

Mississippi Development Authority
P. O. Box 849
Jackson, MS 39205

Contact: Jennifer Spann
601.359.6680

Date: May 29, 2002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BUILDING NEW PARTNERSHIPS CONFERENCE HELD IN JACKSON

JACKSON, Miss. – The Mississippi Development Authority's (MDA) Minority Business Enterprise Division will host the Building New Partnerships Conference on Thursday, May 30, 2002, at Northgate Mikhail's Convention Center, 4330 North State Street in Jackson. The event begins with breakfast at 7:30 a. m., and concludes at 1:00 p. m. after a networking lunch. This year's theme, "Navigating the State and Federal Contracting Maze," will help small, minority-owned and women-owned businesses learn how to do business with government agencies.

"Partnerships between government agencies and small businesses are essential for Mississippi's economic growth," said Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., executive director of the Mississippi Development Authority. "Our goal for this conference is to provide strategies for businesses to increase their profit margins, while developing new contacts for future business."

The keynote speaker for the day's event is the Honorable Bennie Thompson, U. S. Representative. The event includes a breakfast networking opportunity, and displays of business exhibits. Attendees can also participate in panel discussions focusing on a particular topic related to the conference theme. Discussions will include: Doing Business with the State of Mississippi, Access to Capital and Credit Worthiness.

"Representatives from state of Mississippi purchasing and procurement offices will provide insight on the requirements for doing business with their offices," said Leonard Boddie, of MDA's Minority Business Enterprise Division (MBED). "We'd like to make it easier to understand the maze of government contracts so businesses can benefit from doing business with the government."

Space for the conference is limited; interested persons are asked to register in advance. For more information or to register, contact MBED at (601) 359-3448.

###