



WOMEN ADVANCEMENT FUND



Hon. Thamsanqa Ntuli
PREMIER OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Theme: "Igniting Her Future:
A Catalyst for Economic Empowerment"

CALLING FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE KWAZULU-NATAL WOMEN ADVANCEMENT FUND

The KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Honourable Thamsanqa Ntuli, invites interested women entrepreneurs in KwaZulu-Natal to apply for the KwaZulu-Natal Women Advancement Fund (KZNWAF).

About the Fund

The KZNWAF is a Public Private Partnership Fund designed to address the unique challenges faced by women entrepreneurs by providing both financial and non-financial assistance. In addition to financial aid, the Fund offers mentorship programs, business development training, networking opportunities, and access to key resources that help women-led businesses grow and succeed in the long term. The Fund aims to foster gender equality and drive economic growth through sustainable and impactful women-owned businesses.

What the Fund Offers

KZNWAF offers a comprehensive package designed to help women entrepreneurs succeed, including:

- **Grants:** Non-repayable funding (R50,000 - R1 000 000) for high-potential businesses making a social and economic impact.
- **Term Loans:** Larger loans (R500 000 and above) for established businesses looking to scale up or invest in infrastructure.
- **Equity Financing:** Investment in businesses with high growth potential, with mentorship and strategic support.
- **Mentorship:** Gain access to experienced business mentors who will guide you through your entrepreneurial journey.
- **Business Development Services:** Receive training, incubation support, and resources to help your business grow and thrive.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Join a network of women entrepreneurs and connect with industry leaders, partners, and potential clients.
- **Access to Essential Equipment:** Tools and equipment to help you streamline and expand your business operations.

Eligibility Criteria

- **Women Ownership/Leadership:** The business must be majority-owned (80% or more) or led by women.
- **Industry Focus:** The business must operate in one of the following key sectors: agriculture and agro-processing, manufacturing, retail, technology, healthcare, energy, tourism, maritime and infrastructure development
- **Business Stage:** The fund supports startups, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and businesses in the scale-up phase.
- **Growth Potential:** The business must demonstrate potential for job creation, social impact and economic growth within the province.
- **Exclusion Criteria:** Businesses operating in industries related to alcohol, tobacco, or illegal activities are not eligible for this Fund. Additionally, applicants must not have received any government funding in the past three years.

How to Apply

To access application forms and further information, applicants are invited to visit their Local and District Municipalities' Offices or the KZN online website at www.kznonline.gov.za.

Completed forms should be submitted to the nearest Local or District Municipality by **28 February 2025**. Alternatively, women entrepreneurs can submit online at kznwaf@kznpremier.gov.za. Communication will be limited to shortlisted applicants.

Applicants should ensure they have the following documents when applying:

- For business startups, attach a Business Plan, proof of address, and company registration.
- For business expansion and growth attach company registration documents, proof of address, Tax Clearance Certificate, Business Plan, and Financial Report.

Further queries can be directed to the following contacts:

- kznwaf@kznpremier.gov.za
- 033 341 3300/42



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