



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

## CORPORATE COMMUNICATION SERVICES

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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 17 AUGUST 2005**

**EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **AWARDING OF TENDERS TO CO-OPERATIVES**

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health is becoming a department of many firsts. A week ago this department officially opened the very first 24-hour operations and call centre in the province and in the country.

The Department is again making history by being the first department to award tenders to the much talked about co-operatives. The MEC for Health Mrs Neliswa Nkonyeni has committed herself and the department to availing the market to co-operatives to help alleviate poverty and to enable the public especially women to supply goods and services to the department. The department believes that this programme will go far in eradicating poverty this improving the health status of the people of this province.

The Provincial Department of Health is the biggest buyer with more than R 3.8 billion being spent on procurement alone, which would include buying items like, curtain, sheets, gowns and services such as cleaning, etc.

This type of market has in the past not been easily accessible to the community on the ground, but this co-ops programme this will change as more and more people will be able to get a slice.

A co-operative can be formed by a minimum of 11 community members with a common purpose or interest in a particular business.

In May this year the department established a new unit called the Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) and Public Private Partnership (PPP) to fast track and monitor the co-ops programme.

**The goods and services to be procured from co-operatives by the department include:**



<b>CLEANING AND TOILETRY</b>	-cleaning detergents and other related consumables, -Disposable paper and related items
<b>CLOTHING AND TEXTILES</b>	-supply of T-shirts and caps -clothing and textiles: bedspreads, blankets, nightdresses, sheets, nurses uniforms, bath towels, pillowcases etc -Uniforms and Protective clothing: belts, jackets etc -Uniforms for General Assistants -Security Uniforms -Curtains for institutions
<b>GENERAL OFFICE SUPPLIES</b>	-General Printing
<b>BAGS</b>	-home based care bags
<b>FURNITURE AND RELATED ITEMS</b>	-Domestic furniture -office furniture -wooden crutches and walking sticks
<b>FOOD RELATED ITEMS</b>	-Functions Catering
<b>SERVICES</b>	-Gardens and Grounds maintainace -Community Services: securing, cleaning and maintainance of clinics -Cleaning buildings

In the past few weeks the department put out tenders specifically targeted at co-operatives. Around 30 co-operatives were successful and will be awarded the tenders for the first time at an event to be held in Eshowe as follows:

**DATE: 20 AUGUST 2005**

**TIME: 10H00**

**VENUE: NKUME STADIUM, ESHOWE**

The media is invited to attend and report on this event.

For more details please contact Lindiwe Khuzwayo on 083 393 9943.

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