



**the detea**

the department of economic  
development, tourism and  
environmental affairs  
FREE STATE PROVINCE

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Launch of R30 Million SMME Grant Fund in the Free State**

Enterprise Development will receive the much needed boost in the Free State when the MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Mosebenzi Zwane launches the R30 million SMME Grant Fund in Ezenzeleni, Warden on the 02<sup>nd</sup> August 2013. Announcing this Fund, during his Budget Speech earlier this year, MEC Zwane said, “Operation Hlasela, through its power, has enabled us to interact with the people of the Free State, and we have realized that the needs of our people differ from region to region, stretching from Fezile Dabi in the north to Xhariep in the south. We are now at a point where we have products, services and programmes that will unleash the economic potential of our people”

Hundreds of survivalist businesses in street corners, pavements, and small shelters throughout the Free State will benefit from the fund. This is after the Free State Provincial Government has realized these people have nowhere to go for assistance even though they contribute to the fight against poverty, hunger and unemployment.

During this event, the Department and its three entities, Free State Development Corporation (FDC), Free State Tourism Authority (FSTA) and Free State Liquor and Gambling Board (FSLGA) will present its “bouquet” of services to the Community of Warden and the surrounding areas. This will range from SMME Incubation Programme, with specific reference to Schools Competition on best Business concept; Repositioning the FDC; Promoting Consumer Protection and Education; Vigorous marketing of the Free State as a preferred inland tourism destination and the Green Campaign project.

#### **Issued by Communication unit**

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