**MEDIA RELEASE 3 February 2016**



#EDCentres

# NWDC opens more Enterprise Development Centres to support small businesses

A new era has dawned for co-operatives, small businesses and entrepreneurs in the North West Province, with the North West Development Corporation (NWDC) opening up a number of Enterprise Development Centres across the Province.

The establishment of Enterprise Development Centres (EDCs) is a project of the North West Development Corporation (NWDC) aimed at bringing services such as business support and economic development to communities throughout the province.

The Enterprise Development Centre was formally opened by the Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Mr Backson M Masuku and North West MEC for Economy and Enterprise Development (FEED), Ms Wendy J Nelson in the village of Madikwe during 2015.

To enlarge the footprint and reach of the services offered by the Enterprise Development Centres, the NWDC has announced that it will open more such centres by April 2016.

The founding of the EDCs are inspired by the vision of North West Premier Supra Mahumapelo to rebrand, reposition and renew villages, townships and *small* *dorpies (*VTSDs); and to embark on a journey to bring services to the people that need them most.

Furthermore, opening a series of Enterprise Development Centres, is the realisation of what MEC Wendy Nelson promised in her May 2015 Budget speech when she said: “With continued economic development, social upliftment and sector growth at the helm of both the national and provincial development agenda, the NWDC has repositioned itself to implement projects in line with the provincial priorities. The focus will be to create enterprise in villages, to open economic hubs in townships thus resuscitating villages, townships and small dorpies.”

The community-based Enterprise Development Centre offers a full suite of complimentary services, which include:

* General business advice
* Assistance with company registrations, including submitting documentation
* Assistance in registering co-operatives
* Funding advice and assistance in applying; where applicable
* Referrals - internally and to other institutions
* Hosting of local training workshops and seminars
* A business meeting space
* Links to the local LED offices
* Provide platform for other development institutions

The EDCs are supported by a network of partners who will provide material, leaflets, brochures and valuable access to information.

NWDC Acting CEO, Mr Lemogang Moletsane said “The NWDC is excited to roll-out the next phase of Enterprise Development Centres to benefit the rural communities of our province. We are indebted to the provincial department of Economy and Enterprise Development (FEED) for their guidance and to the local municipalities involved for their assistance and support.”

For more information on the opening of the additional EDCs, visit [www.nwdc.co.za](http://www.nwdc.co.za) and click on the Small Business menu; or contact project manager Tshepo Shai on 018 381 3663.

For more information on NWDC’s services offered specifically to small businesses, contact their small business division. Speak to Mr Welane Wanzi on 018 381 3663.

**Release ends**

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