

Swazi Official Flag



Umtsentse Youth Workers Co-ops LTD-Lesotho
Presentation 2009-Vusi G Dlamini-Secretary.

Umtsentse's Profile

ABOUT US:

- ❖ It was originated from the Co-operative College of Swaziland in May, 2008.
 - ❖ Attended the Youth Co-operative Forum in December 2008 in Maseru, Lesotho.
- ❖ Participated in the COOPAFRICA CHALLENGE FUND of 2008/9.
 - ❖ Partook during the Swaziland National Smart Partnership Mini Dialogue, 2008
 - ❖ Registered on the 12th March 2009.
- ❖ Also participated in the celebration of the Swaziland Co-operative Day 2009.
 - ❖ Assisted some primary co-operatives in filling the COOPAFRICA CHALLENGE FUND form of 2009/10.
- ❖ Helped more than 30 young people from different youth co-operatives and other organizations to attend the Swaziland National Smart Partnership Dialogue, 2009.

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OUR PHILOSOPHY

- ❖ We believe in working together to help others, our collective efforts are our fundamental basis and strengths for the execution of the society's objectives.
- ❖ This society solely exists for the empowerment of youth entrepreneurship through the concept of co-operative business enterprise

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OUR VISION

- ❖ "Is, by year 2015, it must have inspired, educated, enlightened at least 70% of the unemployed youth on co-operatives."
- ✓ This will also help instill the concept of co-operative business enterprise at an early stage; hence empower them to start their youth co-operatives.
- ✓ We so desire that our society would be among the competitive regional business set ups that can be awarded or received a certificate of Recognition or of Excellence.
- ✓ That is why we value our society's image, and strive for perfection all the time.
- ✓ A provision of quality services so as to build long term trusting relationship with our clientele is our main goal.

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

- ❖ Our Society exists for the empowerment of youth entrepreneurship through the concept of a co-operative business enterprise for their self development and reliance based on co-operative philosophy, principles and values.

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PROBLEM STATEMENTS

- ❖ The issue of poverty, unemployment rate amongst the youth.
- ❖ The issue of aging membership in the co-operative sector, very few young people are aware of what a co-operative is, and its benefits.
- ❖ Our society wants to introduce, teach and encourage the youth on co-operatives and its benefits through the concept of school or youth co-operatives to meet their social, cultural, political and economical aspirations in democratically controlled enterprises.

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OUR SERVICES/BUSINESS

- ❖ For existing primary co-operatives, we assist in updating, filing members' cards and books of accounts and its records.
- ❖ And for pre-co-operatives, we can assist in the facilitation and registration of a co-operative and future planning.
- ❖ We also try to lobby and advocate for youth co-operatives at national level gatherings.
- ❖ Engage in other money-generating projects.

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OTHER PROJECTS AT HAND

- ❖ **Mushrooms (Oyster);**
 - ✓ To supply the communities from which we are living in.
 - ✓ Also supply Supermarkets, Restaurants and Hotels.
- ❖ **Apiculture (Bee-keeping),** this is a bi-product investment.
 - ✓ It's the honey which is to be sold to the public and near-by stores and supermarkets and international communities.
 - ✓ It's the honey comb (wax) to be sold to Swazi Candles, a company which produces candles and other wax-made products.

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QUALIFICATIONS

- ❖ Our team comprises of qualified (trained by local universities and colleges) members and staffs.
- ❖ On the 23rd august 2009 general meeting, it was resolved that;
- ✓ We must amend our by-laws especially on the COMMOND BOND FLEXIBILITY, so as to,
- ✓ Recruit new members from different disciplines/fields having attained their highest ranks i.e. degrees, masters to boosts the profile of the society.
- ✓ Have already recruited three B.com degree graduates, who have been working with SIFE Swaziland for the past three years.
- ❖ Still searching for two more university graduates, one having obtained a degree in Agriculture and Economics and the other a diploma in Human Resource/ Journalism.

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STRENGTHS AND POTENTIALS

- ❖ Will seek and consult from the intervention of other suitable partners with relevant expertise and support.
- ❖ Our projects will be monitored by the Cooperative Department, suitable partners include the Cooperative College of Swaziland, Swaziland National Youth Council, Ministry of Sports, Youth and Culture and other stakeholders and co-operative alliances.
- ❖ Our society will also seek the assistance from the Cooperative College of England through their new program “Young Cooperatives” for the Introduction of School/Youth Co-operatives in Swaziland.
- ❖ Since Umtsentsse Workers Cooperative Society is a youthful society, and then we have no doubts that this would portray us as a classic example to all young people out there and even its practicality.

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Lessons and Opportunities

- ❖ One Lecturer once said that a thousand miles journey begin with one step. Some of our success stories, opportunities were never planned or predicted, it just fell on our places. We were once told that the things that will move us from here to there, are the books we read, the people we associate with and the dreams we dream.
- ❖ Somebody once advised that what we are planning to do can only be practical in slumber land, (dreams). Vision, positive-attitude and faith is what is keeping us going up to this far, and this is our secret and inspirational prayer taught at college; “God, please grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can and wisdom to know the difference. Amen.”
- ❖ The present government has made it clear to all sundry in its next five year plan that it will work with co-operatives, the same government has also pass a legal notice at cabinet through the Minister of Finance, which is about a E20 million grant for co-operative graduates and also in the National Development Strategy Policy the same government is recommending co-operatives to enhance rural development.
- ❖ His Majesty’s government has just allocated about E16 million Youth Enterprise Fund also recommending co-operatives to access the fund.

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CHALLENGES AND DIFFICULTIES

- ❖ **Physical address, (Office-space)-**
 - ✓ Getting an office-space in a convenient and accessible site is still one major challenge.
- ❖ **Lack of funds.**
 - ✓ Financial weakness seem to be the major impediment to all our tried endeavors.
 - ✓ We need cash to purchase or acquire the resources, assets and equipments etc for the implementation our projects.
- ❖ **Impatience.**
 - ✓ The youth in general usually lacks patience but they opt for quick schemes.
- ❖ **Capacity building,**
 - ✓ Need to be capacitated on leadership, business management skills etc.
- ❖ **Security/ collateral**
 - ✓ Financial institution not giving out loans...

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THINGS TO KNOW/DO

- ❖ Nothing for the youth without the youth.
- ❖ Learn to set right principles and priorities.
- ❖ Avoid manipulations and exploitations from politicians and business people.
- ❖ Real youth empowerment involves and its about them.
- ❖ Positive mental-attitudes towards the youth initiatives.
- ❖ “The best time to a plant a tree was twenty years ago...and the next best time is now”... avoid short cuts!

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RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ If you want to be successful for 12 months grow maize and hope that it rains, if you want to be successful for 10 years grow oranges and water them but if you want to be successful for the rest of your life grow people by mentoring.
- ❖ NB: Dreams don't come quickly or easily and the rewards often don't come until very late, so hang in there and keep working...

...UNTIL THE END

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...VISIT SWAZILAND

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