

### **Taking on the Lotto**

A move by four influential non-profit organisations to establish why South Africa's biggest funder has been ineffective is underway.

The four organisations at the centre of uncovering why the Lotto is not filtering its millions through to needy organisations are: Social Change Assistance Trust; Community Development Resource Agency (CDRA); Inyathelo - The South African Institute for Advancement; and Rural Education Access Programme. They launched their campaign late last month and say they aim to "establish why the National Lotteries Distribution Fund (NLDF) and the National Development Agency (NDA) have been ineffective in their roles to provide support for those in need in South Africa".

Melanie Judge, the programme manager of Inyathelo, said: "The four organisations are coming together to take a critical-look at the funding issue. Ultimately we would like to improve the funding practices and to build sustainability for NGOs." Speaking on behalf of the four organisations, Shelagh Gastrow said: "We have agreed that neither the NLDF nor the NDA are meeting their mandates as defined in law, nor are they realising their potential to address South Africa's development challenges". The scope of their funding is limited and beneficiary constituencies appear to have no say in the strategies of these agencies". James Taylor of CDRA added that the four organisations had noted that there had been cause to "take on" the lotteries and the NDA amidst much anecdotal evidence of poor funding practise, lost documentation, inefficiency and lack of care.

"We believe that any action taken by civil society needs to be based on grounded facts established through research and analysis. We plan to undertake this exercise and commit to disseminating our findings to the civil society sector, encouraging organisations to use the material and information in a myriad of ways such as in campaigns, engagement with the state or in parliament", he said.