

## A NOTE FROM NAJWAH

Our Jobs Fund partners have had a particularly busy start to the year, with many milestones being achieved. I would like to congratulate The Clothing Bank for winning the prestigious Schwab Foundation Award for 2016, which recognises outstanding social entrepreneurs.

Details of their incredible achievement can be found in this edition. In May this year, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) launched a state-of-the-art centre for biotechnology – the first of its kind in South Africa. Mercedes-Benz launched their Learning Academy earlier in the year.

The Jobs Fund is excited to be associated with these innovative initiatives that will strengthen skills and create jobs.

With youth month having just passed, it is an ideal opportunity to reflect on the Jobs Fund's efforts to support young South Africans.

In this edition, we share some of the lessons learned in addressing the barriers to youth employment through our collaboration with the Harambee Youth Accelerator, the Southern African Wildlife College and the RedCap Foundation's JumpStart initiative.

Several projects have reached the close-out stage; we look forward to working with you to capture the lessons learned. Your project manager will be contacting you to finalise the self-evaluation report and financial statements.

Several projects approved in the fifth funding round, which focused on agriculture, are now being implemented. The Jobs Fund looks forward to partnering with these projects as we navigate the challenges that the drought presents.

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*Najwah Allie-Edries*

## JOBS FUND BENEFICIARY WINS MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AWARD



One of the Jobs Fund's enterprise development partners, The Clothing Bank, has won the 2016 Schwab Foundation's Social Entrepreneur of the Year award.

The Clothing Bank is a South African non-profit organisation that uses excess stock from large clothing retailers to transform the lives of unemployed mothers.

Every year, the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship – the sister organisation of the World Economic Forum – considers thousands of nominations from around the world. This year only 11 organisations, including The Clothing Bank, met the criteria for the prestigious award.

Najwah Allie-Edries, Head of Employment Facilitation at the Jobs Fund, said: "The Clothing Bank project is very special to the Jobs Fund. It not only works to create jobs for women, but also stimulates the small, medium and micro enterprise sector. Their focus is twofold: economic upliftment and personal empowerment. The Clothing Bank's innovative job-creation model is an example of the private sector and social entrepreneurs working together to achieve positive social outcomes. Their rigorous approach through the use of the Poverty Spotlight Tool facilitates the measurement of social change and the direct impact the initiative has on reducing poverty at a community level. The Jobs Fund and the National Treasury of South Africa extend their congratulations and gratitude to the dedicated staff and entrepreneurs at The Clothing Bank."

Since its establishment by Tracey Chambers and Tracey Gilmore six years ago, The Clothing Bank has trained more than 1 135 women to establish small businesses. Collectively, these women have generated profits of more than R40 million, at an average of R4 100 per month each. "We are extremely grateful for the support and encouragement of our major sponsors: the Jobs Fund, the Old Mutual Foundation, the IDC and the European Union, as well as our retail partners: Woolworths, Edcon, Pick n Pay Clothing, Mr Price and Clicks. The success of our projects and the difference we are able to make to the lives of so many families would not be possible without their ongoing, generous support. The award from the Schwab Foundation is an acknowledgement of this," Ms Chambers said.

"They have recognised that poverty is far more than a lack of money and that our programmes are designed to eradicate poverty in a sustainable way." The money the women earn is used to feed, clothe and educate their families, while stimulating other township businesses. According to Ms Chambers, it is the soft skills training and support provided to the women over the two years they spend in The Clothing Bank's programme that transforms necessity entrepreneurs into sustainable business owners.

"Using the Poverty Spotlight Tool's 50 indicators as a measure of poverty, we have seen the women who start on our programme with hardly any poverty indicators in the green, end the programme with around 45 green indicators and only one – living in a high-crime environment – still red," she said.

"In addition, within one year of joining the programme, their debt levels reduce by 63 percent, savings increase from very little to an average of R1 951 each, with 93 percent of women saving. About 73 percent report a significant influence on their children, who are doing better at school. In addition, 83 percent have hope for their children's future and 51 percent say relationships have improved, with many having had the courage to overcome abusive relationships."

After two years, the women are able to continue with their clothing businesses and can choose to either buy merchandise from The Clothing Bank or use what they have learned to start other businesses. Several have become franchisees of businesses started under The Clothing Bank's micro franchise accelerator project.

**For additional information, contact:**  
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**national treasury**  
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National Treasury  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## JOBS FUND CATALYSES THE BIRTH OF BIOMANUFACTURING CENTRE IN SOUTH AFRICA



The CSIR's bioprocess project is actively catalysing the development of South Africa's biomanufacturing industry through its Biomanufacturing Industry Development Centre (BIDC). The centre focuses on developing product prototypes, conducting efficacy trials and market testing.

The bioprocess project struggled to access capital as potential funders considered the project to be too risky. In line with its mission of partnering with innovative, high-impact projects that contribute to accelerated job creation and offer practical and lasting solutions to South Africa's employment challenges, the Jobs Fund partnered with the BIDC. On 5 December 2012, the Jobs Fund's Investment Committee approved grant funding of R72 million for this project. This grant funding leveraged a further R18 million in matched funding.

### Project highlights

- On 13 May 2016, the Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor, officially opened the project at the CSIR premises in Pretoria.
- The BIDC is currently supporting 19 enterprises, of which 16 are owned by black entrepreneurs, including 10 black women-owned enterprises.
- To date, the project has developed 33 products with applications in the cosmetics, nutrition and biotechnology industries. These products have been transferred to the enterprises.
- The project has created 105 permanent jobs and 165 temporary jobs, the majority of which are within the enterprises and their value chains.
- At least 54 interns have received training in the BIDC vocational learning programme to provide the biomanufacturing sector with a skilled workforce.

In her closing remarks, Minister Naledi Pandor encouraged the Jobs Fund to fund more projects that address unemployment in the country.

## THE JOBS FUND RESPONDS TO THE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT CHALLENGE

At 26.7 percent, South Africa has the highest unemployment rate in the world. The youth, who comprise 60 percent of the current active labour force, are the worst affected. South Africa's economic growth trajectory has not adequately addressed unemployment levels, which were further aggravated by the 1.2 percent contraction of GDP in the first quarter of the 2016/17 financial year. In addition, employment figures decreased in the first quarter of 2016 to the lowest since 2010 (Quarterly Labour Survey, Q2 2016).

High levels of unemployment are said to be a mirror of the state of a nation's economy. This may hold true as economic growth in South Africa has been sluggish and exclusionary. Some research suggests that lack of education and skills, not growth, are the main contributors to unemployment. It is evident that addressing the youth unemployment challenge requires a coordinated approach from different stakeholders.



**"I WOULD LIKE TO THANK HARAMBEE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY THEY GAVE ME – I AM NOW EMPLOYED AND NO LONGER A STATISTIC OF UNEMPLOYMENT."**

– NOLUVUYO GUMA

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Soweto Youth Uprising. The class of 1976 marched against the socio-political injustices of the apartheid regime, whose policies included the introduction of Bantu education, Afrikaans as a compulsory medium of education in schools and separate development across South Africa. The challenges of the youth of 1976 differ from those facing the youth of today and therefore the responses to the current challenges require a different approach. Much has been done to address past inequities since the advent of democracy, such as reforming policies and implementing programmes that help address issues of inequality, poverty and unemployment.

As we mark the 40th anniversary of the youth of 1976, it is befitting to highlight the progress that the South African government has made to address the unemployment challenge. The Jobs Fund is one of government's key employment facilitation programmes that help address unemployment in South Africa. The Jobs Fund's ultimate goal is to identify and learn from effective interventions and programmes that contribute to accelerated job creation and a better functioning labour market.

The Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator, the RedCap Foundation's JumpStart programme and the Southern African Wildlife College's training and

development of youth at risk are some of the initiatives in the Jobs Fund portfolio that help address youth unemployment.

Harambee matches unemployed, poor and disadvantaged youth who have talent and potential, but are at risk of long-term unemployment, to work opportunities and bridges their work-readiness gaps. With a total approved budget of R120 million, Harambee has placed over 10 100 unemployed youth in full-time jobs over three years. The hospitality sector absorbed over 50 percent of these youths.

Harambee's success can be attributed to its demand-driven methodology and continued strengthening of relationships and partnerships with employers. Harambee recruits work seekers and assesses their competencies. They are then matched with opportunities where they are most likely to succeed. Potential employers are involved throughout this process and work-readiness solutions are developed to address the needs and priorities of these employers. Much can be learned from the Harambee model – it has effectively intervened in the labour market.

The RedCap Foundation's JumpStart project aims to prepare unemployed youth for the world of work and ultimately contribute to addressing South Africa's unemployment problem. It does this by providing skills training to young job seekers between the ages of 18 and 30 years old. The target group is mainly unemployed matriculants who are unable to get into tertiary institutions, or who have dropped out of tertiary institutions and cannot find jobs due to their lack of skills and experience. Young people who successfully complete the training are placed in clerical and sales positions at Mr Price Group's outlets (Mr Price, Mr Price Sport, Milady's, Mr Price Home and Sheet Street). To date, JumpStart has trained a total of 10 876 beneficiaries and placed 4 266 beneficiaries in permanent positions.



**"I'M NOW HIGHLY CONFIDENT OF WHO I AM AND BELIEVE THAT NOW I HAVE A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD OF ME. I AM ABLE TO SUPPORT MY FAMILY AND I'M NOW A NEW PERSON... THANKS TO THE MRP FOUNDATION'S JUMPSTART PROGRAMME."**

– NONKULULEKO MAZIBUKU, TRAINEE PATTERN MAKER

The Southern African Wildlife College has trained 90 unemployed youth living in communities in the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area, which spans Mpumalanga and Limpopo, including the Kruger National Park, and borders private and

## IMPACT



As at 31 March 2016, the Jobs Fund has:

- Allocated **R5.5 billion** in grant funding to **105 projects**
- Disbursed **R3.2 billion** to implement portfolio projects
- Leveraged **R6.4 billion** in matched funding from project partners.



These projects have reportedly:

- Created **73 698** new permanent jobs
- Placed **40 641** individuals in permanent positions
- Created **17 642** short-term jobs
- Trained **148 782** beneficiaries.



**"I HAVE ALWAYS DREAMT OF BEING A FIELD RANGER AND NOW THAT HAS BECOME A REALITY THANKS TO THE JOBS FUND AND SAWC."**

– MANDLENKOSI MTHOKO NHLENYAMA, FIELD RANGER

provincial game reserves, through a 12-month learnership programme. The beneficiaries were trained in conservation guardianship skills to give them a better chance of future employment in their own communities or conservation organisations. The trained beneficiaries have been placed with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency and local, privately owned game farms. Through the field ranger training, the youth will provide support in addressing the poaching of wild animals in protected areas.

Through these diverse partnerships with the private sector and non-governmental organisations, the Jobs Fund has contributed to the creation of more than 114 000 sustainable jobs. It has also helped improve the skills match between supply and demand for labour by training about 148 000 people in work-readiness and technical skills.

Through the matched funding received from its partners, the Jobs Fund is continuing to scale up and reach more unemployed youth.

As we congratulate the youth of 1976, we also congratulate initiatives like Harambee and JumpStart that work to address the youth unemployment challenge. The Jobs Fund's target of achieving 150 000 sustainable jobs may seem insignificant when youth unemployment sits at 3.7 million, but the journey starts with the first step. As Nelson Mandela said, "It looks impossible until it is done."

## STAFF PROFILE



**Where are you from?**  
I was born and bred in East London.

**What did you study?**  
I studied information technology and majored in software development and information systems. I have a National Diploma in information technology from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. I have completed a UNISA PM BOK certificate course and I am a PRINCE II registered practitioner. I also have advanced knowledge of MS SQL and various business intelligence software packages.

**Where have you lived?**  
East London and Pretoria.

**What are your hobbies?**  
I am a football fanatic (Liverpool scouser) and love playing the sport. I play soccer every week for a social team and I recently joined a football club in Johannesburg. I enjoy running too, but unfortunately the altitude in Gauteng seems to exceed my enthusiasm to run more regularly.

**What is your role at the Jobs Fund?**  
I am the manager of the grant management system and form part of the core management

team within the Jobs Fund. My job involves facilitating system enhancements, general system maintenance, supporting stakeholders, and collating and analysing data.

**Which part of your job do you like most?**  
Although I am not directly involved in creating jobs in South Africa, I do appreciate the efforts made by all stakeholders. It's a fascinating process that I am proud to be a part of. I enjoy supporting the team (internal and external) to allow them to achieve their goals and targets using technology and data.