
UPDATE: 10/ 2006

AMFISA INTERNET BULLETIN

23/10/2006

A GENERAL UPDATE

1. The Association of Microfinance Institutions of South Africa congratulates Mr. Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Bank on receiving the Nobel Prize for 2006. It was only in June 2006 that the University of Venda hosted and awarded this great Banker of the poor our leader and dearest practitioner the honorary doctorate in economics. In receiving the award Mr. Yunus said “All we need to do is help each person to unleash the energy and creativity inside him or her. Once this can be done, poverty will disappear very fast. The creation of an enabling environment for microcredit programmes and social business enterprises will play an important role in this. Then the only place in the world where poverty may still exist will be in poverty museums, no longer in any human society. Here children can see it and be shocked that people allowed such an inhuman condition to exist for so many people for so long.” Again congratulations to Mr. Mohammad Yunus and the people of Grameen Bank.

2. We would like to thank the Government through the Independent Development Trust (IDT) for giving us the opportunity to participate and give input to the ASGISA – Jobs for Growth programme particularly the concept of Local Credit Committees. The AMFISA recognizes the aim of local credit committees at local government level as a mechanism of encouraging public participation in local financial access. The AMFISA maintains that the creation of local credit committees will create public participation but will not address financial access in poor areas of our country. Future dialogues will be encouraged so as to ensure that all stakeholders concerned maximize their roles in creating an inclusive national financial system.

The AMFISA was represented in the ASGISA consultative meetings by the following: -

- (1) Mpumalanga and Limpopo – Ms. Gabisile Mabena (WDB) and Mr. Mandla Lukhele (Siyakhula)
- (2) Kwazulu Natal – Mr. Jabulani Thusi (Umthombo) and Mangaliso Williams (AMFISA)
- (3) Eastern Cape – Mr. Lwazi Gwiliza (Eyethu Financial services) and Mangaliso Williams (AMFISA)

We would like to thank the people that represented AMFISA well and the fact that it had to be done at short notice.

3. The SEEP Network and AMFISA have entered into an agreement that the SEEP Network will conduct a Network Capacity Assessment Tool (NCAT) in January 2007. This assessment will focus on six areas these being: - Governance; Operations; Financial viability; Human Resources; Service delivery and External relations.

The AMFISA has undertaken this initiative driven by its commitment to be a strong, ever learning, united and transparent association. This assessment will assist the leadership and members of AMFISA to build a resilient organization.

Members will continuously be updated on developments with regards the NCAT.

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