

## GAUTENG PROVINCIAL OFFICE COOPERATIVES TOOK CENTRE STAGE AT THE SOCIAL SECTOR SUMMIT EXHIBITION AREA



*President Cyril Ramaphosa and The Overall Convener NEDLAC, Mr Thulani Tsefutsa Signing The Framework Agreement*

The NDA participated in the historic Social Sector Summit that took place early in August 2022. It was the first time, since the dawn of democracy, that a President of the Republic of South Africa signed a Framework Agreement with the social sector to concretize the relationship. Government and the social sector have always operated at NEDLAC level, which meant that a few social sector players were included in decision making processes, leaving out the majority who didn't find themselves at NEDLAC.

Both Government and the social sector have worked in a fragmented way to respond to challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. The efforts for both partners have always fallen short and been diluted. This resulted in the inability to measure the impact of programmes run by both parties.

On Friday, 05 August, the President of the Republic of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, and the Overall Convener of the Community Constituency Thulani Tsefutsa, Minister Lindiwe Zulu and Minister Thulas Nxesi signed a Framework Agreement that is meant to reaffirm the principles of working together to end these triple challenges.

The Framework Agreement also cements the NDA as an institution that should be strengthened to ensure that the capacity building of the social sector is taken seriously. The signed copy of the agreement will be shared as soon as it is received by the NDA.

On the other news, the NDA hosted an exhibition where Public Works, GCIS, Arts & Culture Social Development and its entities showcased their programmes that support the social sector.

**However, the most valuable guests at the exhibition were the five Gauteng NDA-funded Cooperatives. They showcased and sold their products at the exhibition. Some even went home with orders from Summit participants.**

**Mr Martin Kgohe from Litembe Designs Cooperative** said, "we have learnt a lot from this event. This was an eye opener for us. We were able to benchmark our products with those of our counterparts. We now know the importance of communicating with other people who are doing the same business. We appreciate the opportunity".

**Mrs Thuso Motua of Ipadts Primary Cooperative** manufactures cleaning detergents. She expressed her gratitude as she got an opportunity to engage with many people who will be able to assist their business to grow.

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She was happy that she also got the opportunity to sell all the products that she brought to the exhibition.

**Mr Njabulo Miso has a Cooperative that manufactures beds, MDM Supreme Enterprise** - "COVID-19 affected our business badly. It has been difficult for our business to be back on top ever since. The NDA is giving us an opportunity to start again and showcasing our work at this function is a step in the right direction", he said.

**Phamphang Environmental Organisation focuses on agriculture.** It was represented by Mr Pheko Mofokeng, who came with samples of the different seedlings and vegetables they produce from their nursery and two hectares of land in Heidelberg.

**Reotlwile-Sizweli Primary Cooperative** was represented by Mr Fusi Khambola, a young fashion designer who has his own label. He said that he was just looking for any opportunity to promote their label. The exhibition gave them some leads that he hopes will come through. He mentioned that they desperately need a branding machine to take their business to another level.

A surge of excitement engulfed the exhibitors when Ms Bridgette Masango, a member of the Social Development Portfolio Committee, visited NDA stands to see the exhibitors and engage with the Cooperatives.

Other exhibitors were Philani Development Centre, SAIBA, Kagiso Trust and MDDA.



Mr Pheko Mofokeng, Ms Bridget Masango, Ms Mapule Phora, Mr Martin Kgobe, Ms Thuso Matau, Mr Fusi Khambola



NDA Exhibition hosting the Corporatives



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