**MEDIA RELEASE**

**DIALOGUE BETWEEN FOREIGN NATIONALS AND LOCAL SMME’S TO HARMONISE THE BUSINESS RELATIONS IN THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT**

**17 FEBRUARY 2015**

Small Businesses and township businesses are critical for local economic development. Foreign traders have also become an integral part of this equation.

The available body of research indicates that the pre-2000 landscape of South Africa‟s township business was dominated by small, mainly informal businesses referred to as *spaza* or tuck shops. Research made shows that there is a need for this business to be attended to or given the attention it deserves.

It is for this reasons that the MEC for Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs Mosebenzi Zwane has called a dialog amongst key stakeholders to look at the following issues, Trade Agreements and Contracts, Business Permits and rules, Overview of trade agreements and partnerships across the globe, Importance of a business community in municipalities from a business social responsibility perspective and Understanding of Tax and South African Reserve Bank regulations.

**The details are as follows:**

Venue: President Hotel

Date: 19 February 2015

Time: 07:30 – 15:30

**END**

**Compiled by: Communication Unit**

**Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs**

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