

# BEE here to stay

**T**here is no point fighting the Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) policies of our country. It is here to stay.

That was the message to members of the Businesswomen's Association who attended the BEE Mentorship for Businesses meeting in Richards Bay.

'The fear many business people have concerning BEE policies stems from a severe lack of understanding,' said guest speaker Shirlee Caffyn-Parsons of Integra Scores Broadbased BEE.

'BEE is not about having a name - that is not empowerment.

'The point of BEE is to ensure people who were previously disadvantaged are now being empowered.

'To look at BEE sufficiently and correctly, one must look at the business in its entirety.'

Guests were also enlightened on which persons were exempt, and how to use scorecards and ratings to better their business opportunities.

'Factors such as ownership, management control, employ-

ment equity, skills development, preferential procurement, enterprise development and socio-economic development all affect a company's ratings.

'What you have at work that you think may give you many points, may in fact be pulling you down.'

Nashua Zululand Sales Director and recently elected chairperson of the local Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Musa Dlamini, also addressed members on the importance of empowering local women.



Sharing strategic business advice are Bongani Zigwaza of McCarthy Inyanga Motors and Havisha Ramsem of Old Mutual



Shelley Geel of ESS and Junety Sebothoma of Mafure Projects



Networking at the BWA BEE Mentorship for Businesses meeting are Claudia Labuschagne of Nashua Zululand, Shirlee Caffyn-Parsons of Integra Scores Broadbased BEE and Sherry Bevan of BWA Zululand