

# Businesses appeal to government to support SMMEs

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THE business community in the OR Tambo region believes that the hardships SMMEs are experiencing in running their own businesses are because of a lack of support.

They are appealing to the government to pave the way and give necessary support to the SMMEs.

This was revealed by the OR Tambo Chamber of Business Secretary General

Andile Nontso in Mthatha last week.

Nontso said that SMMEs received very little support from the government and they were also immensely affected by the government departments and municipalities' late payments.

These created a lot of trouble and resulted in the SMMEs failing to run their businesses properly.

“Let SMMEs open supermarkets next to universities or let TVT Colleges award them student accommodation,” said Nont-

so. He lambasted university officials for charging the SMMEs who apply to accommodate students.

He encouraged SMMEs to open fish processing plants and to sell fish exports in order to revolutionise the fishing industry.

“Give all government-owned properties to SMMEs, eg. ECDC flats and factories, Public Works properties,” said Nontso.

He said ECDC flats must be sold to the tenants and allow the ECDC to focus on their core business – economic develop-

ment. “Give property to black owners in cities and towns in the main streets. Set targets and fund those projects.

“Revisit laws pertaining to VAT collection, tax clearance conditions and income tax issues.

“Also, look at labour laws like UIF, compensation and staff salary payment laws to make it easier for SMME's to do business and employ staff.

“Do not treat big corporates the same as SMMEs,” he concluded.