

**CO-OPS/18/12**



**South African Women In Co-operatives**

**SUBMISSION TO  
THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
(PARLIAMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA)**

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## **1. Background**

South African Women in Cooperatives (SAWICO) is a National Structure of co-operatives belonging to women in all sectors of economy. Women have been in the forefront for hundred years participating in stokvels and creating credit savings to improve livelihoods of their families. Research has also proven that the majority of members of co-operatives are women – WOMEN continue to draw strength from the boldness of our mothers and sisters of 1955.

SAWICO is a Secondary Co-operative that emerged to be a voice for all women co-operatives. We aim to facilitate programs that seek to address stagnation within the Co-Operative Sector. We are also guided by the Sixth Principle enshrined in the Co-Operative Act No 14 of 2005, "Cooperatives co-operating with other Co-Operatives". We also affiliate to an Apex Body, SANACO though independent in our existence.

### **Our Vision:**

To break the cycle of poverty amongst women and their families by 2020 through a critical and viable Cooperative Infrastructure.

### **Our Objectives are:**

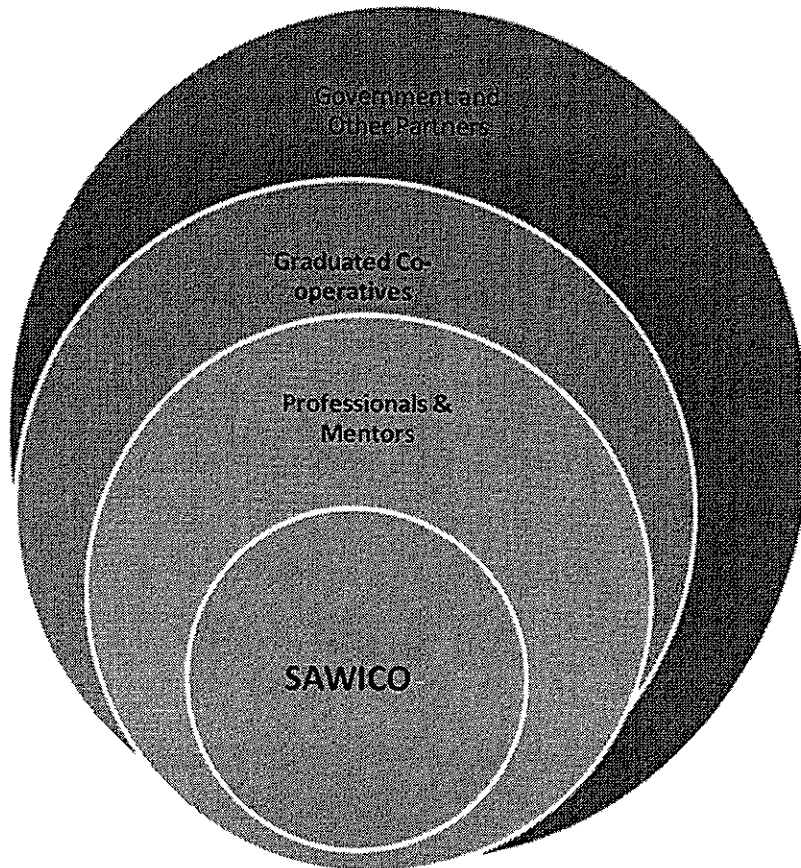
To provide a Business Incubator Facility for early stage and start up cooperatives for:

- ▶ Cooperative Management
- ▶ Financial Management
- ▶ Supplier Management
- ▶ Process Management
- ▶ Regular Compliance
- ▶ Mentorship
- ▶ And After-Care Services

### **Our Model**

- ▶ Orbital structure, that will have a strong central core (SAWICO)
- ▶ Professionals and Advisors with good Information for all stakeholders
- ▶ Graduated Cooperatives willing to provide services to incubated cooperatives

- ▶ Government Departments
- ▶ Alliance Partners willing to support the Egg-ubator.



**(Our Model)**

## 2. Our Submission

### 2.1 Amendment of Section 6

A Secondary Co-operative should be formulated by five Primary-Cooperatives of the same sector : Women Sector, Youth Sector , People with Disability, etc

Or

Economic Sectors/Commodities such as the Poultry Producers or Baries,etc.

### 2.2 Amendment of Section 16A

An Apex Body should be formulated by five Secondary Cooperatives of any sectors from a minimum of five provinces.

### 2.3 Amendment of Section 66(b)

A company intending to convert into a Co-Operative must have a minimum of 5 members and must convert within 90 days from the date of notification being submitted to the registrar of cooperatives.

### 2.4 Amendment of Section 8.7

The Advisory council appointed by the Minister should include at least 50% of Co-Operative Members representing Women, Youth, People with Disability and Rural People.

.....The End.....