



NEWSFLASH

Release the old and embrace the new

FAREWELL

The 2024 year would be notable for the end of an era for the Co-operative Banks Development Agency (CBDA). The 2023/24 financial year, the sector closed with - 6 Co-operative Banks and 24 Cooperative Financial Institution (CFIs) with 17889* members and R594 million in deposit. Some CBIs had not submitted their Q4 returns to the Prudential Authority by the time its annual report was published, as such their information was excluded from the PA's report, but we are bound to use the PA's figures as outlined in their 2023/24 financial year annual report as they are the custodians of the regulatory framework, in essence the sector's financial position.

The highlights of the life of CBDA brought about the introduction of financial co-operative retail bonds; growth in investments and savings mobilization; adaptation to challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic; expansion of capacity-building initiatives; launch of the banking platform project which did not quite take off as planned; strengthened partnerships with key stakeholders; introduction of new digital tools for CBIs, like the Coop-Bank-In-A-Box and enhanced training programs for CBI members and continued focus on financial inclusion. Whilst the sector saw growth in member deposits; development of risk management frameworks and implementation of.

The CBDA's ongoing efforts to support and develop the co-operative banking sector in South Africa over the years have produced successes and failures which we have learnt from. This would be the end of the road for CBDA but the co-operative banking sector journey towards its vision would persist with the support of the new entity, Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency (**Sedfa**).

A background image showing a person's hands using a calculator and a pen on a document with a bar chart. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange rectangle containing white text.

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WELCOME

As of 01 October 2024, the Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency, **Sedfa**, commenced its operations. This new entity was formed when the Small Enterprise Finance Agency (sefa), the Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda), and the Cooperative Banks Development Agency (CBDA) officially merged to create **Sedfa** under the National Small Enterprise Amendment Act 21 of 2024 (NSEA).

The transition of the CBDA mandate and function to **Sedfa** would provide the sector with more services and brings about many opportunities for the implementation of the sector strategy.

Sedfa's is to support, promote, and develop co-operative banking in South Africa through non-financial and financial services.

The launch of the **Sedfa** logo in December 2024 held a profound significance which symbolised the journey, values, and unwavering commitment by the merged entities towards the clients they serve and will continue to empower under the **Sedfa** banner.

Sedfa is a partner in possibility, fuelling the dreams of small businesses and co-operates across the nation. We are all about unity in diversity, turning challenges into opportunities, and proving that when we work together, anything is possible.

Our symbol, the mighty tree is a promise of growth and sustainability, with the colour red shouting empowerment, gold glow with prosperity and green roots us in sustainability.



As we are embarking on this journey together hand in hand, we implore the sector to submit the regulatory reports within the prescripts of the PA, other regulators, as well as to **Sedfa** to ensure accurate reporting of the sector status in terms of its financial position, membership and its contribution to inclusive growth and job creation.

Sedfa is committed in continuing with the journey, hand in hand with the cooperative banking sector to achieve its strategy ambitions. **Sedfa** remain dedicated to promoting and advancing cooperative banking. We are inspired by the sector's commitment and dedication to the communities they serve, and are confident that together we will elevate cooperative banking institutions to be financial intermediaries of choice, whilst providing alternative savings channels to their members.

CONTACT US

We have relocated from the National Treasury building in 240 Madaba Street to **The Fields, Office Block A, 1066 Burnett Street, Hatfield, 0833**

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