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North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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DEDECT MEC empowers Taung Informal Traders with training certificates and R10 000 grants.

MEC Bitsa Lenkopane, together with Mr Risuna Maluleke, CEO of the Young African Entrepreneurs Institute (YAEI), and Local Councillor Ms Montewa Sisco, officiated the handover of training certificates and R10 000 grant support to 30 informal traders from the Greater Taung Local Municipality.

The ceremony, hosted on 13 March 2026, followed the successful completion of the Practical Formalisation of Informal Business Training Programme, facilitated by the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT) in partnership with YAEI, and held at the Depot Hall in Taung.

The programme targeted food-related informal traders, including vendors selling vegetables and fruits, cooked food, snacks, chickens, and other animal products.

This initiative forms part of the Department's ongoing commitment to empower local traders with practical business skills, enabling them to improve credibility, safety standards, and operational systems - key elements for accessing broader markets, funding opportunities, and compliance requirements necessary for business growth.

Addressing the beneficiaries, MEC Lenkopane commended the traders for embracing the opportunity to participate in the training programme, noting that such initiatives are critical for strengthening small businesses.

"Government has identified and prioritised skills development as a key intervention required to stimulate sustainable growth of small businesses. Training programmes offered by government and its partners are essential for long-term business survival, improved productivity, and increased profitability, enabling innovation and entrepreneurs to remain competitive even against larger companies," said the MEC.

She further encouraged traders not to underestimate the importance of their businesses, highlighting the vital role played by township and village enterprises. "Your businesses may be small, but they play a significant role in restoring dignity and sustaining communities. For many years, township and village businesses have supported families, paid school fees, and contributed to local livelihoods," she said.

The MEC noted that during a time when economic growth in the province remains slower than anticipated and unemployment levels remain high, government is looking to communities and small enterprises to take advantage of available support programmes aimed at strengthening and expanding businesses. “We remain committed to supporting small businesses because they play a critical role in driving economic growth, creating jobs, and alleviating poverty,” she added. She also encouraged traders to formalise their businesses, which would allow them to qualify for other government support programmes aimed at business expansion and sustainability.

Today’s certification ceremony also fulfils one of the commitments made during the MEC’s Budget Speech, where she emphasised the Department’s intention to strengthen partnerships with institutions of higher learning and the private sector. These include organisations such as YAEI, North-West University (NWU), ABSA, and other partners, to collaborate on business incubation, innovation, and the development of entrepreneurial youth who can drive measurable socio-economic impact through active participation in the economy.

Speaking at the event, YAEI CEO, Mr Maluleke expressed appreciation to the Department for the partnership, noting that the collaboration would contribute significantly to the growth of township and rural economies.

He further indicated that the current incubation programme marks the first collaborative project between the Department and YAEI targeting informal traders, adding that the organisation looks forward to expanding the initiative to other local municipalities and scaling up the programme in the future.

Ends.

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