

GOVERNMENT PROMOTES SMME, COOPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT

October 19, 2012



Developing provincial economy ... Premier Ace Magashule

The summit was aimed at ensuring that there is proper coordination and integration of activities and interventions relating to the support and development of SMMEs and cooperatives.

Free State Premier, Ace Magashule, has joined forces with major players in the small business development sector, with the aim of developing and support cooperatives and SMMEs in the province.

The provincial government; the Thabo Mofutsanyana District; Dihlabeng Local Municipality and FET colleges, in partnership with the Services SETA, held a two-day inaugural summit on support and development of cooperatives and SMMEs in the district this week.

The summit was aimed at ensuring that there is proper coordination and integration of activities and interventions relating to the support and development of SMMEs and cooperatives, to maximise the impact of investments.

It was also designed to make certain that the needs of SMMEs and cooperatives within the province are properly conceptualised and assessed, and that plans are developed to meet these needs are appropriate, realistic but crucially resonate with local reality.

During the summit, Magashule urged cooperatives and SMMEs owners to work hard and stop relying on government tenders to succeed.

“People have a problem; they want to become instant millionaires without having to work hard. They rely on getting a tender from government, and do not go out and market their businesses in the private sector. They believe they can successfully run a business without proper business experience and skills.”

The Weekly

“I understand that people are in a rush for development and want to see changes in their lives. It is all up to our people; they must work hard. I can assure you that starting SMMEs and cooperatives is the right thing to do, but it takes hard work and commitment to make them a success,” said Magashule. Magashule lashed out at corruption of government officials and SMMEs owners, who collude to defraud government.

“We know of how people pay government officials so that they can get tenders from the state. These corrupt business people are making it difficult for us to fight corruption within government. We are still probing that problem and I believe that if we, as politicians, councillors and mayors in local government can do the right things, we can achieve a lot.”

Services SETA project manager, Mokolo Ramohlale, said the project is will be implemented for the next four years in the district.

“We are going to use the recommendations adopted here to develop an appropriate plan of action and put together a team of experts, to work jointly with the district mayor and premier’s office and ensure the success of the initiative. We want to achieve visible milestones that we will be proud of in 2016.”

Magashule said his office will work tirelessly to build more and better capacitated cooperatives. “We are positioning the province as the birth place of new ways of building not only the province but a country that truly belongs to all who live in it and in partnership with the SETA, we will do all that is humanly possible to build better and smarter SMMEs.”

“I believe that the development of cooperatives is a correct step in the direction of alternative development,” he added.

[Source: www.theweekly.co.za]