



## SEFA AND SEDA BACKS ENGINEERING COMPANY



If you by chance asked Tebogo Ditsogo what her childhood dream was, she would probably dwell on how she wanted to always look beautiful, work in an air-conditioned office and drive one of those highly powered Germany made sedan with a sunroof. Fake twisted those dreams and she has found her calling in the cold dull metal twisting and folding industry, usually reserved for foul smelling men in dirty overalls, hard coarse gritty hands and iron toe capped shoes.

Ditsogo Engineering was born in Rustenburg following a change in academic studies which took Ditsogo to the nitty gritty world of crunching numbers and designing structures, which led to the formation of her engineering baby.

Fascinated by towering metal structures dominating the skies in the platinum rich province, Ditsogo gravitated towards the steel forging engineering to fulfil the appetite of knowledge of how such is achieved.

“My biggest challenge was establishing this company and competing successfully in a male dominated industry, were a woman is only expected to be only seen filing invoices in the office instead of designing and forging steel structures suitable to hoist giant cranes high voltage machinery”.

“When I birthed this dream, I had no financial means to meet all the obligations hence I approached the Department of Small Business Development offices. They referred me to the Small Enterprises Development Agency (SEDA) which took me through

all the necessary training programs ranging from basic business management to the mandatory ISO 9001, which is a must in the industry and qualifies one to dealing with international commodities”.

“After completing all SEDA necessities, I was advised to apply for funding at Small Enterprise Funding Agency (sefa), where I was coached on financial handling and working capital investment”. added Ditsogo.

Ditsogo Engineering is now a fully-fledged structural engineering company, proving steel forging and fabrication as well as providing rolled steel bars and tubing to the mining sector operating in and around the platinum belt.

sefa funding went a long way into the purchase of machinery and tools. Late last year Ditsogo Engineering applied to be included in the DSBD SheTrades program, a flagship female only company promotion initiative aimed at exposing them to the world and helping build their company's profile.

“DSBD and its entities should have offices in every corner of South Africa, to aid all Small Medium and Micro Enterprises growing in the country.

Ditsogo Engineering is looking to oust established companies in metal engineering sector in the coming decade.