

Department of Economic Development and Tourism  
**Mpumalanga Provincial Government**

Building Number 4 | No. 7 Government Boulevard | Riverside Park Extension 2 | Mbombela | 1201  
Private Bag X 11215 | Mbombela | 1200  
Tel. 013 766 4271 | 4148 | 4328 | 4486 | 4176

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

---

**Date: 01 October 2014**

**Attention: Editors | Executive Producers | Journalists**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **GOVERNMENT WILL WORK WITH CO-OPERATIVES TO CREATE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE OF MPUMALANGA – MEC KHOLWANE**

---

**Secunda** – Mpumalanga Finance, Economic Development and Tourism MEC, Mr. Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane has urged the private sector to support government's efforts of strengthening SMMEs and co-operatives as they play a crucial role in economic growth of the Province.

Mr Kholwane said this when addressing the second summit of the South African National Apex Co-operatives in Secunda on Tuesday, 30 September 2014.

"We implore on the private sector to put SMMEs and co-operatives at the centre of the Provincial economic trajectory given their ability to create the much needed jobs. We are committed to realise radical transformation of the South African economy, hence we commit to deal with the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality facing our government without failure", said Kholwane.

He indicated that the amendment of the Co-operatives Act and the establishment of the Ministry of Small Business Development by the ANC led government, is a clear commitment to bring about radical economic transformation in the second phase of the transition which was declared at the ruling party's 53<sup>rd</sup> conference resolutions.

MEC Kholwane also indicated that the Mpumalanga government has allocated R12.3 million to support SMMEs and co-operatives in the current financial year. Kholwane further cautioned against corrupt practices in businesses dealings, as this is undermining service delivery and weakening the moral fibre of the nation. He urged business people and all South Africans to refuse to pay any form of bribe to anyone.

**#END#**

*Issued by the Communication Directorate  
Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development and Tourism  
For media enquiries contact:  
Mohau Ramodibe on 082 771 9950 | 013 766 4148*

