

Shoprite Next Capital launched to further develop SMME partners

The Shoprite Group has launched Shoprite Next Capital, a business division dedicated to capacitate and grow commercially-viable SMMEs to further the Group's continued efforts to give small suppliers access to its consumer market.

As drivers of growth, job creation and innovation, SMMEs are crucial to the recovery of the South African economy, and Shoprite Next Capital is the formalisation of the key role the Group plays in the success of SMMEs by giving them access to its consumer market.

"With Shoprite Next Capital our aim is to further enhance the participation of small and emerging suppliers in our business. Our focus will be on their specific needs and how best we can assist them," explains Maude Modise, GM for Enterprise & Supplier Development at the Group.

"This new division will provide SMMEs with easier entry into the Group's retail market with direct access to buyers that understand their needs combined with personalised growth plans that will assist suppliers to scale up gradually," continues Modise.

The Group aims to build sustainable relationships to develop, capacitate, sustain and grow small, South African businesses, create jobs and increase localisation of goods.

Shoprite Next Capital will operate as a one-stop shop for SMME partners by providing marketing opportunities, working capital assistance, packaging and labelling support, data sharing, product range and geographic expansion, as well as possible private label partnerships.

"The Group has [always partnered with small suppliers](#), but now we are giving them additional focus and allocating dedicated buyers, essentially creating a separate value chain to the bigger supply chain system," says Modise.

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