

# IN THE NEWS

August  
2018



**MASDT**  
MOBILE AGRI SKILLS  
DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING (NPC)



## INCUBATION GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Department of Trade and Industry (Dti), together with Seda and the Enterprises University of Pretoria (Enterprises UP) colluded to develop a special programme called the Incubation Governance and Management Development Programme (IGMDP). The programme seeks to improve skills to effectively manage and ensure good governance of the incubators. The programme also improves the managing skills of Incubation Managers. The course modules include the business incubation ecosystem, governance,

marketing and stakeholder management, human resource and operations management, financial management and innovation.

MASDT's Business Development Manager - Mr Inocent Makuwaza - attended the course and graduated with flying colours. He was chosen to do a graduation speech and had the following to say;

***"Dear all,***

***As I stand here looking upon all your eager...***

- INCUBATION GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

- PROVINCIAL FEMALE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2018

- AGRI NORTHERN CAPE 2018 CONGRESS

- HERDING FOR HEALTH TRAINING ALLIANCE WORKSHOP

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**...faces, I realise that while I need to thank you, it is also important to mention that one of the very few things that no one can take away from each one of us is knowledge and one of the most important things in our lives is someone who says thank you.**

**I am honoured to have been selected to give a thank you speech at such a prestigious event. I would like to thank the officials from the Dti and the Department of Small Business Development (DSBD) who sat down and decided to come up with such a concept.**

**I would also like to thank Prof Alex and his team at the University of Pretoria for crafting and designing such an impressive programme. Lastly, I would like to thank my classmates in the 1st cohort of the IGMDP for the positive peer interaction and cross pollination of ideas that transpired throughout the programme. You guys are awesome.**

**More and more organisations as well as individuals are getting involved in the business incubation space in our**

**country. This is evident by a plethora of incubators that have mushroomed in the last few years across the country. Sadly a vast majority of these do not possess the relevant expertise to provide the much needed incubation support to SMME's.**

**It is through programmes like the IGMDP that this gap can be filled. Associations like SABTIA can leverage on a programme like the IGMDP as a tool to indoctrinate and standardize the business incubation sector.**

**My management skills have greatly improved due to the knowledge that I have received from this programme. My confidence as a manager has also been on a skyward trajectory.**

**We have since implemented changes to the incubation model at our Incubator and positive outcomes are imminent “.**

**MASDT would like to congratulate Mr Makuwaza on his completion of the course, and know that the extra accreditation will raise his already excellent management skills.**



## PROVINCIAL FEMALE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2018

MASDT was invited to attend The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' (DAFF) annual Provincial Female Entrepreneur of the Year Awards in Middelburg, Mpumalanga on the 7th of August.

One of MASDT's clients - Hati Endlela Marite Co-operative was nominated in the youth category and ultimately ended up winning 3rd place with a R20 000 cash prize to take home. The project is owned by the sisters - Ms. Loveness Mokoena and Ms. Penelope Mokoena and they were ecstatic about their results. Hati Endlela Marite is located in Bushbuckridge in the Limpopo Province and farms with vegetables including butternut, cabbage and tomatoes. MASDT's Junior Business Development Officer, Ms. Pretty Nkosi, attended the event with the project.

The event took place in the Banquet Hall of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality and was attended by the MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development, Land- and Environmental Affairs - Mr. Vusi Shongwe who conveyed a powerful message to the women that attended. "Our provincial economy is mostly dependant on agricultural output. We should, as a province, open up more avenues for female farmers to exert themselves, especially also luring the youth into it. It is very encouraging to see that the support we're giving them as a department is bearing fruit. The phrase "Empowering a woman is empowering a nation" goes a long way and stands to be true in our situation".

MASDT would like to extend their congratulations to the project and is looking forward to seeing what the future holds for them.



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## AGRI NORTHERN CAPE 2018 CONGRESS

Agri Northern Cape recently hosted its Annual Congress on the 29th of August 2018 at the esteemed Horseshoe Inn in Kimberley. The theme for this year was 'A nation saves itself! '.

The agri sector is probably the one sector in the country that is the most under pressure at the moment. Uncertainty at a political level has undoubtedly created economic instability. Agriculture's contribution to GDP helped the total economy out of a technical recession. That is why agriculture is South Africa's best friend in terms of economic growth. This was the message behind the theme that Agri Northern Cape's President - Mr. Henk van Wyk - wanted to convey. Sadly Mr. van Wyk passed away on the 18th of August this year. He was replaced by Mr. Nicol Jansen who was the Vice President of Agri Northern Cape.

The Congress was bounteous with the who's-who of the Northern Cape's

agricultural world and the delegates were treated to world class speakers. The first guest speaker was world renowned political analyst, Ms. Melanie Verwoerd. Ms. Verwoerd has quite an impressive resume, including being the youngest LP in the South African parliament and being selected by the Financial Mail as one of only two top political analysts in South Africa in 2018. Ms. Verwoerd's theme for her presentation at the Congress was 'Let's talk about land', where she gave the assembly food for thought on how to tackle and view the agricultural future of South Africa.

Mrs. Lynette Bezuidenhout, who attended the Congress was very impressed with the speakers and said that despite the challenges, we as a country MUST get agriculture to succeed. She commented that it was a great opportunity to connect with role players in the Northern Cape's agri sector and will definitely be back for next year's Congress.

## HERDING FOR HEALTH TRAINING ALLIANCE WORKSHOP

Dr Piet van Zyl and Ms Cecily du Toit attended the Herding for Health Training Alliance Workshop at the Garden Court Hotel, O R Tambo Airport, on the 29th and 30th of August 2018.

"Improved livestock management using planned grazing and kraaling techniques can restore rangelands, alleviate poverty, help cattle and wildlife to co-exist and better protect local communities from

climate change in some of the most biodiverse areas across the African continent."

This is being successfully demonstrated by the Herding for Health model which is yielding positive results in terms of conservation outcomes and poverty alleviation in strategic pilot sites in South Africa that is being rolled out in several trans frontier conservation areas in the region.

The model is based on scientific research and best practice to facilitate an integrated value chain approach to rangeland management, livestock health and production, marketing and trade, and wildlife-livestock conflict mitigation.

The model combines holistic planned grazing and mobile kraaling with conservation agreement approaches and newly adopted international trade standards for beef produced in foot-and-mouth disease areas.

Key to the success of the model is the provision of quality training for skilled herders.

Conservation South Africa and Peace Parks Foundation invited MASDT to participate in a workshop to bring together

key stakeholders and training service providers involved in sustainable livestock management, livelihoods and rangeland restoration. The aim of the workshop was to:

- Determine what training is currently being offered for "professional herders" and by whom,
- Discuss the possibility/desirability of creating a network or alliance of trainers or some platform for trainers to share information, collaborate and promote curricula and training for best practice linked to planned grazing and kraaling in Southern Africa.
- Create a common vision or value proposition for a proposed Herding for Health Alliance.

