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## ***MEDIA STATEMENT***

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**Date: 25 November 2015**

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**Attention: News Editors/ Assignment Editors**

### **KHOLWANE LAUNCHED MPUMALANGA YOUTH BUSINESS PORTAL**

**Mbombela** – Mpumalanga MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane has called on the youth of the Province to unearth their inner entrepreneurial skills in order to contribute towards economic growth. MEC Kholwane was speaking during the launch of the Mpumalanga Youth Business Portal at the Mbombela Stadium last night (Tuesday, 24 November 2015).

Addressing about 300 youth from across the Province, Mr Kholwane said the Youth Portal is an essential developmental channel of information, which provides the youth will one-stop information service.

“Statistics indicate that big businesses are no longer creating jobs in high numbers, but small businesses do. This means small businesses are now the main drivers of jobs, hence I urge you to utilise the Portal to your advantage. Through the Portal, we have provided you will one-stop information service and thus you no longer have to peruse a lot of disintegrated websites to get the information you require”, explained MEC Kholwane.

The Youth Portal was developed by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, in conjunction with the Office of the Premier, supported by the Mbombela Local Municipality and the Mpumalanga Youth Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

“The Portal we are launching tonight is one of our responses to the Youth Employment Accord which was signed by youth formations of South Africa, government, organised business, organised labour and community formations on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April 2013”, added Mr Kholwane.

The Portal will assist the youth to access business opportunities from not only government and its agencies, but also from the private sector at large. It will further offer the youth a platform to profile their businesses and services to a large market of government and business within the various sectors of the economy.

The MEC also informed the gathering that government is introducing one Central Supplier Database across the country, which will eliminate multiple registrations as is the case with the current disintegrated systems. The new system is expected to go live from 01 April 2016.

“What this means is that you will be required to register your business once, and your company will appear in all government departments, state-owned entities and municipalities across the country. We are also introducing the e-Tender System as part of improving business processes in the Provincial Government. We urge you to register your businesses on the new databases. You can even do this at the comfort of your home”, added the MEC.

The Mpumalanga Youth Biz Portal can be accessed on: [www.mpyouthbiz.co.za](http://www.mpyouthbiz.co.za), whereas the Central Database can be accessed on: [www.csd.gov.za](http://www.csd.gov.za).

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***Issued by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism  
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