PRESS RELEASE

November 2012



Ekurhuleni Bakery receives funding from Peermont

Khuphukani Bakery and Confectionary cc received funding of more than R800.000 (Eight Hundred Thousand Rand) from the Ekurhuleni Peermont Chambers of Commerce Trust (EPCoCT) as part of an Emperors Palace Enterprise Development initiative, aimed at assisting the owners of the Khuphukani Bakery to reach optimum growth in their business endeavour.

The objective of the EPCoCT is to do grant-funding to small and micro enterprises and self-help projects designed to uplift the socio-economic status of the poor and marginalized people within the Ekurhuleni Municipality.

The EPCoCT has approved grant-funding of up to R7.5 million (Seven and Half Million Rand) in the financial year that ended on 29 February 2012. Sixteen organizations, which directly employ about 151 people, have benefitted from this Peermont enterprise development initiative. Since inception in 2008, the EPCoCT has disbursed over R15 million (Fifteen Million Rand) in support of SMMEs that have demonstrated a potential to empower local businesses, grow the economy and create sustainable jobs.

Founded in 2006 by five local women, the Khuphukani Bakery produces a variety of products, including freshly baked scones, assorted muffins and biscuits, cream cakes, fruit loaves, pies and snowballs. The women owners of the business have established a loyal customer base through exceptional product quality, freshly baked goods and competitive pricing. The delicious products appeal to schools, weddings, burial societies and the general public.

The five directors of Khuphukani have expressed their gratitude and have added that they endeavor to grow the business and create much needed job opportunities for the local community.

"Efforts such what we witnessing today, will go a long way towards the elimination of hunger and poverty, whilst at the same time creating jobs for the local community. There is no better way of eliminating the

remaining gender disadvantages in all spheres of lives than the economic empowerment of women. Empowering a woman is empowering a nation – and we need to see increased efforts at accelerating economic opportunities for women," opined Vusi Zwane, Peermont's Group Corporate Affairs Executive.

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