

To: All Media/News Editors

Media Advisory

19 May 2023

## **OPERATION VULA APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN**

KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs would like to announce that applications for the second window of the Operation Vula Fund as announced by MEC Siboniso Duma last month are now open for KwaZulu-Natal entrepreneurs to apply. The fund seeks to end the economic exclusion and marginalisation of previously disadvantaged entrepreneurs in the mainstream economy.

MEC Siboniso Duma said through Operation Vula, the necessary funding will be provided to support black enterprise development and to ignite an entrepreneurial revolution that held the promise of creating the millions of jobs needed. "We are unambiguous that the KwaZulu-Natal economy needs to be deracialised and it must reflect the demographics of our province, the majority of whom are black, women and young people," he said.

MEC Duma said unless concerted efforts are made to transform the economy of the province by supporting the township and rural enterprises of all shapes, the glass ceiling of the economic legacies of apartheid will never be broken.

During the first window, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs disbursed more than R339 181 738.51 to more than 1 018 beneficiaries across the province of KwaZulu-Natal. Almost 25% of the total funds that were disbursed were in the agriculture and agri-business sectors, followed by the manufacturing sector at 24%.

Women, Youth and people living with Disability owned businesses are encouraged to apply. Only South African-owned businesses based in KwaZulu-Natal province preference will be given to rural and township businesses.

The Operation Vula Fund is capped at:

R1 - R50 000 for Tier 1 applications only for informal Economy traders

- Fully completed, approved OVF form
- should be in possession of an informal trading permit issued by a local municipality;

R50 001 - R300 000 for Tier 2 applications

- Fully completed, approved OVF form
- 6 months bank Statements
- Company registration documentation copy of partnership agreement;
- Cooperative constitution/articles or memorandum of association;
- Shareholder's certificate showing full details of shareholders;
- National identity copies of all shareholders and directors;
- Copy of BBBEE certificate;
- SARS tax clearance;
- Business plan and (Feasibility study where the business considers future expansion);
- Curriculum vitae of the Management team; and
- Leases / PTO / Title deeds / EIA approvals (if applicable)

R300 001 - R2 million for Tier 3 applications.

- Fully completed, approved OVF form
- Two years of Annual financial statements
- Company registration documentation copy of partnership agreement;
- Cooperative constitution/articles or memorandum of association;
- Shareholder's certificate showing full details of shareholders;
- National identity copies of all shareholders and directors;
- Copy of BBBEE certificate;
- SARS tax clearance;
- Business plan and (Feasibility study where the business considers future expansion);
- Curriculum vitae of the Management team; and
- Leases / PTO / Title deeds / EIA approvals (if applicable)

Application forms may be downloaded from the EDTEA website at <https://www.kznedtea.gov.za/resource-centre/forms/other-forms> or obtained from any EDTEA District Offices.

Applications open today 19 May 2023 and the closing date for submission is 20 June 2023.

ENDS

**ISSUED BY THE KZN DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS.**

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