

SME Bulletin

1st Edition



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Overview

Welcome to our first edition of the SME Bulletin for 2022.

South Africa is dependent on SMEs as they make up a fundamental part of our nation's economy. They provide different types of products and services that some of our larger companies cannot.

COVID-19 has had an impact on SMEs globally, and, due to lockdown restrictions, many businesses were unable to survive.

On a positive note, COVID-19 brought about the digitisation of small businesses, which started to use social media platforms to advertise and online payment portals for the sale of their products and services.

Other factors that can still harm small businesses in South Africa are:

- Unfavourable economic conditions
- Load Shedding
- Petrol price increases
- COVID-19
- Subdued profits
- The unrest that happened in Kwa-Zulu Natal and Gauteng in July 2021



Click the title in red for further reading



January 2022

Five tips for small businesses to emerge resilient from the pandemic

IOL 02 January 2022

Over the past year, as the pandemic shifted the retail and commerce landscape, small businesses were faced with a lot of change. Many digital small businesses saw dramatic growth during the pandemic as consumers moved to digital channels.

Applications open for 2022 TEF Entrepreneurship Programme

Bizcommunity 07 January 2022

The Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF), a philanthropy empowering young African entrepreneurs across all 54 African countries, has opened applications for the 2022 TEF Entrepreneurship Programme.

South African firm's quest to revolutionise SMEs sector across Africa

The Citizen 04 January 2022

The biggest hurdle in Africa for SMEs is that entrepreneurs suffer from what is known as the 'first generation ownership syndrome.'

Finalists selected for MultiChoice Accelerator Programme

ITWeb 07 January 2022

Pay-TV operator MultiChoice Group has shortlisted six start-up and scaling businesses that will progress to the next and final leg of the MultiChoice Accelerator Programme.

How tourism SMEs can increase market share and profitability this year and beyond

IOL 10 January 2022

Those working in and around the tourism field will agree that the industry is struggling to keep afloat during the hardest time in memory to be in the business.

Comms minister reflects on first 100 days in office

ITWeb 7 January 2022, by Sibahle Malinga

Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT) Khumbudzo Ntshavheni has highlighted the completion of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Framework for South Africa among the achievements made by the department in her first 100 days in office.



Why digitalisation readiness is key to unlocking SME growth

startupAFRICA 11 January 2022

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across the Middle East and Africa (MEA) region are recognizing digitalization as essential to staying competitive in a transformed business and economic environment.

Pandemic was a masterclass in SME survival

Channelwise 11 January 2022

The hard lockdown tested most SMEs to breaking point. The importance of well-managed cash flow could not have been demonstrated more clearly. Cost-containment was another lesson, as was healthy relationships with debtors and creditors.

Covid bounce-back tactics for SMEs

Channelwise 11 January 2022

In a recent SEDA (Small Enterprise Development Agency) study, 74% of SMEs surveyed indicated that they had resorted to urgent unplanned digital transformation during the pandemic.

Here's how insurers can protect SMEs in 2022 and beyond

The Small Business Site 10 January 2022

With heightened threat levels for SMMEs and growing cyber risks associated with employees working from home, insurers are partnering with external providers to increase cyber security and provide comprehensive cyber insurance as a 'back-up' in case of cybercrime.

Meet Crystal, changing the way SMEs recruit the talent they need

Bizcommunity 13 January 2022

Tech-preneur, Sasha Knott, who is the CEO of Job Crystal points out that this is highly pertinent for SMEs, as well as start-ups, who have to find the talent they need urgently in order to grow their businesses.

A quarter of SMEs across nine countries plan to offer crypto payments

Investing.com 12 January 2022, by Hannah Lang

Almost a quarter of small businesses in nine countries around the world plan to accept digital currencies as a form of payment in 2022, while 13% of consumers in those countries expect retail stores to begin offering crypto payments this year and beyond.

4 types of bridging finance and how they can help SMEs navigate uncertainty

Bizcommunity 12 January 2022

Small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can face various financing issues, especially in the initial lifecycle of their business.



White paper: SME growth hinges on workplace automation, Xerox research shows

ITWeb 14 January 2022

Despite the myriad challenges presented during the pandemic, small and medium-sized businesses owners are optimistic about 2021 and beyond, a new white paper by Xerox shows.

The benefits and importance of managing risks in SMEs

Bizcommunity 12 January 2022

Managing risk in SMEs enables them to improve performance, accelerate growth and create sustainable long-term value. In addition, SMEs can also minimise losses and avoid catastrophic disruptions if they manage risk effectively and efficiently.



6 things killing small businesses in South Africa right now

BusinessTech 17 January 2022

Confidence among South African small business owners was notably lower towards the end of 2021, with concerns set to continue into 2022.

Four steps to SME success in 2022

Ventureburn 17 January 2022

Every new year brings with it an array of business challenges and opportunities. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating consequences for business owners across South Africa.

Accelerator seeks innovative green economy SMEs

ITWeb 17 January 2022

The CEA initiative is designed to boost the success of established small and medium enterprises (SMEs) active in the circular economy, environmental sustainability, recycling, waste reduction and related sectors.

AI to shape SaaS trends in SA

ITWeb 14 January 2022

Data governance, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning are among the top trends that will have an impact on the software as a service (SaaS) market from this year in SA, says Gerhard Fourie, channel lead at Commvault Africa.

FNB earns accolade of Best SME bank in SA and rest of Africa

Businessstech 17 January 2022

As SMEs tackle pandemic-induced challenges, FNB's approach to helping them is being recognised on the global stage.

iKhokha's low transaction rates helps small businesses grow

IOL 20 January 2022

Partnering with a company that has your best interests at heart is a pretty good place to start. Luckily a rapidly growing mobile payment provider is on a mission to help small businesses succeed. Because when small businesses flourish, our economy thrives.

South African SME business confidence hits all-time low heading into 2022

Bizcommunity 18 January 2022

Business confidence among South African small business owners was decidedly low towards the end of 2021, after a notable increase in the second quarter.

The various types of small business finance for entrepreneurs and when to use them

Bizcommunity 20 January 2022

SMEs now account approximately for 50% - 60% of South Africa's workforce and contribute around 34% to our GDP making them extremely important to our economic growth.

ESD programmes require an implementation partner to unlock tangible value for both corporates and SMMEs

Bizcommunity 11 January 2022

Enterprise Supplier Development (ESD) programmes are widely acknowledged as critical tools to levelling the playing field that benefit both Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) and corporates, yet implementing them is often not that straight forward.

5 email marketing tactics for small businesses

Bizcommunity 19 January 2022

Email marketing... The tactic or online strategy that so many deemed dead a few years ago. The good news is that email marketing is nowhere near dead and the famous stat that for every dollar spent on email marketing you could expect 4-10x more in return is still true.

Three trends that will impact SMEs big-time in 2022

The Small Business Site

17 January 2022, by Mike Anderson

We see a positive road ahead for SMEs in 2022. SMEs must embrace the best in technology to help overcome the challenges today, accelerate growth and boost profits.

Sound financial management key to unlocking SME funding

Bizcommunity 17 January 2022

Through the Covid-19 pandemic and events such as the July 2021 unrest, there was a suite of public and private sector financial support for SMEs. Many SMEs were able to access much needed relief, but some encountered roadblocks in their attempts as they were either non-compliant, could not interpret or meet mandatory criteria/conditions.



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November / December 2021

SMEs need to reinvent B2B marketing, and now

Money Control.com 20 November 2021

The business-to-business (B2B) segment needs to reinvent and rejuvenate marketing as fundamentals undergo a seismic shift.

A new international standard for small to medium sized entities could unlock much-needed growth in this sector.

BDO 19 November 2021

BDO in South Africa recognises the importance of small to medium entities (SMEs) and the critical contribution which this market provides in economic growth and employment.

Cloud to the rescue as fintech trips up small companies

ITWeb 29 November 2021

Inadequate investment in financial tech and not investing in fintech fast enough are among the top most expensive mistakes small businesses made over the last 12 months.

Supporting SMMEs as crucial technology delivery partners

ITWeb 30 November 2021

SMMEs represent 90% of global businesses and employ over half of workforces. According to the World Bank, formal SMMEs contribute up to 40% of national income (GDP) in emerging economies – and much more when one includes informal SMMEs.

How to protect your small business from cyberattacks

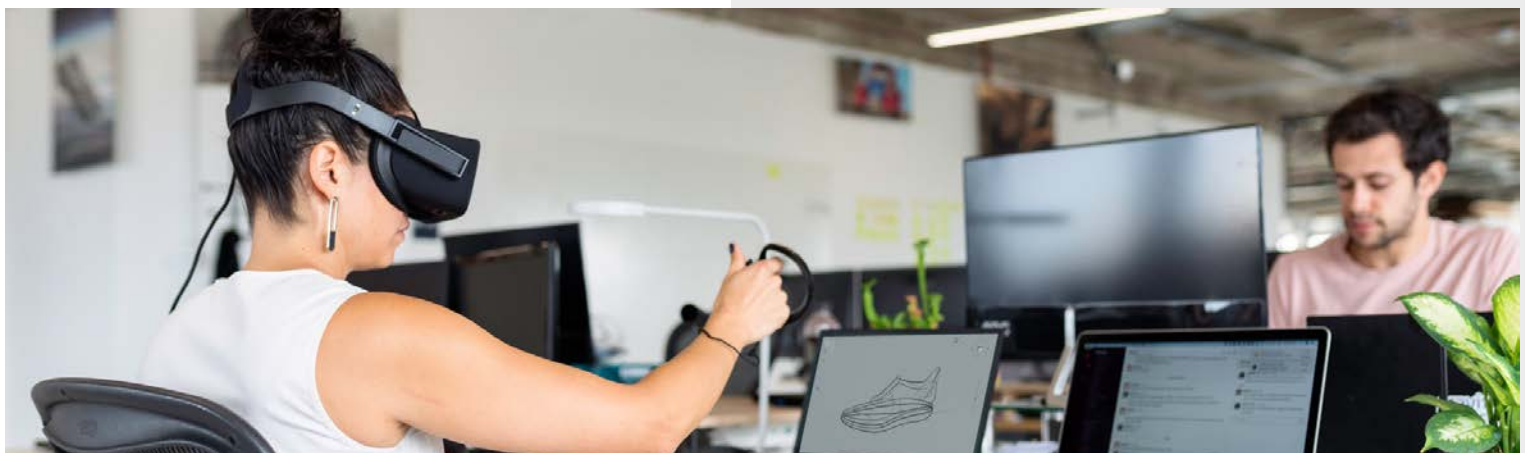
The Citizen 29 November 2021

It is no secret that local entrepreneurs and SMMEs have been hard hit by the global pandemic. Of course, this is not unique to South Africa.

Best advice for SA entrepreneurs – from other entrepreneurs

ITWeb 30 November 2021

When starting a new business, it helps to learn from other entrepreneurs who've been there. In fact, 72% of e-commerce entrepreneurs say that other entrepreneurs have had the biggest impact on their business.



ICASA suspension of WOAN licensing goes beyond its powers

Engineer IT 30 November 2021

Following the publishing of the timeline for the licensing of the Wireless Open Access Network ("WOAN") on 1 October 2021, the ICT SMME Chamber notes the decision by ICASA to temporarily suspend the timeline for the licensing of the WOAN.

5 ways SMMEs can become competitive in e-commerce

The Small Business Site 29 November 2021

Digital technologies can help to level the playing field for SMMEs. By leveraging innovation-enabling technology, the more agile and speedy SMME can become a force to be reckoned with.

The effect of Covid-19 on small business and digitalization

IOL 01 December 2021

The failure to prevent a new respiratory ailment known as coronavirus disease 2019 or Covid-19 results in a global pandemic in March 2020.

Born-in-SA solution drops the barrier to SME document storage and management

ITWeb 01 December 2021

Ubunye Holdings, developer of the award-winning ScannerVision document capture solution, has extended its portfolio with the launch of DocVolante, a cost-effective and simple solution to electronically index, store and share files and documents.

Liquid Intelligent Technologies launches Microsoft Teams Essential

Peafirinsights 02 December 2021

Liquid Intelligent Technologies ([Liquid.Tech](#)), a business of Cassava Technologies, a pan-African technology group, is proud to be the launch partner for the new Microsoft Teams Essential offering. A solution that brings the Teams collaboration platform into an affordable package targeting small, medium and micro-enterprises across the continent.

Call for coordinated support for SMEs affected by COVID-19 pandemic

SABC News 02 December 2021

Small Business Development Deputy Minister Zoleka Capa says government has crafted comprehensive strategies to help informal business to grow and compete in the bigger market.

Dimension Data, in partnership with Centrax Systems, aiming to uplift the SME landscape

ITWeb 02 December 2021

The South African SME landscape is already dealing with a contracting economy, and additional COVID-19 shocks have put a strain on day-to-day business operations.

Mastercard and Meta Come Together to Support SMEs in MEA

TechAfrica News 02 December 2021

The world is moving at a faster pace with globalization being fuelled by technology which is enabling companies to scale beyond borders at a pace of months as opposed to years previously.



Egypt seeks to boost SMEs contribution to national economy

Channel Africa 2 December 2021

Chairperson of the committee of small and medium-sized enterprises Hassan el Shafie said Tuesday that a scenario is being outlined in partnership with the Egyptian Microfinance Federation with the aim to give SMEs a shot in the arm.

How SMME partners can offer vendor services

ITWeb 06 December 2021

Hardware remains a key part of what resellers provide to the market. Whether it's a server, a network switch or an end-user device, hardware is how we access digital technology's power.



Google ads for boosting growth in small businesses

Business Day 2 December 2021

Adbot is a Google marketing and online advertising platform for owners of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Africa.

Small businesses need more climate financing

Mail & Guardian 02 December 2021

Small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) working on climate adaptation and mitigation are a crucial but underestimated partner in the fight to reduce emissions.

Heavy Chef names SA's Top 5 Most Exciting Startups for 2021

Bizcommunity 06 December 2021

SMEs are the lifeblood of South Africa's economy and also the most at risk. This sector represents more than 98% of businesses, employs between 50 to 60% of the country's workforce across all industries, and is responsible for a quarter of job growth in the private sector.

How SMEs can plan for the festive season

Engineering News 07 December 2021

Although South Africa's economy has shown some signs of recovery, the true cost of the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest in July this year must still be calculated.

World's Best SME Banks 2022

Global Finance 06 December 2021

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of the global economy. According to data from the World Bank, they represent approximately 90% of businesses worldwide, employ more than half the global workforce, and contribute about 40% to GDP.

Mzansi's lowest transaction rates help small businesses grow

Techcentral 06 December 2021

Partnering with a company that has your best interests at heart is a pretty good place to start. Luckily a rapidly growing mobile payment provider is on a mission to help small businesses succeed. Because, when small businesses flourish, our economy thrives.

FNB Taps Vox Telecom to Launch New Fibre Solutions for SA's SMEs

IT News Africa 06 December 2021

FNB's mobile virtual network operator, FNB Connect, has partnered with South African fibre provider Vox Telecom to launch a fibre solution to help SMEs with their telecommunications needs.

Corporate capture and its impact on SMME funding in SA

Business Day 6 December 2021, by Mudiwa Gavaza

Mudiwa Gavaza is joined by Justin Rovian Naidoo, chief investment officer at MyGrowthFund Venture Partners. Despite being one of the country's largest sources of employment, small businesses continue to struggle to source and access funding for their operations.

Deliberate action needed to change market concentration trajectory of South Africa's economy

Engineering News 07 December 2021

In addition, the report largely found South African economic conditions and structures to be hostile towards small, medium-sized and microenterprises (SMMEs) and that this "undermines the inclusion and job creation potential of the economy".

Non-Payment of Suppliers Impacts Negatively On Business

All Africa 07 December 2021

Public Service Commission Commissioner Michael Seloane says non-payment of suppliers by government departments impacts negatively on businesses.

Small industrialists will grow the economy - if red tape removed

Bizcommunity 06 December 2021

The growth of small, medium and micro-enterprise (SMME) industrialists is the answer to reversing years of de-industrialisation in South Africa.

New Zealand's Xero targets local SMEs

ITWeb 10 December 2021

Global small business cloud accounting platform Xero is joining forces with South African banks and SARS to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with digital tools to better manage cash flow and enhance productivity.

Seven benefits of enterprise-grade e-mail for SMEs

ITWeb 14 December 2021

SMEs traditionally start out using free e-mail services, but then wonder why their e-mails end up in spam folders or are blocked from users' mailboxes.



Local businesses dig deep into FNB's eWallet Pro

ITWeb 14 December 2021

First National Bank (FNB) says more local businesses are processing payments through its eWallet Pro, with a 27% increase in companies using the payment solution.

Connecting SMEs with vendors

ITWeb 15 December 2021

The demand for using SME channel providers is unprecedented. Recognising that small, micro and medium businesses are key drivers for growth, various sectors emphasise using SME providers.



The Axiz platform value proposition for SMEs in eight articles

ITWeb 15 December 2021

Who is responsible for acquiring new business in your company? Who takes care of customers after they have purchased goods or services from you?

Pandemic drives SME demand for tech adoption

ITWeb 24 December 2021

A survey by the World Economic Forum (WEF) indicates that the COVID-19 pandemic has increased demand for more adoption and integration of digital technology among small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

Edge Growth to manage The SAB Thrive Fund

Bizcommunity 14 December 2021

Small business development specialist, Edge Growth, has been appointed by The SAB Thrive Fund to manage investments in this enterprise and supplier platform, with the aim of transforming suppliers within the SAB supply chain.

Standard Bank's BizFlex: a pay-as-you-earn loan designed for SMEs

IOL 15 December 2021

When it comes to running a business in today's disruptive and unpredictable environment, it's never been more important for entrepreneurs to read the signs and respond accordingly, by adapting their strategies with out-of-the-box thinking and lightning-fast execution.

Proparco and Standard Bank strengthen their partnership for financing MSMEs

IOL 21 December 2021

Proparco and Standard Bank signed two guarantee agreements for €28.5 million in Johannesburg today during Proparco's Deputy CEO, Djalal Khimdjee's visit to South Africa.

SMEs that win the Firstwatch Whisky Entrepreneur's Challenge will get tools to boost their business

IOL 27 December 2021

Firstwatch Whisky is calling on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to enter the Entrepreneur's Challenge.

WEF report shows barriers to SME technology adoption in emerging markets

Ventureburn 22 December 2021

While 97 percent of global companies have accelerated adoption of technology to get through the pandemic the World Economic Forum's (WEF) survey indicates that only 23 percent of SMEs were able to dedicate resources to new digital tools.

Majority of SMEs anticipate growth next year, says Mastercard

IOL 16 December 2021

While challenges related to the Covid-19 pandemic remained, six out of 10 small and medium, enterprises (SMEs) in South Africa said they were proactively planning for and anticipating growth in the next year, according to Mastercard's white paper.

Seamless ERP for SMEs regardless of user location

MyBroadband 15 December 2021

Working from home has become an intrinsic part of life for many due to the pandemic. This has led to an increased need for business agility, mobile working capabilities, and end-to-end security.

Kisby SME fund has initial R250m in "lifesaver" loans

Biznews 21 December 2021

It's been a year and a half since the Kisby SME Fund announced its intention to raise capital that would support high quality South African SMEs hammered by Covid-19 – and in need of low-cost loans.

Retail Capital Borrowing \$10m from Triodos Investment Management for Advances to SMEs in South Africa

MicroCapital 17 December 2021

Retail Capital, a South African lender to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), recently raised ZAR 150 million (USD 10 million) in debt capital from Triodos Investment Management, a Dutch impact investor.

SA banking needs to create end-to-end SME solutions

IT-Online 30 December 2021

While traditional banks express the intention to service SMEs, the inherent challenges faced financing SMEs means that the approval rate of disbursements remains relatively low, with outstanding loans to SMEs lower in 2020 than in 2016.



Click the title in red for further reading



A list of Reports

The State and Fate of Small and Medium Businesses - Whitepaper

The Digital SME

COVID-19 and Technology Adoption in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

