



Companies and Intellectual
Property Commission

a member of **the dtic** group

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN REGISTERING YOUR COMPANY

2 JUNE 2026





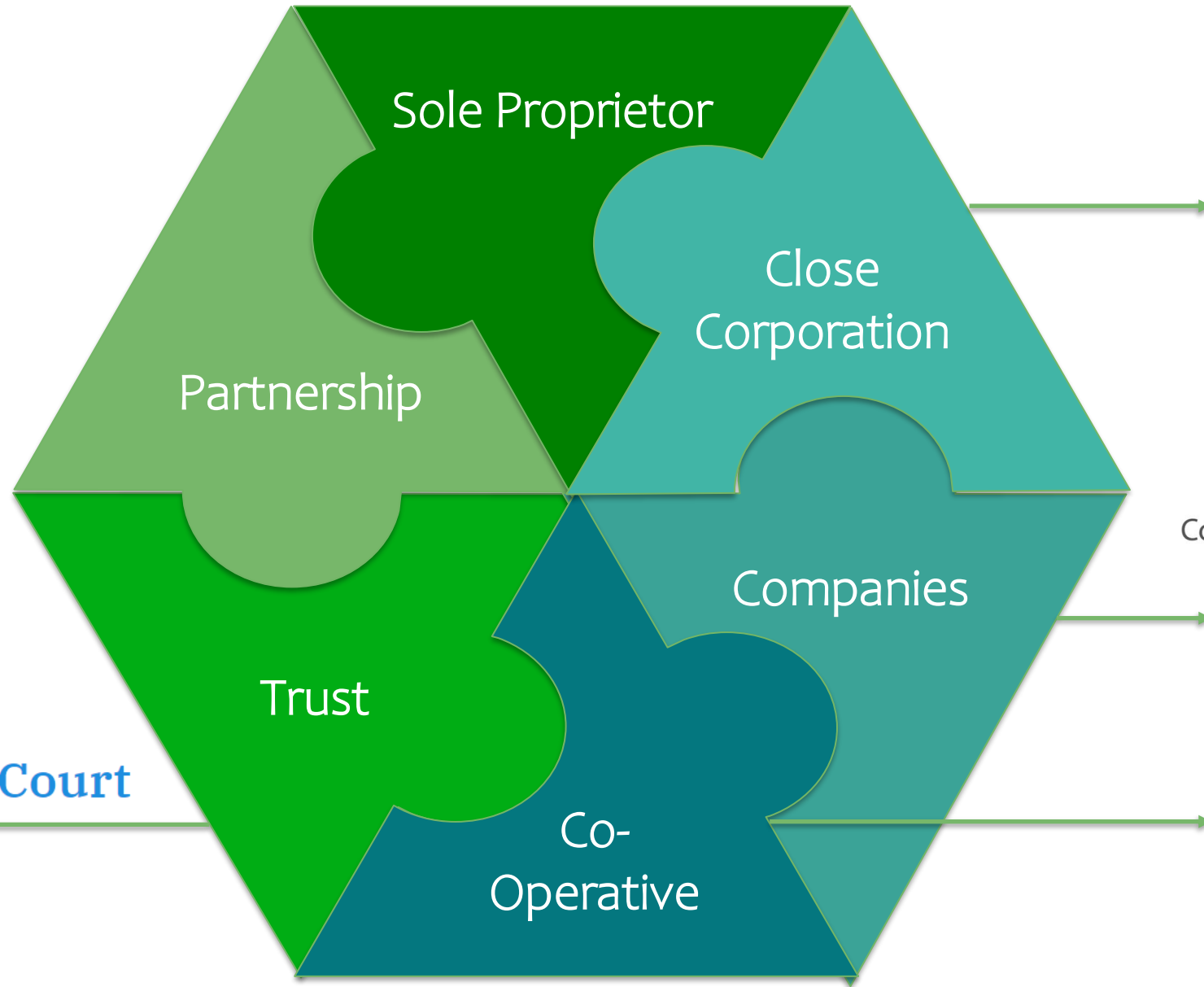
6 MAIN BUSINESS STRUCTURES



Companies and Intellectual
Property Commission

a member of **the dtic** group

6 Main Business structures



Companies and Intellectual Property Commission

a member of **the dtic** group

Master of the High Court

OTHER OPTIONS

**Non-Profit
Organisations**

**Share Block
Company**

**Voluntary
Associations**

Joint Ventures

**Special Project
Vehicle**

SOLE PROPRIETOR

A sole proprietor is an individual who owns and operates a business alone. This type of business structure is the simplest and most common form of business ownership. Here are some key points about sole proprietorships:

- **Ownership and Control:** The sole proprietor has complete control over all business decisions.
- **Liability:** The owner is personally liable for all debts and obligations of the business. This means personal assets can be used to cover business debts.
- **Taxes:** Income from the business is reported on the owner's personal tax return, and profits are taxed at the individual's personal income tax rate.
- **Simplicity:** There are fewer regulations and lower start-up costs compared to other business structures.

SOLE PROPRIETOR



Advantages

Simplicity: Easy to establish and operate with minimal regulatory requirements.

Control: Full control over all business decisions without needing to consult others.

Tax Advantages: Business income is reported on your personal tax return, potentially simplifying tax filing.

Profit Retention: You keep all the profits generated by the business.

Flexibility: Ability to quickly adapt to changes and make decisions without delay.



Disadvantages

Unlimited Liability: Personal assets are at risk if the business incurs debt or legal issues.

Funding Challenges: It can be harder to raise capital since you can't sell stock and may have limited borrowing capacity.

Workload: You are responsible for all aspects of the business, which can be overwhelming.

Continuity: The business may struggle to continue if you become ill or decide to stop working.

Limited Expertise: You may lack expertise in certain areas, which can affect business growth and efficiency.

PARTNERSHIP

A partnership is a business structure where two or more individuals (or entities) agree to manage and operate a business together, sharing its profits and liabilities.

- **Formation:** Partnerships are relatively easy to form. They often require a partnership agreement, which outlines the roles, responsibilities, and profit-sharing arrangements among partners

- **Taxation:** Partnerships are pass-through entities, meaning the business itself doesn't pay income tax. Instead, profits and losses are passed through to the partners, who report them on their personal tax returns

PARTNERSHIPS



Advantages:

Shared resources and expertise.

Simplified tax filing compared to corporations.

Flexibility in management and profit distribution.



Disadvantages:

COMPANY

A company is recognized as a separate legal entity from its owners, meaning it can enter into contracts, own property, sue, and be sued.

- **Limited Liability:** Directors and shareholders typically have limited liability, meaning they are not personally responsible for the company's debts beyond their investment in the company.

- **Perpetual Succession:** Companies continue to exist even if the ownership changes or if an owner dies.

- **Distinction between management and interest/ownership:** Management lies with the directors of the company while interest/ownership with shareholders or members. The director may or may not be the same as the shareholder.



Advantages:

- **Limited Liability:** Protects owners' personal assets.
- **Capital Raising:** Easier to raise funds through the sale of stock.
- **Continuity:** The company can continue operating independently of its owners.



Disadvantages:

- **Regulation:** Subject to more regulations and reporting requirements.
- **Complexity:** More complex and costly to set up and maintain compared to sole proprietorships and partnerships

DIFFERENCES - PROFIT COMPANIES

Type of Company	Ownership	Shares	Directors	Liability	Regulation	Suffix
Private Company (Pty) Ltd	Private individuals or entities	Not offered to the public, restricted transferability	At least one director	Shareholders have limited liability	Less stringent regulatory requirements compared to public companies	(Pty) Ltd
Public Company (Ltd)	Public shareholders	Freely traded on public stock exchanges	At least three directors	Shareholders have limited liability	Subject to strict regulatory requirements, including mandatory audits and public disclosure	Ltd
State-Owned Company (SOC Ltd)	Government	Not offered to the public, restricted transferability and owned by the State	At least three directors	Operates with limited liability	Subject to specific regulations governing state-owned enterprises	SOC Ltd
Personal Liability Company (Inc)	Often professional associations (e.g., attorneys, engineers)	Not offered to the public, restricted transferability and owned by the directors themselves	At least one director	Directors are jointly and severally liable for debts incurred during their tenure	Similar to private companies but with added personal liability for directors	Inc

DIFFERENCES – NOT FOR PROFIT

Aspect	NPC with Members	NPC without Members
Membership	Includes individuals or entities who participate in the activities of the NPC.	Does not have members.
Voting Rights	Members can have voting rights, depending on the MOI.	No members to have voting rights.
Governance	Members play a role in governance, such as electing directors.	Governance is solely in the hands of directors.
MOI Requirements	Must outline qualifications for membership, application process, and rights/obligations of members.	Must provide alternative methods for appointing directors.
Flexibility	May be less flexible due to the need to consult members.	Often simpler and more flexible in decision-making.
Purpose	Established for public benefit or other cultural, social, communal, or group interests.	Established for public benefit or other cultural, social, communal, or group interests.
Income and Property	Cannot be distributed to incorporators, members, directors, or officers; must be used to advance the NPC's purpose.	Cannot be distributed to incorporators, members, directors, or officers; must be used to advance the NPC's purpose.
Directors	Must have at least three directors.	Must have at least three directors.

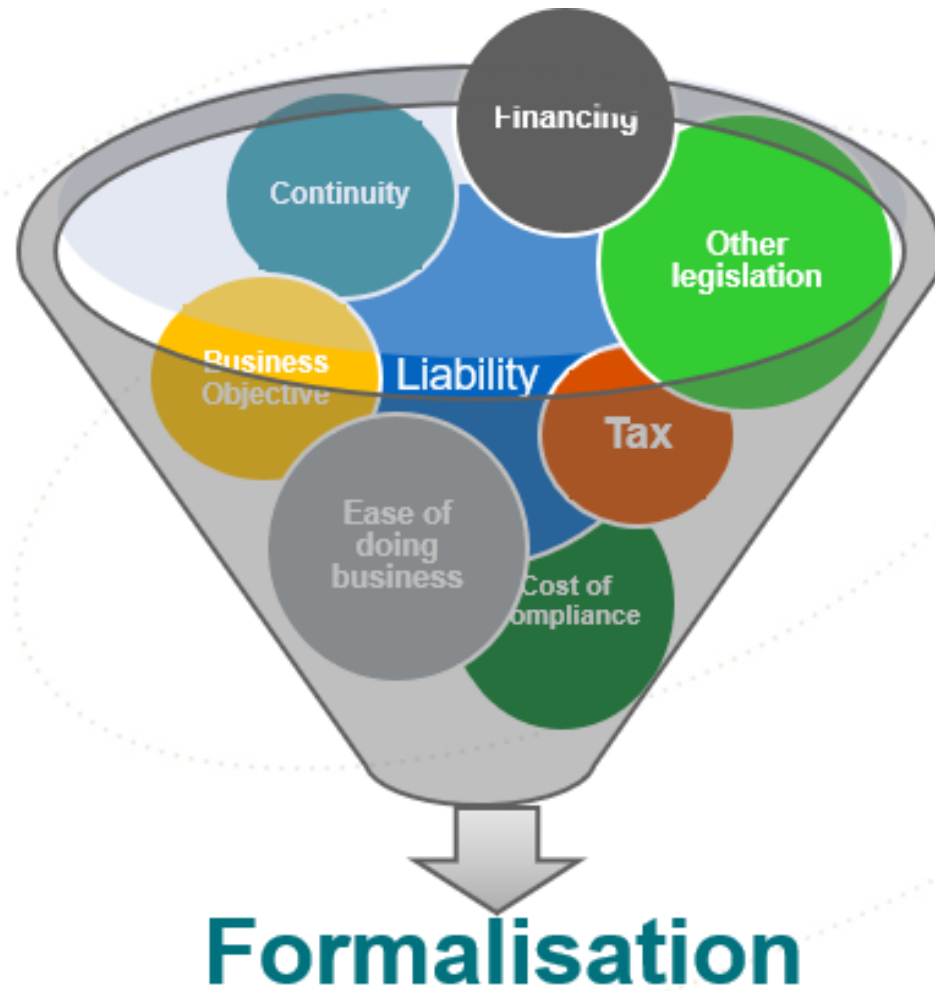
Considerations when registering a company



Companies and Intellectual
Property Commission

a member of **the dtic** group

FACTORS TO CONSIDER FOR REGISTRATION



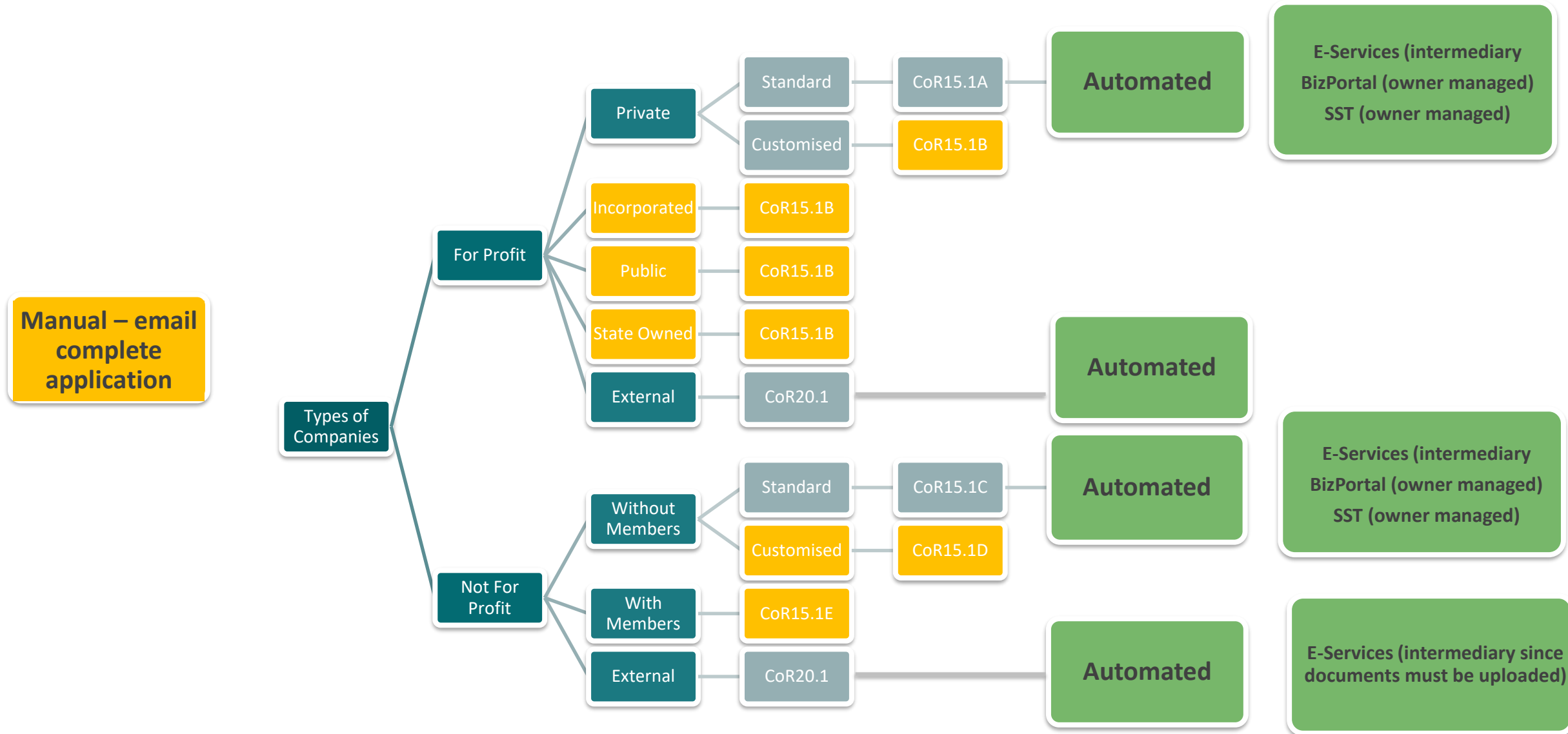
OPPORTUNITY

- Make sure economic reason or opportunity
 - Otherwise if you register you will still be required to comply
 - Landing in Compliance Hot Water!
 - There is a lot that you will be required to comply with
 - You will be automatically registered with SARS and SARS will also be contact and following up with you
 - Will only be able to close at SARS after formally deregistered with CIPC and you have a letter
- There may be tax benefits if you trade under sole proprietorship and as your business grows you can formalize
- Compliance does cost you time and money – you have to plan around it
- Advisable to consider waiting till you have an opportunity

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I REGISTER WITHOUT AN OPPORTUNITY

- You will still be required to comply with various statutory obligations regardless of whether you were actually doing business or not
- Once registered, CIPC notifies SARS who issues a Tax number – therefore SARS knows of the business and therefore, must comply with tax obligations as well
- Dormant companies are at risk of being used for fraudulent and other criminal activities – your name is associated with it as a director
- Distorts the view of how many active businesses there are within the economy
- Regulators will not know that dormant and therefore, state resources are spent that could have been used elsewhere

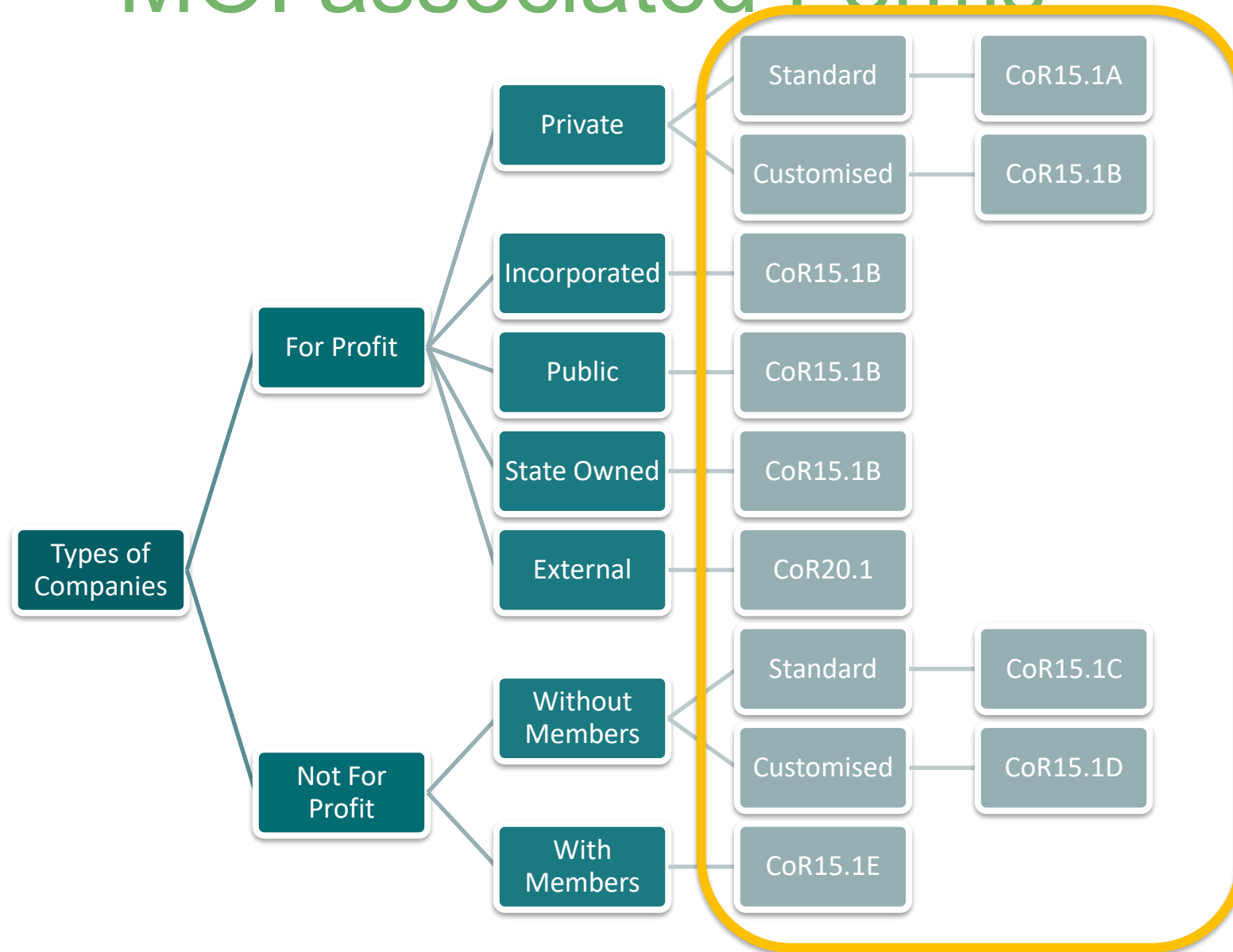
Type of Companies and Channels



IMPORTANCE OF MOI

- Every company MUST have an MOI (Memorandum of Incorporation)
 - When you register using short standard – the minimum legal requirements applies and you will get a copy of it (CoR15.1A or CoR15.1C)
 - It is a binding agreement and you need to understand it and manage company according to it
 - Other types of registrations you will have to provide it to the CIPC
 - Can amend and change overtime by filing a CoR15.2

MOI associated Forms



Name reservation



Companies and Intellectual
Property Commission

a member of **the dtic** group

NAMES AND TRADE MARKS

- When reserving a name it is advisable to do a Trade Mark search, enterprise search and a browser search
 - This is to identify possible other businesses that already have rights or uses names similar to what you are considering
- After registering your business you can also Trade Mark your name

NAME RESERVATIONS


- Provide 4 options in order of preference
- Different channels for name reservations (for classification purposes CIPC names some of the services but it is still the same legal process in terms of the Companies Act)
 - SST – standard name reservation
 - E-Services – standard name reservation
 - E-Services – associated name reservation (need to provide supporting documents to confirm association with existing company/close corporation/co-operative)
 - BizPortal – standard name reservation
 - Mobile App – standard name reservation
 - K2 – standard name reservation
- Can submit name reservation with your new company application – but if name is rejected new company will be registered without the name! Can do name change afterwards











NAME RESERVATIONS

- For profit can be without a name – then name will be the registration number with suffix (South Africa)
- Do not provide the suffix when submitting the name – the suffix will be assigned ONCE the new company is registered
- Not for Profit **MUST** have a name

ENTERPRISE SEARCH

Search Options

Enterprise Name ▼ apple cart options 

ENTERPRISE No	NAME	STATUS	View
K2018520762	APPLE BUILDING	VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION	
M2007022943	APPLE GREEN HOLDINGS	VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION	
60000238123	APPLE CONNECTION	RESERVED NAME	
9408289226	APPLE A DAY	RESERVED NAME	
9395881207	APPLE AND BEE HOLDINGS	RESERVED NAME	
60000440415	APPLE BEAUTY BAR	RESERVED NAME	
9417796687	APPLE BLOSSOM BEAUTY SPA	RESERVED NAME	
9369422681	APPLE BLOSSOM ONLINE	RESERVED NAME	
9375169805	APPLE CHERRIE SUPPLIERS	RESERVED NAME	
9398784143	APPLE CITY LEARNING ACADEMY	RESERVED NAME	

TRADE MARK SEARCH

https://iponline.cipc.co.za/Default.aspx



CIPC Intellectual Property Online

South Africa's official portal for IP services

Home Trade Marks ▾ Patents ▾ Designs ▾ Copyright ▾ IKS Publications ▾

Login

WELCOME TO IP ONLINE PORTAL

SEARCH | APPLY | MAINTAIN

Quick Links

- Free Patent Search
- Free
- Con
- Free
- Late

Simple Question

Figurative Question

Application Number:

Application number e.g. 2015/03577

Verbal Mark

APPLE CART OPTIONS

Nice class(es)

- 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15
- 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
- 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45

Hover on check box to get description

*Captcha

df1259

Can't read it?

Try another one

No results found.

Search

Reset

What is IP?





How to manage your IP?



How to




BROWSER SEARCH

[SEARCH](#) [COPILOT](#) [WORK](#) [SHOPPING](#) [IMAGES](#) [VIDEOS](#) [MAPS](#) [NEWS](#) [MO](#)

About 554,000 results

 **Apple**
<https://www.apple.com/apple-card> ▾

Apple Card - Apple

Apple Card gives you **unlimited 3% Daily** Cash back on everything you buy at Apple — whether it's a new Mac, an iPhone case, games from the App Store, or even a service like Apple Music or Apple TV+.

Features

Apple Card Monthly Installments (ACMI) is a 0% APR payment option that is only ...

How-To Videos

To access and use all Apple Card features and products available only to Apple ...

Family

Apple Card Family Participants and Co-Owners do not need to have a familial ...

Monthly Installments

Apple Footer * Monthly pricing is available when you select Apple Card Monthly ...


Other content from apple.com

[Iphone | Apple Card - Apple](#)

[Support | Apple Card - Apple](#)

[Icloud | Apple Card - Apple](#)

[See more](#)

 **Apple Support**
<https://support.apple.com/en-lamr/104952> ▾

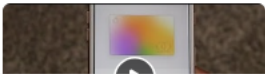
How to apply for Apple Card - Apple Support

To access and use all Apple Card features, you need to add Apple Card to an eligible iPhone or iPad that you own with the latest version of iOS or iPadOS. Then, you can manage your Apple ...

Tags: [Apple Inc.](#) [Support Apple Card](#)

Videos of Apple Card Option

<bing.com/videos>

 [Apple Card Application Process and First Look](#)

Company registration



Companies and Intellectual
Property Commission

a member of **the dtic** group

NEW COMPANY REGISTRATION

- Based on the type of company – multiple different channels
 - Private Company and NPC without Members:
 - **BizPortal – easiest and uses card payments**
 - E-services – must still submit documents for confirmation and used declining balance
 - SST
 - Mobile App
 - Other types – e-mail
- Once registered you will get a welcoming letter, the registration certificate, MOI and a disclosure certificate

WELCOMING LETTER

- Welcoming letter contains high level information on:
 - how to register any further Intellectual Property rights
 - the main compliance obligation
 - Beneficial Ownership Declaration
 - Annual Returns
 - AFS/FAS
 - Changes to the information of the company
 - How to contact CIPC



IMPORTANCE OF CORRECT CONTACT DETAILS

- When registering ensure that CIPC has your contact details as the director not that of your service providers!
 - Directors may not share e-mail or cell phone numbers – each director must provide his/her own contact details
 - **Otherwise you will not receive reminders, notices and may end up deregistered without you knowing**
 - Your responsibility as a director to comply – not your service providers
 - Increases chances of being used for criminal activities as money laundering, terror financing, and fraud

COMMON MISTAKES LEADING TO DIFFICULTIES AND COMPLIANCE ISSUES



Registering without understanding compliance

Using agent details instead of your own



Not filing annual returns and beneficial ownership

Not monitoring the company



Buying a company and not updating details

Post registration



Companies and Intellectual
Property Commission

a member of **the dtic** group

HOW TO STAY IN THE KNOW

- Welcome Letter
- CIPC website – www.cipc.co.za
- Webinars and Training
- Social Media
- Make an enquiry
- **Keep contact details updated with CIPC**
- Keep all your documents

Follow us on these social media platforms for latest updates



Companies and Intellectual
Property Commission

a member of **the dtic** group



HOW TO STAY COMPLIANT?

- Diarize annual compliance obligation and check whether new requirements or changes - prepare for compliance
 - Annual Returns
 - AFS/FAS
 - Beneficial Ownership
- Update CIPC on ALL changes to your company as it happens:
 - Changes in directors or director personal details e.g. contact details
 - Changes to the business address
 - Changes to MOI
- Do not ignore CIPC communications!
- **Take personal responsibility for compliance** – do not wait for others

[HOME](#)[ABOUT US](#)[SERVICES](#)[STATS](#)[BUSINESS SUPPORT](#)[FAQ](#)[CONTACT US](#)

BUSINESS SUPPORT

PLEASE NOTE: BizPortal does not provide any support to businesses. This page only supplies links to different business support services that are available. Please enquire with each organisation for more information on the service they offer.

[Find out more](#)



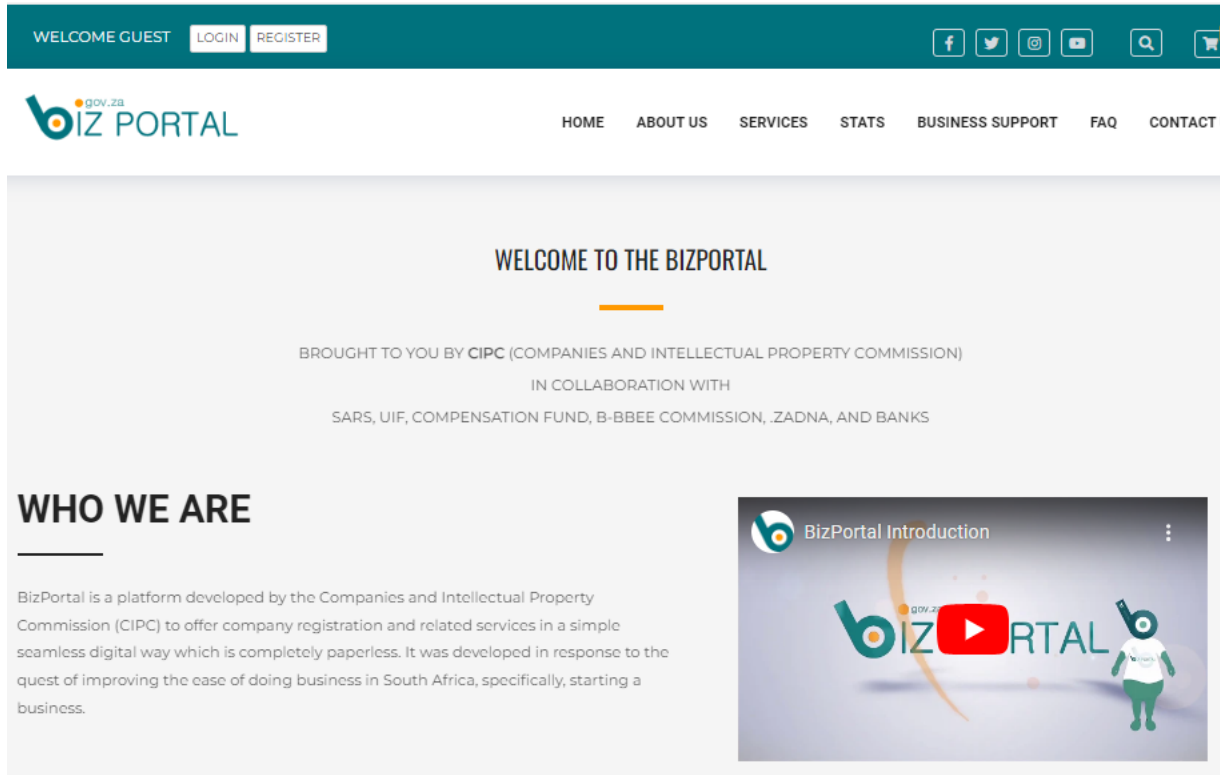
ONLINE TRAINING FOR DIRECTORS

Learn-i-Biz Course

- LEARN-i-BIZ | CIPC
- https://www.cipc.co.za/?page_id=10431
- Offered at no cost
- For more information: education@cipc.co.za

BIZPORTAL AS GO TO CHANNEL FOR SMMES

www.bizportal.gov.za



The screenshot shows the BizPortal website homepage. At the top, there is a dark teal navigation bar with the text "WELCOME GUEST" and buttons for "LOGIN" and "REGISTER". To the right of these buttons are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, a search icon, and a notification bell icon. Below the navigation bar is the BizPortal logo on the left and a horizontal menu with links for "HOME", "ABOUT US", "SERVICES", "STATS", "BUSINESS SUPPORT", "FAQ", and "CONTACT US". The main content area has a light gray background and features the heading "WELCOME TO THE BIZPORTAL" in bold, centered text. Below this heading is a horizontal line, followed by the text "BROUGHT TO YOU BY CIPC (COMPANIES AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COMMISSION)" and "IN COLLABORATION WITH SARS, UIF, COMPENSATION FUND, B-BBEE COMMISSION, .ZADNA, AND BANKS". On the left side, there is a section titled "WHO WE ARE" with a sub-heading. Below this section is a paragraph of text describing the platform. To the right of the text is a video player with the title "BizPortal Introduction" and a play button icon.

WELCOME GUEST LOGIN REGISTER

f t i y 🔍 🔔

gov.za
BIZ PORTAL

HOME ABOUT US SERVICES STATS BUSINESS SUPPORT FAQ CONTACT US

WELCOME TO THE BIZPORTAL

BROUGHT TO YOU BY CIPC (COMPANIES AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COMMISSION)
IN COLLABORATION WITH
SARS, UIF, COMPENSATION FUND, B-BBEE COMMISSION, .ZADNA, AND BANKS

WHO WE ARE

BizPortal is a platform developed by the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) to offer company registration and related services in a simple seamless digital way which is completely paperless. It was developed in response to the quest of improving the ease of doing business in South Africa, specifically, starting a business.

BizPortal Introduction



Intellectual Property



Companies and Intellectual
Property Commission

a member of **the dtic** group

https://iponline.cipc.co.za/Default.aspx



CIPC Intellectual Property Online

South Africa's official portal for IP services

Home Trade Marks ▾ Patents ▾ Designs ▾ Copyright ▾ IKS Publications ▾

Login

WELCOME TO
IP ONLINE
PORTAL

SEARCH | APPLY | MAINTAIN

Quick Links

- Free Patent Search
- Free Trade Mark Search
- Commercial Trade Mark Search
- Free Design Search
- Latest Journals

What is IP?



How to manage your IP?



How to manage risk?



Contacting the CIPC



Companies and Intellectual
Property Commission

a member of **the dtic** group

CONTACT CHANNELS

- Call centre
 - 086 100 2472
 - +2787 743 7000 (International)
- Walk-in-Centres
 - https://www.cipc.co.za/?page_id=939
- Social media
- Enquiries
 - [www.cipc.co.za / enquiries](http://www.cipc.co.za/enquiries)





Companies and Intellectual
Property Commission

a member of **the dtic** group

Financial and non-financial support

- Various organisations (private and public) provide financial and/or non-financial support to businesses
 - Especially government organisations
 - **!** You will have to meet their requirements and have a business idea or opportunity

SMME SUPPORT

- Innovation Bridge
- National Small Business Chamber (NSBC)
- Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA)
- Industrial Development Corporation (IDC)
- National Youth Development Agency (NYDA)
- smelaunch.co.za
- SME Toolkit
- National Empowerment Fund (NEF)
- Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA)



SMElaunch



nsbc.africa



- Doing Business in South Africa
- The Department of Trade Industry and Competition (thedtic)
- National Lotteries Commission (NPCs)
- Various business incubators for start-ups
 - The Definitive List Of South African Business Incubators For Start-Ups | Entrepreneur
 - Article lists 58 incubators and what they can offer



NATIONAL LOTTERIES COMMISSION

a member of the dtic group



the dtic

Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

CLICK HERE

This is how to succeed in business!

Discover how to attract more customers, smash your sales expectations, accelerate cash-flow, boost profits, connect & be inspired!

Join today!

IT'S FREE

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS CHAMBER (NSBC)

To learn more click here



The logo for nsbc.africa MEMBER. It consists of a dark blue rectangle with the text 'nsbc.africa' in white and yellow, and a yellow rectangle below it with the word 'MEMBER' in dark blue.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:




Companies and Intellectual Property Commission
a member of the dti group




the dtic

Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

 Know the dtic ▾

 Media Room ▾

 Financial Assistance ▾

 Sectors and Service ▾

 Procurement and Tenders ▾

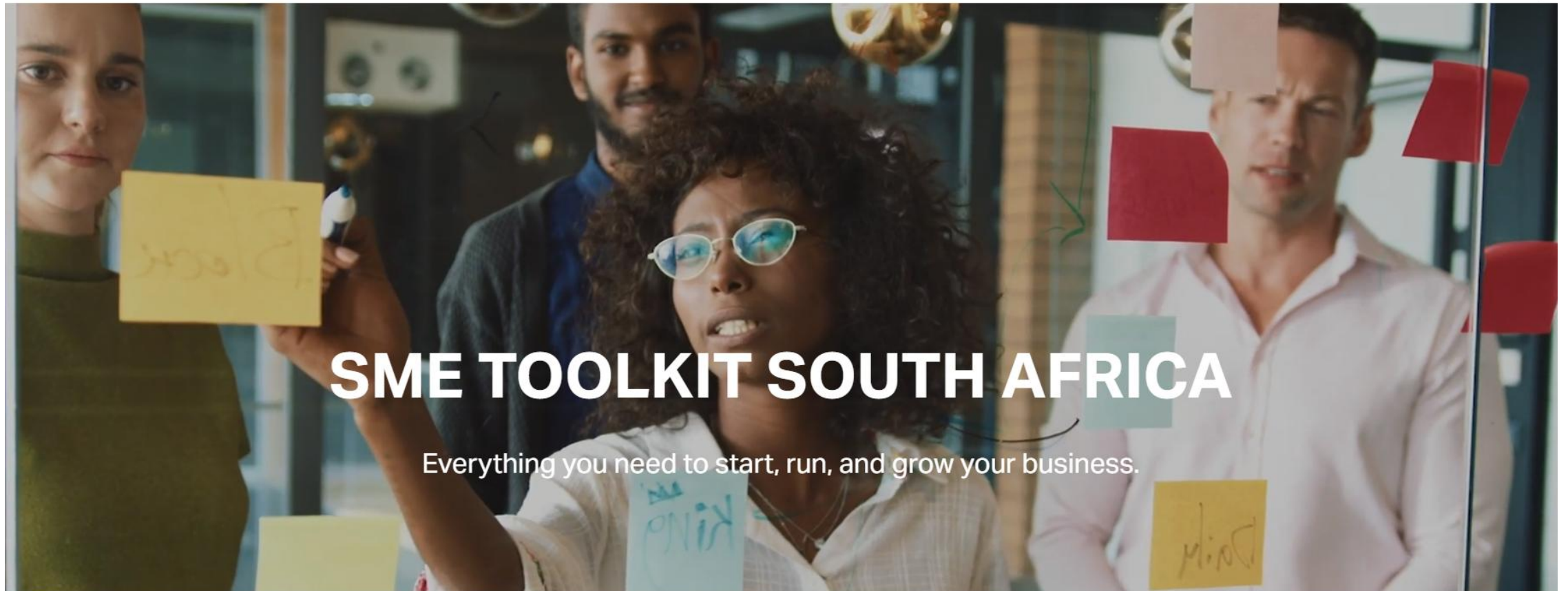
 Research and Statistics ▾



Incentives

[Home](#) / [Financial Assistance](#) / Incentives

 Search





Doing Business In South Africa

A business information resource for start ups, SMEs and large business that supports the whole business life-cycle.

GET STARTED

WATCH VIDEO





**NATIONAL
EMPOWERMENT
FUND**

Growing Black Economic Participation



[X](#) [in](#) [v](#) [i](#) [f](#) [t](#) **0861 843 633**

[Home](#)

[About](#) ▾

[Funding Solutions](#) ▾

[Tenders](#)

[Invest in SA](#) ▾

[Information Manual](#)

[Resources](#) ▾

[NEF Careers](#)


[Contact Us](#) ▾

[Search](#)

NEF Mandate

Established by the National Empowerment Fund Act No. 105 of 1998, the NEF is a driver and a thought-leader in promoting and facilitating black economic participation through the provision of financial and non-financial support to black owned and managed businesses, as well as by promoting a culture of savings and investment among black people.

[Read more](#)



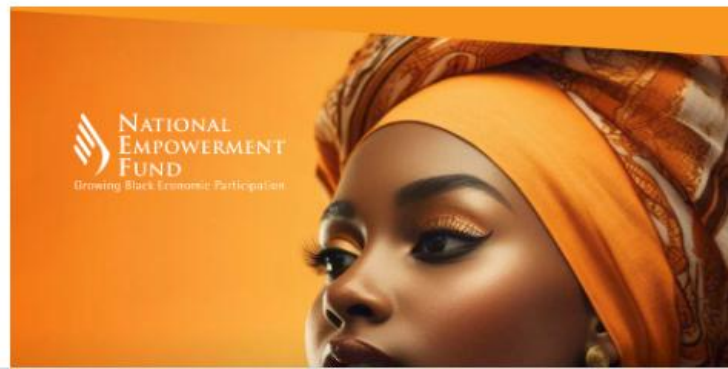
- 

**Black Business
Manufacturing Fund**
- 

Enterprise Development
- 

Thought Leadership
- 

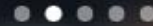
Investee Testimonials





TOWNSHIP AND RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME (TREP)

[Click here to apply](#)



Why choose sefa?

Access to finance is one of the biggest hurdles small businesses in South Africa face.

The Small Enterprise Finance Agency (**sefa**) provides development finance to SMMEs and Co-operatives that are not able to attract commercial credit. **sefa** is committed to providing these entities with the best service and expertise,





SME Launch - Helping you be more

Are you looking to boost your business and achieve new heights of success?
SMElaunch is here to help you every step of the way.



an initiative between CIBA, SACCI, and Inhlanyelo Hub in partnership with
CIPC

Join the ecosystem

The path of a visionary can be hard, complex and lonely. We have to interact with a complex network of organisations and people, and have to make decisions on issues that are difficult and often confusing. Not knowing what to do, or when to do it, often means having to work longer hours, sometimes with people who don't always understand our vision for a better tomorrow. But it doesn't always have to be that way.

We invite you to become a part of our Innovation Bridge Platform, a community designed to show you the way forward in this living, moving and complex ecosystem. You will be introduced to innovations; enterprises; business support offerings and investment opportunities, each playing their part in creating a prosperous African continent.

Just as living things thrive under perfect conditions, we believe that your endeavor's can flourish in the right ecosystem.



NYDA ANNUAL PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS 2022/2023



83 923
Young people capacitated with skills to enter the job market



46 320
Young people secured paid service opportunities



34 209
Young people were supported with non-financial business development interventions



15 434
Young people placed in jobs



12 172
Young people participated in Expanded Volunteer Projects (EVP)



7 333
Young people participated in Community Work Programme



6 796
Jobs were created and sustained through supporting entrepreneurs



2 320
Youth owned enterprises were supported with financial interventions



1 010
Beneficiaries were supported with Business Development Support Services and the overachievement



73
Organizations and departments lobbied to implement NYS



Who are we?

What do we do?

How to get involved



TAKE YOUR BUSINESS TO GREATER HEIGHTS WITH TAILORED FUNDING PRODUCTS.

SECTORAL FUNDING

TAILORED FUNDING

FUNDING HUB



OUR REGIONS



RESEARCH REPORTS



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

HER >> VENTURE





Take your business to the next level:
 Download the app & start igniting your entrepreneurial skills today










<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Business Talk  </div> <p>Offerings focusing on clients who want information on starting a business.</p> <p>Read more</p>	<div style="background-color: #2196F3; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Business Start  </div> <p>Provides tools and techniques for clients who are ready to start a business and want assistance and direction.</p> <p>Read more</p>	<div style="background-color: #9C27B0; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Business Build  </div> <p>Offerings focusing on clients who want skills to sustain and strengthen their businesses.</p> <p>Read more</p>	<div style="background-color: #F44336; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Business Grow  </div> <p>Offerings focusing on clients who want to grow their businesses and expand nationally and internationally.</p> <p>Read more</p>
---	--	---	---

ATTENTION!

Organisations applying for National Lotteries Commission (NLC) funding are required to submit a valid and original **Tax Clearance Certificate** in line with the requirements of the Public Finance Management Act No. 1 of 1999 (“PFMA”), and Section 18A of the Income Tax Act.





Companies and Intellectual
Property Commission

a member of **the dtic** group

Thank you