

MORE THAN 800 JOBS TO BE CREATED

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BLOEMFONTEIN – The Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DETEA) has initiated yet another job creation scheme, this time geared towards generating over 800 jobs in the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipal area.

The agreement signed between Rahi Developers, from the United Emirates Arabs and Ora Floriculture Cooperative, an export cooperative will open doors to the development of a similar company that will produce indigenous South African Flower Bulbs.

A discussion between the Free State Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Mangaung Metro Municipality and SEDA in the Free State Province resulted in the signing of the agreement on Thursday, July 12.

The cooperative will produce flower bulbs called the Zantedeschia or Zant, a genus of herbaceous flowering plants in the family Araceae, which native to southern Africa and will be produced for summer and spring.

The Babiana is a genus of flowering plants in the Family Iridaceae composed of about 80 species which will be produced for autumn and spring. Most of these species of about 49 are found in the southwestern Cape of Africa, with the remainder distributed in Namaqualand and Northern Cape Province.

Rural communities situated around Bloemfontein, Botshabelo and Thaba Nchu will not only benefit from job creation but also through infrastructure development.

The entire project will require about 800 workers excluding managers and technicians while a large proportion of this manpower will be used at the operation farm in greenhouses. Another 300 will be employed on a 24 hour shift-basis at the flower pot factory.

Operations will commence with 23 earmarked tunnels covering 12 hectors of land, as the flower bulbs will be produced and grown in greenhouses and tunnels. Each tunnel will require 20 full time intensive labourers.

[Source: www.publiceyenews.com]