

NORTH WEST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE NWU BUSINESS SCHOOL RESEARCH OF TOWNSHIP ECONOMY

The NWCoCI in conjunction with the NWU Business School, has just concluded Phase I of their Project to establish the state of the Township Economy in the North West Province.

“The preliminary findings do not make for good reading”, Prof Ronnie Lotriet, the team leader, said on Thursday in Pretoria. He was presenting the findings of Phase 1 to the senior management of the Economic Development Department who commissioned the project.

“We have only done a small sample in 18 municipalities in the four districts and already found that foreigners own most of the economy in villages, townships and small dorpiess. A lack of data of how many shops, formal and informal, there are in the Province is also disturbing.

“The empirical study and analysis done in Phase 1 found thus far that the profile of the sample was predominantly male. Interestingly the age profile was more towards the millennial generation. The majority of the owners were foreigners. Most of the start-ups seemingly were to create means to survive and a large number of the shop-owners were found not to register with the local municipality.

“A lot of stock procurement took place through consortium sourcing from outside the province. The number of employed people in this sector was worrying in the sense that almost all of them are micro-enterprises that would have a survivalist orientation in any case”, Prof Lotriet said.

The preliminary findings of Phase 1 of the research have already been discussed with the Deputy President, Mr. David Mabuza.

According to the CEO of the NWCoCI, André Coertzen, much have to be done to help people to set-up their own businesses and to compete with the foreigners. “Government is looking at small - and micro enterprises to create jobs, which is an international expectation, but we need to get our house in order before we even think about that”, he said.

CAPTION:

The NWU Business School and the NWCoCI had a briefing session at the offices of the Economic Development Department in Pretoria last week on the outcome of Phase 1 of research into the township economy in the North West Province. At the briefing were: Front: Josephine Dambudzo (EDD Researcher), Andrew Matjeke (EDD), Dr. Takalani Mashabela (DDG EDD). Standing back: Ben Mabule (NW DEDECT) Moleje Pule (NW DEDECT), André Coertzen (NWCoCI) and Prof Ronnie Lotriet (NWU Business School.

