



Contact : Khaya Njingolo (Deputy Director: SMME)
Tel : 011 951 2330
Cell : 0742805094
Email : cliffordm@mogalecity.gov.za

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mogale City Local Municipality goes Plato

“Mogale City Local Municipality to launch a Plato Project”

Mogale City Local Municipality will on Wednesday, 23 May 2007, launch the Plato project at 16h30 at the Centenary Hall (Mogale City Local Municipality). This is a partnership project with the Belgian Chamber of Commerce for Enterprise Development.

About Plato

What is Plato? The Mogale City Local Municipality has profitably joined forces with an organization called “Voka Chamber of Commerce” of East Flanders in Belgium. And, the name of the partnership project for Enterprise Development is inherently a living network called Plato, which is of Belgium origin, though, customized to local conditions.

In line with local economic empowerment, Mogale City has also joined the Bitou Local Municipality and Mangaung Local Municipality in implementing the Plato project in South Africa.

However, the aim of the Plato project in South Africa is the transfer from Plato know how (Plato as a living network) from Voka Chamber of Commerce East-Flanders to an Intermediary Socio-Economic partner in the country, with Chambers in SA (as lead partners) in partnership with the three Local Authorities; Mogale City, Bitou and Mangaung.

The project partners, supported by regional, provincial national authorities believe that the creation of a sustainable Plato network is an answer to the needs of Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SME's) in South Africa.

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The Plato project will focus on professional coaching of SME- owners by managers/mentors from corporate companies and it will create a multi Sectoral, Economic and internationalized network that deals with problems that SME's in General face.

Internationally, the Plato South Africa project establishes contacts with Plato network in Flanders via joint coordination sessions, a support group and a South African Club. A Plato – Network requires close cooperation of participation with Flemish and South African Economic and Educational Institution to achieve complementarities and broader impact.

For more information on Plato project and the launch in Mogale City, contact Khaya Njingolo at 011 951 2330 or 0742805094 and email: cliffordm@mogalecity.gov.za

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