

Embargoed

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Township Entrepreneurs to help drive the economy

Gauteng Department of Economic Development announces finalist for the township entrepreneurship awards

The Gauteng Department of Economic Development's Township Entrepreneurships Awards is set to present the solution to addressing some of the country's socio-economic challenges such as our high unemployment rates. The award also enables the sustainability of township entrepreneurs through support, recognition and the rewarding of entrepreneurial talent in township settlements.

The Department of Economic Development today announced the finalists of the Township Entrepreneurship Awards at an event held at the Germiston Lapa, in the City of Ekurhuleni.

Over 214 entrepreneurs entered the Awards, which comprises of 16 categories in the following fields: Food & Beverages, Creative Industries, Tourism, Retail & Finance, Services, Manufacturing, Agri-Business, Transport, Automotive & Components, Construction, Building & Real Estate, Social & Community, and New/Start-up Enterprises, and across all sectors of the following categories: Entrepreneurs with a Disability, Youth Entrepreneur of the Year, Woman Entrepreneur of the Year, Entrepreneur of the Year and Life Time Achievement Award.

"The quality of work taking place in townships is amazing and the results from the shortlisting process are confirmation of inventive and innovative thinking among our township entrepreneurs. It's important that both government and the private sector businesses begin to truly recognise the value that township entrepreneurs can add in the broader business space, and to tap into these resources and skills to support and grow township entrepreneurs," says the MEC for Economic, Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development, Lebogang Maile.

The Awards form part of the Gauteng Township Economy Revitalisation Strategy which aims to contribute to the overall vision of a country with an economy that can sustainably meet the material needs of all its citizens by 2030.

Within the first year of government implementing the township economy renewal strategy, it spent R1.8 billion on goods and services from township entrepreneurs, with an additional R1.6 billion being spent by municipalities.

Maile says, "On the backdrop of Gauteng Township Economy Revitalisation Strategy which stresses that 90% of the new 11 million jobs to be created by 2030 will come from Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises (SMME), and that the City's growth path should be inclusive and equitable; it is important that robust efforts are made to revitalise the township economy and develop new, innovation-driven industries to ensure inclusive participation in the economy; and grow the SMME sector, recognising their fundamental role as a key driver of employment creation and socio-economic development."

He highlighted that 70% to 80% of all small businesses fail in their first year and only about half of those that survive, remain in business for the next five years. Small businesses only have a 37% chance of surviving for four years and 9% chance of surviving for 10 years. The Gauteng Department of Economic Development aims to help change this picture by providing support and structures that will enable the progression and sustainability of small businesses.

“With the high rate of unemployment, especially among our youth, township entrepreneurs present the ideal solution to addressing some challenges. We are pleased with the quality of entries that we have received and are confident that all the businesses that have shown interest in the Township Entrepreneurship Awards, will continue to play a meaningful role in driving economic development.”

All finalists will participate in a fourteen-part reality television show that will see them going through a series of real and practical business experiences, intended to sharpen and enhance their business skills. Winners will be announced at an awards gala dinner to be held in March 2017.

The Finalists for the Township Entrepreneurship Awards are:

Agriculture

Bright Future Agricultural
Krout Sprout
Hlubuko Farm Primary Co-Operative

Manufacturing

Katlego Movement KMC
Nambitha Nutritional Products
Hydrangea Trading and Farming

Construction, Building & Real Estate

TM Group/Teboho Mofamadi Trading and Constructions
Shirinda Trading and Projects (Pty) Ltd
Linky Building and Civil Contractors

Creative industry

Bala Books Creations
Malesela Samuel Mogale Business Enterprise
Rare Zolution Design and Craft

Food & Beverage

Glopale Trading Enterprise
Mawele Empire
Goapele Bakery

Retail & Finance

Fountain of Beauty (F.O.B)
Cool Apple Dude Buddy (PTY) LTD
X-Haulted Trading and Projects CC

Services

Ama X-Rays (Pty) Ltd
Makhabisi Recycling and Trading CC
Cosmo Assure Services T/A Cosmo Funeral

Start up

DV Nhlapo Productions
Kwa Jerry Fast Food
Vanwamati Business Investments

Tourism

SN Emthunzini Management CC
Zazas guesthouse and Spa
Suzy's Nice Palace and Tours

Transport, Automotive & Componentes

Kgabo Cars Training Centre CC.
Nyembe Waste Management (Pty) Ltd
Yellow Taxi Primary Co-operative

Social & Community

Itireleng Development Projects
Ditshiamiso business Enterprise
Thinasonke Day Care and Creche

About the Township Entrepreneurship Awards:

The Gauteng Department of Economic Development launched the Township Entrepreneurship Awards in answer to the call for and its specific mandate to revitalize the Gauteng city region townships' economy. The main objective of the awards is to recognise and reward entrepreneurial talent in township settlements whilst building and cementing confidence in township based businesses. Equally important is the impact that the awards will have in changing negative perceptions about township based businesses as well as encouraging and inspiring township entrepreneurs to realize the conceivable economic gains for the communities within which they operate.

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