



the dti

Department:
Trade and Industry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

YOUTH COOPERATIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Presentation to the Cooperative Youth Forum

14 – 18 December 2009

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Major challenges confronting youth in South Africa:

cycle of unemployment

poverty

limited business opportunities

lack of critical skills

the South African population

CURRENT GOVERNMENT YOUTH POLICIES & PROGRAMMES

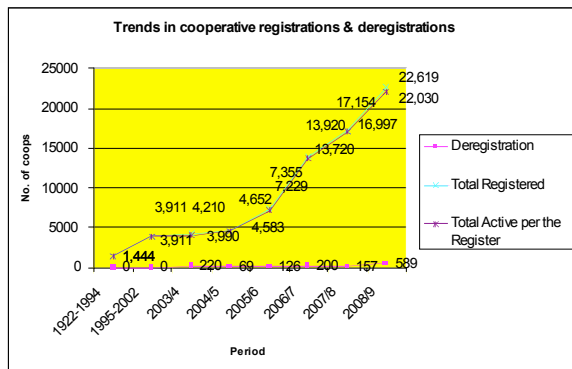
These, amongst others, include:

- The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996;
- National Youth Development Agency is an institution formed through the merging of the Umsobomvu Youth Fund and the National Youth Commission
- Reviewed National Youth Development Policy
- National Youth Enterprise Strategy, 2006
- The dti is currently working on the National Youth Economic Empowerment Strategy



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The Cooperative sector in South Africa



(Source: Registrar of Cooperatives, Statistics of Cooperatives in South Africa, 1922-2009)

2005 – 2009 (Boom period) for coops growth in numbers

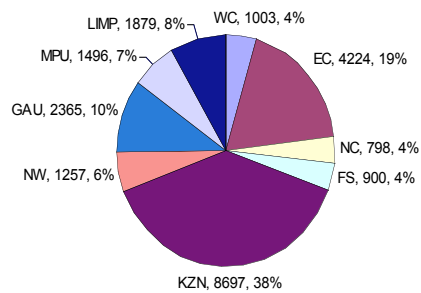
Drivers of Growth

- Enabling environment through legislative framework such as the 2005 Coops Act
- Support programmes across government



The Cooperative sector in South Africa cont...

Overall Provincial Picture of registered cooperatives



The total number of cooperatives by March 2009 was 22,619 and they were spread provincially. The majority of registered cooperatives was Kwa-Zulu/Natal is 38%; followed by the Eastern Cape, 19%; followed by Gauteng, 10% and others.

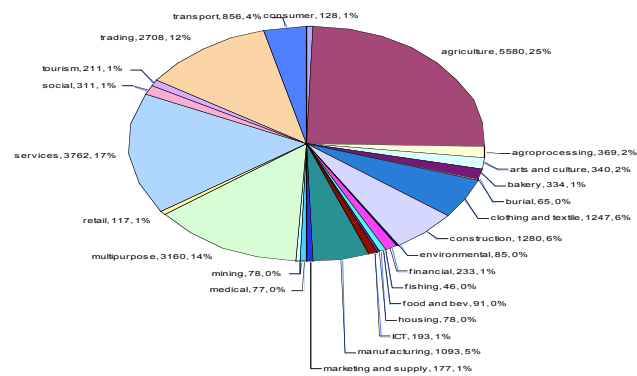
(Source: Registrar of Cooperatives, Statistics of Cooperatives in South Africa, 1922-2009)

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The Cooperative sector in South Africa cont...

Sector spread of registered cooperatives



(Source: Registrar of Cooperatives, Statistics of Cooperatives in South Africa, 1922-2009)

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The Cooperative sector in South Africa cont...

- More than 50% of co-operatives are rural
- Most operate in villages, townships and farms
- They operate from different business premises including:
 - Own homes;
 - Municipal buildings;
 - Business areas; and
 - Farms

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Youth in cooperatives in SA

- **Youth Membership**
 - Youth 16-34 comprise 40% of members of cooperatives
- **Youth only co-operatives**
 - 16% of all co-ops comprise youth 16-24
 - 19% of all coops comprise youth between 25 and 35
 - Youth cooperatives are mainly in the sectors: food and agriculture, services and construction
 - Youth co-operatives operate mostly in urban areas (51%)

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