

A NOTE FROM NAJWAH

It has been an exciting few months at the Jobs Fund. We welcomed new project partners, held a successful Learning Forum and saw a steady increase in jobs created. After processing 211 applications, the Jobs Fund Investment Committee approved 18 agricultural projects, with a total allocation of more than R850 million. We look forward to working with our new partners; welcome to the team!

This year's Learning Forum was an overwhelming success. I would like to thank our Jobs Fund partners for participating in the forum. I was motivated by the discussions and debate, and I hope that you all left feeling reinvigorated and committed to creating more jobs. We appreciate your feedback and will endeavour to incorporate your suggestions into next year's forum.

Congratulations once again to Harambee, Akwandze and Tongaat Hulett, who were presented with awards during the forum for their noteworthy efforts to decrease unemployment in South Africa. I would also like to thank our partners who facilitated workshops. Witnessing the impact of our initiatives is the most rewarding part of our work. Listening to the

stories of Thulani, Benedict and Happiness, whose lives have been changed through our projects, was the highlight of the Learning Forum. We would like to keep profiling the work of our partners and will be contacting you to discuss how we can showcase your work. I believe that it is important to recognise the excellent work that is being done because it motivates us to do more and work even harder to contribute to job creation and sustainable development.

"OUR LATEST RESULTS SHOW A STEADY INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF JOBS CREATED, BUT MUCH WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE IF WE ARE TO MEET OUR OVERALL TARGETS"

Our latest results show a steady increase in the number of jobs created, but much work needs to be done if we are to meet our overall targets. I urge all our partners to work closely with their project managers to proactively manage implementation challenges and continue to innovate. My team and I are here to support you, and we will work tirelessly in our efforts to ensure the success of all projects.

I encourage you to take a look at our newly designed website and send us feedback. We want to make it a platform to highlight our partners' work. Please send updates to Rulleska.Singh@treasury.gov.za.

Happy reading.

N. Alkie - Edries

ENCOURAGING GROWTH IN LATEST RESULTS

The Jobs Fund has a portfolio of **108 approved projects** with a total allocation of **R5.6 billion** in grant funds. These projects will potentially leverage an additional **R8 billion** from our partners to create jobs.

Implemented projects have already created **55 244 new permanent jobs** and an additional **25 315 people have been placed** in vacant positions. To date, these projects have created **14 096 short-term jobs** and trained **112 550 people**.



FUNDING AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS

We have appraised the business case applications received during the fifth call for proposals for the agriculture funding round. In the second quarter of 2015/16, the Jobs Fund Investment Committee approved **18 new projects**, for which more than **R850 million** has been allocated.





LEARNING FORUM 2015

The Jobs Fund's 2015 Learning Forum focused on the role that small businesses can play in achieving innovative, inclusive and pro-poor solutions for sustainable job creation. Topics discussed at the forum included the critical challenges that small businesses face and the effective solutions that Jobs Fund partners have deployed to overcome these challenges. The forum also explored pioneering approaches being piloted to ensure that small businesses are resilient, growth-orientated and offer sustainable opportunities for marginalised participants in the South African economy.

The CEO of the Maharishi Institute, Taddy Blecher, gave the opening address. The Maharishi Institute was created in 2007 to make tertiary education accessible to all by providing non-educational support to students wishing to access education through accredited educational partners, to present South Africa as a leading innovator in education provision and to showcase the worldwide breakthrough of consciousness-based education.

Mr Blecher shared a frank overview of the state of unemployment in our country and how education has contributed to the challenge. His thought-provoking presentation outlined potential ways to effectively use small, micro and medium enterprises (SMMEs) to address unemployment, such as developing a national entrepreneurship plan and aligning it with the National Development Plan and the Industrial Policy Action Plan.

"There are an estimated 13 million unemployed people in South Africa.

According to the National Development Plan, 11 million new jobs need to be created by 2030. The only way in which we can achieve this is to grow our economy. This will require existing SMMEs to grow substantially and for new SMMEs to be formed," said Mr Blecher.

The forum's keynote address was delivered by the Chair of the Investment Committee, Deputy Minister of Finance Mcebisi Jonas. The minister said that the latest Jobs Fund funding round has the potential to reinvigorate the agricultural sector, create jobs, stimulate market linkages for smallholder farmers and, ultimately, transform South Africa's economy.

To support and profile innovative ideas and partnerships that contribute to tackling unemployment and create sustainable jobs, the Jobs Fund recognised the outstanding performance of Akwandze, Tongaat Hulett and Harambee. These organisations received

awards for developing innovative employment models and making a noteworthy contribution to decreasing unemployment in South Africa. Their projects are on track to meet their targets and they have reported promptly and demonstrated overall good practice.

Jobs Fund project partners at the forum, including Thulani Ntshuntshe of Awethu, Happiness Makathini from the Clothing Bank and Benedict Ruele from Harambee, shared uplifting stories on how lives have been changed. "The Jobs Fund project has not only given me the opportunity to make money, it has helped me build courage, be proud of myself and congratulate myself for the work that I have done. I am a changed woman," said Happiness.

Many partners reported enjoying networking with Jobs Fund staff and other partners. It is important for our partners to talk with one another and identify potential synergies between different projects. Organisations tend to work in silos, often unaware of other projects and how potential partnerships could easily close gaps in job-creation

models. We hope that the online platform (<http://jobsfund.freeforums.net>) will be used to further these discussions and partnerships. We appreciate any feedback on how the platform can be improved. Based on Jobs Fund partner input, the forum held four workshops and five training sessions designed specifically to address some of the challenges and questions identified by our partners. These workshops and training sessions were well received. One of the few criticisms was that

the workshops were not long enough and further interrogation of the topics was needed. This is something that we will take into account for the next Learning Forum.

"It is crucial that we all take some time to reflect and learn, and the Jobs Fund Learning Forum provided just that. It

took many of us out of our day-to-day routine and exposed us to new ideas, theories, models and ways of thinking. We also had the opportunity to meet new people. We all get caught up in the management of daily operations and forget to make the time for strategic thought," said Vuyo Tetyana, Manager: Monitoring and Evaluation.

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PROJECT PROFILE: AFRICA!IGNITE

Working together to develop small businesses through responsible tourism

Africa!Ignite works with partners across KwaZulu-Natal to help communities establish viable enterprises; earn a fair income; acquire useful information, knowledge and skills; protect their rights; and tell their stories. It aims to create resilient communities, providing opportunities for people once limited by poverty to earn sustainable incomes, increase their choices and broaden their horizons. The Jobs Fund, recognising Africa!Ignite's ability to create a new market for tourism in KwaZulu-Natal, supported the organisation's WOWZULU Initiative in the third call for proposals. The project started in March 2014.

The WOWZULU strategy embraces both community and commercial tourism products to enhance economic viability, employment equity, visitor enjoyment, social equity, community wellbeing and cultural richness in tourist destinations. WOWZULU links small community tourism enterprises to commercial tourist destinations in six locations.



Working with the Jobs Fund has been a true partnership for Africa!Ignite. The organisation has welcomed the transparent communication on reporting, expectations and requirements. As a smaller NGO, Africa!Ignite has had to stretch its capacity and improve its reporting and data-capture tools to meet the challenges that are inherent in managing a comparatively large grant, but this has made it more efficient, strengthened its systems and improved its performance. >>

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AFRICA!IGNITE ON THE 2015 LEARNING FORUM

"The Learning Forum created a unique opportunity to not only learn from formal training sessions and panellists, but from many of the other Jobs Fund partners. The interactive sessions and the online collaboration platform provided opportunities to see which challenges were shared by other organisations, see their solutions and learn from their mistakes and successes. The sessions were well facilitated and provided new insight into some of the challenges we have experienced. For the most part, they reinforced our implementation strategies. It was also very rewarding to hear some of the success stories and to feel that we are part of this collective movement to improve economic growth and create opportunities for sustained income generation in this country."



Innovation for job creation

The Jobs Fund is excited to announce that the newest funding round, which will focus on innovation, will open on 16 November 2015. The Jobs Fund's mandate is to support projects that pilot innovative models for job creation. Innovation is essential to enhancing competitiveness and growing the economy. The National Development Plan in particular acknowledges the role that science and technology play in growing the economy, tackling poverty and improving living standards.

How do we define innovation?

The Jobs Fund defines innovation as a new product, process or commercially viable business model that either unlocks long-term job creation or overcomes barriers to job creation. The product or process does not have to be new in absolute terms, but must at least be new to South Africa or a specific target group. This definition includes adapting existing products, processes and business models for use in new applications or contexts. To be called an innovation, an idea must be replicable at an economical cost and must satisfy a specific need.

In summary, innovation is creating new value or capturing value in a new way that leads to job creation. Details of the new round will be made available on our website shortly (www.jobsfund.org.za). The round will close on 1 February 2016.

STAFF PROFILE

Anzwi Sidimela

Where are you from?

I was born in Makonde, a rural village in Venda, Limpopo.

What did you study?

I went to Makone Primary School and Raluvhimba Secondary School. I enrolled at Tshwane University of Technology, formally known as Technikon Pretoria, in 1999 where I obtained a National Diploma in Legal Assistance. I then completed a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree at the University of South Africa (UNISA) and was admitted as an Advocate of the High Court of South Africa. I also completed a 12-month programme in labour relations law (cum laude) in 2012 at UNISA. In 2011, I enrolled for a Master of Business Leadership at the UNISA School of Business Leadership, which I completed with distinctions in five modules, including research. I am currently registered for a Master of Laws at UNISA.

Where have you lived?

I lived in Venda until I matriculated in 1998. I then moved to Pretoria to further my studies. I currently live in the northern part of Pretoria.

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy reading, cooking and going to the gym.

What is your role at the Jobs Fund?

As a legal advisor, I conduct legal due diligence for the business case applications and provide legal advice to the Project Management Unit until the projects are approved. Once the projects are approved by the Jobs Fund Investment Committee, I ensure that they are contracted. When the projects are implemented, I ensure that the Jobs Fund partners, via the project managers, comply with the provisions of the grant agreement, any applicable legislation and the Jobs Fund policies and procedures.

Which part of your job do you like most?

I enjoy drafting watertight grant agreements to protect the Jobs Fund's interests and resolving legal issues that might negatively affect the implementation of projects and, ultimately, job creation.

