

Celebrating Youth Month Through Enterprise Development

South Africa's Youth Month and Youth Day commemorate the courage of the young people who stood against educational injustice during the 1976 Soweto Uprising. Their legacy reminds us that investing in young people is one of the most meaningful ways to build a more inclusive and prosperous future.

This year, the SIOC Community Development Trust (SIOC-CDT) marked Youth Month by turning commemoration into action through the launch of the SIOC-CDT Youth Enterprises Accelerator Programme. The initiative reflects the Trust's commitment to empowering young entrepreneurs, creating sustainable livelihoods, and driving local economic development across its beneficiary communities.

Delivered in partnership with the Mr Price Foundation, SANParks, Startup Grind, the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), the National Empowerment Fund (NEF), the Northern Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism (NCDEDT), the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic), Productivity SA, and SEDFA, the programme equips youth-owned businesses with practical business development support, entrepreneurial skills, mentorship, networking opportunities, and investment readiness training to help them grow and scale.

The programme was rolled out through regional workshops across the Trust's beneficiary communities in Limpopo and the Northern Cape, including Thabazimbi, Gamagara, Tsantsabane, Ga-Segonyana, and Joe

Morolong. The enthusiastic response showcased the entrepreneurial talent, innovation, and determination of young business owners in these communities.

The programme concluded with Pitch Day events, where participants presented their businesses to a panel of judges for an opportunity to secure seed funding.

Beyond the prize money, the Accelerator Programme provides participants with lasting access to mentorship, business networks, and development partners, helping to build resilient businesses that contribute to job creation and stronger local economies.

By working alongside strategic partners, SIOC-CDT is redefining the way Youth Month is celebrated—moving beyond remembrance to meaningful investment in the next generation of entrepreneurs. Through initiatives such as the Youth Enterprises Accelerator Programme, the Trust continues to honour the legacy of 16 June by creating opportunities that empower young people to shape their own futures and drive sustainable economic growth in their communities.



In Pictures: Participants at the various sessions of the SIOC-CDT Youth Enterprises Accelerator Programme, staged during the Youth Month.



Winning businesses included:

Thabazimbi

La Belle Beauty Studio – R30,000

Mole's Eatery – R20,000

Chief Woodwork – R10,000

Gamagara & Tsantsabane

Yoli's Rentals and Construction – R30,000

Jonoago Group (Pty) Ltd – R20,000

Wura Legacy – R10,000

Ga-Segonyana & Joe Morolong

Batsha ba Temo Agric - R30,000

Keamogetswe Holdings - R20,000

Agro-Queen - R10,000



EDITOR'S NOTE

Turning Opportunity into Impact

As SIOC Community Development Trust (SIOC-CDT) celebrates **20 years of trust, impact and building resilient communities**, this

edition of our community newsletter reflects on how opportunities are being translated into meaningful and lasting impact across our beneficiary communities.

From supporting young talent through the Beneficiary Communities Discretionary Fund, which enabled aspiring author Boitumelo Moraka to publish her second book, to connecting thousands of learners with education and career opportunities through the 2026 Phunya Tsela Career Expo, young people remain at the heart of our development efforts.

Through our Education, Training and Skills

Development programmes, we continue to strengthen pathways from learning to employment. SIOC CDT-sponsored apprentices, who were part of the Artisan Training Programme, gaining workplace experience demonstrates the value of partnerships in equipping young people with practical skills and strengthening local talent pipelines. Similarly, the Youth Enterprises Accelerator Programme is helping young entrepreneurs turn ideas and ambition into viable enterprises through mentorship, business development support, networks and access to seed funding.

These initiatives reflect an important principle that has shaped SIOC-CDT's work over the past two decades: sustainable development is not simply about creating opportunities, but about equipping people and communities with the tools, capabilities and support to make those opportunities count.

Building resilient communities also means responding when communities face adversity. Following the recent Northern Cape floods, SIOC-CDT worked alongside partners to provide emergency relief packages to affected households in Ga-Segonyana and Joe Morolong, responding to immediate humanitarian needs during a difficult period.

Our recognition at the 2026 Nedbank Oliver Top Empowerment Awards, where SIOC-CDT received a **Highly Commended Award for Youth Development**, is an affirmation of these collective efforts. More importantly, it reinforces our commitment to investing in people, partnerships and initiatives that deliver sustainable impact.

As we reflect on 20 years of our journey and look to the future, our focus remains clear: **inspiring futures, empowering communities and building resilient communities beyond the life of mine.** The stories in this edition demonstrate what is possible when communities, partners and institutions work together with shared purpose, turning opportunity into impact.

SIOC-CDT and Partners Empower Top-Performing Learners Through 2026 Winter Camps

Through the power of partnership, hundreds of high-performing young South Africans are being equipped with the knowledge, confidence and skills to build brighter futures.

SIOC Community Development Trust (SIOC-CDT), in partnership with the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) and the Departments of Basic Education in the Northern Cape and Limpopo, has delivered the 2026 Top Performers Winter Enrichment Camps, creating valuable opportunities for learners to strengthen their academic performance and prepare for life beyond the classroom.

The programme brought together 501 high-performing Grade 11 and Grade 12 learners from across the Northern Cape and Limpopo. In the Northern Cape, 201 Grade 11 learners from across the province's districts participated in the programme at Hoërskool Upington, including 91 learners from SIOC-CDT beneficiary communities in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District and Tsantsabane Local Municipality.

In Limpopo, 300 Grade 12 learners participated in the programme at Hoërskool Bela-Bela, including 31 learners from the SIOC-CDT beneficiary community of Thabazimbi.

The camps provided focused academic enrichment in key subjects, including Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Accounting, while also exposing learners to career guidance, mentorship, leadership development and critical life skills. By bringing together top-performing learners and providing them with additional academic and personal development support, the programme aims to strengthen their readiness for tertiary education and future careers.

For SIOC-CDT, the impact of the initiative extends beyond the classroom. Supporting high-performing learners is an investment in the future of communities—helping young people recognise their potential, broaden their aspirations and develop the confidence to pursue opportunities that can change the trajectory of their lives.



TOP. In pictures: Events from the Northern Cape and Limpopo Top Performers Winter Enrichment Camps of 2026

The partnership with SAICA and the Departments of Basic Education also demonstrates the value of collaboration in addressing educational needs and creating meaningful pathways for young people. By combining resources, expertise and shared commitment, the partners are able to reach learners across communities and provide support that complements their academic journey.

Importantly, the programme reflects SIOC-CDT's broader commitment to education as a catalyst for sustainable community development. Every learner supported represents an opportunity to build skills, expand access to future opportunities and contribute to the development of a stronger

generation of professionals, entrepreneurs, leaders and changemakers.

The 2026 Top Performers Winter Enrichment Camps therefore represent more than a week of academic support. They are an investment in potential, aspiration and possibility—opening doors for young South Africans and helping them take confident steps towards the future they envision.

Through continued partnerships and investment in education, SIOC-CDT and its partners are helping to ensure that talented young people from beneficiary communities have the support they need to thrive, succeed and ultimately contribute to the growth and development of their communities.

Timely Response to the Northern Cape Flood Disaster



Following the recent devastating floods affecting communities across the Northern Cape, including beneficiary areas within the Ga-Segonyana and Joe Morolong Local Municipalities, SIOC Community Development Trust (SIOC-CDT) has joined a multi-stakeholder humanitarian response to address urgent community needs. SIOC-CDT contributed 200 emergency relief packages, distributed through the South African Red Cross Society, as part of a broader intervention supporting 850 households affected by flooding and inaccessible roads. Working alongside government, humanitarian organisations and community partners, SIOC-CDT remains committed to supporting affected communities and ensuring that emergency assistance reaches those most in need. This is key to the Trust's emergent needs strategic focus area.

SIOC-CDT celebrates recognition at the Nedbank Oliver Top empowerment awards.

Youth Month invites us to reflect on the future we are helping to build and the responsibility we share in creating opportunities for the next generation. At the Nedbank Oliver Top Empowerment Awards 2026, the SIOC Community Development Trust was named a finalist in four categories and received a Highly Commended Award for Youth Development.

As a Trust we are proud to see our impact recognized as we celebrate 20 years of existence. Guided by the theme, “20 Years of Impact, Trust, Building Resilient Communities,” the achievement reflects the two decades of commitment to empowering young people through education, skills development, entrepreneurship and pathways to sustainable livelihoods.

South Africa’s youth have always embodied resilience, courage and possibility. This recognition reinforces the importance of continuing to invest in opportunities that enable young people to shape their own futures and contribute to thriving communities.



“20 Years of Trust - Impact - Building Resilient Communities”

SIOC-CDT Conducts Site Visits to Apprentices Undergoing Workplace Training

During June month, the SIOC Community Development Trust (SIOC-CDT), through its Education, Training and Skills Development Unit, conducted the monitoring and stakeholder engagement visits to various host companies offering workplace training for the first cohort of the Trust’s apprenticeship programme. Idwala Lime in Danielskuil, Greefspan Solar Plant 2 in Douglas as well as KP LIME in Delpoortshoop, all situated in the Northern Cape, were amongst the companies visited during this round, where apprenticeship learners are currently completing workplace experiential training.

The visit forms part of the Trust’s ongoing commitment to ensuring quality skills development interventions, monitoring learner progress and strengthening partnerships with host employers that play a critical role in developing future artisans.

The apprenticeship programme currently supports a total of 45 learners, comprising 23 males and 22 females, who are pursuing various artisan trades including Electrical, Auto Electrical, Diesel Mechanics, Fitting, Instrumentation Mechanics and Boilermaking. The learners are currently undertaking the third phase of their artisan development programme, which requires 18 months of practical workplace exposure to complement their institutional training received from the Artisan Training Institute (ATI) in Kimberly.

During the visit, representatives from the SIOC-CDT Education, Training and Skills Development Unit engaged with both learners, management and supervisors from the host companies to



assess training progress, discuss workplace experiences, review programme administration and identify opportunities for continued collaboration.

The site visit provided valuable insight into the learners’ day-to-day activities and the practical application of the technical knowledge acquired during their formal training. It also highlighted the importance of workplace-based learning in preparing learners for successful careers in the artisan sector.

According to SIOC-CDT Chief Executive Officer Anita Loots, “the programme has made significant strides, achieving work placement of the learners in the cohort, after undergoing their institutional training.”

“We piloted the programme with a cohort of

50 learners; hence we believe that having 45 going through to the work placement phase, is a reason to see this as a success” further says Anita.

Through these strategic partnerships, SIOC-CDT continues to bridge the gap between training and employment by ensuring that learners gain meaningful workplace experience that enhances their employability while contributing to local economic development and sustainable community upliftment.

The Trust remains committed to investing in education, training and skills development initiatives that empower young people, strengthen local talent pipelines and create opportunities for long-term socio-economic growth within its beneficiary communities.



SIOC-CDT Grant Fund supports Boitumelo publish her second book – “UNONA”

The young author Boitumelo Moraka from Thabazimbi officially launched her second book, titled “UNONA”, made possible through the SIOC Community Development Trust’s Community Discretionary Grant Fund.

After the passing of her father, Boitumelo found comfort in writing heartfelt messages to him whenever she travelled. Her mother, Ms Maria Moraka, recognised that this was more than a way of coping—it was a remarkable talent that deserved to be nurtured. With unwavering support, guidance and determination, Boitumelo published her first book, “Who is She” in 2025. On the 27th of June, Boitumelo celebrated another milestone with the launch of her second.

The Community Discretionary Grant Fund exists to support impactful, community-driven initiatives that strengthen community pride, build resilience, create awareness and empower local talent. Since the inception of the fund in 2025, various initiatives have been realised across the SIOC-CDT beneficiary communities. Boitumelo’s journey is a powerful example of what can be achieved when communities invest in the dreams of their young people.

The launch was attended by representatives from development institutions, local mining houses, the Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, educators and community leaders, all coming together to celebrate this remarkable achievement.

Congratulations, Boitumelo! Your story reminds us that with support, resilience and opportunity, local talent can inspire generations.



SIOC-CDT Inspiring Futures at the 2026 Phunya Tsela Career Expo



SIOC Community Development Trust (SIOC-CDT) as part of collaborating sponsors, proudly participated in the 2026 Phunya Tsela Career Expo, held from 24–25 June 2026 at Thabo Moorosi Community Hall in Mothibistad, Kuruman. Through its Education, Training and Skills Development team, together with Dux, SIOC-CDT engaged with learners from across the John Taolo Gaetsewe District, providing valuable information on the SIOC-CDT Bursary Fund Programme and other education and skills development opportunities. The Expo provided an important platform to connect with young people, share information, answer questions and encourage learners to explore pathways that can support their educational and career aspirations. Through initiatives such as these, SIOC-CDT continues to invest in education to empower young people in the beneficiary communities.

SIOC-CDT SMME PORTAL

Are you a local business owner in the SIOC Community Development Trust (SIOC-CDT) beneficiary areas of **Gamagara, Ga-Segonyana, Joe Morolong, Tsantsabane, or Thabazimbi?**

Would you like your business to be considered for future procurement and business opportunities with SIOC-CDT?

Register on the SIOC-CDT SMME Portal today - <https://www.sioc-cdtmmes.co.za/register>

Don't miss the opportunity to position your business for future opportunities. **Register now!**



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