

# City BEE workshop empowers

A FREE workshop aimed at assisting small tourism business owners in understanding issues around Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) proved very useful for business owners who attended.

The workshop, which was hosted by the City of Cape Town's Tourism Business Development Unit and facilitated by Buyolo Business Advisory Services, was a series of three five-hour sessions on BBBEE.

According to Mecia Petersen, assistant professional officer at the Business Tourism Development Unit, the department is currently implementing an industry transformation project.

"The primary objective is to raise awareness and education about BBBEE-related matters.

"This overall project aims to accelerate the rate and effectiveness of BBBEE initiatives operational in the tourism sector," says Petersen.

She says the workshop addressed issues such as assisting small businesses in understanding BEE, exploring how BEE impacts their or-

ganisation and how they can take advantage of BEE opportunities.

Thope Lekau, owner of Kopanong Bed & Breakfast, says she finally understands what BEE is because the facilitator explained the policy in such simple terms.

"I now know that I can score points by training my staff or partnering with other businesses," says Lekau.

She says this is definitely the kind of workshop that more small business owners need to attend because there are a lot of business opportunities available.

"I liked the idea of a half day workshop because business owners don't like to be kept away from their business for too long, but for such a short period you can set aside some time," says Lekau.

Another attendee, Barbara Plato Christoffels, the owner of Somoho Tours, says the workshop was very informative and relevant.

"People were taken by surprise to discover just how easy it is to become BEE compliant," says Christoffels.

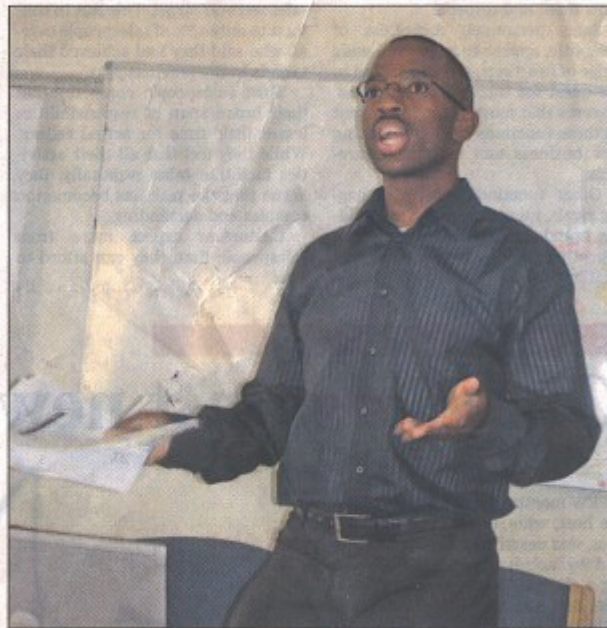


Thope Lekau of Kopanong B&B.

She says it is important that business owners attend such courses because it "makes you realise what opportunities are available".

Christoffels says she is definitely considering drawing up a scorecard for her business.

Contact the Tourism Business Development Unit on 021 483 9436 and Sphetho Siyengo on 084 584 6883.



Sphetho Siyengo of Buyolo Business Advisory Services who facilitates the City of Cape Town tourism workshops.