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WINTER
EDITION

INDIMA



*The Official Newsletter of Lima Rural Development
Foundation*



to those around us

37 YEARS OF DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES AND CHANGING LIVES



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EDF Power Solutions

At Lima, we believe lasting rural development begins by understanding community needs and working alongside local people to create sustainable solutions.

Across the Ngqushwa Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape, many households continue to face unemployment, food insecurity, water scarcity, and limited economic opportunities. With the support of EDF power solutions, Lima is addressing these challenges through an integrated programme that combines employment creation, agriculture, enterprise development, health, nutrition, and community development.

The Social Employment Fund (SEF) currently provides employment to 105 community members, creating stable incomes while supporting valuable community services. Agriculture and food security initiatives have established 219 household gardens and 39 community gardens, improving access to nutritious food for 133 vulnerable households and 15 community organisations, including schools, ECD centres, and community-based organisations.

Enterprise development is another key focus. Through the Street Business School (SBS), 111 aspiring entrepreneurs have received practical business training, with nine micro-enterprises establishing formal business systems to support long-term growth.

Lima also invests in community wellbeing through health, nutrition, caregiving, and gender-based violence awareness initiatives, delivered in partnership with local organisations. These programmes strengthen community resilience while improving access to vital support services.

Community participation remains central to the programme's success. Participatory Rural Appraisals conducted in 2025 ensured that programme activities reflected local priorities, while partnerships with the Ngqushwa Local Economic Development Office, the Department of Agriculture, and the Eastern Cape Development Corporation have strengthened coordination and technical support.

The need for these interventions remains significant. Recent assessments of 1,922 households identified 747 vulnerable households, 455 experiencing food insecurity, and 19 cases of acute malnutrition requiring referral for healthcare support.

EDF's continued partnership has been instrumental in expanding Lima's impact. Through strategic collaboration and long-term investment, the programme is helping build stronger, more resilient communities across Dabane, Peddie Extension, Wesley, Gcinisa, Hamburg, Bodium, and Bell.

Programme impact at a glance:

- 105 community members employed through SEF
- 219 household food gardens established
- 39 community gardens supporting schools, ECD centres and CBOs
- 111 entrepreneurs trained through the Street Business School
- 9 micro-enterprises with formal business systems
- 747 vulnerable households identified for targeted support



The Social Employment Fund (SEF)

Participant Spotlight: Remofilwe

Remofilwe Tsatsi, from Brooksby Village near Gelukspan in Mahikeng, North West Province, is the founder of Malebo Poultry and Vegetables, named after her mother and mentor, Malebogo. Passionate about agriculture and creating opportunities for young people, she believes farming can drive rural development and food security.

Starting in 2015 with just 100 chicks on a small plot, Remofilwe officially registered her business in 2017. Today, she owns five hectares of land, produces fresh vegetables and broiler chickens, and has increased production to around 300 chickens, creating employment for five people, including one person living with a disability.

Through the SEF Programme, Remofilwe strengthened her business management, record-keeping, cash flow planning, and confidence as an entrepreneur. Looking ahead, she plans to expand production by building four broiler houses, creating more employment opportunities, and growing her business into neighbouring communities.



Participant Spotlight: Owethu

Owethu Mamba, from Matsulu in the Mbombela Local Municipality, is the founder of WISE-EGGS (Pty) Ltd, a poultry business built on his vision of creating jobs and supporting his community.

He started with just 40 layer chickens and limited resources. Through determination and hard work, he has grown his flock to 100 chickens and officially registered his business. The SEF Programme helped him strengthen his cash flow management, improve record-keeping, and develop a long-term business strategy, giving him the confidence to grow his enterprise.

Owethu's goal is to expand WISE-EGGS to between 3,000 and 7,000 layers, supplying local supermarkets while creating more employment opportunities. He credits Lima and the SEF Programme for helping turn his vision into reality and remains committed to building a business that benefits both his community and future generations.



Supporting vulnerable families

Gift of the Givers donated food parcels to residents in Mthwalume on the South Coast.

Lima, working closely with Child Welfare through case referrals, household visits and interventions, was invited to identify vulnerable households from the SEF to benefit from this donation.

The recipients greatly appreciated the donation and expressed their gratitude for the food parcels and blankets, especially with the winter season approaching.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Gift of the Givers for their generosity and continued support to communities in need.



Inspiring the next generation

Lima was honoured to participate in the Youth Month Career Exhibition hosted by the Itsoseng Stakeholder Forum in Itsoseng, Ditsobotla Local Municipality, Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality.

The exhibition brought together government departments and organisations committed to empowering young people by showcasing career opportunities and support services.

Representing Lima, Mida Serothoane introduced learners to the many career opportunities within agriculture, highlighting its vital role in society and reminding students that "if everyone eats today, we have farmers to thank." Learners also discovered the wide range of agricultural careers available, from Agricultural Extension and Farm Management to Horticulture, Animal Health, Plant and Animal Production, and Floriculture.

To inspire the youth, Mida shared the success stories of several young professionals who began their careers through Lima's internship programme and are now making a difference in their communities.

Lima also highlighted its internship programme, which gives graduates and students valuable hands-on experience while supporting experiential training with partner institutions.

Thank you to the Itsoseng Stakeholder Forum for the invitation and the opportunity to inspire young people to explore the many opportunities that agriculture has to offer and the positive impact they can make in their communities.



Township Economy Programme (TEP)

This edition celebrates young entrepreneurs Remofilwe Jaabosigo and Lerato Matlou, who continue to grow their businesses through Lima's Street Business School (SBS) with support from Tshikululu Social Investments and Valterra Platinum.

Remofilwe

At just 21 years old, Remofilwe Jaabosigo is the owner of JayyJ Solutions Laundry & Cleaning Services, based in Mokgalwaneng, North West Province.

For the past two years, she has been providing reliable and affordable washing and cleaning services to workers and community members. Driven by a desire to become self-employed and support her community, Remofilwe identified a need for convenient cleaning services and turned it into a growing business.

Through the Street Business School (SBS) programme, Remofilwe has gained valuable skills in entrepreneurship, customer care, financial management, and business growth, helping her grow in confidence as a business owner.

Her goal is to expand JayyJ Solutions, reach more customers, create jobs, and continue making a difference in her community.



Lerato

Lerato Matlou, a young entrepreneur from Mokgalwana village in the Moses Kotane Municipality, North West Province, is building a growing small business focused on creative and affordable gifting solutions.

She is the founder of Rato's Snack Hamper, a business that produces customised gift boxes for children filled with ready-to-eat sweet and savoury snacks. The hampers are designed for immediate enjoyment or sharing at events, offering a convenient gifting option for families and community celebrations.

Lerato started the business after identifying a gap in the market for simple, customisable snack gifts. With limited start-up capital, she managed all aspects of the business herself, including marketing, customer service, and finances, gaining valuable hands-on entrepreneurial experience.

She is currently enrolled in the Lima SBS Township Economy Programme (TEP). The programme helps entrepreneurs improve business structure, financial management, and long-term planning.

Through the programme, Lerato is strengthening her business skills and plans to expand her customer base online, improve her product range, and build a strong brand presence.



Building financial confidence

Lima, through its Township Economy Programme (TEP), recently hosted Financial Literacy training for enterprises enrolled in the Street Business School (SBS).

The training was delivered by FNB across nine villages in the North West and Limpopo provinces.

Participants completed four key financial education modules:

- Protecting What Matters: Insurance and business assets
- Understanding Money: Budgeting, interest, and banking basics
- Growing Money: Savings, investing, and wealth building
- Leaving a Legacy: Wills and estate planning

These sessions are designed to strengthen financial resilience, improve business sustainability, and equip entrepreneurs with practical knowledge to make informed financial decisions.

The final module, Managing Debt, will be delivered during July–August 2026, completing the full FNB Financial Education programme for all participating SBS enterprises.

A sincere thank you to FNB for facilitating these educational sessions. We are confident that the knowledge gained will make a meaningful difference to the enterprises that participated.



De Beers Group

Linkie Thabyane, founder of Nkwatle Sanctuary Farming in Longden Village under Blouberg Local Municipality, began her farming journey in 2023 as a backyard farmer after joining Lima Rural Development Foundation's Smallholder Farmers Support Programme.

Through support from her local traditional authority, she later acquired a 2-hectare farm where she is currently operating. In the same year, she also received infrastructure development support through the De Beers Capacity Development Programme, which helped her transition from backyard farming to a smallholder farming enterprise.

With ongoing support from Lima, including training, farm visits, technical advice, and market linkages, Linkie successfully planted her first 1 hectare of pumpkins. Her progress highlights the impact of targeted support in building young, emerging farmers into sustainable agricultural entrepreneurs.



Client feature - De Beers Group

Andy Cyster is the Social and Economic Development (SED) Manager for De Beers Venetia Mine, based in Musina, Limpopo. With a strong focus on making a practical difference in the communities surrounding the operation, he works closely with stakeholders to identify real needs and deliver initiatives that create meaningful, lasting impact. Andy is passionate about building partnerships, supporting local development, and empowering others to succeed through a practical, hands-on approach.

Andy believes community development is important because it ensures the organisation's presence creates shared value and leaves a positive, lasting impact beyond its core business. By investing in local communities, the organisation helps build resilient economies, develop skills, improve quality of life, and foster long-term sustainability while supporting inclusive growth and responsible business.

This commitment to community development is what motivated the organisation to partner with Lima. Andy shared that Lima's strong track record in community development and its practical, people-centred approach to empowerment align closely with the organisation's commitment to creating meaningful, long-term impact. By working together, they combine resources, expertise, and local insight to deliver programmes that are effective, relevant, and sustainable, strengthening community resilience.

Through Lima's agricultural programme, Andy has seen tangible improvements in both productivity and livelihoods. Participants are gaining practical farming skills, including crop production techniques, soil management, and sustainable agricultural practices that contribute to better yields and more reliable food sources. Many households are becoming increasingly self-sufficient, with some generating surplus produce for additional income, while knowledge-sharing and collaboration have created a stronger, more resilient agricultural network.

"Strong, thriving communities contribute to a more stable and supportive environment in which both communities and businesses can succeed."



Andy Cyster

UKZN Awards

On the 12th of May, UKZN's College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science hosted an awards ceremony in Pietermaritzburg to honour the top-achieving students from 2025 in disciplines across its schools represented on the Pietermaritzburg campus.

Lima is proud to continue supporting student excellence through two sponsored awards.

The Lima Food Security Award, presented to the top student in the Postgraduate Diploma in Food Security, was awarded to Ms Lusanda Gumede.

The Lima Rural Development Award for the top student in the AGE380 class was awarded to Ms Aphelele Sukude.

Congratulations to both recipients! We wish you every success as you contribute towards strengthening rural development and food security in South Africa.



Ms Lusanda Gumede



Ms Aphelele Sukude

Lima in the digital age

Lima's Monitoring and Evaluation Framework provides a comprehensive, integrated system for tracking the impact of programmes across all areas of the organisation. From supporting smallholder farmers and enterprise development to grant administration and social employment initiatives, the framework enables real-time data collection, reporting, and performance monitoring. By using digital tools and customised reporting systems, Lima is able to measure outcomes, strengthen accountability, and use data to continuously improve programme delivery and community impact.

