

Busy Bee Co-operative



“Mondi Zimele provided us with the training we needed to get everything running smoothly” – Lindiwe Ntshangaso

A cleaning contract with Mond, plus a low interest loan and business support from the Mond Zimele Jobs Fund, has provided the members of a community-based co-op with their first experience of running a business.

The five members of Busy Bee Co-operative are as busy as bees cleaning Mond’s Hilton offices, preparing the board room and serving refreshments.

Lindiwe Ntshangaso (manager), Busisiwe Magwenyano (deputy secretary), Thobile Dlamini (secretary), Malcom Thomas (driver/assistant manager), and Priscilla Ndaba (treasurer) all had prior experience in the cleaning industry, but had never been involved in running a business.

The co-op was formed in 2014 and after securing a contract to clean Mond’s Hilton offices, received a low interest loan from Mond Zimele that enabled them to purchase the equipment they needed to get going.

Lindiwe says that a lack of information was the biggest challenge they faced in the beginning. “We did not know how to run a business – we needed capital and information about tax returns and accounts. Mond Zimele provided us with the training we needed to get everything running smoothly,” she said.

Busy Bee paid back the MZ loan in 12 months and has been sailing a steady ship ever since.



Coaching and mentoring

Mond Zimele gave Busy Bee coaching and mentoring on what needs to be done to comply with the Mond contract. The aim is to help the co-op grow and flourish, not just achieve stability. MZ provided coaching in marketing, business management, how to prepare proposals, finance, how to negotiate with clients as well as conflict management ... all the skills needed for running a successful business.



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