

## A NOTE FROM NAJWAH

**T**he Jobs Fund and its implementation partners work together to address unemployment and inequality in South Africa. Let us forge ahead, dig deep and find better ways of executing this important task despite the odds. Let us use our individual and collective agency to catalyse change in the system. The 2017 Learning Forum will present us with another opportunity to identify pragmatic solutions to the challenge of unemployment, especially among women and youth.

**“LET US USE OUR INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE AGENCY TO CATALYSE CHANGE IN THE SYSTEM.”**

The forum will allow us to robustly debate issues, ranging from the potential of the agricultural sector

to create economic opportunities in rural and peri-urban areas, to options for a coherent response to youth unemployment. We will have the opportunity to listen to a remarkable South African's keynote address on the importance of leadership in development, particularly for inclusive growth.

We would like to congratulate our Jobs Fund partner of five years, the Lima Rural Development Foundation, for winning the Rural Development Award at the 14th annual Standard Bank Top Women Awards.

The Fund is finalising the appraisal of applications for the 7th call for proposals. We are looking forward to increasing our network of partners.

*N. Allie-Edries*

[@JobsFund\\_NT](#)

## PARTNER NEWS

### LIMA SCOOPS RURAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD



Angela Parry, Business Development Specialist at Lima

The Lima Rural Development Foundation received the Rural Development Award at the 14th annual Standard Bank Top Women Awards, which took place on 17 August.

Lima provides a sustainable and integrated rural development service to many urban and rural communities by establishing appropriate institutions, developing local economies and providing training to empower people in rural areas, particularly women. >>

### ENCOURAGING GROWTH IN LATEST RESULTS 30 SEPTEMBER 2017

The Jobs Fund has a portfolio of **117 approved projects** with a total allocation of **R6.1 billion** in grant

funds. These projects will potentially leverage an additional **R8.6 billion** from our partners to create **239 903 permanent jobs**.

A total of **113 projects** have created **104 443 new permanent jobs**

and placed an additional **57 746** people in vacant permanent positions. To date, these projects have created **32 608 short-term jobs** and provided work-readiness and technical training to **223 271** people.

# CELEBRATING WORLD FOOD DAY WITH VKB

The 16th of October marked World Food Day, which commemorates the founding of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). This year's theme focused on addressing migration through investing in food security and rural development.

South Africa has climbed three points on the Dupont Food Security Index, placing it first in Africa and 44th globally, despite having weathered the worst drought in decades. As part of its celebrations, the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and his delegation visited Lekhotla Makoele's farm.



Lekhotla Makoele, Minister Senzeni Zokwana and Xavier Edziwa, Project Director at the Jobs Fund

"I have never planted asparagus in my life but I have seen white people work with it and didn't know what was happening. They won't do anything that doesn't have profit," says Makoele.

**"IN FARMING, YOU MUST HAVE LOVE FOR IT. DON'T GO IN IT FOR THE MONEY; YOU MUST WORK IT TO MAKE MONEY."**

Farmers are provided with a full package of support that includes on-farm mentorship, finance and mechanisation. Asparagus is a high-value, labour-intensive crop with the potential to double a farmer's income. This initiative will create an estimated 200 seasonal jobs for six months of the year.

Because the asparagus seed is not locally available, it is imported. The seedlings are made at Top Crop Nursery and transplanted by hand in fields. A total of 2 million seedlings will be used on the two asparagus farms.

Makoele and the three farmers in his cooperative will plant 60 hectares in total. The first batch was planted in April.

"In farming, you must have love for it. Don't go in it for the money; you must work it to make money," advises Makoele.

## PARTNER NEWS (CONT.)

>> All entries were evaluated against gender empowerment and performance criteria, and the 150 chosen finalists contested 26 diverse categories. The panel of judges included Kate Moodley, Franchise Director at Discovery Holdings; Phuti Mahanyele, Executive Chairperson at Sigma Capital and Margaret Sibiya, Chief Operating Officer at ICT-Works.

The Jobs Fund would like to congratulate Lima and wish it the best as it continues to promote dignified, sustainable and transformative community growth across South Africa.

Makoele started farming in 1989. In 1995, he received a loan from the Land Bank and is proud to have paid it back before the 25-year term.

Makoele's 386 hectare farm is part of VKB's Developing Sustainable Small Commercial Farmers project, funded by the Jobs Fund. He joined VKB eight years ago when he was planting mealie, wheat, soya beans and dry beans. Now, with the help of VKB, he has set his sights on asparagus.

The Developing Sustainable Small Commercial Farmers project has developed two asparagus farms in Qwa-Qwa and Rosendal (Mautse), totalling 130 hectares. Two primary agricultural cooperatives will produce the asparagus collectively.

**T**he Trust for Urban Housing Finance (TUHF) is a specialist inner-city commercial property financier that provides funding to small businesses. Using the Jobs Fund's grant of R200 million, the TUHF is implementing a R1 billion funding structure to help new and existing entrepreneurs buy and construct about 200 residential buildings.

Solly Ramalamula, former policeman turned entrepreneur, is the proud owner of six TUHF-financed properties. With hard work, tenacity and the trust's assistance, Ramalamula was able to purchase the first of his properties in 2010. Key to his success is his belief in the importance of safety, security and cleanliness.

In 2012, Ramalamula's company, Take Shape, purchased Verena Court in the Johannesburg CBD using funding from the TUHF and his policeman's pension. Painted in Take Shape's signature blue and purple, Verena Court stands cheerfully on a corner. The neighbourhood is full of the sounds of children playing behind the secure fence and neighbours chatting, content in the knowledge that their home is well maintained and a safe place to live.

The property comprises several building configurations, including a block of flats with 18 one-and-a-half bedroom units, a house and two semi-detached buildings with 18 rooms

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## BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO THE INNER CITY

in total. The block of flats also has a small supermarket on the ground floor and is conveniently close to Primrose Mall. Ramalamula employs an on-site caretaker and a cleaner to maintain the property, while the family-run supermarket provides employment to four people.

In addition to repainting Verena Court's flats, Ramalamula made minor changes to uplift the building. The house and semi-detached buildings, however, needed major development. Ramalamula installed access control and a gate with a remote control for tenants parking on the property. >>



**Solly Ramalamula – this is the most recent and largest of his developments, Hollywood Heights**



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He met with residents before beginning refurbishments to explain his vision for a clean and secure living environment. Although this meant a substantial increase in monthly rental fees, most of the tenants chose to stay on and appreciate the improvements.

As one resident said, "I like it here, it's safe and clean."

The rooms are rented out from between R556 and R1 669.26 per month. The apartments are let, mainly to families, for R3 672.38 per month, with an

additional levy for parking.

Ramalamula's success in managing his own properties has resulted in other property entrepreneurs asking for his advice. In addition to Take Shape Properties, which owns six properties, Ramalamula also runs Take Shape Property Management, which assists a number of property entrepreneurs, including some of the TUHF's other clients, in managing their properties. The company website boasts 153 properties, 489 customers and two dedicated agents.

The TUHF project is promoting local economic development and contributing to urban regeneration. It provides access to finance for previously excluded entrepreneurs, creating permanent jobs in both the construction and management phases of developments and many more indirect jobs in the inner city.

The project has leveraged more than R1.17 million against the R200 million guarantee, raising its matched funding ratio to 1:5.85.

## STAFF PROFILE

*Lerato Seko*



**"SEEING FIRST-HAND THE KIND OF IMPACT THE FUND IS MAKING ON THE GROUND MAKES ME WANT TO GET OUT OF BED AND GIVE IT MY ALL."**

### Where are you from?

I was born and bred in Soweto, Johannesburg.

### What did you study?

I have a BA in Politics and Economy from the University of Johannesburg and a BCom Honours in Economics from the University of South Africa.

### Where have you lived?

Although I've moved a few times, I've only lived in Soweto.

### What are your hobbies?

I really enjoy hiking and try to rope in as many friends as I can. I love travelling, reading a good book, binge-watching series and going to the movies.

### What is your role in the Jobs Fund?

I am the Communications Specialist.

### Which part of your job do you like most?

This is really a place of learning. I've been here just over a year and I am in awe of the great projects I have come across. Being in a place that's dynamic and challenging helps you grow as an individual. Seeing first-hand the kind of impact the Fund is making on the ground makes me want to get out of bed and give it my all. It feels good to be able to tell people that there is a tremendous amount of effort being directed towards employment creation in the country, especially during these tough times.