**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**DESTEA SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT IS A RUNAWAY SUCCESS**

Launched in June 2018, the small business support programme of DESTEA is fast gaining popularity amongst small businesses in the Free State.

This programme is intended to intensify funding support initiatives to SMMEs in order to assist them with sustainability and growth of their enterprises. Working in partnership with its partners like Central University of Technology, Eskom, NYDA, SEDA, Harmony, Motheo TVET, Black Management Forum, FNB and FDC.

DESTEA focus on businesses in mining, agro-processing, transport, manufacturing, tourism and ICT.

To participate in this programme, businesses should present the following:

• The business must be registered;

• The business must have a business plan;

• Sustainability of business;

• All the necessary documents must be attached;

• Estimated jobs created;

• Employment of women and youth will be prioritized.

So far the two episode of this programme has taken place. First part of the process took place on the 28 June 2018 at CUT where total of R1 million worth of support was made to 3 winning businesses. Botebo Wines operating in Jacobsdal, was announced as the overall winner and walked away with first prize of R450 000.00 worth of equipment. Agro Solution came second and received R350 000.00, third place was Timeless Tomatoes with R200 000.00 and a special youth award went to Amity Development Solutions who received R100 000.00.

The second episode of the programme under the incubator support was also held at CUT on the 7th August 2018. Seventeen (17) enterprises exhibited their products and services. Three of this companies won prizes ranging from R300 00.00 to R100 000.00. These are Isbusiso Holding, Working Climate and Success Paints. They will receive eighteen (18) to 3 years incubation with big companies.

These prizes cover productive equipment, marketing support, training and other non-financial support.

**Issued by the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs:**

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