

Farming with a care for the future



The opening of The Junction Primary School at The Junction, one of Mahela's farms, located in Letsitele, is a success story of the cooperation between Mahela Boerdery and the Department of Education.

The idea has emerged in the early 1980s due to the need of Mahela employees. Mahela, together with the Department of Education, joined forces, and where the Department provides the school with teachers, Mahela maintains the school and grounds.

Mahela and the children from nearby farms

benefit from the school. That was the idea behind the school so that there is no need to travel to remote areas to attend school. Currently there are 104 pupils in The Junction school. There is also a vegetable garden from which fresh meals are prepared daily for the children.

The PPO Foundation, a company based in Switzerland, sponsored two sets of school uniforms and a pair of school shoes for each child in 2016. Similarly, there are sponsors for sports equipment and new mattresses for the

Foundation Phase classes. The other grades each received a diary in which the children are requested to pencil their dreams.

This is the aim of the Mahela Group to help its employees to equip their children for a better future.



Pieter Vorster with teacher Verry Rasebotsa.



Pupils with their sponsored uniforms.

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A happy mother with her child's new school uniform.

Right: Proud pupils showing off their new clothes.



Rise and Shine

(A POEM AND LETTER OF THANKS BY ONE OF THE STUDENTS)

You are the brightest shining star of Mafarana Circuit.
Yesterday you were walking bare footed, but today will get brand new shoes. They say you are number last but tomorrow you will be number one.

You welcome all of us honoured guests.
You prepare a table in front of our enemies.

When mam Khombos says I am old, you say she will ran a marathon at Rio and bring back to South Africa a gold medal.

You have breded Managers
Oh today you are pregnant with doctors and engineers.
Rise and Shine they say you are a farm school, but we know you are a school of excellence.
You are on the shoulders of a giant
Mr Nonsense Mahahela Vorsetter.

Rise and Shine. You are the Junction of Excellence.

Yes Rise and Shine

Citrus Business Management Programme



Attendees of the Citrus Business Management Programme in Letsitele. The facilitators, Zama Madikizela and Mpho Mazubane are in the last row, third from the right and far right respectively.

Following the successful launch of the Citrus Business Management Programme in the Kat River Valley during 2014 – 2015, the second round of programme commenced on 16 January 2017 in the Letsitele / Hoedspruit area.

The programme was developed in response to a need identified after a situational analysis was conducted amongst emergent citrus growers. One of the findings of the analysis was the need for developing the internal capacity of emergent grower enterprises to manage their businesses. At a time when large amounts of funding are being made available through various government programmes, which brought with it opportunities for accelerated development for many farms, it has become even more important to enable sound financial management. Turning capital investment into profitability is a priority for all farmers.

In response to this need, the Citrus Academy identified the New Venture Creation NQF 4 qualification, registered with the Services SETA, as the most appropriate basis for the programme. It was contextualised for the citrus industry by Citrus Academy and is presented by Zama Madikizela

and Mpho Mazubane from Scientific Roets, an accredited service provider from Kokstad.

The programme takes place over a period of eight months and consists of the following modules:

- Learner Induction and Orientation
- Think Like an Entrepreneur
- Plan Your Business: Financial Aspects
- Launch and Grow Your Business
- Manage Your Business: The Basics
- Manage Your Business: Finance for Agri-business Managers
- Manage Your Business: Human Resources
- Manage Your Business: Sales and Marketing
- Improve Your Business Performance
- Present Your Competence

Eighteen emergent farmers from Mabunda, Mari-veni and Masungi Family Trusts enrolled for the programme, as well as two farm managers from Bosveld Citrus (Pty) Ltd. The emergent growers are sponsored by AgriSETA discretionary grants for learnerships implementation.

