

# LED UPDATE

#2 28 October 2005



Province of the  
EASTERN CAPE



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A FORTNIGHTLY  
INFORMATION BULLETIN  
OF THE PROVINCIAL LED  
SUPPORT PROGRAMME

## Good progress made in SMME finance study

Progress has also been made with important research into financial and development institutions in the public, parastatal and private sectors. These institutions provide loan finance and other support to the LED process and for pro-poor development programmes. The research is being done by SMME expert, Robert Keith, who joined the IPCU Team in September 2005. Keith's report will focus on three major objectives, namely:

- To understand and map the provincial development finance market
- To understand and make general recommendations on ECDC lending practises and suggest options for reform including business development support services and training programmes
- Make recommendations on how the EU Local Competitiveness Fund (LCF) can trigger loans from the Financial Innovation Fund (FIF) and for the reform of ECDC's current approach.

A workshop is planned for 28 November 2005 to discuss Keith's findings.

## Setting up regional programme offices

Following the approval of the regional office model by the Programme Steering Committee, the IPCU Public Sector Institutional Development team was mandated to fine-tune and operationalise the model. Follow-up visits were subsequently made to all six provincial districts and discussions were held with key stakeholders from 21 September to 6 October 2005 to ease the way for the setting up of regional offices.

## Purpose

**LED UPDATE** is a fortnightly bulletin designed to provide information about the Provincial Local Economic Development (LED) Support Programme. It aims to keep stakeholders informed and will be available on the Provincial LED Support Programme website, departmental Intranet websites, notice boards and circulated by email. We intend to make **LED UPDATE** interesting, informative and accessible.

## The Provincial LED Support Programme

This is an exciting new programme of the Provincial Growth and Development Plan (PGDP), financed by the European Union and approved by the Provincial Executive Council.

## Provincial LED Support Programme Progress: Focus areas in the next three months

The Provincial LED Support Programme is now moving into top gear. During the next 3 months, the Interim Programme Coordination Unit (IPCU), which is currently setting up the programme, will focus on the following:

- The systematic handover of programme implementation to a permanent team, the long-term Programme Coordination Unit (PCU)
- Initiation of value chain and competitive advantage research projects which will provide a key information base for future economic development projects in the Province.
- Facilitation of the settling-in of members of the long-term PCU in the Provincial Treasury, the Eastern Cape Development Corporation, and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Traditional Affairs where they will work with government staff to support LED projects
- Facilitation of the setting up of regional offices of the programme in collaboration with district municipalities and the Eastern Cape Development Corporation
- Completion of the local government research programme and the packaging of its outcomes for a range of target audiences
- The launch of the Support Programme website at [www.ecsecc.org/led](http://www.ecsecc.org/led)

We will give you more details and project feedback in the programme's monthly full-colour newsletter *LED in action*.

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