



16 May 2024

## **MASSIVE BOOST FOR SMALL BUSINESSES IN OKHAHLAMBA**

The service delivery train of the Department of Small Business Development is now heading towards uThukela district in Kwa-Zulu-Natal, where Minister of Small Business Development, Ms Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, will host a Ministerial Imbizo in Bergville in partnership with the Kwazulu-Natal provincial government, uThukela District Municipality and Okhahlamba Local Municipality.

Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams will be joined by the MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Mrs Bongiwe Nomusa Sithole-Moloi and the Mayor of Okhahlamba Local Municipality, Cllr Vikizitha Richard Mlotshwa.

The Ministerial Imbizo will be preceded by the official launch of the Light Industrial Hub project in Bergville. The project is co-funded by the Okhahlamba Local Municipality and the Department of Small Business Development through its Shared Economic Infrastructure Facility (SEIF) programme. The project entailed the construction of a Light Industrial Hub which consists of 28 units comprising of warehouses, storage space, food retail, houses for mechanical works, light welding and furniture manufacturing; as well as ablution facilities and parking area. This facility is a massive boost for small businesses as it will tremendously improve their competitiveness as well as stimulating sustainable economic development within the local municipality.

The Ministerial Imbizo will bring together various stakeholders, including traditional leaders, local and provincial government, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMMEs), informal enterprises, and members of the public to address issue relating to small business development in the area. Its primary objective is to strengthen

partnerships and promote dialogue between the department and its stakeholders. It will also be a platform for small business owners to assess the quality of service delivery as well as the responsiveness of the department and its agencies to the needs of small businesses.

The Ministerial Imbizo and the official launch of the Light Industrial Hub will be held as follows:

**DATE:** Tuesday, 21 May 2024

**TIME:** 9:00

**VENUE:** Bergville Sports Centre

Members of the media are requested to send their confirmations to: Cornelius Monama (082 578 4063), Mr Noko Manyelo (071 265 8611) and Ms Suraya Asmal (082 788 5562).

**END**

Enquiries:

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