



www.publicworks.gov.za

Special Edition - August 2021

MEET SOME OF THE TAFELKOP FARMERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERS & DPWI YOUNG PROFESSIONALS



public works
& infrastructure

Department:
Public Works and Infrastructure
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

STAY
SAFE

PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS



Meet some of the Tafelkop Farmers Association members and DPWI Young Professionals

By Bukiwe Cimela

Nurturing needs vision, time and dedication and in this issue, we look at nurturing through men and women who had both the vision and were willing to put in time and effort to achieve success.

We put the spotlight on members of the Tafelkop Farmers Association (TFA) in Groblersdal, Limpopo who recently received land ownership and title deeds to the farms they had been occupying for over 20 years and the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure's (DPWI) Young Professionals who have recently obtained professional registration.

The members of the TFA stayed focus, literally starting with nothing but a few tools and a lot of heart and determination. Many have achieved what they could only dream of, including jetting abroad to equip themselves with more information on farming. The farmers have created a sustainable business for themselves but have also created work opportunities for many others in the community.

The same dedication has been witnessed with the young professional candidates who have had to put in long hours and dedication in order to receive professional registration.

After successfully completing their undergraduate qualifications, the young professionals took a step further, registering and completing their post graduate qualifications going as far as obtaining a Master's qualification. This was never an easy journey which has however led them to achieving their goal of professional registration.

May this issue inspire dedication in the different sectors of the Department in which we all work under.

Kindly share with us your comments and concerns by contacting the following colleagues;

Mr Petrus Sibiya
Tel: 012 406 1836
email: Petrus.Sibiya@dpw.gov.za

Ms Thozama Mbili/Nzama
Tel: 012 406 1509
email: Thozama.Nzama@dpw.gov.za

For Corporate Identity
Ms Tumisang Nisele
Tel: 012 406 1846
email: Tumisang.Nisele@dpw.gov.za





MR JERRY SEFOLOSHE CHAIRPERSON OF THE TAFELKOP FARMERS ASSOCIATION

He started farming in 1996 in Tafelkop using three (3) hectares of land under dry land farming. This was seasonal farming depending on rainy seasons. He says they struggled with livestock as a result his focus was on crops.

He then joined the National African Farmers Union (NAFU) and this exposed him to a lot of information about farming. He says he was part of the group of farmers who first took occupation of the abandoned farms which were in a bad state having been vandalised by the previous occupants.

Mr Sefoloshe says he started farming crops like cabbage, onion, beetroot, etc. He then added cotton and tobacco, which he had to learn on the job. Through farming, he says he has been to Europe and USA. In the African continent, he has been to Zimbabwe and Tanzania to learn more about agriculture.

He has attended many other trainings organised by institutions like Agricultural Research Council and NAFU. Mr

Sefoloshe acknowledges that training is very important and that he continues attending conferences, workshops and seminars to improve his trade.

Title deeds

Mr Sefoloshe says these will allow them to be able to go to the banks to make loans so that they can be able to do business themselves instead of having middlemen.

Challenges

He says his biggest challenge is water. They are currently sharing a water canal with other farmers who have title deeds and this has caused challenges in the past. He says those farmers switch off the water supply in the canals without warning.

He says electricity is also too expensive for some projects like irrigation. Sefoloshe also raised a concern about crop theft because the farms are not properly fenced (people come and steal their crops). ■

MS LEKEDI GRACE DINKWANYANE

She is one of the first people who took occupation of the abandoned farms. When Ms Dinkwanyane moved into the farm, she, like all other farmers had to clear the bush and rebuild some infrastructure for her to also start farming.

She says she started farming at a young age while still at school. She fell in love with farming and became part of the Tafelkop Farmers Association where she got exposed to other forms of farming.

Her success in farming saw her win a regional and provincial agriculture competition. She clinched the 1st prize which saw her jetting off to the USA for a month. In that month, she says she learnt a lot about the business side of farming and making production plans.

Creating employment

During a busy season like harvesting, she creates employment for up to 15 people. She also recruits family who are not part of everyday farming, to be involved during those busy times.

Challenges

She says water for irrigation remains a big problem for her. Ms Dinkwanyane says the water pipe outlet that they pump irrigation water from, is on a lower level to her farm making water pressure weak to be able to irrigate properly in her farm.

Finally getting a title deed

She is very excited because she will now be able to work the farm the way she has always wanted to. She says the information she learnt when she was in America, will be put to good use. The title deed gives her full control of the farm to start implementing her plans.

Ms Dinkwanyane says she was afraid to invest too much in the farm because she felt they could be kicked out as they were not secured on their farms without title deeds.





MR GOODRICH MASHIANE SECRETARY OF THE TFA

Creating Employment

He has three full-time workers but on a busy season like harvesting, he employs more people. He plants a variety of crops including lucerne, cabbage, okra, egg plants, baby marrow, etc. He says he prefers planting high value crops. These as they make more money in the market yet they do not need a lot of land to grow.

Getting a title deed

He says this will be freedom to him. Freedom to farm without fear of being evicted. Freedom to approach financial institutions for help. Freedom to even approach government. He says with a title deed, they can better plan as farmers.

Current business

Because he had no title deed, he was struggling to secure long term contracts with businesses. He says he had resorted to selling direct to market places using agents. Now that he has a title deed, he will be able to even have access to the export markets. He currently supplies the Pretoria and the Johannesburg fresh produce markets.

He also sells to the local supermarkets, even though they do not make big orders. His plan is to have more businesses buying directly from the farm and have the excess of the products taken to the markets.



Mr Goodrich Mashiane has been part of the farming community from the 90s and one of the founding members of the Tafelkop Farmers Association in 1994. He started farming at an early age with his father. A school teacher by profession, he started school late, at the age of 10 because he was helping his father with farming.

As a teacher, he says his farming was done on a part-time basis over the weekends and in the afternoons after work. When he moved to Groblersdal from Tafelkop and taking farming more seriously, all the farms were already occupied. He had to be given a vacant land which was previously used as grazing land by the previous farmers. He used school holidays to clear the overgrown land together with his wife who is also a teacher.

Challenges of not having title deeds

He says as farmers, they couldn't approach financial institutions because they were not legal property owners. The assistance they were able to get was from the Department of Agriculture through their generic programmes. Mashiane says they could not make investments on the farms like having a borehole or build structures. He says he erected a shack, which he used for a very long time. He couldn't have long time contracts with the market because he didn't have stability of owning the farm.



MS MOKGADI MANGAMPA

She is a farmer, who took over the farming baton from her mother. She farms tomatoes, butternut, cabbage and green beans. When her mom got sick in 2017, she took over the farm, introducing new products like peppadew which she sold successfully to many places.

She says before Covid-19, business was good and they were able to move their products and make good business. Now she says they have had to rely on Covid-19 grants to be able to continue farming.

Getting a title deed

She says this will make it easy for the farmers to be able to do business and approach financial institutions. She says currently, the little they get from the business cannot be reinvested back into the business because it has to do many other things like feed their families. She also is a chicken farmer and she hopes to be able to grow that side of the business as well, now that she has a title deed.

Youth in farming

She hopes more youth could involve themselves in farming instead of having ambitions of working only in offices. With

farming, the youth can be able to grow the nation. She says her daughter lost her job because of Covid-19, but was able to sustain herself by joining her on the farm. The daughter has now become her cheerleader, encouraging her when the going gets tough.

Challenges

She says her biggest challenge is access to the markets. She now sells her produce as a hawker on the streets. She also supplies local supermarkets like Spar and Ok, which she says are giving her a lot of support.





MR SINNE SEFOLOSHE

He has been a farmer for the past 25 years. He is a vegetable farmer but also farms on tobacco. He grew up in a farming family, from his grandfather, then his father (Ntate Jerry Sefoloshe) and now him. After he passed Matric, he says he couldn't find a job for two years until his father advised him to enrol at university and study for a qualification in farming.

He has many farming certificates including Farm Management, Soil Preparation, Beef Cattle Management etc. He farms all year round and is happy that he got involved in agriculture at a young age. He says there are many challenges in farming but if you are passionate about it, you are able to overcome them. He encourages youth to get involved in agriculture because there is always work in the sector.

Current Challenges

Drought has been a big challenge, putting a strain on their plans. Access to irrigation water has also been a problem, particularly with their more established white farmer neighbours. He says they have had to deal with extreme weather conditions including hail storms, heat, floods etc.

Getting title deeds

He says if he could, he would open up his chest so that people can see how happy he is about getting the title deed. He will now be able to leave a legacy for his children. He stays with his children on a full-time basis at the farm.

Passing on the skills to the next generation of farmers

He has started teaching his children about farming so they have the necessary skills to continue the legacy. He believes that children need to be taught farming at schools but also be exposed to practical work. The syllabus must not just focus on the theory, but also physical practical work.

Access to the Market

He has had no difficulties moving his harvest. He says he always tells people that there is always demand for vegetables. He says he plants about 40 000 heads of cabbage and is able to sell all of it in two weeks when it is time to harvest. International markets remain a challenge to get into however, local markets are very accessible.

Government assistance

He would like Government to assist with tractors, fertilisers and water (intervene in the current water struggles where the more established farmers claim to own water canals distributing water throughout the farming community).

Government must employ inspectors who know farming so that they know what is being reported to them v/s the current ones who just ask questions from their cars and go back to their offices.

MR THOMAS MOSOTHO



Like many farmers who are his neighbours, he took occupation of the farm after they were left abandoned and vandalised by the previous occupants.

The farms were in a bad state when they took occupation, and had to first prepare the land by clearing out overgrown vegetation before they could start farming. He says when they initially started farming, they faced many challenges including the shortage of water.

Getting a tittle deed

Without a title deed, they couldn't work the land the way they wanted to. Echoing the sentiments of the many other farmers,

he is very excited because now he will be able to access financial institutions in order to improve his business.

Job creation

He is able to employ up to twenty people when there is a need like when they are processing tobacco. He usually employs four people on a more permanent basis. He also roped in the youth from his family to whet their appetite on farming even though this is still a struggle.



MEET DPWI'S YOUNG PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE RECENTLY OBTAINED PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION



Ms Nokuthula Yipha is a Professional Quantity Surveyor (PrQS) stationed at the Cape Town Regional Office. She is one of the DPWI's young professionals who have obtained professional status through the Young Professionals Programme.

She earlier attained a National Diploma in Cost and Management Accounting and has worked as an Admin Officer. Ms Yipha says the struggle of being an unemployed graduate eventually saw her pursuing a career in the built environment. She enrolled as a full-time student and obtained a 3-year BSc degree in Quantity Surveying, followed by a 1-year BSc with Honours in Quantity Surveying, both from the University of the Free State.

Ms Yipha says after her studies, she worked for a construction company and a quantity surveying consulting company before joining the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. She began her professional registration journey by registering as a Candidate Quantity Surveyor with the South African Council for the Quantity Surveying Profession (SACQSP).

Ms Yipha explains; "I then began training under a registered Professional Quantity Surveyor for a minimum of three years, working and logging 5700 hours into the QS diary system. During this three year period I successfully submitted interim and final reports - 18 months apart, and I was invited for the Assessment of Professional Competency (APC) interview on 18 May 2021. "At 12:00 all I heard from the panelists was "Congratulations, you are now a Professional Quantity Surveyor (PrQS) and in your case a Professional Brick Accountant since your childhood dream was to become a Chartered Accountant."

She says being professionally registered means she is competent to perform tasks without being supervised unlike when she was a candidate; "not however ignoring the fact that in this industry, one learns everyday so I need to continue with professional development in order to survive". Ms Yipha has thanked everyone behind the Young Professionals Programme, a quantity surveying company that supported her, her regional mentors and national mentor Mr Barry Noel, as well as her colleagues for their contribution and support during what she termed a difficult yet exciting journey.

MEET DPWI'S YOUNG PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE RECENTLY OBTAINED PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION



Mr Ahmed Omarjee is a Professional Architect (Pr. Arch) stationed at the Durban Regional Office. He is one of the DPWI's young professionals who have obtained professional status through the Young Professionals Programme.

He says prior to obtaining his professional registration, he completed a three (3) year Bachelor of Architectural Studies Degree and worked in a registered architectural practice for a minimum of one year. Omarjee says he went on to complete a two-year Master's Degree in Architecture which included course work and the writing of a dissertation.

"From there, I registered as a Candidate Architect with the South African Council for the Architectural Profession (SACAP) and underwent training under a registered Professional Architect until I obtained the required points in four different categories to be eligible to write the two Professional Practice examination papers," explained Omarjee. He says upon passing both exams, he was granted a professional registration number and certificate.

Omarjee says that being professionally registered means that he is now recognised as a competent and responsible individual. "I have the necessary skills and potential to research, contribute to or lead projects with greater complexity," he says.

He concludes by mentioning that in terms of job prospects, he can now apply for vacancies that require a valid Professional Architect registration with SACAP, "Salary remuneration increases after upgrading from Candidate Architect to Professional Architect. Registration as a Professional enables one to sign off or submit architectural plans to local authorities nationally.

"Furthermore, SACAP has become one of seven signatories to the Canberra Accord which will make it easier for Architects like myself that wish to undertake architectural work abroad in countries represented by the Accord."



Mr Horisani Madzivane is a Professional Civil Engineer (Pr. Eng.) stationed at Head Office. He is one of the DPWI's young professionals who have obtained professional status through the Young Professionals Programme.

He says in order to obtain his professional registration, he had to study for a four (4) year BSc degree in Civil Engineering. "From there on I registered as a Candidate Engineer with the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) and underwent training under a registered Professional Civil Engineer for a minimum period of three (3) years. Upon completing the required training, I submitted the necessary application forms and reports to ECSA for assessment of my professional competency, and lastly sat for a professional interview," explains Madzivane.

Mr Madzivane says being professionally registered means that he is competent to perform work related to his field of expertise without supervision and that he has to abide by the Engineering Code of Conduct in order to protect the public, the environment, as well as enhance sustainable development.

He says his professional registration also means that he is eligible to apply for positions that demand a higher level of responsibility, hence a better salary; "This will also enable me to be at positions that have the potential to influence policy changes."

Mr Madzivane concludes by mentioning that his registration is recognised by countries such as the United Kingdom since the country is a signatory to the Washington Accord and he adds; "this gives me much needed advantage compared to my peers when looking for job opportunities outside of South Africa."



Mr Siseko Bonelwa is a Professional Quantity Surveyor (PrQS) stationed at the Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha) Regional Office. He is one of the DPWI's young professionals who have obtained professional status through the Young Professionals Programme.

He says in order to obtain his professional registration, he had to complete a 3-year BSc degree in Quantity Surveying and a 1-year BSc with Honours in Quantity Surveying. He explains; "From there I registered as a candidate with the South African Council for the Quantity Surveying Profession (SACQSP) and underwent training under a registered Professional Quantity Surveyor for a minimum of three (3) years. Upon completion of the required hours I submitted the necessary reports for assessment of my professional competence and lastly sat for a professional interview."

Mr Bonelwa says being professionally registered means that he has reached the acceptable competency level of the profession and that he can execute quantity surveying deliverables independently. He adds that with his professional registration he can apply for a position at a level above his current one; "It also means I can open my own quantity surveying firm if I need to."

He has also revealed that he is currently in the process of registering with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) since he meets all the requirements. "Registering with RICS will be quite valuable because it gives one international recognition within the profession," concludes Bonelwa.



Ms Sinegugu Maphanga is a Professional Architect (Pr. Arch) stationed at Head Office. She is one of the DPWI's young professionals who have obtained professional status through the Young Professionals Programme.

She says before obtaining her professional registration, she studied a Bachelor of Architectural Studies (BAS) Degree and then registered with the South African Council for the Architectural Profession (SACAP) as a Candidate Architectural Technologist. "A couple of years later I went back to university to study towards my Master's Degree. Upon completing all my hours doing my monthly training records with the guidance of a registered mentor, as well as writing the professional practise exam and passing and completing my Master's Degree in Architecture, I was able to upgrade to a Professional Architect with SACAP," Ms Maphanga explains.

She says registering as a professional means that she is now able to do architectural work with no limitations to cost and scale. She adds; "I am able to sign off on drawings as well as take on challenging and complex architectural work without a mentor, but with other professionals who are there to upskill me through their work experience. I am able to contribute to the architectural profession through the skills and knowledge I have obtained. Without being professionally registered, this would not be possible."

Ms Maphanga concludes by mentioning that being registered as a professional also means that she is now able to apply for job positions that require professionally registered candidates and that she would be able to work in other countries that recognise her SACAP registration.

VHA TEVHEDZE: 'MAGA A 7 A U THUSA U THIVHELA U PHADALALA HA COVID-19'

1

A SONGO AMBARAHO MASIKI HA DZHENI!

Vha fanela u ambara masiki musi vha tshi da tshifhatoni tsha nnyi na nnyi u fana na hetshi, uri vha thuse kha u thivhela u phadalala ha COVID-19.



VHA SONGO IMA TSINISA NA VHAÑWE VHATHU!

Ri humbela uri vha sie tshikhala tsha mithara dza 1.5 vhukati havho na vhañwe. Vha tevhedza zwiga zwa u sia tshikahala zwo vhwahalo kha fuloro inwe na inwe u itela uri vha hu songo vha na vhukwamani.

2

3

VHA FHIRE NGA HUNE HA TOLIWA THEMPHERETSHA

Sa maga a tsirakhombo, vhashumi na vhaeni vhothe vha fanela u fhira nga hune ha tolwa thempheretsha.



VHA BVULE MAGILAFU MUSI VHA TSHI DZHENA KHA HETSHI TSHIFHATO!

Vha fanela u tevhedza maga a u tamba zwanda na u shumisa sanithaiza.

4

5

VHA SHUMISE SANITHAIZA DZA ZWANDA!

Vha nga shumisa sanithaiza kana waipi dzavho vhona vhañe, henefho phand ha mulindi wa tsireledzo; zwi tendelwa FHEDZI arali hu na vhuñanzi ha uri sanithaiza kana waipi dzavho dzi na alikhoholi i swikaho 70%.



HU TENDELWA VHATHU VHARARU (3) FHEDZI U DZHENA KHA LIFITHI!

Vhashumi kana vhaeni vhañe vha kha di vha vhatuku vha re na nungo vha tshuñwedzwa u shumisa zwiñepisi.

6

7

VHA TAMBE ZWANDA ZWAVHO NGA TSHISIBE LWA MITHETHE YA 20!

Vha fanela u tamba zwanda zwayho nga tshisibe na madi MISI YOTHE musi vha tshi bva bungani. Vha huñe zwanda lwa mithethe i swikaho 20.



**SOUTH
AFRICA
WORKS
BECAUSE OF
PUBLIC
WORKS**

U wana zwiñwe
zwidodombedzwa:

Muofisiri wa Vhutevhedzi ha OHS

Muf. Gugu Komane

082 888 0841 / 012 406 1013/ 18

Mulanguli wa zwa Mutakalo

Vho Reuben Mahlatjie

082 887 8047 / 012 406 1289