empowerment Fund

An amount of R15 million has been set aside to fund the procurement of equipment for start-ups and an existing small business enterprises. The fund was established to offer support to small businesses and cooperatives operating within the North West Province with equipment worth R100 000 for start-ups and R200 000 for existing businesses. The fund excludes those in the liquor & gambling industries, costs associated with tendering, cost of acquiring property (including renovations)

constructions, fire and ammunition, primary agriculture and transport.

1.6. Informal Business Support

This programme will be implemented through NWDC to support municipalities in creating informal traders market that will establish retail distribution enterprise in villages and townships linked to wholesalers. The programme is allocated R7 million for this financial year.

1.7. Domestic Trade Markets

The department and its two entities (North West Development Corporation and newly merged North West Parks and Tourism Board - NWP&TB) has partnered with Department of Small Business Development (DSBD), District and Local municipalities collaborated to establish Trade market and permanent Flea Market. The programme is allocated an amount of R8 million to co-fund the identified trade market sites and permanent flea market.

1.8. Online Market Platform

A total of R1.3 million has been set aside for the establishment of online marketing platform. The platform is intended to enhance the digital content of showcasing products of the North West Province businesses.

1.9. Comprehensive Business Development Support

This intervention provides small business enterprises with business development support services, to enhance growth and acceleration, including access to markets, product development and skills development. An amount of R6 million has been allocated to support the sustainability of 1 200 new beneficiaries under this programme to create jobs and improve turn over.

1.10. Enterprise Support Centres (Co-location model)

The intervention is intended to provide outreach to Rural and Township Areas. Enterprise Information Centres established are based at Lebotloane, Mokgalwaneng, Ganyesa, Tsweleng, Mathibestad and Logagane and they play a very important role of empowering community in terms of business development. During this financial year, the programme will be handed over to NWDC for further implementation. An amount of R1.5 Million has been allocated for the 2023/2024 financial year for the support of information centres in the province.

2. TRADE AND SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

- The Special Economic Development project which is implemented through NWDC has been allocated a total of R36.4 million for the implementation of its operations.
- Private Sector is on board with investment on construction of R115 million for two solar farms
- An amount of R30 million has been allocated to support the process of exploring economic opportunities within the alternative energy value chain.

3. TOURISM GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

3.1. Provincial Tourism Sector Strategy

The programme will continue with the implementation of the Provincial Tourism Sector Strategy.

3.2. Taung Hotel School Infrastructure Programme

An amount of R18 million has been allocated for the renovations and refurbishment of the Taung Hotel School and the main hotel building as well as initiatives towards growing tourism in the province.

3.3 Merger of two entities:

North West Parks and Tourism Board (NWPTB) was established as a result of merger between the North West Parks Board and North West Tourism Board in 2022. The merger was formed under the North West Parks and Tourism Act 02 of 2022, and it came into effect from the 1st April 2023. The newly North West Parks and Tourism Board will implement the following programmes:

3.3.1. Training and business development

An amount of **R14,7 million** is allocated for both Taung and Mahikeng Hotel Schools operations, to increase the number of academic courses offered as well as Student Academic and Tourism SMMEs Training Programme.

3.3.2. North West Tourism Marketing Strategy:

The province will continue implementation of North West Tourism Marketing Strategy to position the province as a preferred tourism destination.

3. BUSINESS REGULATION

This is the programme which comprises of Consumer, Liquor and business regulations sub-programmes:

- the department will conduct compliance inspections in each district to ensure businesses compliance with the Consumer Protection Act, Liquor Act, as amend and other relevant legislations.
- Department will continue to protect consumers where their rights were infringed by unscrupulous business owners.
- Adjudication of consumer cases by North West Provincial Consumer Court.
- Continue to create awareness on consumer, liquor and business regulations.

3.4. North West Gambling Board:

The entity is responsible for the regulation of the gambling industry in the North West. The plans for the board is as follows:

- Four (04) Casino License Holders (Sun City, Peermont (Pty) in Mahikeng Ltd, Peermont (Pty) Ltd in Klerksdorp and Bingo Operators have pledged to embark on the socio-economic program of eradicating pit toilets, upgrading of sports & recreational facilities and early childhood centres to two previously disadvantaged schools in the area of their operations.
- An RFA (Request For Applications) for the fifth casino license for interested parties to apply will be issued
- Roll out of LPM licenses for the remaining 1500 machines which will contribute to revenue collection in the province.
- An activation of 9 bookmaker licenses will create 300 job opportunities;
- The horse racing formally known as the Bray Horse Racing will be resuscitated and rollout in all districts.

4. ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

The department through newly NWPTB will implement the following conservation projects:

- An amount of R5 million allocated for patching of potholes at Pilanesberg Nature Reserve.
- Another R5 million will be used for upgrading of fences in all our game reserves in the province. This is done in order to curb the escape of wild animals which pose danger to communities.
- R2 million for drilling of boreholes in Molopo and Madikwe Game Reserves.
- R8 million for the restoration of Kgaswane Nature Reserve after severe floods that hit the area.

Through Environmental services:

- In an effort to reduce the effect of climate change, the department will continue to engage relevant stakeholders.
- Offer support to three district municipalities (Ngaka Modiri Molema, Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati and Dr Kenneth Kaunda) by performing Atmospheric Emission Licensing function on their behalf.
- Review the Provincial Integrated Waste Management Plan (PIWMP) as per Section 11 (1) of NEMWA (Act 59 of 2008), to ensure alignment to all relevant legislations.

5. DEPARTMENTAL JOB CREATION INITIATIVES

A total amount of R26 million has been allocated for job creation initiatives targeting one thousand and seventy (1070) young people in the 4 districts of the Province and the breakdown is as follows:

- Tourism and Hospitality placement program is targeting 100 youth
- Business Regulation is targeting to employ 200 data captures
- IEDS road patching and marks: 120 youth
- Environment EPWP program: 450 youth
- North West Parks and Tourism Board: 230 youth
- Gambling Board: 300 jobs.

In addition to the above the department together with its strategic partners namely the South African Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA), the Institute of Business Advisors Southern Africa (IBASA) and Services SETA collaborated to unlock business advisory service opportunities. A new cohort of 100 learners will be registered in the programme during this financial year. The program is to develop a cohort of young Business Advisors who will be able to provide business advisory services needed by SMMEs and Co-operatives to turnaround and sustain their business ventures.

Insurance and Funeral Policy Insights Shared at Consumer Rights Workshop



Attendees were given insights into various legislation on consumer affairs and how to protect themselves

DEDECTs Consumer Affairs recently commenced with the rolling out of its 2023/2024 awareness campaigns, with workshops and roadshows being held in all districts of the province to create awareness on Consumer and Business Regulations. The workshop aims to empower communities on their consumer rights, how to enforce them as well as empowering them on the work of other government institutions and regulatory bodies.

Community members amongst others, were advised to be aware of contracts which they sign with a focus on insurance and funeral policies. Attendees were also advised to always check whether the business they are getting into contracts with are registered with regulatory bodies such as the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA), and not to sign contracts if they have doubts but to rather contact the Provincial Consumer Office for advice.

Presenters gave an overview of Funeral policies and the responsibilities of a consumer at the Ventersdorp Workshop, in order to protect themselves. Consumers were advised to first check if the insurance company is registered with FSCA. The FSCA aims to enhance and support the efficiency and integrity of financial markets and to protect financial customers by promoting their fair treatment by financial institutions. Common issues experienced with funeral policies is seen when policy holders list their partners as a spouse without a marriage certificate or customary marriage documents and then the policy fails to pay out due to incorrect information supplied. Our educators advise that policy holders state the truth on their relationship status in order to safeguard the policy. Consumers are further advised to make sure they understand the terms and conditions of the policy. This includes the amount of coverage you are purchasing, the premiums you will be paying, and the types of expenses that are covered. Consumers should also ask for a copy of the contract and keep them for reference purposes.

Presenters further gave insights into consumer issues around insurance policies, they advise not to skip monthly payments, as your insurance company may suspend your coverage if you miss a payment. This means that you will not be covered for any losses that occur during the suspension period. If a consumer continues to miss payments, the insurance company may cancel the coverage altogether. In a case like this, you will not be able to renew your policy and you may have to find a new insurance company. If you have to reinstate your coverage after it has been cancelled, you may have to pay higher premiums. This is because the policy holder will be considered a higher risk by insurance companies. Our educators explained that it is important to understand your insurance policy and to make sure that you can afford to make regular payments. If you are having trouble making payments, you should contact your insurance company to see if there are any payment options that are available to you.

These awareness campaigns are conducted with the aim of protecting consumers against unscrupulous business conduct and assist them with any consumer-related challenges they may be experiencing. The campaign forms part of government's efforts to ensure that communities' rights to access information is being fulfilled, as 'informed consumers are safe consumers'. It is envisaged that the value of information shared during these workshops and roadshows empowers consumers to make informed decisions, and enforce their rights.



Provincial, national and local regulators give community members information to empower them to be better consumers

Other government institutions which participated in these workshops included Local Municipalities and Environmental health practitioners which covered consumer matters relating to their mandate including food inspection and environmental wellbeing. Representatives of the National Credit Regulator (NRC) were also present and covered issues of good credit practices and debt management. The Department will continue with these awareness campaigns and roadshows in all the district of the province in order to empower our consumer to make the right choices.

MINISTER MANTASHE AND MEC TLHAPI CONDUCT SITE VISIT AT MADIBENG DDM PROJECTS



MEC Galebekwe Tlhabi and DMR Minister Gwede Mantashe on a site visit as part of the District Development Model

MEC Galebekwe Virginia Tlhabi is currently accompanying Department of Mineral Resources and Energy Minister Gwede Mantashe, and Bojanala Mayors on a site visit to the Brits water treatment plant. The plant is in the process of being renovated and improved and the delegation is monitoring progress of the project.

This is in line with the The District Development Model (DDM) approach, which aims to improve the coherence and impact of government service delivery with a focus on Districts Municipalities around the country as development spaces that can be used as centres of service delivery and economic development, including job creation.

The site visit will be followed by a formal session which provides for further collaborative efforts around issues such as basic service delivery in the district, maintenance as well as the Bakubung smart city and Bojanala SEZ projects.

The DDM Model consists of a process by which joint and collaborative planning is undertaken at local, district and metropolitan areas by all three spheres of governance resulting in a single strategically focussed One Plan equipment and machinery to two (2) successful applicants of the departmental economic empowerment fund. "This intervention seeks to increase capacity, strengthen and sustain enterprises that are facing economic distress, especially on financial and operational difficulties, through the provision of machinery and equipment to a limit of R200 000 per application.

The applicants must have been operating a legally registered business, and be residing in the North West Province". The Department through the District Development Model will continue to work with other stakeholders in the service delivery ecosystem to create opportunities for youth employment and facilitate youth participation in economic opportunities by providing them with the necessary skills.

Consumers Educated on Legalities around Emolument Attachment Orders



Roadshows were held together with workshops in an effort to target more consumer empowerment

The Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT) is running a series of consumer workshops and roadshows during May and June 2023 to educate consumers about their rights and responsibilities. Education Officers from DEDECT Consumer Affairs, together with regulators from local, provincial and national government institutions conducted a series of consumer awareness workshops in all four districts of the Province.

Community members, amongst others, were advised to be aware of emolument attachment orders when creditors seek to collect debts. An emolument attachment order, also known as a garnishee order, is a court order that instructs an employer to withhold money from a debtor's earnings and pay it to a creditor. Attendees were advised to be aware of their consumer rights in this regard, as consumers have certain rights when it comes to emolument attachment orders. For example, the maximum amount of money that can be collected from a debtor's earnings is 25% of their basic salary.

Consumers also have the right to lodge a complaint for emolument attachment orders with the Department's Consumer Affairs Unit. Our consumer educators advise that if you are contacted by a debt collector, it is important to respond as ignoring the debt collector may make the situation worse. The debt collector may take legal action against you, which could lead to an emolument attachment order. It is recommended that if you are unable to pay off a debt, you may be able to negotiate a payment plan with the creditor or surrender the goods. If not, the creditor may repossess goods and property, effect a judgment against your salary or may issue an execution of assets.

Representatives of the National Credit Regulator (NCR), Motor Industry Ombudsman (MIOSA), and National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) were also present and gave consumers valuable insights into their mandates. The NCR covered issues around credit agreements before consumers sign any contracts. MIOSA covered issues concerning investigations and complaints when purchasing a

vehicle, including dispute resolution in this regard. The NRCS advised consumers to ensure that products and services meet certain minimum standards for health, safety, and environmental protection before purchasing them.

These awareness campaigns are conducted with the aim of protecting consumers against unscrupulous business conduct and assist them with any consumer-related challenges they may be experiencing. The campaign forms part of government's efforts to ensure that communities' rights to access information is being fulfilled, as 'informed consumers can make informed decisions'.

The Department will continue with these awareness campaigns and roadshows in all district of the province in order to empower our consumers to make the right choices. The next roadshow will be held on 15 June 2023 at the Boxer Centre in Brits, come through and know your consumer rights and responsibilities.



Attendees at the consumer workshop which was held in Ventersdorp

DEDECT and local Liquor Traders Give Back to Community in Stella

DEDECTs Liquor regulations unit recently held a social responsibility outreach at the Devondale Primary School in the Stella Policing area. Liquor traders in the area together with the Department contributed toward donating school shoes to 40 learners.

The social responsibility programme as an act of good faith seeks to encourage liquor traders to give back to society, especially those affected by various socio-economic issues. The Department through this programme seeks to contribute towards community upliftment and to those who are directly and indirectly affected by alcohol abuse. It further raise awareness on responsible liquor trading by traders and the adverse effects of alcohol abuse.

Sergeant Lekgetho from SAPS in Stella highlighted that they are grateful for being part of the programme and that this act of good faith goes a long way in ensuring liquor traders give back the the community in which they operate.

Ms Molamu, who is a teacher at the school was very pleased with the rolling out of this programme at the school. "We thank the Department and the liquor traders for their generous gesture as learners will not have to walk barefoot in the cold and it will reduce absenteeism, it has also put a smile on the face of our learners", said Ms. Molamu.

Our liquor regulations unit pleads with communities to take a stance as there are many broken and child headed families as a result of liquor abuse. "It is the joint responsibility of schools, churches, and the community at large to ensure that we trade and drink alcohol responsibly," said Mr. Obakeng Lelese, DEDECT Liquor Education Officer.

The department will continue with its social responsibility programme throughout the province whereby liquor traders are encouraged to take part in the programme as it serves as an integral facet of the doctrine of Ubuntu, and to change the way the Liquor Industry operates.



Devondale Primary School learners receiving school shoes as part of the Departments social responsibility programme

First Aid Training for Mogwase Youth Placed Under Tourism Safety Monitors Programme



Trainees undergoing CPR training as part of the course to receive their registration as tourist safety monitors

The Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation, and Tourism concluded the facilitation of another two-day First Aid Training for nine (9) youth who were placed Under the National Tourism Safety Monitors Programme in Mogwase around the Moses Kotane Local Municipality.

This forms part of a broader government's effort to enhance the capabilities and skills of the Tourism Safety Monitors as aspiring tourism professionals. The monitoring program aimed at creating access to information and safety to tourists, as well as ensuring that they receive quality services and experience during their visit to the province.

According to Mr Obakeng Motlhanke, a Deputy Director in the Tourism Unit from DEDECT, the training serves as an additional qualification to the trainees, focusing on those that are from previously disadvantaged backgrounds wishing to become Tourist guides. "This qualification is one of the requirements in the terms of Tourism Act 3 of 2014, that a person must obtain in order to become a registered Tourist Guide", said Motlhanke. He also added that the department also aims to instil an entrepreneurial spirit amongst youth as a way of curbing the high unemployment rate in the province and country.

Furthermore, the participants were taken through the First Aid Training by Mr. Thabo Mgiba of VPK Business Venture, who facilitated and enlightened attendees on how to urgently attend CPR during accidents and incident scenes that require urgent medical attention before arrival of the paramedics. CPR training can save lives, and by taking lifesaving classes, there is an increased chance of the person's survival. It significantly reduces the risk of a person suffering damage to their heart, brain, and other vital organs. In addition, CPR can keep the body oxygenated until professional medical help arrives.

According to Mr Mgiba its quite imperative to carefully follow precautionary measures in applying both first aid and life support assistance.

The training is fully accredited and upon completion of a portfolio of evidence (POE) as part of the competence assessment, the participants will be awarded a competency certificate valid for 3 years. The department wishes all program beneficiaries well in their future endeavours in the Tourism sector.

NORTH WEST GAINS VALUABLE EXPOSURE AT AFRICAS TRAVEL INDABA



Team North West at Africas Travel Indaba

The 3-day Africa's Travel Indaba concluded with a line-up of seminar discussions focusing on insightful topics such as 'Speed Marketing – Wild n out in South Africa and Future Forward: Learning, unlearning, and relearning a journey towards building a compelling and sustainable brand. The topics are intended to benefit small businesses who are still striving to grow, sustain their businesses and stay competitive in the market.

One of the sessions, the Women in Tourism Breakfast Session, saw our very own Provincial Chairperson of Women In Tourism: Bokone Bophirima Chapter (North West WiT) Ms Khosi Tyobeka addressing WiT Provincial Chapters for the first time after she was elected the National WiT interim Chairperson a week ago at the strategic planning session of national WiT. Ms Tyobeka was addressing women alongside Minister Patricia de Lille, at the Africa's Travel Indaba.

Ms Tyobeka together with her team is tasked with the responsibility of ensuring that the WiT programme has a formalised national body that is comprised of 9 chapters (with Provincial structures Chairpersons as representatives) across all provinces. Part of their function is to develop a framework that will give guidance on work by provincial chapters and ensure a uniform approach in the implementation of the WiT programme. The structure will also ensure that women are respected, recognized, represented, and rewarded accordingly in the tourism sector, and identify mechanisms to address the barriers they are faced. The national structure is also envisaged to include representatives from tourism departments who will serve as ex-officio.

The North West Province also received a Silver Award in the category LargeStands Exhibitors. Categories were Small, Medium and Large Exhibitors Stands with Platinum as the highest award and followed by Gold. North West is the only Province in South Africa to have walked away with an award during this year's Africa's Travel Indaba Award ceremony.

Ms Sarah Manone, Chief Director responsible for Tourism Growth from DEDECT and her team, congratulated Ms Tyobeka for her election. "We have confidence in her capabilities and trust that she will fulfill the responsibility she is tasked with". Ms Manone also thanked all the participants (officials, tour operators, tour guides, NW WiT and other tourism products owners) for their participation at the 2023 Africa's Travel Indaba, and for all the efforts they have made to promote the vast tourism offerings the North West has to offer. "I trust that you will be able to implement the knowledge gained to grow and sustain your businesses. I am confident that all the deals and relations you have made from the interactions with your counterparts and tourism community will yield positive results that will ultimately assist in transferring skills to young people within your area of operations," concluded Ms Manone.

Portfolio Committee on Small Business Visits the North West Province



Deputy Minister Dipuo Peters and MEC Tihapi visiting small businesses assisted by the Department

The Portfolio Committee on Small Business Development embarked on oversight visits in the North West Province to assess the impact of both financial and non-financial support initiatives offered by the department to SMME's.

The visit sought to enlighten the Portfolio Committee on progress and challenges faced by beneficiaries of the government business development programmes. The focus is on enterprises supported by the Department of Small Business Development and its agencies, Small Enterprise Development Agency and Small Enterprise Finance Agency within the Ngaka Modiri Molema and Bojanala Districts respectively.

The Portfolio Committee was accompanied by Deputy Minister of Small Business, Dipuo Peters, North West MEC for Department of Economic Development, Environment,

Conservation and Tourism, Galebekwe Virginia Tihapi and government officials. The visit further aims to enhance support to small businesses as trajectories for economic development in the North West Province.

10 North West Small Businesses Participate at SAITEX Trade Exhibition

North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism has afforded 10 small businesses from all four districts in the province an opportunity to participate at the annual International Saitex Trade Exhibition Workshop held at Gallagher Estates in Midrand, Johannesburg.

These small businesses range from manufacturing of furniture, health products, hair and beauty products, designer bags, and textile products.

SAITEX facilitates tangible international and local trade relationships and enables the private sector to demonstrate their innovations, solutions, and services to thousands of buyers, retailers, distributors, and wholesalers from multiple trade sectors.

With its theme "Advances in collaborative research for Business, Economics, Social Sciences, and Humanities" SAITEX will help SMME's to navigate easily through different markets by interacting with potential investors or funders.

It is part of the department's initiative to create a conducive environment for SMME's in order for them to have access to the market at large.



DEDECT Exhibition stands at SAITEX for 10 Small Businesses to market their products and services



Made by Mosaic is one of the small businesses participating at the trade expo

Youth Month SMME Outreach Programme



Ms. Carol Rasego of DEDECT delivering the purpose of the day



Youth attendees in their numbers attending the outreach

The Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT) as mandated to assist SMMEs particularly women, youth and people with disabilities, to prosper and contribute in job creation, kick-started its Youth Month SMME Outreach Programme in Lichtenburg in order to accelerate information sharing, education and services to Youth Owned SMMEs. These sessions continued in all four districts of the province.

The sessions seek to present various opportunities offered by the government and the private sectors, and also intensify access to markets at all levels be it National, Provincial, Local and International. The session is also envisaged to enhance competitiveness of small businesses, rural and township enterprises, start-up businesses and high growth potential businesses owned by youth to retain existing jobs and ultimately create new jobs.

The sessions were supported by various development finance institutions such as SEFA, SEDA, NYDA, NWDC, NDA, NEF and SARS who encouraged the SMMEs to take advantage of opportunities offered by the government and the private sector, for the growth and development of their businesses.

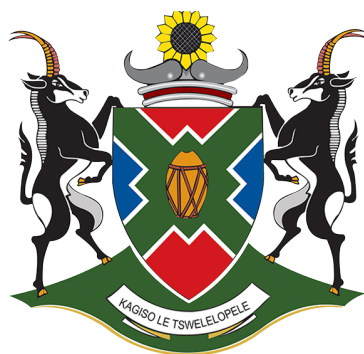
The programme will be rolled-out throughout the province and will lead to the Youth Month SMME Outreach main event within Bojanala District.

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