

# BUY LOCAL SUMMIT & EXPO



## PROUDLY SA BUY LOCAL SUMMIT MSMES HIGHLIGHTS



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The Department of Small Business Development partnered with Proudly SA at its annual Proudly South African 13th edition Symposium and Expo at the Immaculate Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg.

The Buy Local Summit and Expo is a two-day, annual flagship event of Proudly South African that attracts over 200 local exhibitors spanning several industries, over 1,500 delegates, 450 trade buyers, and 160 stakeholders from both the public and private sectors.

The Buy Local Summit and Expo seeks to reiterate the call to support local enterprises and consists of multiple activations, business matchmaking sessions, and interactive panel discussions, that provide exhibitors and the delegates in attendance with practical and tangible outcomes.

The entrepreneurs held a march outside the venue called "Take a stand", a new addition to this year's Buy Local Summit & Expo, which was led by the Retail, Clothing, Textile, Footwear, and Leather (R-CTFL) sector. Participants of the march were from both the Buy Local campaign and the public

and held a peaceful demonstration around the Sandton Convention Centre. This march was aimed at highlighting the devastating impact of illicit goods on the local economy while rallying support for industries and sectors that rely on consumer backing. By choosing local, this can help small businesses scale, safeguard existing jobs, and create new employment opportunities through the circulation of the rand within our borders.

DSBD supported a pavillion that hosted a number of entrepreneurs. Among the exhibitors who were showcasing their products is Lungisa Nonkwelo, a 64-year-old Mpondoland woman who has more than 30 years of experience with chronic illnesses. She is the founder of Defender products and knows these products from personal experience. They are made of traditional remedies such as herbs and plants that naturally grow in Mpondoland, Eastern Cape i.e. Cannabis, and others. There are more than 20 properties that are included in these products. Nonkwelo is a focussed goal-oriented award winner of note that is driven by her passion for team building.

**"IGNITING THE SPIRIT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP."**



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Her experience with chronic illnesses influenced her attitude which led to the decision of seeking a solution and an alternate safe treatment for Cancer that was destroying the family. This is how the Defender Herbal Supplement was born.

The company is in the business of growing organic herbs and plants including cannabis, manufacturing, processing and distributing alternative safe medicine for chronic ailments. The company envisions consolidating its vision into Mpondoland Organic Herbal Natural Medicinal Hub, becoming an Organic Herbal Health Centre in the Mpondoland region producing various products that could have a global footprint.

Her vision is to be the world's centre for excellence in the development of accurate data and the highest quality growing and production of indigenous Mpondoland Natural Organic Herbal products with a touch of handed down traditional

remedies in the Eastern Cape and beyond by 2026.

"The use of Herbs is a holistic approach to health that emphasises the connection of the body, mind and environment. It embraces the notion that plants possess inherent healing properties that support the body's innate ability to heal itself through gentle and natural remedies," said Nonkwelo.

Defender is processed with indigenous herbs including Umya (cannabis). Research for Innovation Assessment was conducted by Walter Sisulu University under supervision of Technology Transfer Officer and Registered Patent Officer who specializes in IP management in life science inventions. The Small Enterprise Development also came in handy in assisting her with packaging and labelling of the products, marketing material, food handling certificates and occupational health and safety certificates.





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Kgolo GC Trading and Enterprise (PTY) LTD, trading as Kgolo GC Doors, is a doors manufacturing company that specializes in wooden doors, wooden frames and other wooden based products was also in attendance. The company has been in business for close to a decade while management and staff have cumulative experience of more than two decades in the carpentry and manufacturing business.

The main manufacturing factory is in the North West province and the company supplies Nationwide. A number of reputable hardware stores are Kgolo's clients. The main industrial centre is located in-house in Potchefstroom, with additional distribution centres in Gauteng and Mpumalanga.

They are a leading black-owned brand in the wooden doors, window frames and door frames in South Africa. They aim to maintain this by continuing to use good quality craftsmanship and continuously improving customer service to their clients. Kgolo GC Trading and Enterprise provides their products to the public especially the construction, hardware, home renovators as well as retail outlets in South Africa. It remains a key focus of the business. They were assisted by Small Enterprise Development Agency under the Asset Assist Programme through a bakkie and quality control management system.

Mokatani (Pty) Ltd was exhibiting at the 2025 Proudly South African Summit and Expo. The company was established in 2024 and formally entrenched as a Private Company by a dedicated individual. It is 100% black owned and is the brainchild of Malebo Matlala who realized the compelling need to establish a formidable entity which will provide sought-after service in the services sector. This service orientated entity is firmly anchored in Tjatane Newstand, Sekhukhune in the Vast of Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, Limpopo Province.

This dynamic business enterprise was established with a common purpose of providing sewing services and general supply to the business community members whilst creating sustainable employment opportunity to the inhabitants of the country. Mokatani (Pty) Ltd is a business headed by energetic, focused leaders, prepared to learn. They aim to grow from partnering with well experienced businesses in their field of interest and competing in the economic stream building social structures in the whole country and the world. The company was granted a loan of R100,000 by Small Enterprise Finance Agency for machinery.

Ubuntu premium extra virgin oil is also one of the businesses that were exhibiting, led by a serial entrepreneur Loyiso Manga. The premium extra virgin oil is produced in the scenic western foothills of the Winterhoek mountains in the Western Cape. It has shot up in demands as people recognise its health benefits.

"Growing up in a farming community in Makhanda in the Eastern Cape made me to have interest in farming and that's where I thought of starting Ubuntu premium extra -virgin oil to a growing market of South Africa," Manga said.

"Ubuntu oil reduces heart problems and high blood pressure and protects against diabetes and insulin resistance. It boosts hair and skin health, assists in weight loss and boost metabolism. It helps ageing process, protecting against osteoporosis and works as an inflammatory too," he added.

This business was funded by Small Enterprise Finance Agency through a sum of R250 000 under the Township and Rural Entrepreneurship Programme. There will be more information exchange with Proudly SA on how DSBD can even derive more results from this partnership, especially as it seeks to advance market access.

