



MEDIA STATEMENT

PROVINCIAL STAKEHOLDERS MEETING: TOWNSHIP TRADE

Bloemfontein -Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs in collaboration with University of Free State embarked on one day session at Kopano Nokeng on the 28July 2011 with stakeholders to further address possible conflict between the South African and Non- South African informal traders.

The purpose of the event was to map way forward from the findings of the key study conducted by the University of Free State on how to resolve the challenges faced by this important sector of the economy and how to regulate and monitor the sectors.

Titled **“Trade is in our Blood”**: Reflections on Trends and Conflicts in Township Trade” the report released on 31March 2011 meant to deal with the impact of this trade on the formal economy and how it impacts on the relationship between community and traders as well as between Non-South African and South African traders in Mangaung. Participants ranged from, Municipalities, government departments, NGO’s, Mangaung Business Organization and Business formations.

Amongst other issues raised were the following:

- To ensure that the international laws governing asylum seekers are adequately applied
- To implement an effective and up to date database of existing economic practice in Mangaung

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- Conduct regular community outreach campaigns and workshops that will bring awareness, visibility and eventually increase the rate of registration and compliance with SARS tax requirements amongst informal traders.
- Pay attention to the reasons why enterprises owned by non-South Africans outcompete locals.

Many issues and concerns were raised by stakeholders during the meeting. One of the challenges raised by Mangaung Business Organization member was the need for training members. Training like stock taking, bookkeeping and general business management.

In his closing remarks Mr. Abram Jansen: Deputy Director, Research and Policy Development (DETEA) emphasized that government departments and other stakeholders must work together to established a task team that will ensure that all the challenges regarding this matter are addressed and the team must work within timeframe.

End

Compiled by Communication Unit
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