

The Weekly

CENTRALISED SUPPLIER DATABASE LAUNCHED IN XHARIEP

December 19, 2012



Bolstering SMME empowerment ... MEC, Seiso Mohai, says the introduction of centralised database in municipalities will boost local economic development plans

The MEC for finance, Seiso Mohai, launched the centralised provincial supplier database pilot initiative at Trompsburg in the Xhariep district last Tuesday, as part of the Free State government's continuous endeavours to support and build the capacity of municipalities.

The project is aimed at extending access of the centralised provincial supplier database to municipalities, and is first been implemented in Xhariep before being rolled out to the rest of the municipalities across the province.

Mohai told the communities of the local municipalities under Xhariep District Municipality that the database offers them an opportunity to participate in their own development.

"The more local suppliers register, the more they will reduce the number of audit queries. I am confident the initiative will yield desired results", said Mohai. The acting mayor of Xhariep district, Vuyusile Mona, acknowledged that the municipality does not have many registered suppliers and was happy that the database will enable it to register more.

The branch manager of SEDA in Xhariep branch, Oupa Kale, expressed hope that small enterprises will use this opportunity to grow their businesses. He pleaded with municipalities to procure goods and service from local businesses.

A local supplier, who chose to remain anonymous, told The Weekly that before the introduction of the centralised database in the district, service providers were forced to travel up to 80 km's to Bloemfontein just to register their businesses.

"There were times when I wanted to give up on my catering business as public transport is also a problem in most of the local towns, and we had to rely on hitchhiking, which can be dangerous sometimes".

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The centralised provincial supplier database will increase access to the centralised provincial supplier database and assist municipalities in addressing recurrent audit queries. Municipalities will also benefit by gaining access to a bigger and wider pool of prospective suppliers.

Prospective service providers will benefit by saving on travelling costs for the collection and submission of registration forms as municipalities will serve as distribution and collection service centres.

The local economic development (LED) will also be greatly enhanced as local service providers will be prioritised in respect of all procurement, subject to the nature of service or product needed and the availability of local service providers.

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