

# IN BRIEF

ISSUE 40 | OCTOBER 2025



## TRANSFORMATION IN ACTION

In this issue:

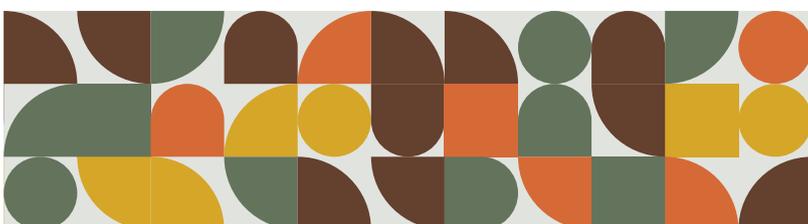
Agri-Transformation Agenda

Insights of from the LED Roundtable

The Bela Act

Reflections on the KT Journey

and more...



IGNITING HUMAN  
CAPACITY FOR

40  
Years – and Beyond

Reflecting on our  
legacy. Reigniting  
our future.



KAGISO  
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1985-2025



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# OUR IDENTITY

## OUR VISION

A prosperous, peaceful, equitable and just society

## OUR VALUES

- Integrity
- Accountability
- Passion for Development
- Hands-On, Bottom-Up Approach

## OUR MISSION

To contribute to development through sustainable funding, with like-minded partnerships and innovative, scalable development models

## OUR STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

- **EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PILLAR**  
To extend educational development programmes
- **SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PILLAR**  
To promote and support socio-economic development
- **INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING PILLAR**  
To support strategic institutional capability development for sustainability
- **FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY PILLAR**  
To ensure financial sustainability of Kagiso Charitable Trust



**KAGISO**  
T R U S T



# MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Dear Stakeholders,

As South Africa takes its place in global and national conversations, notably through its participation in the recent G20 deliberations, the urgency to translate policy dialogue into tangible social transformation has never been greater. The G20 agenda, with its focus on inclusive growth, sustainable food systems, and youth empowerment, echoes many of the priorities that define our work at Kagiso Trust.

At home, agriculture and food security have once again risen to the forefront of national debate. Recent features on the agri-sector, have highlighted both the challenges and the immense potential within this space. Issues such as food price volatility, market concentration, and the barriers facing smallholder and emerging farmers remind us that equitable transformation within agriculture is key to achieving long-term economic stability.

In this edition, we spotlight the Agri Lekgotla and the National Fresh Produce Market Transformation Report, which speak directly to the work required to unlock opportunities within this sector. Our growing partnerships with organisations like SAFDA exemplify the collaborative approaches necessary to strengthen food systems and ensure that markets are more accessible and inclusive.

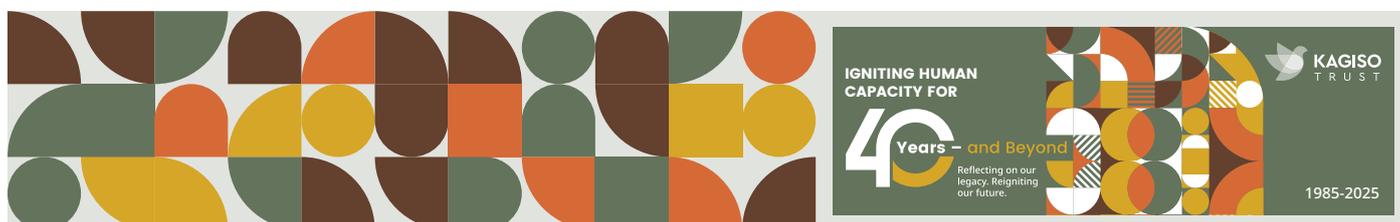
In parallel, the ongoing review of the Local Government White Paper and debates around the BELA Bill reflect how governance and education remain vital levers for transformation. These processes urge us to consider how

policy translates into local capacity, equitable service delivery, and opportunities for young South Africans. Our feature on Coding and Robotics in Limpopo captures this spirit – showcasing how innovation and technology can expand learning horizons and equip rural learners for a digital future.

Amid these broader developments, we also reflect on moments of legacy and renewal. This year, as Kagiso Trust marks 40 years of Igniting Human Capacity, we honour the women and men whose vision and leadership continue to guide our mission. The farewell of our 2024/25 interns serves as a reminder that transformation is not only about systems, but also about people. Those who will carry forward the values of social justice, collaboration, and innovation into the next generation.

The stories in this issue share a common thread: they illuminate how education, agriculture, technology, and governance intersect in shaping a more inclusive and resilient South Africa. At Kagiso Trust, we remain steadfast in turning dialogue into action, ensuring that our partnerships and programmes deliver meaningful and measurable impact where it matters most.

I invite you to engage deeply with this edition, to reflect on the insights shared, and to continue championing the collaborative spirit that defines both our mission and our country's path toward shared prosperity.



A professional portrait of Mandisa Tselane, a Black woman with her hair styled in braids. She is wearing a black blazer over a white blouse, a pearl necklace, and pearl earrings. She is smiling and looking directly at the camera. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey. There are teal-colored graphic elements: a large triangle on the left side and a rectangular box containing text on the left side of her portrait.

Our growing partnerships with organisations like SAFDA exemplify the collaborative approaches necessary to strengthen food systems and ensure that markets are more accessible and inclusive.

Mandisa Tselane.

# KAGISO TRUST

## CREATING A CATALYST FOR AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

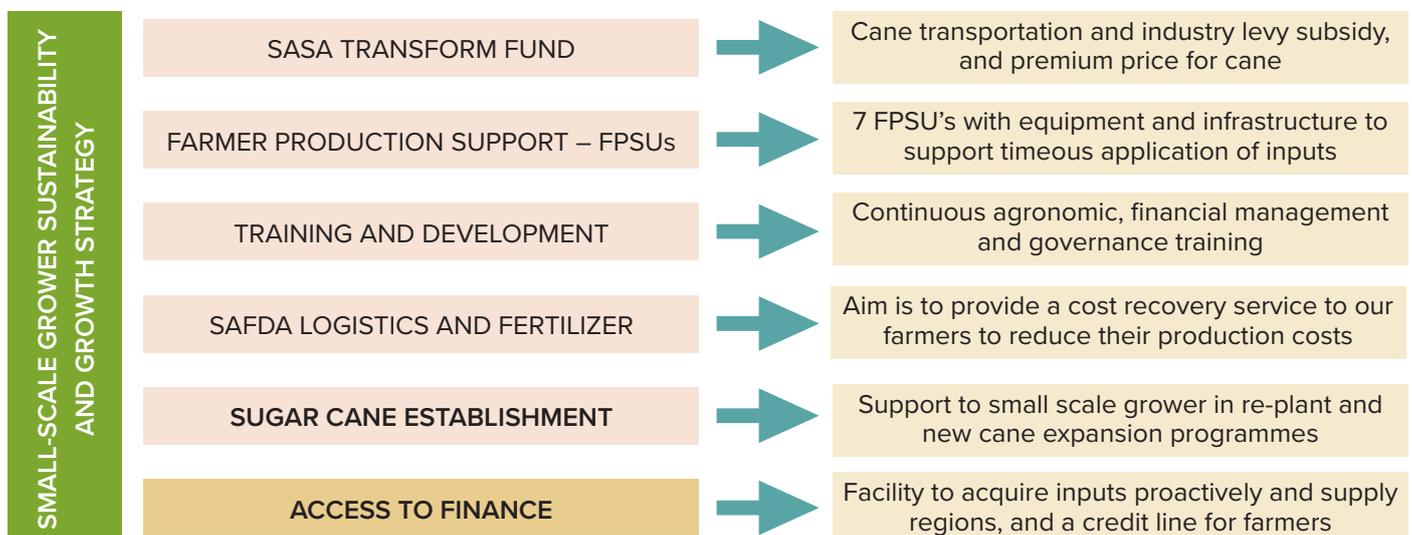
*At Kagiso Trust, our Socio-Economic Development (SED) strategy is built on our conviction that transformation happens when structural barriers are dismantled, when people gain both access and agency, and when ecosystems are reimagined to serve the many, not just the few. This conviction is particularly applicable to South Africa’s agricultural sector because it represents both a site of historical exclusion and a powerful lever for inclusive growth.*

*By Quinton Naidoo, Socio Economic Development Head*

In the case of small and medium-scale emerging sugarcane farmers, access to finance has remained one of the most persistent barriers. Commercial banks and DFIs have historically deemed these farmers “too risky,” leaving them unable to invest in productivity or reinvest in operations. The result is not just limited to individual growth, but a systemic stalling of production across one of South Africa’s most important commodities.

It is in light of this, that Kagiso Trust has partnered with the South African Farmers Development Association (SAFDA). The launch of our Early Payment on Delivery (EPOD) facility as a financing tool is a deliberate intervention into a broken system. We are unlocking liquidity at the point of delivery so that farmers can gain timely access to working capital that enables them to pay labour, service debt, and prepare for the next season.

### SAFDA’S STRATEGY



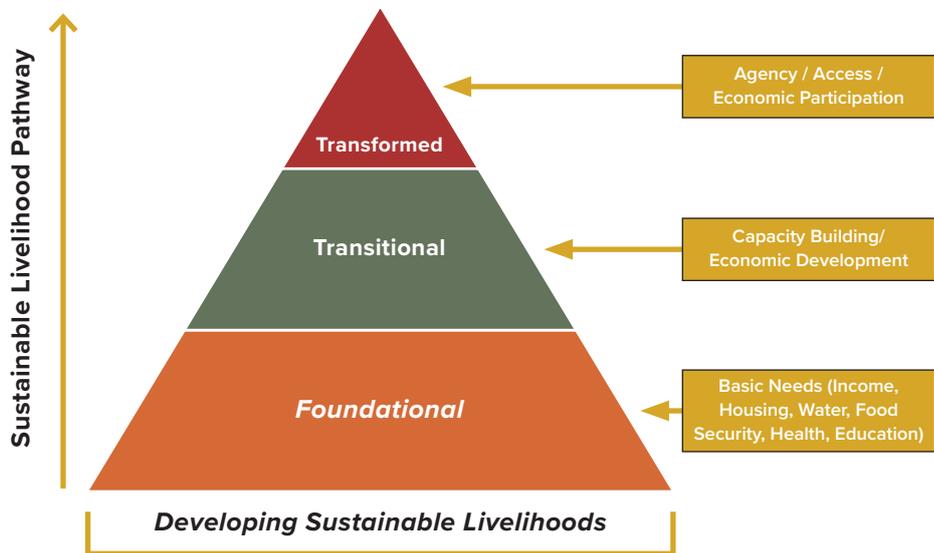
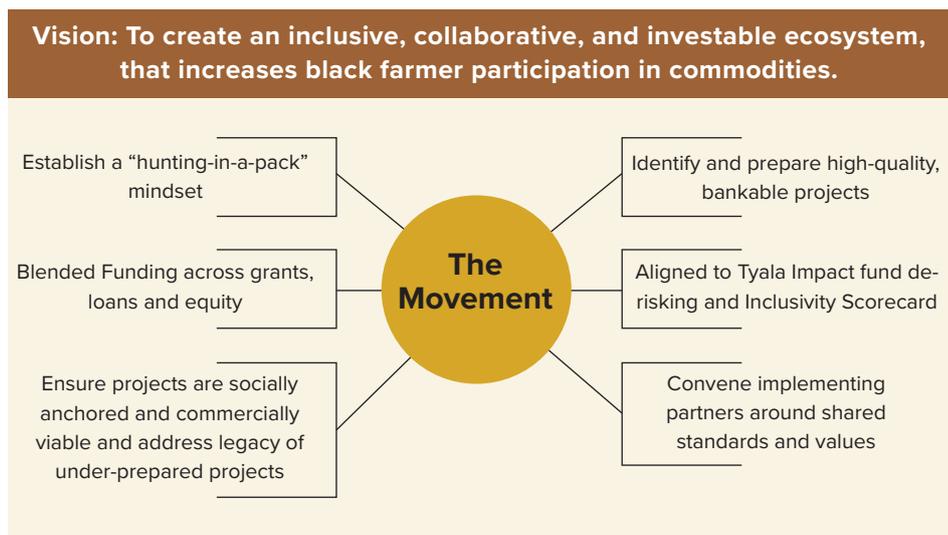
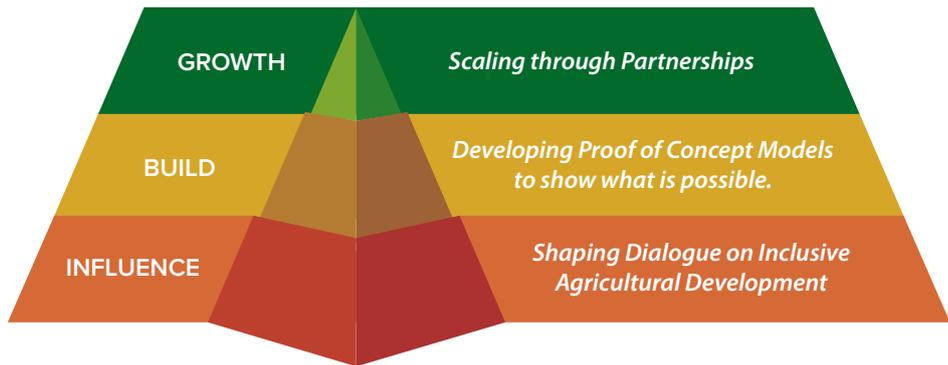
*A home for all progressive farmers*



Additionally, this partnership also reflects something larger: Kagiso Trust's role as an ecosystem catalyst. Our SED strategy is structured around our Influence-Build-Growth pathway. We influence by shaping dialogue on agricultural transformation. We build by developing proof-of-concept models that show what is possible. And we grow by scaling these models through partnerships and finance.

The EPOD facility sits firmly within this framework. It complements our broader commodity interventions that are already intervening in Red Meat, Horticulture and Staple Crops, Supplier Development Hubs and Urban Agriculture. Together, these initiatives form a movement. Each commodity intervention targets a specific node in the agricultural economy, but all are linked by a singular "why": to shift South Africa's agricultural sector inclusively – from vulnerability to resilience, and from participation to leadership.

“Within this layered framing, SED’s role must be catalytic i.e. to deliver investments that expand participation, build inclusive enterprises, and create sustainable rural and township economies.”



Our approach in SED is also layered as shown in our “pyramid of development.” At the base, we address farmers’ immediate needs and livelihoods. In the middle, we strengthen enterprises through access to finance, markets, and capacity. At the peak, we foster agency, structural access, and long-term participation. The KT-SAFDA partnership demonstrates this in action through a financial instrument that addresses cash flow now, while building a foundation for structural change in the sugar industry.

Ultimately, our partnership with SAFDA is about building a future where previously disadvantaged farmers are active leaders in shaping South Africa’s food systems. It is about proving that catalytic finance, when combined with courage and collaboration, can rewire an entire sector.

This is our “why.” And it is through partnerships like this, which are rooted in trust, conviction, and shared purpose, that Kagiso Trust will continue to influence, build, and grow a new moral and economic order in South African agriculture.

# AGRI-TRANSFORMATION LEKGOTLA 2025: RESETTING THE TRANSFORMATION AGENDA

*The Agri-Transformation Lekgotla 2025, held under the theme “Resetting the Transformation Agenda in South African Agriculture,” convened government officials, financiers, commodity leaders, and farmers to reflect on the state of transformation in the agricultural sector.*

*By Nomkhosi Khumalo, Digital Content Manager and  
Thabane Ndlela, Senior Policy Officer, Kagiso Trust*

Far more than a talk shop, the Lekgotla emerged as a policy-shaping platform and a call to action. A key theme that resonated throughout the discussions was that transformation cannot be narrowly defined as land reform or financial access alone. Instead, stakeholders emphasised the need for a holistic, ecosystem-driven process addressing land reform, finance, market access, infrastructure, skills, and farmer development anchored in the lived realities of those producing, processing, and distributing food.

The panel, chaired by Kagiso Trust’s SED Manager, Mr Luvuyo Sandi, stressed that farmer participation is not a courtesy but a prerequisite for meaningful change. Echoing the call for co-creation, Sandi stated: *“Nothing about us without us. We must co-create the picture of where we want to be.”*

Dr. Mankodi Moitse, CEO of Kagiso Trust, delivered a deeply resonant address, reminding delegates that transformation will remain incomplete if it does not prioritise investment in people. She emphasised that land reform, while critical, is insufficient without parallel investment in human capital. Kagiso Trust’s model centres on ecosystem orchestration. It supports farmers beyond primary production through education, mentorship, youth entrepreneurship, and structured partnerships with local government and farmer associations. *“Even the graveyard is not fenced. That’s how deep inequality runs,”* she cautioned, highlighting that ecosystems only thrive when all roles and stakeholders are recognised and supported.

Nothing about us without us. We must co-create the picture of where we want to be. — Luvuyo Sandi, Kagiso Trust

The Land Bank announced a strategic shift from traditional lending to ecosystem coordination. CEO Themba Rikhotso highlighted initiatives such as a R2 billion blended finance scheme, aggregation models for smallholders, a Disaster Fund to strengthen climate resilience, and a R1.2 billion Agro-Energy Fund. These measures aim to expand market access, support renewable energy adoption, and address the scale and complexity of commercial farming.

Commodity organisations presented sector-specific transformation strategies, signalling a shift from fragmented efforts to scalable, industry-wide change. Potato SA is investing in mentorship and infrastructure, including a planned chips factory in Limpopo; the Red Meat Industry is advancing Traceability and integrated support; Pork SA is prioritising biosecurity and consumer awareness; while the Fruit Sector has committed to 30% black participation across its value chain by 2038. Collectively, these strategies reinforce the need for measurable transformation targets and systemic policy support to ensure inclusivity across value chains.



Agri-Transformation Lekgotla 2025.

Mr. Mooketsa Ramasodi, Director-General of Agriculture, underscored that inclusivity is essential for sustainability. He called for updated legislation, stricter enforcement of transformation regulations, and policies that reflect the practical realities of smallholders. Yet, farmers voiced frustration with rigid funding models and a lack of recognition for communal land dynamics. One farmer from the Free State put it plainly: *'We are not equal. Stop applying the same rules to small and commercial farmers.'*

#### Discussions revealed ongoing challenges such as:

- Land reform bottlenecks and the absence of measurable transformation metrics.
- Restrictive finance models that fail to consider historical inequalities.
- Market access barriers compounded by poor infrastructure, monopolistic practices, and regulatory by-laws.
- Traceability and biosecurity gaps, particularly in livestock.
- Farmer safety and security concerns, undermining investment and productivity.

#### From the Lekgotla, four clear imperatives emerged:

1. Fostering inclusive partnerships across government, the private sector, and civil society.
2. Supporting localised production to reduce reliance on imports and strengthen rural economies.
3. Advancing youth participation and innovation through mentorship, training, and entrepreneurship.

4. Establishing transparent transformation metrics with mandatory public reporting to track progress.

#### To translate dialogue into action, delegates proposed:

- **Capacity Building & Financial Literacy:** Embedding financial literacy in all training programmes, complemented by mentorship and partnerships with banks and NGOs.
- **Land Reform & Transformation:** Introducing measurable transformation criteria in all policies, with clear targets for youth, women, and black farmer participation in value chains.
- **Market Access & Fair Competition:** Investing in rural infrastructure, revising restrictive by-laws, and ensuring fair pricing mechanisms to dismantle monopolistic structures.
- **Finance & Inclusivity:** Revising bank lending models to account for structural inequalities, expanding blended finance, and supporting collective approaches such as cooperatives and bulk input procurement.

The Agri-Transformation Lekgotla 2025 reaffirmed that transformation cannot be left to policy frameworks alone, it must be shaped by people, driven by collaboration, and measured by impact. Delegates agreed that building an inclusive and resilient agricultural sector requires aligning land reform, finance, markets, infrastructure, and capacity building into a continuous journey, not a once-off intervention.

# THE TRANSFORMATION OF AGRICULTURAL FRESH PRODUCE MARKETS IN SOUTH AFRICA

## A CIVIL SOCIETY PERSPECTIVE

*The South African fresh produce sector is a cornerstone of the economy, supporting food security, steering agro-economic growth and creating significant employment opportunities. Yet, it continues to grapple with barriers to entry for emerging farmers, inclusivity challenges, and anti-competitive practices that hinder equitable growth. The sector's economic impact is largely driven by livestock, horticulture, and field crops.*

*Ms Zanele Mabaso, Head of Policy Development Unit  
and Mr Ledile Bambo, Policy Administrator*

Kagiso Trust undertook a study that resulted in the release of “*The Transformation of Agricultural Fresh Produce Markets in South Africa: A Civil Society Perspective*” Technical Research Report, which is accompanied by a Policy Brief and an Infographic. The report explores the historical and current role of Fresh Produce Markets (FPMs) as vital hubs for rural livelihoods, food security, and agro-economic growth. The research report considers the findings from the Competition Commission’s Fresh Produce Market Inquiry (FPMI) and provides a roadmap for inclusive transformation and locally grounded solutions that centre on smallholder integration, infrastructure investment, technological innovation, and institutional accountability.

### KEY FINDINGS

- Although national frameworks like the AAMP are designed to promote inclusive value chains, the report found that their impact is often undermined by fragmented policy implementation. Efforts across provinces, departments, and institutions remain siloed, resulting in limited coordination and reduced effectiveness in advancing systemic inclusion within the fresh produce sector.

- Smallholder farmers face limited integration support, as the lack of coordinated aggregation platforms and technical assistance hinders their ability to pool supplies, meet safety and traceability standards, and engage effectively with formal market players.
- Smallholder farmers have major obstacles to market preparedness, such as restricted access to post-harvest services, including cold storage, grading, and packaging. These disparities reduce their capacity to deliver timely and large quantities of market-compliant produce, which hurts their ability to compete and be a dependable supplier.

The combined effects of fragmented policies, limited integration support, and market readiness barriers have left many smallholder and emerging farmers unable to compete effectively in formal fresh produce markets. These structural gaps not only limit their income and market participation but also constrain the overall inclusivity and resilience of the sector. Addressing these challenges requires deliberate action to remove systemic obstacles, strengthen capacity, and create enabling conditions, laying the groundwork for targeted policies and initiatives that can transform the market into a more equitable and sustainable space.

*“Undertaking this research project has been critical because it is imperative to dismantle structural barriers, reconfigure power dynamics and prioritise the voices and contributions of smallholders in both institutional and market design. It is only through collective efforts that we can unleash the true transformative potential of South Africa’s Fresh Produce Sector, for the benefit of its people, for equity and for a sustainable future”*

*– Zanele Mabaso*



## STRATEGIC POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

To unlock the full potential of South Africa’s fresh produce sector, targeted and coordinated policy interventions are essential. The report offers the following strategic policy recommendations:

- **Reform Market Infrastructure and Governance:** Re-establish municipal FPMs as inclusive, development-driven entities – decentralised, digitised, and governed transparently.
- **Policy and Regulatory Reforms:** Streamline regulatory requirements for land tenure, water rights, and food safety standards to make them more accessible and less burdensome for small-scale farmers.
- **Support for Emerging Farmers:** Implement targeted support programs for emerging farmers, providing access to finance, training, and market information.
- **Build Smallholder-Centric Support Ecosystems:** Expand blended finance programs to include certification cost subsidies and weather-indexed insurance.
- **Leverage Digital Innovations and Global Best Practices:** Develop open-access digital platforms for price transparency, e-certification, and logistics matching.

## CONCLUSION:

For us at Kagiso Trust, this report is aligned with our broader vision of a just and inclusive economy, where civil society plays a central role not only in advocacy but in shaping the rules and institutions that govern our economy. We view transformation not only as an economic necessity but as a social contract – one that must be honoured through sustained investment in equity, participation, and justice. South Africa’s fresh produce sector is at a crucial turning point. It must decide between maintaining its exclusionary and inefficient model or evolving into a powerful catalyst for inclusive rural development and food sovereignty. The time for reform is now; there is no room for delay.

## READ MORE...

- **Technical Research Report:** *“The Transformation of Agricultural Fresh Produce Markets in South Africa: A Civil Society Perspective”*. Available at: [https://kagiso.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/KP-PPMT-Report\\_FINAL\\_hi-res-1-1.pdf](https://kagiso.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/KP-PPMT-Report_FINAL_hi-res-1-1.pdf)
- **Policy Brief:** *“Transforming South Africa’s Fresh Produce Sector for Inclusive Growth and Smallholder Empowerment”* Available at: [https://kagiso.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Policy-Brief-Draft\\_FINAL-hi-res-2.pdf](https://kagiso.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Policy-Brief-Draft_FINAL-hi-res-2.pdf)
- **Infographic:** *“Transforming the Fresh Produce Sector in South Africa towards Inclusivity and Growth”* Available at: <https://kagiso.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Fresh-Produce-Sector-infographic-A4-ELECTRONIC.pdf>

# REIMAGINING LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## INSIGHTS FROM THE LED ROUNDTABLE

*On 31 July 2025, the Local Governance Support Programme (LGSP), hosted by Kagiso Trust, convened the Local Economic Development (LED) Roundtable, bringing together government, civil society, academia, and private sector stakeholders.*

*By Tiyiselani Mbombi, Local Governance Support Intern*

The dialogue transcended technical policy debates, focusing instead on structural barriers to South Africa's LED ambitions and innovative pathways for inclusive local growth. Two key questions guided the discussion: Who should collaborate to build local economic capital, and how can these partnerships function more effectively? The consensus was clear: LED is a shared responsibility requiring aligned vision and collective action, not a task confined to municipal departments.

Delegates candidly addressed why LED often falters. Despite well-crafted strategies, implementation is hampered by fragmented governance, political interference, and limited capacity. Municipal, provincial, and national departments frequently operate in silos, leaving under-resourced officials without cross-sector support. Leadership turnover, unfunded mandates, and bureaucratic resistance stall progress, while political gatekeeping erodes private sector trust. Public participation, though mandated, often lacks substance,



Sagwata Manyike, South African Local Government Association (SALGA).



Prof. Daniel Meyer from the University of Johannesburg.

leaving communities disconnected from projects meant to benefit them. This creates a cycle of disengagement, with businesses withdrawing and citizens losing confidence.

A recurring issue was the disconnect between economic planning and infrastructure delivery. Examples included industrial parks built far from communities, job hubs without reliable transport, and commercial spaces abandoned due to land disputes or utility failures. These missteps highlight the need for LED to integrate spatial planning, treasury decisions, infrastructure development, and community needs into a cohesive framework, rather than treating it as a standalone municipal function.

The roundtable proposed redefining roles and relationships in LED. Municipalities must shift from gatekeepers to co-owners, partnering with communities, businesses, and civil society. Practical solutions included structured public-private partnerships, such as allowing businesses to offset road maintenance costs against property rates. Professionalising municipal LED roles was deemed critical to ensure technical competence, while civil society was seen as a vital bridge to foster trust and knowledge-sharing. Grassroots planning tools were highlighted as essential for development, grounded in local realities, balancing bottom-up and top-down approaches.

Insightful presentations enriched the dialogue. Prof. Daniel Meyer from the University of Johannesburg introduced a Local Economic Development measurement tool to track

progress and identify gaps with evidence-based precision. Sagwata Manyike, a senior advisor at the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), shared lessons from the Karoo, illustrating how LED strategies must adapt to unique regional contexts rather than follow a one-size-fits-all model.

The path forward blended pragmatism and vision. Prof. Andrew Boraine, a global expert in collaborative governance, urged delegates to contribute to the LED section of the upcoming Local Government White Paper Review, ensuring practitioner insights shape national policy. He also proposed that Kagiso Trust host two additional LED Roundtable sessions in 2025 to explore institutional models, investment tools, the role of planners, and strategies for embedding community participation.

In closing, Prof. Boraine stressed that LED hinges on vision alignment. Without a shared agenda, even the best strategies falter. The roundtable showcased the power of cross-sector collaboration rooted in practical experience. The challenge now is to sustain this momentum through policy contributions, pilot projects, and partnerships.

South Africa's LED journey has often been marked by ambition undercut by division. The July 2025 roundtable offered a glimpse of a different future – one where collaboration, evidence, and community co-ownership drive inclusive, sustainable local growth. By acting on these commitments, LED can become a transformative force for South Africa's communities.



# THE BELA ACT

A STEP TOWARD FAIRER EDUCATION



***South Africa's education system is evolving with the Basic Education Laws Amendment Act 32 of 2024, or BELA Act, signed into law on 24 December 2024. Far from a complete overhaul, this Act refines the South African Schools Act of 1996 to tackle modern challenges and make schools fairer, safer, and more accessible for every child.***

***By Nqobile Ntuli, Communications and Marketing Intern,  
and Keamogetswe Gababuse, Policy Development Intern***

**T**hink of the BELA Act as a necessary update to the rulebook for South African schools. Since 1996, court cases have highlighted gaps in the original law, revealing the need for changes to address today's issues like equity and inclusivity. The Act aligns education laws with the needs of learners and school communities, fostering a more consistent and just system.

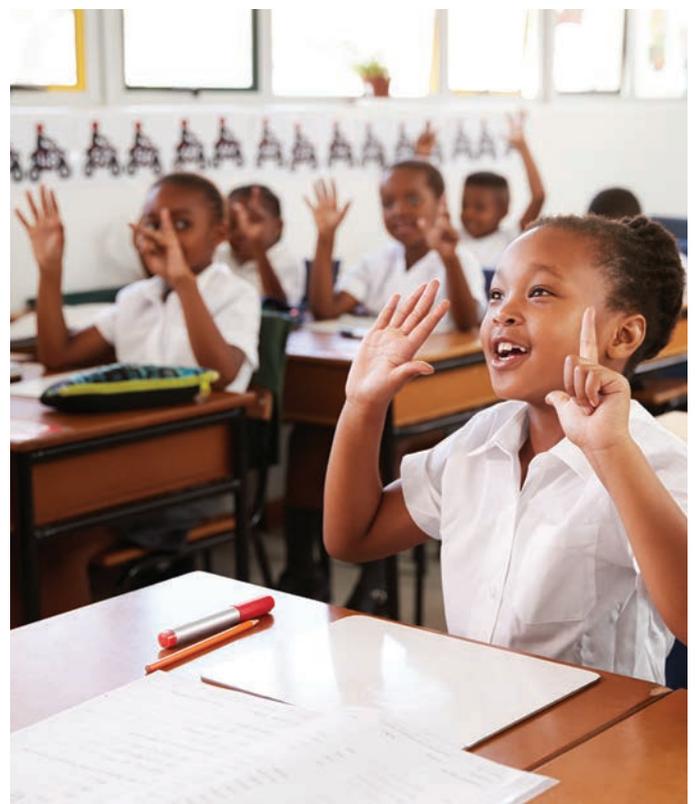
On 6 August 2025, the Minister of Basic Education published draft regulations on learner admissions and public school capacity for public comment. Kagiso Trust responded by hosting a Stakeholder Policy Consultation, leading to a joint civil society submission to the Department of Basic Education, highlighting the value of community input in shaping education policy.

While these regulations mark progress, concerns linger about their clarity and enforceability. They read more like guidelines than binding rules, which could undermine consistency and accountability. For example, centralising admissions under the Head of Department aims to ensure fairness but risks increasing bureaucracy and reducing school autonomy.

The regulations also place a heavy administrative burden on principals when managing undocumented learners, despite rightly upholding their constitutional right to education.

A streamlined national mechanism, supported by multiple government departments, could ease this process. Additionally, the proposed norms for school capacity often fail to reflect the reality of overcrowding, particularly in rural and township schools. Flexibility in space requirements, incentives for teachers in rural schools and the adoption of digital learning models are recommended to modernise the system and reduce reliance on rigid physical measures.

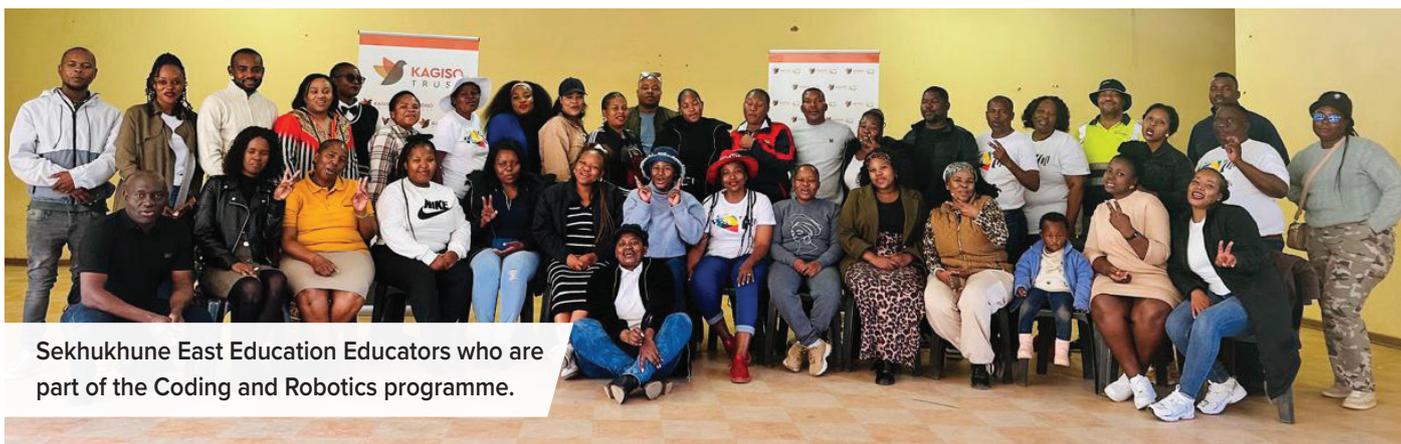
The BELA Act offers a chance to narrow the gap between public and private schools. Many public schools face overcrowding and inadequate facilities, while private



schools often boast better resources. By prioritising equitable resource distribution and teacher development in public schools, the Act can promote balance, ensuring all children, regardless of background, have access to quality education.

These changes matter because they build a more equitable and effective education system, setting clearer rules to level the playing field. The BELA Act prioritises children's safety, well-being, and access to learning, laying a stronger foundation for South Africa's future.

Understanding the BELA Act empowers us to move beyond misconceptions and engage in constructive dialogue about supporting our schools and learners. It's about investing in fair, quality education for every child.



Sekhukhune East Education Educators who are part of the Coding and Robotics programme.

# BUILDING TOMORROW: TEACHERS MASTER CODING AND ROBOTICS

*Selected teachers and district officials have been trained in Coding and Robotics, a milestone that promises to transform classrooms and prepare learners for a technology-driven world.*

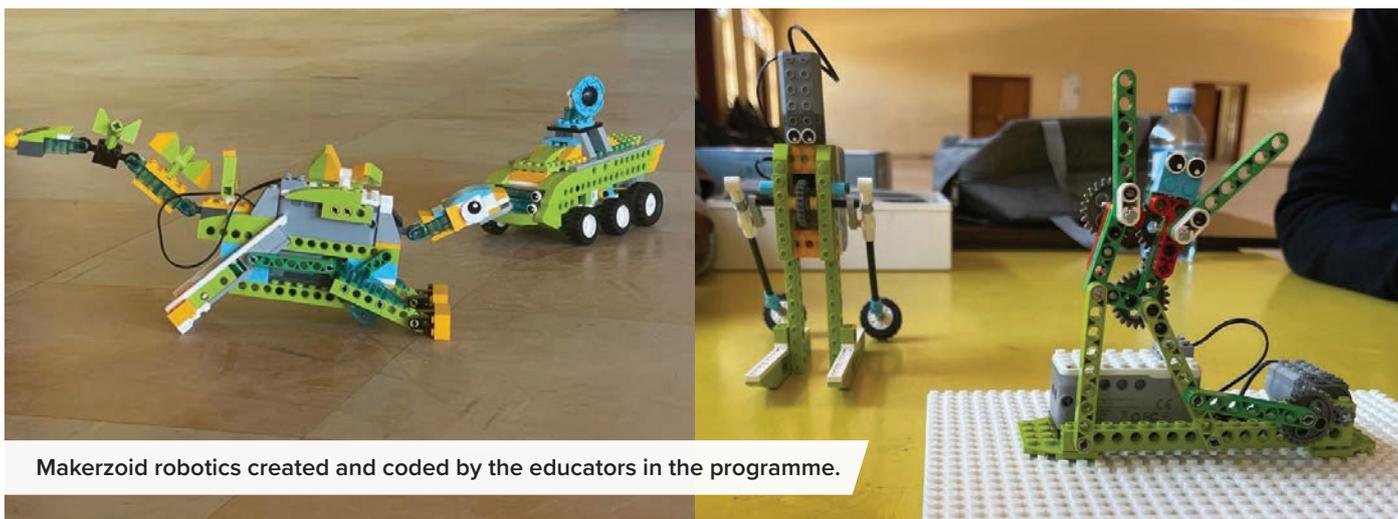
*By Sizakele Mphatsoe, Head of Education Pillar*



Educators showcasing their robots.

In a significant step towards preparing learners for the digital economy, a cohort of teachers in Sekhukhune East Education District (SEED) has successfully completed training in Coding and Robotics. The programme, championed by Kagiso Trust, equips educators with both the technical knowledge and the pedagogical skills needed to integrate these critical subjects into classrooms.

The training focused on problem-solving, computational thinking, programming, and practical robotics applications, empowering teachers to guide learners in building solutions for real-world challenges and ensuring that learners are not just consumers of technology but innovators who can design, code, and create. The training included district officials in addition to teachers to ensure sustainability, replication and scaling.



Makerzoid robotics created and coded by the educators in the programme.

The initiative went beyond just skills transfer, taking a holistic approach to address all the touch points needed for effective teaching and learning.

**Benchmark Assessments:** All trainees successfully completed benchmark assessments, establishing a baseline of skills in coding and ICT. The results are used for customised training and ongoing progress tracking, not a one-size-fits-all training, but needs-based. The Data will be used to track impact and gaps for further development.

**Infrastructure Renovations:** Infrastructure is not just about equipment; it is about creating an enabling environment where every learner has the opportunity to explore, innovate, and succeed. Dedicated robotics labs, enhanced lighting and flooring, secure storage, and new electrical outlets have been installed at Bogwasha, Moroke, and Ikhwezi Lokusa schools. These upgrades ensure high-quality learning spaces tailored to digital education needs.

**Furniture & ICT Installation:** Each lab now features modular workstations and ergonomic seating. ICT enhancements include electronic projector screens, robotics kits, laptops/ tablets, and charging trolleys.

This milestone represents more than professional development; it is a step towards bridging the digital divide, fostering creativity, and nurturing future-ready skills. With skilled teachers at the forefront, schools are now better positioned to cultivate the next generation of inventors, engineers, and tech leaders who will drive South Africa’s competitiveness in the global knowledge economy.

Participants gained confidence by building robots and earning recognition for their achievements, with a majority reporting professional growth and a renewed

enthusiasm for innovative teaching methods. This is not just about technology; it’s about empowering learners to think critically, create solutions, and shape their own futures.

Teachers welcomed the initiative as a turning point in teaching and learning. *“When I first started, the robotics activities were a bit challenging because I was unfamiliar with the Makerzoid pieces, but I was able to adapt and continue with ease once I studied the pieces,”* remarked one teacher

*“Please also look into the community at large and consider introducing coding and robotics outside of schools as extracurricular activities. We can work on projects during school holidays, as we will have a lot more hours compared to a single period at school,”* said the youth representative participant.

## A CALL TO COLLABORATION

The future of our children will be shaped not only by what they learn today, but by how well we prepare them for the world of tomorrow. Coding and Robotics are not just subjects; they are the language of innovation, creativity, and opportunity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

No single organisation can transform education alone, it takes collective effort, shared vision, and meaningful partnerships. At KT, we are open to collaboration with communities, industry, schools and academia to join hands in building Centres of Excellence for Coding and Robotics. These centres will be a beacon of innovation, a place where teachers are empowered, learners are inspired, and industry finds the talent of tomorrow.

When we collaborate, we don’t just equip learners with skills; we unlock their potential, ignite their confidence, and open doors to futures they never imagined possible.

# CELEBRATING THE WOMEN WHO HELPED SHAPE 40 YEARS OF KAGISO TRUST

*Women's Day 2025 was an opportunity to celebrate and honour the many women who helped shape and guide Kagiso Trust through its distinguished 40-year history. Mandisa Tselane, Kagiso Trust's Head of Communications and Marketing, opened the organisation's 2025 Women's Day celebration at Summer Place in Sandton by encapsulating the role women have played over the years.*

*By Khensani Nyambi, Communications and Marketing Intern*

*"You didn't just do the work, you shaped the soul of KT. The values we talk about today justice, dignity, impact – started with you. And we're here because of what you started. When I look around this room, I don't just see colleagues. I see pioneers. I see women who showed up when it wasn't always easy. Women who gave their time, their energy, their ideas, and shaped KT to what it is today."*

The event, held on 7 August under the theme "Celebrating 40 Years of Legacy", paid tribute to the women whose resilience and leadership carried the Trust through its formative years and continue to inspire its work today. The olive, mustard and orange tones of the day symbolised growth, strength and hope. A fitting reflection of the spirit of KT's women.

The programme brought together some of these trailblazers in a panel discussion facilitated by Patron, Bongiwe Njobe. Former employees Peta Mashinini and Veronica Simmers, former trustee Nthobakae Angel and current Chairperson, Mankone Ntsaba, reflected on their journeys and the lessons that shaped the Trust.

Peta recalled KT's roots in the mass democratic movement, when the organisation was formed to support victims of apartheid and provide bursaries for black students. "Education is the seed," she reminded the audience, describing how values of humility, respect and social justice became the foundation of the Trust.

Veronica's reflections carried the weight of personal sacrifice. As an activist in the 1970s and 80s, she endured multiple detentions while navigating life as a new mother to twins. Joining KT in its early years, she described the work as both challenging and empowering. "It was the



Joan Masemeng, Modjadji Seabi, Linkie Shabalala, Sizakele Mphatsoe, Maria Mokae and Linda Frampton.

experience of a lifetime,” she said, recalling the pride of contributing to communities in need.

She encouraged those working within KT today to appreciate themselves and to learn as much as they can to empower themselves. *“Always have hope in yourself,”* she urged. For her, KT thrives because it is not perceived as competition, but as an organisation everyone wants to be associated with. She emphasised the importance of being intentional about complementing one another,

noting that this spirit of collaboration forms the foundation of sustainability.

*“It is all about values,”* she added, *“values of humanity that must guide the work”.* For Veronica, serving communities requires empathy and proximity. *“Stay close to the communities you’re serving, they shape your life.”*

Nthobakae Angel highlighted KT’s pivotal role during South Africa’s transition and the foresight of leaders such as Eric Molobi in creating Kagiso Trust Investments

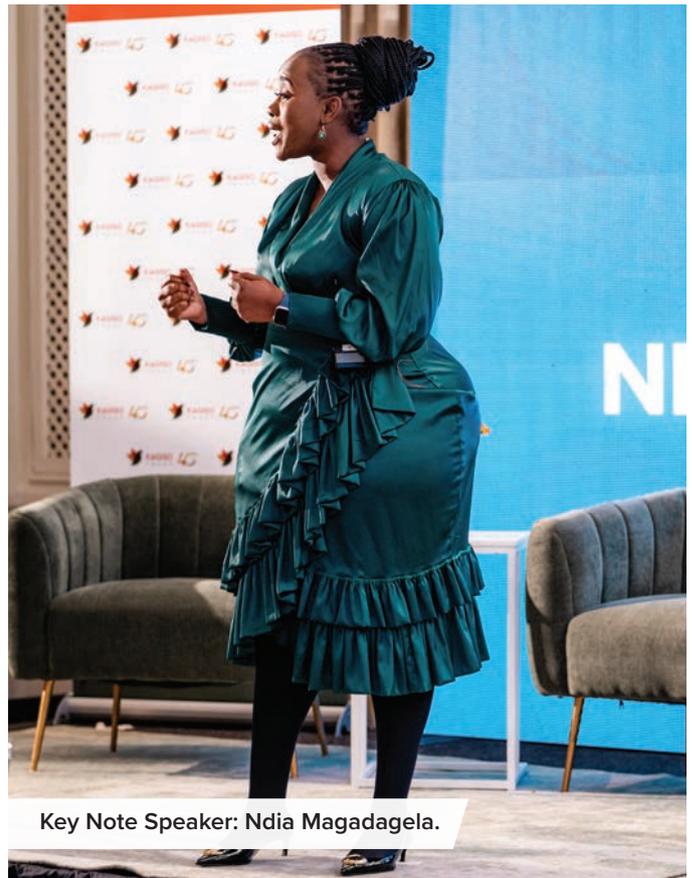


Panel discussion with Petra Mashinini, Veronica Simmers, Nthobakae Angel and Mankoni Ntsaba facilitated by Bongwiwe Njobe.

to ensure sustainability. *“It’s not about competing but complementing, so there’s wholeness in what we build,”* she reflected. Chairperson Mankone Ntsaba, who joined the Trust in 2009, spoke about breaking through male-dominated spaces and ensuring that KT’s programmes deliver measurable, lasting impact. *“No country can develop without civil society,”* she noted, underlining KT’s role in reigniting this sector as a development partner.

As the discussion turned to women’s leadership, Peta spoke about the importance of resilience, accountability and strong networks, while Veronica encouraged women to keep learning and stay rooted in the communities they serve. Their reflections underscored that sustainability is not only about resources, but about values, collaboration and empathy.

The keynote address by Ndia Magadagela, CEO and Co-founder of Everlectric, captured the spirit of the day



Key Note Speaker: Ndia Magadagela.



Mandisa Tselane, Head of Communications and Marketing at Kagiso Trust.



Theresa Griffiths, Smangele Seale, Nthabiseng Sibiya, Nozipho Tshabalala.

while sharing her personal journey and lessons learned. Ndia spoke of growing up in Shanzha, a village in Nzhelele, Venda, and how the opportunity to study at the University of Pretoria introduced her to her future business partners and inspired the idea of starting an electric vehicle leasing business. She described how they knocked on doors of funders, suppliers, partners, and clients, recalling that despite 30 rejections, they pressed on and didn’t allow setbacks to stop them.

Ndia shared four key lessons from her journey:

1. **Nurture your relationships** – don’t burn bridges; the world is very small.
2. **Build capacity**
3. **Failure is part of the journey** – there will be times you feel like you are walking on water, and times you will crash and burn. When you fail, do not stay there.
4. **Resilience and integrity matter** – the harvest must find you equal in character.

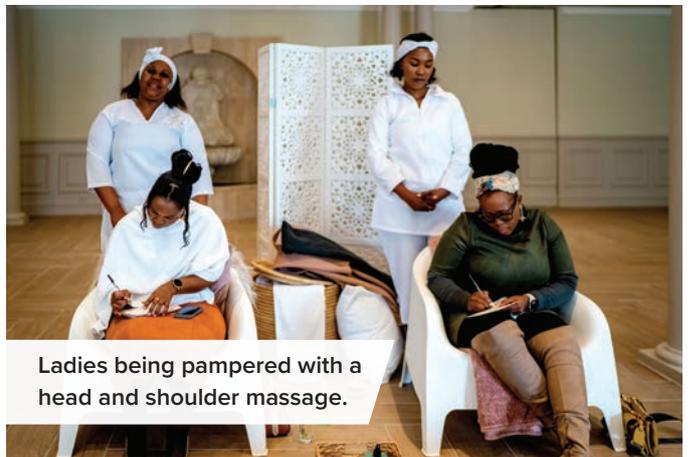
The panel was more than a reflection, it was a bridge between generations of KT women. From those who shaped the foundation with courage and sacrifice, to those carrying the mission forward today, the conversation reminded us that the values of justice, dignity, and humanity are not just history, they are living commitments.



The Women of KT Group.



Ntobakae Angel, Fezisa Sotshangane and Thozama Mnene.



Ladies being pampered with a head and shoulder massage.



Lina Mohlatlole, Faith Letsoalo, Lerato Nthabeleni, Tiyiselani Mbombi and Zingisa Nteyi.



Ndia addressing the women of KT.



# MY INTERNSHIP JOURNEY AT KAGISO TRUST

Itumeleng Maboja.

*When I first walked through the doors of Kagiso Trust as an intern under the Socio-Economic Development (SED) pillar, I was filled with both excitement and self-doubt. Today, as I reflect on my journey, I am proud to say that this experience has transformed me into a more confident professional who not only believes in her potential but is certain of the value she can contribute.*

*By Itumeleng Maboa, Socio-Economic Development Pillar Intern*

One of the greatest highlights of my internship has been the environment at Kagiso Trust. The organisation has set the standard for what a healthy, supportive, and empowering workplace should be. The friendships and professional relationships I built with my fellow interns and colleagues made the journey enriching and enjoyable. From the morning devotions that grounded us, to the laughter and wisdom shared in the office, I truly felt a sense of belonging.

I am deeply grateful to the SED family for their guidance and intentional mentorship. The farm visits were another highlight, as they brought the realities of the agricultural sector to life in ways that books and reports could never capture. Memorable moments such as the staff retreat, the year-end function, and even having the opportunity to MC at Mandela Day celebrations added joy and colour to my experience.

Over the past year, I gained invaluable skills that have laid a strong foundation for my career. These include conducting business and economic analysis for project proposals,

facilitating stakeholder engagements, developing monitoring and evaluation tools, and performing due diligence to support investment decisions. Each skill has not only expanded my technical expertise but also sharpened my ability to think critically and strategically.

If I were to share one message with the next cohort of interns, it would be this: do not doubt yourself. As I was once reminded, “The word internship only defines the duration that you are here, not your capabilities.” Those words have stayed with me and continue to encourage me to show up fully, embrace challenges, and grow into the professional I aspire to be.

Though my internship may have been just a year, it has exceeded my expectations and left me with lessons, memories, and confidence that will stay with me for a lifetime. I remain grateful to Kagiso Trust for believing in us as young professionals and creating opportunities that not only sharpen our skills but also uplift our livelihoods. The future is bright, and I look forward to continuing this journey of impact and growth.



The 2024-2025 KT intern group.

# OUR FOOTPRINT

## Limpopo

### KST:

- 60 Anglo American Schools Project

### PMO:

- University of Limpopo Research partnership
- Limpopo CET College

### SED:

- Spar Mopani Rural Hub Initiative

### CSSP:

- #Unmute CSO

## North West

### PMO:

- North West University Research Partnership

### SED:

- Bophuduchwana Production Incubator (Pty) Ltd (BPI) Funding

### BNSDP:

- Skills Competition
- Teacher Assistant Programme

### CSSP:

- #Unmute CSO

## Northern Cape

### KST:

- 25 Anglo American Schools Project
- Department of Education Northern Cape
- Globeleq

### BNSDP:

- Skills Teacher Assistant Programme

### CSSP:

- #Unmute CSO

## Free State

### BNSDP:

- Skills Competition
- Robotics and Coding
- Teacher Assistant Programme

### KST:

- 323 schools in Motheo and Fezile Dabi
- Globeleq

### EMSP:

- 12 Students

### PMO:

- University of Free State Research partnership

### Local Governance Support Programme (LGSP):

- Senekal Local Municipality – Small-Town Rejuvenation Projects

### CSSP:

- #Unmute CSO

## Western Cape

### PMO:

- Stellenbosch and Western Cape Universities Research partnerships

### Local Governance Support Programme (LGSP):

- Piketberg Local Municipality – Small-Town Rejuvenation Projects

### BNSDP:

- Skills Development Competition

### CSSP:

- #Unmute CSO

### Local Governance Support Programme (LGSP):

- Modimolle Local Municipality – Small-Town Rejuvenation Project

### BNSDP:

- 243 schools in Sekhukhune East and 10 schools in the Apel District
- Sports, Arts and Culture
- Skills Competition
- Teacher Assistant Programme
- TVET/Technical High School with Sasol

## Gauteng

### KT – Leadership Conference

- Faculty of Education, UJ
- National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT)

### Kagiso Trust (KTC):

- CoGTA

### PMO:

- Thabo Mbeki Foundation
- In On Africa
- Human Sciences Research Council
- South African Human Rights Commission
- Africa Beyond 4IR
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

### SED:

- PROPpreneurX

### CSSP:

- #Unmute CSO

## Mpumalanga

### KST:

- 25 Anglo American Project

### BNSDP:

- Skills Competition
- Teacher Assistant Programme

### CSSP:

- #Unmute CSO

## Eastern Cape

### KTC:

- CoGTA

### Local Governance Support Programme (LGSP):

- Makana Local Municipality – Collaborative Governance Model

### SED:

- Groendal Workers Trust

### KST:

- Globeleq

### BNSDP:

- Skills Competition
- Teacher Assistant Programme

### CSSP:

- #Unmute CSO
- ABCD Youth Project

### Comms:

- Beyer's Naude Memorial Lecture

## KwaZulu-Natal

### Beyers Naudé Memorial Lecture:

- University of Zululand

### BNSDP:

- Skills Competition
- Teacher Assistant Programme

### SED:

- Funding through – Farmers East for yellow maize crops and Sebenzangamandla Pty (Ltd)

### CSSP:

- #Unmute CSO

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