

Aganang to boost Local Economic Development through funding of Youth projects

The problem of youth unemployment is eminent in many rural areas of Aganang Municipality, and this need to be addressed in various ways. Even though other young people have small businesses and cooperatives, it is difficult for such structures to sustain themselves as input costs are higher.

Aganang Municipality has in this regard come up with a plan to deal with the alarming crises of unemployment. The Municipality has in place a Local Economic Development Strategy which identifies the Local Farmers Support (LFS) and Youth Enterprise Support (YES) programmes and SMMEs. Budget of about R600 000 has been set aside in the IDP/Budget 2015/16 to support local Cooperatives or any form of organized business.

The initiative is aimed at stimulating pro-poor growth and development and increasing employment opportunities, supporting emerging businesses to increase their outputs and reducing their input costs and incubation of the existing financially struggling LED projects.

The Municipality is also launching a Youth Biz Competition which is targeting youth entrepreneurs around Aganang. The Municipality is trying to reduce the challenge of youth unemployment and encouraging young Entrepreneurs so that they can become employers of young people in their businesses. The Municipality will sought partnership with Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA), Capricorn District Municipality (CDM), and Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) on the project

Youth Biz Competition seeks to strengthen existing businesses owned and managed by young people by offering a financial support to the winners of the competition. The competition comprises of submission of business proposal or Business plans by youth owned and managed businesses, physical verification (due diligence) of the business and business plan presentation.

All existing businesses within the Jurisdiction of Aganang Local Municipality from different economic sectors (except liquor), which are owned and managed by young people, registered with Companies and intellectual property commission (CIPC) are encouraged to join the competition. It is further required that the business should have been operational for period between one (01) – Five (05) years.

Interested Young owned and managed businesses shall submit a designated application form obtained from Aganang Local Municipality (LED Office) after a public notice has been made before a set closing date. The application forms shall be accompanied by supporting document as stated. The municipality will invite all qualifying applicants for the evaluation during October/November 2015.

For enquiries contact LED Unit @ **015 295 1405/1435/1436.**