



the dti

Department:  
Trade and Industry  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## the dti's NATIONAL ANNUAL SMALL BUSINESS SUMMIT

### STAKEHOLDER BRIEF

#### 1. WHAT IS THE ANNUAL SMALL BUSINESS SUMMIT?

- 1.1 A national annual summit hosted by the Minister of Trade and Industry to share his perspective on achievements and how **the dti** and its partners have been responding to the small business sector development challenges;
- 1.2 A platform for **the dti** to strengthen the policy and strategy dialogue among role players in the small business development sector;
- 1.3 A platform for the National Small Business Advisory Council to interact with stakeholders and receive public inputs in the focus areas of its work;
- 1.4 A colloquium for sharing and linking research findings and practical experiences between academic researchers and sector development specialists;
- 1.5 A mechanism to promote work done by **the dti** and its partners within and outside the public sector.

#### 2008 SUMMIT FOCUS

#### SUMMIT THEME: "CONSOLIDATING PARTNERSHIPS AND LINKAGES FOR SUSTAINABLE SMALL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT"

#### 2. Theme for the 2008 Summit

- 2.1 The thematic focus for this year's Summit is "**CONSOLIDATING PARTNERSHIPS AND LINKAGES FOR SUSTAINABLE SMALL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**".
- 2.2 This theme arises from realization that government alone is unable to promote a viable and sustainable small business sector. At best what the government can do, and has indeed been doing with great success, is to create an enabling environment for small enterprises to thrive and expand.
- 2.3 However, an enabling environment is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for small enterprises to thrive and expand. What is critical in developing a sustainable small business sector is forging strategic partnerships and linkages among different stakeholders in the sector.
- 2.4 Partnerships and linkages take many different forms, and can happen at four distinct levels. Firstly, there are partnerships and linkages among the three tiers (national, provincial and local) of government to promote sustainable small businesses. How do these partnerships and

linkages manifest themselves? How can we strengthen these partnerships in the interest of promoting the small business sector?

- 2.5 Secondly, there are partnerships and linkages between the private sector and public sector to promote small enterprises. How successful are these partnerships in addressing the developmental needs of small enterprises?
- 2.6 Thirdly, there are partnerships and linkages occurring within the private sector to promote small enterprises. How successful are these initiatives in promoting small enterprises? What lessons can be learnt from these initiatives? What is the role of organized business in galvanizing partnerships?
- 2.7 Lastly, there are partnerships and linkages for the promotion of small enterprises that are taking place at the international level. These initiatives are supported by multilateral agreements and official donor assistance agents. How do these partnerships manifest themselves? To what extent are they successful in addressing the developmental needs of small enterprises?

### **3. Linking the presentations and discussions**

- 3.1 Linking the outlined dimensions of this theme, with impact to the primary objectives of government's priority in small enterprise development work as pointed to in the National Small Business Strategy are the summit presentations and discussions, focusing on:
  - 3.1.1 Increasing supply for financial and non-financial support services;
  - 3.1.2 Creating demand for Small Enterprise Products and Services; and
  - 3.1.3 Reducing Small Enterprise Regulatory Constraints.
- 3.2 Furthermore, the summit will input to the work of the National Small Business Advisory Council (NSBAC), which mainly focuses on:
  - 3.2.1 Strategies to address identified market failures affecting the sector;
  - 3.2.2 The impact of current and new legislation on small enterprises;
  - 3.3.3 The development of necessary skills in all aspects of running a business; and
  - 3.3.4 Steps to be taken to create access for small enterprises into mainstream economy value chain.

#### **4. WHO SHOULD ATTEND THE SUMMIT?**

- Government Policy Makers
- SMME Decision-Makers
- Entrepreneurs
- Financiers
- Entrepreneurship educators
- Incubator s specialists
- Business Consultants
- Academia