

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

It is with a sense of achievement that I write this report for the first Annual General Meeting of *Clotex* because it brings to fruition a project that we started in 1994 with the formation of the Textile and Clothing Cluster Project, *Texclo* (see *CLOTEX* Background).

It is worth putting on record that Wolfgang Thomas of *Wesgro* played a key role in the establishment of *Clotex*. It can truly be said that if it were not for Wolfgang there would be no *Clotex* today. While dwelling on the past, I want to thank Jannie Hofmeyr and Mike Cawood of SANS for their support of *Texclo* and participation in it over a long period of time when progress was slow and painstaking.

I also wish to thank all the funders of *Clotex* who helped it become a reality. They are listed elsewhere in this Report. Particularly gratifying is the contract from the Ntsika Enterprise Promotion Agency (NEPA) to contribute R75 000 per quarter for a three-year period as from April 1998. This goes some way in providing more long-term financial security for *Clotex*. Additional incremental funding to enable *Clotex* to expand its range of services could help secure *Clotex* even more. On the same note I would like to thank the department of Trade Industry & Tourism (Western Cape) for their contribution over the last year.

It is worth mentioning that NEPA commissioned a formal organisational assessment of *Clotex* earlier in the year. The assessment was part of a larger assessment of all the Local Business Service Centres accredited by NEPA and carried out by Modulaqhowa Business and Management Consultants. Although the consultant doing the assessment did not find *Clotex* without blemish, it is pleasing to note that he reported to NEPA that he considered *Clotex* to be a "model of a sector-focused LBSC". He also stated that he had "no doubt that

with the staff that they have and the people



on the Board, this organisation is geared for rewarding results".

Clotex has grown into an active service organisation as is demonstrated by the account of its activities in this Report. These services constitute the core tasks of *Clotex* and are generally on the increase. A valuable contribution by Woolworths to the services was the Database Project which assessed 17 small clothing enterprises on the *Clotex* data-base and identified seven of them as potentially reliable Cut, Make and Trim businesses. *Clotex* has built on this research and has now surveyed 120 small clothing firms. This enables *Clotex* to provide a more specialised service to the industry.

There are plans afoot for *Clotex* to take a quantum leap ahead in services with the establishment of the *Clotex* Enterprise Centre. It is reported on elsewhere in this Report, but if it comes to fruition, the Centre will provide a valuable shot in the arm for the Western Cape clothing and textile industries.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johann Maree".

Johann Maree



CLOTEX