RUSTNEWS

2ND QUARTER ISSUE - 2023 NEWS YOU CAN TRUST

IN THIS ISSUE:



EDITOR'S NOTE

The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) is underway, and we are getting our communities ready. Our schools of excellence are now being equipped with Wi-Fi. This is one of the important initiatives that we are rolling out. Read about this undertaking to enable our students to navigate the globe with just a click.



t was an exciting moment to announce the 30 selected beneficiaries of our Honey Production Project. This is one of our newly unveiled local economic development initiatives aimed at supporting John Taolo Gaetsewe and Tsantsabane Agri-preneurs to play a role in the honey production and beekeeping sector. Announced in July, their journey has now begun.

Our 2023 multi-stakeholder engagements have sparked new ideas. Read about the contributions that we will be using to explore how to better serve the communities.

We continue our action towards asbestos-free housing. Read about the Postdene Project in this issue. Our Re A Fola Health Programme continues to assist beneficiaries with eye care and we have just launched a new Dignity Packs Programme in schools. Read all about it and other stories in this issue.

We value you, as our reader of this newsletter, and hope that all the news we are sharing with you in this issue will keep you in the know of the many strides we are making towards developing our communities, our care about health matters and more. Most importantly, we are sharing tips with the business sector to take advantage of our SMME portal. Doing business with us and partners is now a matter of one click – it is all in your hands.

As I bow out of the journey we have walked together for well over two years, as the editor of this informative publication, I would like to thank you all for using this publication as one of the key sources of information to keep abreast of the work of the Trust and its impact on your lives as beneficiary community members.

Please continue to read our newsletters to keep abreast of what we're working on.

Happy reading.

Refilwe Sebogodi

Editor



WI-FI ROLLOUT IN PILOT SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE

IOC-CDT is currently piloting a principal-led approach to a school improvement project that places the principal at the centre of all intervention initiatives. This approach aims to strengthen the culture of teaching and learning for better outcomes at selected schools.

A total of 6 high schools, in Ga-Segonyana and Gamagara, are part of this pilot together with their 13 feeder primary schools. After an assessment of the 19 schools in the pilot, it was established that there are a significant number of schools that are still left out in terms of access to internet connectivity. While some within the beneficiary communities

(mostly in Thabazimbi) have been connected through the ICT component of SIOC-CDT's Wholeschool Development Programme and some have been prioritised by other partners in 2023, the majority remain behind.

Connecting schools to high-speed internet opens room for a lot of possibilities, such as introducing the Coding and Robotics curriculum. It will also be the beginning of many other possibilities towards improvement of a teaching and learning culture, as well as keeping schools in touch with the rest of the world (in line with the Sustainable Development Goals 2030).

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Some gaps that were identified in a recent evaluation report included the need for enabling resources and infrastructure. One of the important prerequisites is reliable connectivity (a generally challenging issue in rural schools). A significant number of schools in SIOC-CDT's beneficiary communities are situated in remote parts of the country, where connectivity is either minimal (up to 3G) or none.

Since nine of the schools in our pilot are already benefitting, SIOC-CDT is aiming to roll out connectivity for the additional ten schools listed below.



List of schools in scope for connectivity

COMMUNITY	SITE	APPROXIMATE ENROLLMENT
Gamagara	Langeberg High School	880
	Maikaelelo Combined School	538
	Noord-kaap Primêre Skool	1 477
Ga-Segonyana	Galaletsang Science High School	1084
	Mapoteng Primary School	808
	New Wrenchville Primary	1 061
	Baiteredi Technical and Commercial High School	1 103
	Isagontle Primary School	1 303
	Segonyana Primary School	1 495
	Iketleletso Middle School	735
	TOTAL ENROLMENT	10 484

The connection process involves implementing a schools' regional network to provide installation of connectivity and spare equipment, data, maintenance support, system support in the form of a data centre, and dedicated programme management

to enable uninterrupted access to internet services for three years.

It is expected that these ten schools will have gone live by the last quarter of 2023.

This project aims to assist the schools in reaching the ambitions of, among others, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.

JUNE'S MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CONVERSATIONS



ulti-stakeholder engagements are important as they are an opportunity for SIOC-CDT to present the progress achieved through various programmes related to youth and businesses, as well as introduce future programmes and projects targeting these two cohorts. They are also used as a platform for SIOC-CDT to:

 reconnect with the business and youth sector of SIOC-CDT's beneficiary communities;

- provide updates on current SIOC-CDT programmes targeting youth and businesses;
- provide information on pipeline programmes targeting youth and businesses; and

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 receive feedback on the impact of the programmes from beneficiaries.

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In living our values of building healthy and trustworthy relationships, as well as being inclusive and transparent, SIOC-CDT held multi-stakeholder engagements for the youth and business sectors in all five beneficiary communities on 20, 21 and 30 June 2023.

The engagements were well attended across all five of the beneficiary communities.

Amongst the many questions posed to SIOC-CDT were:

 The criteria used to select successful candidates for Kgodiso Project and a request to communicate to unsuccessful applicants their shortcomings, so that gaps in their applications could be rectified for future project applications. What the SIOC-CDT Bursary Programme includes, when bursary applications will be opened, the age limit for applicants, whether they can still apply for the bursary programme even if they have completed matric years ago, and which courses the programme covers.

Responses were provided by relevant SIOC-CDT officials on the questions above and others that were raised.

The youth raised issues that confronted them such as unemployment and substance abuse and, in some engagements, SIOC-CDT was criticised for not doing enough.

SIOC-CDT continues to work with partners such as loveLife, the Department of Social Development and others to develop programmes that will help curb the challenges of social ills which are affecting the youth in the beneficiary communities.

SIOC-CDT will be hosting community roadshows which are inclusive of all focus areas, i.e. education, training and skills development, health and social welfare, enterprise development and emergent needs across the five beneficiary communities in the month of September 2023.

These roadshows will be utilised to further engage and respond to some of the issues that were raised in previous engagements.

The precise dates for community road shows will be communicated as soon as consultations with the relevant municipalities, as an important stakeholder, have been concluded.



"Our face-to-face engagements within the beneficiary communities of SIOC-CDT are one of the most important platforms for discussion, debate and open conversations. We are so glad that post-pandemic, we're back to the face-to-face events. It is so important to have these opportunities to both present and discuss our projects." – VUSANI MALIE – CEO OF SIOC-CDT

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JTG AND TSANTSABANE AGRI-PRENEURS RECEIVE A BOOST WITH THE HONEY PRODUCTION PROJECT

The Northern Cape is South Africa's largest province, taking up almost a third of the country's geographical area. Agriculture is by far the most prominent land-use activity, with most of the land under extensive livestock production.

his is mainly due to semi-arid to arid climatic conditions. However, poverty-stricken emerging farmers and agro-processors of John Taolo Gaetsewe "JTG" District and Tsantsabane areas find themselves trapped in a vicious cycle of low profit margins, little risk-taking and minimal investment; leading to low levels of productivity and value addition. Implementing a cluster approach for both emerging farmers and agro-processors has been identified as an effective solution to relieving this situation, with the Honey

Production Project becoming the first agricultural programme of this size to be implemented by SIOC-CDT.

It is important that we acknowledge the fundamental objectives of this project:

- The alleviation of poverty in rural areas of South Africa; and
- The provision of an ongoing source of local income and the development of a beekeeping industry in the Northern Cape province.



The South African beekeeping industry is relatively small, both globally and in the overall South African agricultural sector. However, the critical importance of honeybees in agricultural practices and our conservation in general, far exceeds the current value of the industry.

The honey industry continues to face critical challenges due to the lack of transformation and sharing of information which would resolve the shortage of honey in South Africa. The percentage of beekeepers and bee colonies have been on a steep decline for the past few decades. The SA Honeybee Foundation reports a decline from 2,500 colonies in 1980 to less than 2,000 in 2017, which not only causes a threat to honey production but to the whole ecological system in South Africa. Historically, legislation that has been promulgated over a few decades has also affected beekeeping in South Africa.

With an understanding of both the industry and the market shortage in South Africa, SIOC-CDT in collaboration with Bokamoso Impact Investments, is well-positioned to contribute to the solution. By developing bee colonies, producing hives, extracting honey and promoting pollination, the programme will also empower previously disadvantaged communities in the local beneficiary communities.

Bokamoso Impact Investments is a social enterprise dedicated to connecting the impoverished rural populations of South Africa to economic opportunities using diverse agricultural and entrepreneurial platforms as change catalysts.

They have worked alongside SIOC-CDT to model the Honey Production Project that aims to provide 30 agri-preneurs with the required resources to start-up and maintain honey production businesses. This support includes access to land, setting up hives, honey extraction and bottling. Bokamoso Impact Investments will purchase the honey from these beneficiaries for trade in the export market. In the long-term, a strategy to attract other markets will be implemented for competitive pricing.

The Honey Production Project commenced in 2023 by identifying emerging agri-preneurs. The criteria were set as follows:

- Must operate in SIOC-CDT beneficiary areas.
- · Must be a South African national.
- · Women- or youth-owned business.
- Must be operational in the agriculture sector
- · Must have access to land, preferably 2ha.
- Must be 51% black owned.
- Must be a legal entity registered or have a permit if informal; and
- Must be able to avail themselves for a 10-day training programme.



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Post training, beneficiaries will receive all the necessary equipment to set-up and begin harvesting their own honey. Each business will receive 60 hives, beekeeping tools as well as beekeeping suits and a seed pack to plant the vegetation required by bees.

It is estimated that one hive can produce 15 kg of honey in a season (3 months). To achieve this, the correct management of hives will be required and consistent maintenance of the crops from the seeds provided, enabling the bees to forage. The businesses will receive consistent support with bi-monthly visits from SIOC-CDT to monitor the progress of the business along with support from the SEDA Cadet Programme. Bokamoso Impact Investments will conduct quarterly visits for purposes of monitoring and evaluation, ensuring that the management of the beekeeping businesses is up to standard.



"SIOC-CDT will use our own platforms to engage with stakeholders outside of the beneficiary communities. This will ensure that the local businesses will be well marketed to increase their market share and not limit beekeeping businesses to a single market. With consistent support, SMMEs are enabled to produce quality products, which aim to develop a fruitful honey production industry in the Northern Cape, including the production of multiple goods from the honey byproducts."

- VUSANI MALIE - CEO OF SIOC-CDT



SIOC-CDT INVESTS IN THE REMOVAL OF ASBESTOS IN LIVING ENVIRONMENTS IN THE TSANTSABANE BENEFICIARY COMMUNITY

SIOC-CDT is investing in the 'Eradication of Asbestos' (Postdene township, Postmasburg) to benefit 399 households in the Tsantsabane Local Municipality of the Northern Cape province.

key component of SIOC-CDT's
Community Development Strategy
(CDS) seeks to care for vulnerable
members of its beneficiary community as
part of the healthcare and emergent needs'
pillars. This is achieved through interventions
such as this asbestos replacement project.

In planning and executing this project, SIOC-CDT is drawing on learnings from the recently completed similar project involving the replacement of entire dilapidated houses (incorporating removal, disposal and replacement of asbestos roofs) in the Gamagara Local Municipality.

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THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

In March 2008, the South African Government passed a law prohibiting the manufacturing, use, import and export of asbestos and asbestos containing materials in the country. There has been mounting evidence across the world of the health hazards that asbestos fibres have on human beings. According to the South African Department of Environmental Affairs, the most common diseases caused by exposure to asbestos are asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma. For occupants of houses with asbestos cement roofs, exposure to the fibres is limited. However, it increases the longer one stays in such conditions. Most houses in South Africa that are roofed with asbestos are old, with the roofs having deteriorated over time. This poses health risks for the occupants and communities where such houses still exist.



THE PROJECT SCOPE

The scope of the asbestos replacement project in Postdene covers:

- The removal and careful disposal of approximately 22,000 m² of asbestos containing materials from 366 identified houses.
- The replacement of asbestos roofs with alternative materials e.g. new purlins, IBR sheeting and beam filling on 366 houses.
- The installation of new insulation and ceilings on 399 houses (this includes those previously identified by the municipality as already having changed roofs but do not have ceilings).
- Minor repainting of exterior and interior walls of 366 houses.
- Fixing electrical wiring systems and the issuing of electrical Certificates of Compliance (CoCs) to ensure safety is upheld.
- Installation of basic high pressure solar geysers on all 399 houses in line with regulations.

THE BENEFITS FOR LOCALS

This project is an important opportunity for local SMMEs in the construction sector to benefit through participation and a deliberate skills transfer by the senior contractor on the project. Skills transfer is expected across all work packages, including specialised works throughout the project.

PROCUREMENT AND GOVERNANCE

To assist in the execution of this project, SIOC-CDT submitted an invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI), targeting interested Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractors to apply to be considered as a potential senior end-to-end contractor.

In line with SIOC-CDT's governance practice, the proposed project will be overseen by a Steering Committee comprising of representatives from SIOC-CDT, the local community and Tsantsabane Local Municipality. The project is expected to be implemented over the course of 16 to 20 months with priority being given to getting families into their homes as quickly as possible.

"The project to eradicate asbestos roofs in Postdene is long overdue, especially given the continued deterioration of the roofs, which poses a threat to the health of its occupants. We look forward to successful execution and the realisation of a safer and healthier living environment for all in the community."



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EYE CARE FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

Eye care is one of the many health services offered through our Re A Fola Mobile Clinic Programme. Eyes are not only the most sensitive or delicate organs on the human body, they also play a critical role in helping to detect other developing health problems such as high blood pressure and diabetes.



roviding primary health care through our Re A Fola Mobile Clinic includes the delivery of eye health care. Our optometrist is on hand to assist those who may require examinations and advise on the next steps depending on the outcome of the thorough eye examination. Patients are also informed about how to maintain good eye health habits to avoid potential harm as well as knowing when to get eye health checks for the early detection of eyesight problems such as cataracts.

Cataracts commonly lead to loss of vision if not detected early and treated. On a visit across all beneficiary communities i.e. Gamagara, Ga-Segonyana, Joe Morolong, Tsantsabane and Thabazimbi, the optometrist provides visual screening, eye health examinations and prescriptions and spectacles for patients. These are free services. Referrals are also provided to those who have to undergo cataract surgery. Cataract operation campaigns are regularly scheduled at the Postmasburg

and Tshwaragano district hospitals in the Northern Cape and Thabazimbi Hospital in Limpopo. These operations are a collaboration between SIOC-CDT, the Northern Cape and Limpopo Provincial Health Departments and the South African National Council for the Blind (SANCB). The operations are performed free of charge.

"It is pleasing to us as the Trust to see how communities are using this crucial eye-sight health service. Since the start of the programme in July 2021, we have been able to assist well over 2,488 patients with prescription spectacles."

- KGADI MAGONGOA, HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMME MANAGER



SIOC-CDT LAUNCHES DIGNITY PACKS PROGRAMME TO PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED HYGIENE SUPPORT FOR LEARNERS

SIOC-CDT has expanded its existing Sanitary Towels Programme to ensure that the hygiene needs of both young boys and girls are taken care of across its beneficiary communities.

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aunched in early 2023, the Dignity Pack Programme sees the distribution of Dignity Packs to learners of both genders. Each Dignity Pack comprises of bath soaps, roll on deodorant, body spray, face cloth, body lotion and vaseline, a toothbrush, toothpaste, shoe polish and a brush. The goal – to ensure that, at a minimum, the basic hygiene needs of learners across our beneficiary communities are taken care of so that they, in turn, can focus on their studies and education.

Piloted this year, this project will initially cater for 26 schools in 2023 distributed evenly across all beneficiary municipalities (five schools per municipal area). The process of identifying the recipient schools is done in collaboration with both the Department of Basic Education and Department of Social Development to ensure that the schools and learners that are in most need are included. Whilst some items will be distributed on a once-off basis, others will be distributed quarterly.

So far, in the first quarter, Dignity Packs have been distributed to schools in Ga-Segonyana, Tsantsabane, Thabazimbi, Gamagara and Joe Morolong. These distributions will be done quarterly to identified learners for the four quarters in 2023.

A full list of recipient schools is as follows:

- Joe Morolong: Bogare Primary
 School (Logaganeng Village), Maduo
 Primary School (Ganap), Gahohuwe
 Primary School (Dithakong),
 Kegomoditswe High School
 (Kganwane), Mamasilo Middle School
 (Madibeng), Gakgatsana Primary
 School (Kamden).
- Gamagara: Maikaelelo Primary School (Olifantshoek), Deben Primary School (Deben), Noord-Kaap Primêre Skool (Olifantshoek), Sishen Intermediate (Sesheng), Sishen Primary School (Kathu)
- Ga-Segonyana: Iketleletso Middle

- School (Mothibistad), Rearata
 Primary School (Vergenoeg),
 Sedibeng Primary School (Sedibeng,
 Batlharos), Mapoteng Primary School
 (Mapoteng), Wrenchville Primary
 School (Wrenchville).
- Tsantsabane: HTT Bidi Memorial School (Boichoko), Postdene Primary School (Postdene), Refentse Primary School (Groenwater), Khosis Primary School (Jenn Haven), Agang Thuto Primary (Skyfontein).
- Thabazimbi: Thabakhibidu Primary School (Rooiberg), Naletsana Combined School (Koedoeskop), Krause Primary School (Northam), Northam Comprehensive (Northam), Laerskool Leeupoort (Leeupoort).



"This initiative enables us to provide vital support to learners across our beneficiary communities. It is our sincere wish that by taking care of these basic needs, our learners will be able to focus their attention and efforts towards continuing to build their future." – VUSANI MALIE, CEO, SIOC-CDT

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SIOC-CDT LOVELIFE YOUTH CENTRES CELEBRATE YOUTH MONTH TO HELP EDUCATE AND EMPOWER OUR FUTURE GENERATION

During June this year, 'Youth Month', in commemoration of 16 June 1976 and an era of struggle and actions taken by young people, the SIOC-CDT loveLife Youth Centres hosted several activities across the Thabazimbi, Tsantsabane and Gamagara beneficiary communities.



he activities that took place over the course of the entire month covered numerous areas such as arts and sport, skills development training, and financial management

In addition to the acknowledgement of this day in our history, further objectives included:

- To educate the community, especially young people, on the history of our country.
- To contribute towards nation building through social activities and encourage action and accountability by young people to take the initiative towards change and development in the community.
- To involve youth in the events taking place during the month of June (and specifically the events on Youth Day), while engaging on the current struggle faced by the youth in our community.
- To celebrate achievements and promote innovation and creativity in addressing some of the social ills and norms in the community.



The list of activities across the various communities, driven by our youth centres, included:

Thabazimbi

- 02 to 09 June 2023: Business Management Training facilitated by the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) was provided for all participants on the Thabazimbi Agri-Seta Programme.
- held at Ipelegeng Sports Ground. The event was held in partnership with the Department of Social Development (DSD) and the National Department of Health (DOH) and had more than 120 participants. The attendees held discussions on various topics impacting youth including teenage pregnancy, drugs, and school dropouts. A live podcast was also broadcast to reach out to the youth who could not physically attend.
- 26 to 30 June 2023: groundBREAKERS and Mpintshis underwent an Accredited Financial Management training programme organised by SANParks and the National Development Agency (NDA) at SANParks Marekele.
- During the month, no fewer than 16 groundBREAKERS and Mpintshis passed their learner's license test, with some currently receiving driving lessons.

Tsantsabane

- 16 June 2023: Youth Day Celebration took place at Postmasburg Show Grounds. The event featured arts and culture activities, as well as a sports tournament that included various sporting codes i.e. netball, soccer and cricket. More than 665 youth attended the event with the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture on hand to present the winning trophies.
- During the month, 14 groundBREAKERS and Mpintshis passed their learner's license test and three received their driver's license.



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Olifantshoek

- 16 June 2023: youth Day Celebration was staged at a local Ditloung Stadium.
 563 youth attended the event, with 181 youth participating across the different sports on offer.
- Four groundBREAKERS and Mpintshis passed their driver's license during the month of June.

Deben (Dibeng)

- 16 June 2023: Youth Day Celebration activities took place at Deben Stadium.
- Local schools and sports teams participated in a tournament across several different sports. Several motivational speeches were presented by locally recognised business individuals and officials from the Deben SAPS. The event was attended by well over 500 youth.
- No fewer than 16 groundBREAKERS and Mpintshis from SIOC-CDT loveLife Deben YC received their learner's license during the month with some currently receiving driving lessons.



Working with, and helping to educate and empower our youth, is such a critical element of what we are focused on achieving i.e. a brighter and more sustainable future for all! Our sincerest thanks to loveLife and all who assisted in the organisation of these special events. We are thrilled that we were able to connect with such a large number of youth across several beneficiary communities and look forward to building on the momentum gained." – VUSANI MALIE, CEO, SIOC-CDT



A STRICT ETHICAL CODE – NON-NEGOTIABLE ACROSS SIOC-CDT'S OPERATIONS

Adherence to a strict ethical code is crucial to SIOC-CDT. In line with this, SIOC-CDT added the Ethics Defender online solution to the existing Kumba Iron Ore telephone hotline. Ethics Defender was launched in March 2022 to ensure that all employees, community members, suppliers and stakeholders (e.g. government officials, interested groups, business organisations) have access to an anonymous, safe and efficient way to report any fraud, wrongdoing or unethical conduct within the organisation.

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IOC-CDT's Ethics Defender is an innovative whistle-blowing solution that works differently to the traditional telephone hotline, where individuals might be concerned about anonymity. The Ethics Defender online solution provides an efficient alternative that makes it impossible for anyone reporting potential wrongdoing to be 'recognised' and/or possibly victimised.

The anonymous online chat functionality for employees, community members, suppliers and stakeholders to report unethical conduct is an added reporting platform. Employees, community members, suppliers and stakeholders can choose a nickname (not their real name) and there is no way to trace their identity. Crucial evidence to support the claim can be uploaded, and the submission can be tracked via anonymous chat.

Since launch, a total of five submissions to the Ethics Defender platform have been received – all of which have been attended to and resolved. The service is secure and has been certified by the Ethics Institute of South Africa.

Ethics Defender can be accessed via the link at the bottom of the SIOC-CDT home page: www.sioc-cdt.co.za OR can be directly accessed by clicking here

OR by scanning the QR code below:





"At SIOC-CDT, the services we provide across our beneficiary communities are crucial to their well-being and quality of life. It is essential that no stone is left unturned in our quest to operate as a scrupulously ethical organisation to ensure sustainable delivery for many years to come. There can never be any question of wrongdoing. Any such suspected wrongdoing will not be tolerated and will be investigated and dealt with immediately. The Ethics Defender platform has greatly enhanced our ability to deliver on this commitment."

– VUSANI MALIE, CEO, SIOC-CDT

SMME SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITIES - JUST ONE CLICK AWAY



Launched in October 2021, SIOC-CDT's SMME portal was established as a resource to provide much needed opportunities for local suppliers across its beneficiary communities. These include procurement opportunities from SIOC-CDT, partner organisations or organisations that have joined the SIOC-CDT SMME network. Partners also include those offering business development support and access to SMME finance.

n partnership with EMERGE (a highly experienced organisation extensively involved in the SMME development space), this SMME portal serves predominantly as a platform to connect local entrepreneurs with procurement opportunities.

A basic overview of its workflow includes:

- Procurement opportunities are loaded onto the portal by SIOC-CDT personnel or partner organisations.
- SMME's details and supporting documents are loaded onto the portal and verified.
- SMMEs are listed as registered suppliers on the portal.
- Access is provided to partners, who have opportunities on offer, and to SMMEs via a login feature.
- SMMEs can access opportunities on the portal and respond to them. Should they require assistance, this too can be accessed via relevant links on the actual portal itself.

- SIOC-CDT and partners can review and select from a database of verified suppliers, place RFIs and RFQs and receive responses from qualifying SMMEs – all within the portal.
- SMMEs can also request to be notified of any opportunities within their area of expertise.

"The SMME community plays such a critical role across our beneficiary communities, providing employment opportunities and helping to reduce poverty. Access to credible and verified business opportunities is the lifeblood for any organisation, including SMMEs. We are thrilled to be able to offer such valuable support to this key business sector."

- VUSANI MALIE, CEO, SIOC-CDT

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