



WHEN THE SUN RISES
WE WORK HARD TO DELIVER

***PRESENTATION TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES BY THE MEC FOR
FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM, MR PS NGOMANE, MPL,
DURING A VIRTUAL SITTING TO TABLE PROVINCIAL PLANS TO MITIGATE THE
IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT***

Tuesday, 01 September 2020



economic development
& tourism

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SALUTATIONS

- Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), Honourable Masondo;
- Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, Honourable Lucas;
- House Chairperson on Committees and Oversight, Honourable Nyambi;
- Small Business Development Minister, Honourable Ntshavheni;

SALUTATIONS/2

- Honourable Members of the NCOP and Special delegates;
- Provincial MECs responsible for small business development;
- Representative of SALGA;
- Members of the Media;
- Ladies and gentlemen;
- **San'bonani!**

INTRODUCTION

- Thank you very much for inviting our Province, Mpumalanga, to present our **Mitigation Plans in supporting our small businesses which have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- We all agree that this all-important sector of any economy, was also not spared by the pandemic; hence **it is essential that we must devise means to cushion them.**

INTRODUCTION/2

- If small businesses – including informal traders – are left to perish, so will be our economy, because this sector is the backbone of our economy.
- Undoubtedly, **no economy will thrive without small businesses**, as they are the main contributor to economic growth.
- Although we rely largely on national Relief Schemes, as the Province of Mpumalanga, we have also developed a Plan to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on our small businesses:

PROVINCIAL COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDING

- In an effort to mitigate the effect of drought on the livelihood of our people, including in the agriculture sector, we have set aside an amount of **R12.1 million for drought relief** to support the agricultural sector.
- We have also allocated **R32 million for the procurement of 40 000 relief food parcels** that are being distributed to distressed households due to COVID-19.

PROVINCIAL COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDING

- Our **small businesses have benefitted** in this regard, as the food parcels were procured from them.
- Small businesses have also benefitted from the **R182.7 million set aside for the provision of water tanks in communities and schools** around the Province, given that they were afforded an opportunity to be service providers in this regard.



COVID-19

SHORT TERM

INTERVENTIONS

COVID-19 PROVINCIAL RELIEF SCHEME

- ✓ We have also planned to provide funding to support small businesses in the informal sector:
 - ✓ This will be done in the form of **Food Vouchers**; and
 - ✓ Business financial support
 - ✓ Vouchers will be disbursed to **self-employed and informal traders to purchase food parcels.**
 - ✓ 300 small businesses will benefit from this relief scheme

COVID-19 PROVINCIAL RELIEF SCHEME

- ✓ Financial support will target businesses dealing in:
 - ✓ **Protective clothing and sanitisers** to pay for:
 - ✓ Tools for ease of doing business (like instant payment machines or speed points);
 - ✓ Rent and electricity costs;

COVID-19 SHORT TERM INTERVENTIONS

- ✓ **MEGA:** Provide loan repayment holiday of between 3-6 months to SMMEs;
- ✓ **MEGA:** Provide property lease payment holiday of 3-6 months;
- ✓ Assist SMMEs through business coaching to amend their business strategies to align with COVID-19 regulations;
- ✓ Negotiate with other credit providers to grant repayment holidays;
- ✓ Create more EPWP projects for short term employment opportunities for relief;

COVID-19 SHORT TERM INTERVENTIONS

- ✓ Established Support HelpLine for informal, small and medium enterprises;
- ✓ Identify SMMEs to produce cloth masks for the government;
- ✓ Identify local printers to print 3D Masks to be used by the Department of Health;
- ✓ Roll-out broadband connectivity to villages to enable the creation of hotspots that could be used by SMMEs;
- ✓ Engage big business to assist/support where necessary.

PROVINCIAL TOURISM RECOVERY PLAN

- ✓ **Small businesses in tourism will also be supported,** following the approval of the Provincial Tourism Recovery Plan (by the Executive Council)
- ✓ The Plan was developed in collaboration with the private sector
- ✓ Small businesses in all other sectors (like agriculture) will also be supported

NATIONAL COVID-19 RELIEF SCHEMES

- ✓ Small businesses also participated in National Relief Schemes administered by:
 - ✓ **Department of Small Business Development**, including:
 - ✓ Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA);
 - ✓ Small Enterprise Development Agency;
 - ✓ **Department of Tourism**



END

***I thank you
Chairperson!***