

## A NOTE FROM NAJWAH

In the second quarter of 2016, South Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 3.3%, following a decrease of 1.2% in the first quarter, effectively steering the country away from a technical recession and possible downgrade. At the same time, unemployment dropped slightly and the nation's passion for fighting unemployment and creating new opportunities for youth was renewed. We remain hopeful about the possibilities this creates for us all.

**"OUR PROJECTS ARE STEADILY CREATING MORE JOBS, BUT THERE IS STILL MUCH TO BE DONE TO ENSURE WE MEET OUR TARGETS."**

It has been a busy time at the Jobs Fund, as we prepared for the 7th call for proposals, conducted site visits and closed projects. To date, the Investment Committee has approved 21 projects out of the hundreds of applications received during the 6th call for proposals.

The Jobs Fund has committed more than R1.1 billion for these projects. Contracting has begun and we are looking forward to welcoming the new project partners to the Jobs Fund network at our annual Learning Forum next month. The forum will focus on exploring ways to improve the implementation of job-creation projects in tough economic conditions.

Our projects are steadily creating more jobs, but there is still much to be done to ensure we meet our targets.

We would like to congratulate Earl Loxton, who was recently awarded the title of New Entrant of the Year in the deciduous fruit industry. Earl has been a member of the Eksteenskuil cooperative for the last three years and has been farming for more than a decade.

The 7th funding round will be launched in the next month or two. In this round, the Jobs Fund will seek to work with intermediaries who can deliver high-impact projects. More details will be shared with you electronically and at the Learning Forum. I look forward to seeing you all in November.

*N. Albie - Edries*

## ENCOURAGING GROWTH IN LATEST RESULTS

The Jobs Fund has a portfolio of **125 approved projects**, with a total allocation of **R6.5 billion in grant funds**. These projects will potentially leverage an additional **R9.1 billion** from our partners to create **144 209 permanent jobs**.

A total of **97 implementing projects** have already created **76 743 new permanent jobs** and placed an additional **44 738** people in vacant permanent positions. To date, these projects have created **19 610 short-term jobs** and trained **157 267** people.



## FUNDING INNOVATIVE JOB-CREATION PROJECTS

Good progress has been made with the assessment of the 6th funding round applications. The Investment Committee has thus far approved **21 new projects**, for which more than **R1.1 billion** has been allocated.



## JOBS FUND FARMER SNAGS INDUSTRY AWARD



The Jobs Fund's partnership with the Eksteenskuil Landbou Koöperasie Beperk has borne fruit. On 16 September HORTGRO celebrated the fruit industry's 2016 top achievers. Eksteenskuil Raisin Incubator's Earl Loxton received the New Entrant of the Year award, recognising an outstanding newcomer in the deciduous fruit industry over the last five years.

The incubator aims to capacitate 55 raisin farmers in the Northern Cape to optimise the production capacity of 200 hectares of their farm land for raisin production through a 15-year incubation arrangement between the farmer cooperative and incubator managers.

The incubator has been a success thus far, creating 106 permanent jobs, training 55 raisin farmers and creating 560 of the contracted 663 short-term jobs. Earl has always wanted to farm. In 2011, after completing his agricultural diploma and working for six years as a farm manager, Earl was awarded a plot in the Eksteenskuil community in the Northern Cape. He has been a member of the cooperative for the last three years.

The plot currently consists of 35 hectares of raisin grapes and 7.5 hectares of wine grapes. Earl plans to expand and diversify his crops, fully utilising the 50 hectares available for grape production.

The Jobs Fund would like to congratulate Earl and wish him the best as he continues to work towards realising his dream.

## “DIGITAL DISRUPTION COULD HINDER JOB-CREATING YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS” – ERNST & YOUNG

Ernst & Young (EY) recently released a report, *Disrupting the disruptors: Disrupting youth entrepreneurship with digital and data*, at the G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance summit in China.

The report warns that young entrepreneurs need policies that ensure digital disruption enables rather than hinders their plans.

According to Africa Markets Leader at EY, Sugan Palanee, “As technological innovation charges ahead, ‘digital disruption’ will have significant implications for how entrepreneurs innovate in this digital environment; this even more so for young entrepreneurs, who are now more exposed to digital technologies. Digital disruption provides a powerful opportunity to enable an entrepreneurial ecosystem that empowers and provides opportunities to young entrepreneurs, in particular women, to grow and scale their business. Entrepreneurs need an environment where all stakeholders, including business and government, can work closely together to create the right conditions for entrepreneurship to thrive.”

The report identifies key policy recommendations using the EY G20 Digital Entrepreneurship Barometer to compare the digital entrepreneurship performance of G20 nations, identifying leading practices and policies that allow young entrepreneurs to thrive on digital disruption.

According to the report, countries that rank first in at least one key indicator for supporting digital entrepreneurship include Canada (access to finance); the United States (entrepreneurial culture, digital skills and entrepreneurial education, digital knowledge base and ICT market); and the United Kingdom (digital business environment).

**“DIGITAL DISRUPTION PROVIDES A POWERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO ENABLE AN ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM THAT EMPOWERS AND PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES TO YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS, IN PARTICULAR WOMEN, TO GROW AND SCALE THEIR BUSINESS.”**

South Africa ranks sixth for access to finance; twelfth for entrepreneurial culture, digital business environment, and digital knowledge base and ICT market; and sixteenth for digital skills and entrepreneurial education.

To see the top policy recommendations and read the full report visit [http://xd.eyme.net/dev/db/pdf/Disrupting\\_the\\_disruptors.PDF](http://xd.eyme.net/dev/db/pdf/Disrupting_the_disruptors.PDF)

In 2014, Masego Mohajane left her job as a clinical engineer to revive the company she started in 2010. M-Squared Medical sources, distributes, refurbishes, sells, maintains and leases various brands of ultrasound equipment. The business also supplies and maintains other medical equipment and offers technical training on how to use the equipment.

**“OUR VISION AS M-SQUARED MEDICAL IS TO BE THE FASTEST GROWING AND THE LARGEST ULTRASOUND SALES AND TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS IN AFRICA. ALSO, THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT SUPPLIER IN THE SADC REGION.”**

Masego is passionate about what she does, having worked in the medical engineering field for 15 years for established companies like the Netcare Hospital Group.

“Our target market includes healthcare practitioners such as gynaecologists, cardiologists, urologists, physiotherapists, general practitioners, vets, ante- and post-natal clinics and hospitals (public and private sector), and our client base spans the entire Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. This is accomplished by our alliances on the African continent,” says Masego. What sets her apart? According to Masego, it’s her professionalism, quality service and reasonable costs.

Masego has big dreams. “Our vision as M-Squared Medical is to be the fastest growing and the largest ultrasound sales and technical specialists in Africa. Also, the most cost-effective medical equipment supplier in the SADC region,” she explains.

Masego’s company is one of the 120 small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) in the Riversands Incubation Hub, which is located in the heart of the



**Masego Mohajane, entrepreneur behind M-Squared Medical, which sells and repairs ultrasound machines**

## **ENGINEER TURNED BUSINESSWOMAN SETS HER SIGHTS ON AFRICA**



**Aerial view of Riversands Incubation Hub, which is currently home to 120 small, black-owned businesses**

Riversands Commercial Park and houses 150 small businesses at full capacity. The hub has the potential to transform the socio-economic environment of nearby Diepsloot. Diepsloot was established in 1994 as a temporary living arrangement for about 200 families, and it is now home to more than 800 000 people, many of whom are unemployed.

Jobs Fund partner Century Property Developments sought to create a space where large businesses could regularly

mentor SMMEs, helping them to build up their products and services so that they could become a major part of the large businesses’ supply chains. The goal is to attract small businesses that will provide goods and services at quality and price levels that make them an asset to any company supply chain.

Masego is excited about the opportunity to grow her business and expand her personal capacity through the various programmes at Riversands.

## STAFF PROFILE



*Evelyn Leopold-George*

### **Where are you from?**

I'm originally from Sierra Leone, but I grew up in the Eastern Cape.

### **What did you study?**

BCom Economics at the University of Cape Town and Masters in Development Finance at Stellenbosch University.

### **Where have you lived?**

Freetown, Sierra Leone; Port Harcourt, Nigeria; Eastern and Western Cape, South Africa; and I currently live in Johannesburg.

### **What are your hobbies?**

Exploring new places, whether I'm travelling or finding a new spot around the corner from my house. I also enjoy hiking and trail running, and I am learning to take a bike off-road.

**"WORKING WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE THEY MAKE, IN THEIR UNIQUE WAY, AND BEING ABLE TO QUANTIFY THAT DIFFERENCE."**

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

Senior Manager: Development Finance.

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

Working with people who are passionate about the difference they make, in their unique way, and being able to quantify that difference. Also that it feels like there's still so much to be done!