

DSBD PROMOTES ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SOWETO

The Department of Small Business Development together with its agencies, the Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda) and the Small Enterprise Finance Agency (sefa) participated at the Service Delivery Imbizo which was led by Minister of Human Settlements, Ms. Mmamoloko Kubayi and Deputy Minister Ms. Pam Tshwete on 04 May 2023, at Elkah Cricket Stadium, Rockville in Soweto, Gauteng. The Imbizo was attended by more than 1000 communities comprising of SMMEs and aspiring entrepreneurs within Soweto. The main aim of the event was to present government-wide programmes to the public and promote efficient service delivery. Furthermore, the objective of the event was to empower local businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs with access to information on various incentives and business support services that are offered by the Small Business Development (SBD) Portfolio.

The Department and its entities showcased programmes and offerings of the Small Business Development Portfolio during the Service Delivery Imbizo and further attended to SMME and clients' enquiries on site. Government Departments and entities such as the NYDA, Home Affairs, SASSA, Social Development and Tourism were also on-site assisting communities on information and opportunities that exist in their respective departments and entities.

In her keynote address, the Minister of Human Settlements, Ms. Mmamoloko Kubayi said, "We believe that we have achieved what we wanted with this Soweto Imbizo as we managed to close all the communication gaps between the community members and the human settlements sector from all spheres of government. We appreciate the undying commitment from the Department of Small Business

Development in radically coordinating an integrated approach to promote and develop rural and township-based enterprises. Working together, we will ensure that no one is left behind in the provision of sustainable service delivery."

Human Settlements Minister Mamoloko Kubayi further indicated that the Department of Human Settlements would ensure that senior citizens were prioritised as they attempt to resolve the housing issue across the country. She further warned against housing officials who scam people into paying them to get houses and urged communities to collaborate with government to accelerate service delivery. The adoption of Imbizo serve as a mechanism for communication between government and its citizens. The approach bears testimony to government's commitment to uphold the Constitutional tenet of a participatory democracy where people can voice their concerns, opinions and aspirations to their elected representatives with regards to service delivery.

