



Shaping Executive Minds in Africa

SEPTEMBER 2022



**NWU BUSINESS SCHOOL MBA EXPO**

**WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION**

**AFRICAN OUTREACH INITIATIVE IN GABORONE**



*Dear readers,*

*It's my privilege to update you on some of the Business School's activity since the last newsletter!*

*With the final stretch of the year upon us, the NWU Business School is still vigorously active with a variety of events! As I am writing this preface, the school is part of the organising committee of the 15th International Business Conference (IBC), hosted at the Lord Charles Hotel in Somerset West. Also, a total of 18 papers have been delivered by personnel of the Business School.*

*Other actions include the Botswana outreach, SBAB's discussions on Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment, and youth members in the agriculture sector attending classes in Entrepreneurship. Other events such as the MBA Open-Day and conversations during Nampo Alpha are still in the planning phases.*

*These are only a few activities, and we are happy to share more about all our events in the rest of this newsletter.*

*Enjoy!*

*Prof Anet Smit  
Acting Chief Director*

# C O N T E N T

<i>African outreach initiative in Gaborone</i>	4	<i>NWU Business School meeting with Botho University in Gaborone</i>	20
<i>SBAB attended expo for entrepreneurs in Ikageng</i>	5	<i>PMR Award</i>	21
<i>Report on the AACSB Business Accreditation Seminar &amp; Annual Accreditation Conference 2022</i>	6-8	<i>MBA Winter Study School</i>	22,23
<i>NWU Business School MBA Expo</i>	9	<i>Round of applause to finalists and winners of the Modiragatsi Youth Innovation Competition</i>	24,25
<i>Secretariat of the 39th Cambridge International Symposium on Economic Crime</i>	10	<i>Emotional Intelligence, Conflict and Stress Management workshop</i>	26
<i>International focus on the scourge of fraud and corruption</i>	11	<i>Parents pay big bucks for private schooling in face of failing education system</i>	27-29
<i>Stimulating expert dialogues across our borders - NWU Business School tackles sustainable development in Botswana</i>	12-15	<i>Youth members captivated during NWU Business School Short Course</i>	30
<i>Ploughing back with SBAB</i>	16	<i>NWU Business School's SBAB round-table discussion on Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment</i>	31
<i>SARS senior about current state of SA</i>	17	<i>South Africa named Africa's most valuable brand</i>	32
<i>Women's Month Celebration</i>	18	<i>Business School addresses burning issues at Nampo Alfa</i>	33-37
<i>Open Day is around the corner</i>	19		



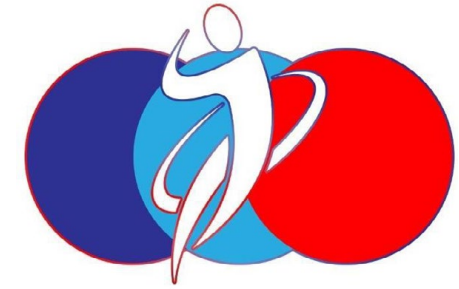
# AFRICAN OUTREACH INITIATIVE IN GABORONE

The NWU Business School proudly launched its first formal African outreach initiative in Gaborone, Botswana very recently. In attendance of this glamorous event were some 80 delegates from the Botswana government, the formal business sector and staff from various universities.

We also used the opportunity to launch the first alumni chapter. Many alumni attended, where they received valuable information about our events and course offerings.



# SBAB ATTENDED EXPO FOR ENTREPRENEURS IN IKAGENG



## ATHLETES IN NEED NPO

SBAB (Small Business Advisory Bureau) was invited to attend an expo for entrepreneurs at Gamatlabe Hall in Ikageng recently.

The expo is a wonderful initiative to expose young entrepreneurs to funding and growth opportunities. The event was inspired by the reality that members of the Athletes in Need NPO are all qualified, but struggled to gain employment. In this day and age, we cannot regard employment as a given; we need to create it.

Youth members not only learned that becoming an entrepreneur is the way to go, but were equipped with knowledge and information they need to succeed in making livelihoods for themselves and others, through job creation within their businesses. Valuable insights were shared and many were inspired during this empowering workshop. We look forward to more such events in the near future.



# Report on the AACSB Business Accreditation Seminar & Annual Accreditation Conference 2022

Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) Norway - Oslo, BI Norwegian Business School 20 - 24 June 2022

## INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The purpose of the seminar was to build skills and to network in interactive, workshop-style lessons focused on each accreditation standard, allowing us to create an effective plan of action for our schools.

The seminar focused on the accreditation process and provided guidance on how to avoid common challenges in the accreditation process. It clarified the scope and unit of accreditation, the exclusion of programmes, and placed strong emphasis on the criteria for AACSB accreditation being “Branding and Market Perception”. The nine 2020 AACSB accreditation standards were unpacked to give a better understanding of each standard.

The seminar was packed with lots of knowledge and provided more insight on what should be expected at each stage of the accreditation process, as well as how to better manage the challenges that come with accreditations. Learning took place through presentations, group interactions and break-away sessions.

## Attendees

*The team of two that attended the seminar and conference included the following:*

- Ms Lungile Ntsizwane - Senior Manager: Accreditations & Quality
- Prof Joseph Lekunze - Research Associate Professor

## TAKE-AWAYS FROM BOTH THE SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE

- Accreditations must be part of our everyday systems and we must use the accreditation process to embody continuous improvement through engagement, innovation, and impact.
- A gap analysis must be conducted before continuing with the accreditation process.
- The accreditation process might take five to seven years or even longer.
- We must have an impact risk register that is linked to our strategy and maintain it.
- Even though some BSs form part of main universities and can adopt their policies, they need to have independent policies that are focused on BS operations.
- We need to prove that we are sustainable and can thrive in times of unplanned challenges.
- We need to prove that we have enough staff who are contributing to the societal impact in T & L and research.
- Societal impact is a serious issue, strongly emphasised by AACSB, and BSs will be assessed greatly on this aspect. It must be mission-driven/focused and must be catered for in modules and research projects. Academic staff must be held responsible through performance management to drive societal impact. Alumni must also demonstrate their impact in society. Other BSs have specialised portfolios for dealing with societal impact.

- We must be embedded in the BS curriculum, research and intellectual contributions.
- We must demonstrate innovation and creativity in our programmes/modules.
- All BS operations and outputs must be linked to the strategic objectives - which can be reported through tangibles - of the faculty.
- We must invest in a data management system that aligns with various accreditation bodies. Recommended systems are ACADEM or SEDONA for document and data management.
- Academic staff should visit <https://www.rrbm.network/> to know more about Responsible Research for Business and Management (RRBM). It is dedicated to inspiring, encouraging and supporting credible and useful research in the business and management disciplines.
- An email about the societal impact survey will be sent to Deans to complete. **WE MUST COMPLETE SURVEYS BY AACSB as part of adhering to their standards.**
- We must create a system to measure the impact of our collaboration with industry and other academic institutions.
- We must partner with government/industry for internship programmes for BS students.

## NETWORKING RECEPTIONS

The conference included two networking reception events that provided a great platform to engage more with other delegates, such as Vice Rectors, Deans, Directors and Accreditation Managers. Further below is a list of contacts for possible collaborations in research, teaching and learning, or for benchmarking purposes.

## MEETING AABS MEMBERS

We also had a chance to meet other African Business School officials from WITS, Lagos Business School, GIBS and Stellenbosch. We had a meeting with the newly appointed chairperson of AABS, Prof Jon Foster-Pedley, as well as Prof Olayinka David-West and Prof Helmi Hammami, regarding our upcoming AABS accreditation visit. ***Regarding our AABS accreditation visit, they advised that we must:***

- be genuine in what we report on;
- demonstrate our positive societal impact in Africa;
- demonstrate our contribution to the development of Africa;
- demonstrate our special focus and alignment with SDGs;
- demonstrate our BS's alignment with the AABS standards;
- have clear strategic goals and point out our USP;
- do a mock-review of the visit;
- allocate a well-informed chair for each standard and be in charge of everyone;
- be upfront on what we plan to improve on;
- select people whom we trust to represent us well in the sessions; and
- demonstrate that we are sustainable enough to overcome different challenges.

## CONTACTS MADE FOR POSSIBLE COLLABORATIONS

More information will be shared as soon I have their areas of interest to potentially collaborate on.

NAME	COUNTRY	INSTITUTION	POSITION	
Carmen Oglacki	Romania	The Bucharest university of economic studies	Director	<a href="mailto:Carmen.oglacki@ase.ro">Carmen.oglacki@ase.ro</a>
Audil Khaki	Kuwait	American University of the Middle	Acting Dean	<a href="mailto:EastAudil.Rashid@aum.edu.kw">EastAudil.Rashid@aum.edu.kw</a>
El Araki Mounir	Casablanca	Universite Internationale de Casablanca	Rector	<a href="mailto:mounir.elaraki@uic.ac.ma">mounir.elaraki@uic.ac.ma</a>
Mohammed Barnia	Casablanca	Universite Internationale de Casablanca	Director	<a href="mailto:mohamed.barnia@uic.ac.ma">mohamed.barnia@uic.ac.ma</a>
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Mawuena Torkornoo	Canada	Carleton university - Sprott School of Business	Manager External relations	<a href="mailto:Mawuena.Torkornoor@carleton.ca">Mawuena.Torkornoor@carleton.ca</a>
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Francois Therin		Mohammed Polytechnic university	Director of open programmes	<a href="mailto:Francois.therin@um6p.ma">Francois.therin@um6p.ma</a>
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Barry O'Mahony	Abu Dhabi	Abu Dhabi University	Dean	<a href="mailto:barry.omahony@adu.ac.ae">barry.omahony@adu.ac.ae</a>
Olayinka David-West	Lagos- Nigeria	Lagos Business School, Pan-Atlantic University	Associate Dean	<a href="mailto:ydavid-west@lbs.edu.ng">ydavid-west@lbs.edu.ng</a>
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Jon Foster-Pedley	South Africa	Henley Business School, University of Reading	Dean and Director Africa	<a href="mailto:Jon.foster-pedley@henleysa.ac.za">Jon.foster-pedley@henleysa.ac.za</a>







# Huge interest shown in the NWU Business School during the MBA Expo





## NWU BUSINESS SCHOOL REPRESENTED

# Secretariat of the 39th Cambridge International Symposium on Economic Crime

In a historic first for the NWU, Mrs Bernice Bissett, from the NWU Business School's Unit for Corruption and Integrity Studies and Ms Andrea Dubber for the NWU Programme for Forensic Accountancy, were invited to form part of the Secretariat of the 39th Cambridge International Symposium on Economic Crime in September. Bernice and Andrea did a sterling job and were true ambassadors for the NWU and our country.

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# INTERNATIONAL FOCUS ON THE SCOURGE OF FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

*The NWU Business School's Unit for Corruption and Integrity Studies attended the 39th Cambridge International Symposium on Economic Crime, hosted at Jesus College at Cambridge University in September.*



The Symposium is a unique and exceptional event, both in terms of size and content. It was attended by more than 2000 delegates from more than 100 countries and plays a significant role in developing practical solutions to the scourge of economic crime. The Symposium *“is organised by some of the world’s leading educational and research institutions with the involvement of numerous governmental agencies, the judiciary, the professions, compliance bodies, and the business world. Its primary objective being to promote meaningful co-operation in the prevention and control of economically motivated crime and misconduct”* says Mr Saul Froomkin OBE KC, Chairman of the Symposium.

*“Economic crime, like corruption, fraud and money laundering, is an international problem, and is not only limited to developing countries like South Africa”,* says Albert van Zyl from the Unit for Corruption and Integrity Studies, who delivered two papers and chaired one workshop at the Symposium.

The Symposium highlighted that despite the implementation of more and more anti-corruption and anti-money laundering measures, we are not seeing more convictions. *“The measures, particularly those involving law, adopted to reinforce and protect integrity are sadly often ill-conceived and result in collateral damage,”* according to Prof Barry Rider, Executive Director of the Symposium. Arguably there appears to be a disproportionate focus on compliance.

Other topics discussed included the sharing, effective processing and utilisation of information; enhanced international and national collaboration between relevant role-players; measures to identify ultimate beneficiaries of trust and

companies; the utilisation of unexplained wealth orders; the challenges posed by the misuse of crypto assets; derisking; corruption and peddling of influence.

Notwithstanding the 2000 plus attendees from all over the world, the Symposium was also well attended by South Africans, which included high-level representatives from the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigations, regulators like the FSCA and FIC, and financial institutions. This enabled us to lay a strong basis for future collaboration, both international and nationally, in our endeavour to be a leading African business school in restoring integrity and the combatting of corruption, says van Zyl.

***“Economic crime remains one of the biggest threats to sustainable development and the stability and security of our economies.”***



# STIMULATING EXPERT DIALOGUES ACROSS OUR BORDERS

NWU Business School tackles  
sustainable development in Botswana

The NWU Business School proudly launched its first formal African outreach initiative in Gaborone, Botswana, on 11 August. Some 80 delegates from the Botswana government, the formal business sector, and staff from various universities attended this glamorous event. The first alumni chapter was also formally launched during the function.

The North-West University's Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Dr Mzibanzi Bismark Tyobeka, who also attended the event, welcomed the minister of Land and Water Affairs of the Republic of Botswana, Dr Kefentse C. Mzwinila. Dr Kefentse recently became an alumnus of the NWU Business School, having obtained his PhD in May, 2022.

The NWU Business School has an Internationalisation/Africanisation strategy, which is linked to the UN Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and AU Agenda 2063 Strategies, with the purpose of building collaborative networks to provide unique solutions not only to specialised education for executives, but also to provide sustainable solutions or ideas enabling socio-economic growth within Africa.

Prof Yvonne du Plessis, manager of Africanisation at the NWU Business School, said that their institution has had academic links with Botswana, their neighbour country, for many years.

*“Since 2021, we have decided to focus on our continent - especially to ‘shape executive minds in Africa,’ as indicated by our African-themed logo. The best country to start with our African Outreach is therefore Botswana. The aim of this African outreach is collaboration with business experts, academics, alumni, and dignitaries on one of the most important sustainable development goals in the world and, more so, in Africa: to ensure a clean and stable water supply and effective water sanitation for all by the year 2030. This goal includes sustainable water management, which will be discussed at this event,”*

Prof Du Plessis said.

This networking event brought together executive minds to start a dialogue pivotal to the North-West Province in South Africa and Botswana, which is sustainable water management linked to Health, Agriculture and Mining in particular.

“No less than 14.1 million people in South Africa do not have access to clean, running water. More than 50% of wetlands in South Africa have been lost. Over the next three years, a staggering R33 billion is needed to ensure water security and sustainability.

These are shocking figures and facts. Therefore, we need to engage with each other to explore more opportunities and come up with solutions to alleviate the huge risks we face. Networking can also lead to an outcome of mutual beneficial goals in business, academic research, and people training and development, to mention a few. Water is everything; water is life. By managing water sustainably, we ensure a better life for all in Africa,” Dr Tyobeka said.

Minister Mzwini said that it is the role and responsibility of the government to make sure they come up with sustainable plans to ensure access to water and sanitation for its citizens.



***“I salute the NWU Business School for grabbing an opportunity to create an initiative where burning issues could be discussed with our neighbours in Botswana”  
- Dr Bismark Tyobeka***

“To ensure this, we need a proper and effective governance structure, and a researched water management plan. Our population is growing, and so is the need for water. Groundwater, climate change, dam levels, rainfall and wastage are all elements that play huge roles in the reduction of water resources. We need to address this - fast. We need to know how and when to implement plans. I am thankful to say that we do indeed have different strategies and solutions in place across our country to address our water requirements,” minister Mzwinila said.

The mining, tourism and agriculture sectors are the sectors that create the most revenue and job opportunities for Botswana. “Each one of the sectors needs plenty of water. These sectors are constantly developing plans, technology and engineering answers to come up with sustainable solutions to ensure water supply.

The event concluded with a panel discussion, hosted by the NWU Business School’s Dr Piet Croucamp; a question-and-answer session; and a formal lunch where everyone had the opportunity to engage and network.



**Prof Yvonne du Plessis, Nkosinathi Tom, Dr Bismark Tyobeka, Dr Kefentse Mzwinila, Clement Manoko, Marli Moolman at the NWU Business School’s Botswana outreach initiative.**





# PLOUGHING BACK! *with SBAB*

We are proud to announce that the Small Business Advisory Bureau (SBAB) kicked off the first skills development classes to more than 80 agriculture graduates in Potchefstroom and Mahikeng recently.

The aim of the one-year Agri-preneurship Incubation Programme is to provide students, who have already gained knowledge within this sector, with much-needed business skills. Mr Oarabile Manyapel, head of the SBAB, explain: *“We want to equip students with skills, in order to enable them to start their own businesses in the agri sector. They will spend three months in classes in Potchefstroom and Mahikeng, whereafter they will gain more practical knowledge on various identified farms.”*

Four major role players came together to offer this skills development opportunity to the students. These include SBAB, AGB Finance, the FoodBev SETA and the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.







# SARS SENIOR ABOUT CURRENT STATE OF SA

The North-West University Business School's Prof Raymond Parsons recently interviewed Mr Edward Kieswetter, Commissioner of the South African Revenue Services (SARS).

In this video, they discussed a lack of trust in government, SA's small tax base and need for job-rich growth, and the need to assure taxpayers of wise government spending.



South African Revenue Service



To view this video please click here:

<https://youtu.be/bFV5jnNQ-LE>

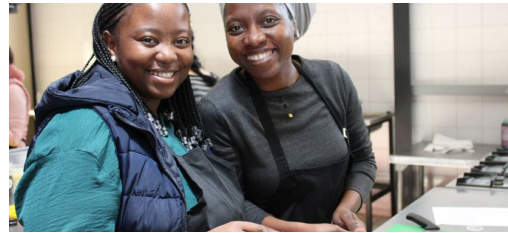


# Women's Month Celebrations

## Female staff cooking class

*Not only do they know their way around all things business and lectures, but they can also cook up a dish that would make your taste buds dance!*

*As part of Women's Month celebrations, the female staff members of the Business School were treated to cooking lessons at The Roots Lifestyle Centre's Chef Academy. Hope you enjoyed it, ladies!*





**OPEN DAY!**

**14 October 2022**

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR:  
MBA, Post Graduate Diploma in Management  
and Short courses for executives

*Shaping Executive Minds in Africa*



# OPEN DAY IS AROUND THE CORNER!

*Follow link below to register!*

<https://www.nwu.ac.za/node/84456>



# OPEN DAY!

**14 October 2022 | 10:00 - 13:00**

The NWU Business School is hosting a first-of-a-kind open day on 14 October 2022. The event will take place in Potchefstroom from 10:00 - 13:00, but if you are unable to attend in person, you can join us online!

During the open day, we will share more information about our MBA degree, our Post-Graduate Diploma in Management, and our wide range of short courses with prospective students.  
(A link will be provided to those who are joining us online, once registered.)

*Shaping Executive Minds in Africa*

**MAKE SURE TO REGISTER BELOW. WE CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU!**

# NWU Business School meeting with Botho University in Gaborone



**BOTHO**  
UNIVERSITY  
EXCELLENCE | LEADERSHIP | INNOVATION

Staff from the NWU Business School and the North-West University recently had a meeting with the management of the Botho University in Gaborone, as part of a courtesy visit to discuss possible collaboration opportunities. Botho University is a 25-year-old private university with 5000 students and 300 staff members. Vice-Chancellor, Dr Steela Raja Ram, and her deans of faculties met with NWU staff.

Botho University has a compacted teaching and learning approach that embraces blended and distance learning. Dr Ram said that they are to collaborate with the NWU, as they already have many joint ventures and programmes in place with other universities in both Africa and Sweden.

Dr Bismark Tyobeka, NWU Principal and Vice-Chancellor, said that internationalisation is a huge priority for the NWU.

*“The reason why we are here is to touch base with our alumni and to establish partnerships with other universities.”*

The Business School’s Prof Yvonne du Plessis explained the insides and outsides of the NWU Business School. She elaborated on the Unit for Corruption & Integrity Studies, the SBAB and our course offerings.

*“We are always looking for opportunities to develop, grow, co-supervise and collaborate in order to shape executive minds in Africa.”*

The meeting departed in good spirit with the hope for follow-up discussions about establishing collaborations in specific fields.





# *PMR Golden Arrow Award for the NWU Business School 2022!*

*Dr Johan Jordaan, Prof Jan van Romburgh & Prof Leenta Grobler*

# MBA WINTER STUDY SCHOOL

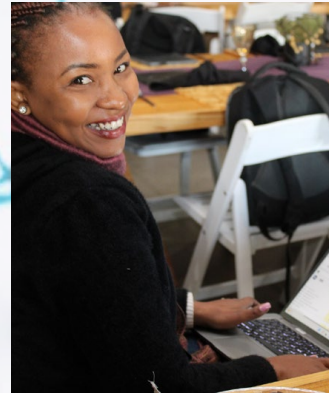
In July, our MBA students visited Potchefstroom to attend our annual MBA Winter Study School. Lecture rooms were jam-packed and intellectual superpowers brewed.

Study School attendees were privileged to be addressed by Mr Edward Kieswetter, Commissioner of the South African Revenue Service (SARS) during the opening ceremony.

The event focused on the need for authentic leadership and how this can make a difference in society. The speakers' wisdom and knowledge were irrefutably encouraging and inspiring to our students.

Thank you to each of our excellent speakers, Mr Bernard Swanepoel, Ms Sharon van Rooyen, Prof Mala Singh, Mr Neal Foreman, Prof Leenta Grobler and, finally, Mr John Skinner, who presented the Leadership Workshop, for helping us shape executive thought-leaders in Africa.

We wish our students all the best for the remainder of their studies and we look forward to seeing the knowledge and experience gained applied throughout the rest of their MBA studies and beyond.




**HEREWITH, SOME FEEDBACK FROM OUR STUDENTS:**

<https://youtu.be/IDjrk5iwRA>




Student experiences from the NWU Business School's MBA Winter Study School 2022





**NWU BUSINESS SCHOOL**

**MBA WINTER STUDY SCHOOL PROGRAMME 2022**



**Shaping Executive Minds in Africa**






# Round of applause to finalists and winners of the *Modiragatsi* Youth Innovation Competition



*On Women's Day this year, the Business School of the North-West University (NWU) had the privilege of honouring gifted young learners and students with great minds and the potential to shape a better future for all!*

The Modiragatsi Youth Innovation Competition finalists and winners were celebrated during a breakfast event at The Capital on The Park Hotel in Sandton. The Modiragatsi Youth Innovation Competition, hosted by the NWU Business School in collaboration with merSETA and SIEMENS, is a community engagement project aimed at empowering the South African youth (especially female youth) to make a tangible difference in their communities.

Applicants, as individuals or in teams of two, are expected to identify a problem in their own community that they think might be resolved by means of a mobile app or electronic product. They enter with nothing but an idea as a proposed solution and, following that, the 12-week training and mentorship programme is where the magic happens! Learners are guided to reposition their view of these real-world problems in a user-centric way by developing their skills in product development, problem solving through design and computational thinking, mobile app development (using the content of the Mendix university programme) and then building a business around that product. They are also trained in intellectual property protection (using material created by KISH-IP), start-up conceptualisation and pitching to potential investors.

According to the NWU Business School's Prof Leenta Grobler, the benefits of the Modiragatsi Competition are far-reaching. "Firstly, South African youth is empowered with new skills and given the opportunity to change lives - including their own. We know of students in the programme whose mathematics scores in school rose from 1s to 7s, as an incidental result of skills learnt in this competition and the fact that, for the first time, they realised that they had reason to believe in themselves.





Secondly, students identify and validate problems in their communities themselves, which allow for identification and potential solution of real-world, systemic problems to the benefit of all. Lastly, learners' psychological and developmental milestones are gauged and developed. This year, the Care2Kids team of the NWU Centre for Health and Human Performance (CHHP) offered a programme that focuses specifically on learners' mental and developmental wellness. This included a weekly personal development live stream for the duration of the competition," Prof Leenta Grobler said.

As for the participating innovators themselves, one can only say that the judges were met with remarkable ideas and incredible talent. Overall, 81 teams (150 participants) were trained. From 42 high schools across the country, these teams included 68 high school girls, 36 high school boys and 33 teachers, as well as 13 undergraduate students. To meet the competition criteria, they needed to propose an inspiring idea with the capacity to make an impact when implemented, demonstrate a passion for science and engineering, and communicate the idea clearly, concisely and appropriately to judges from various backgrounds.

Choosing the ultimate winner amongst such remarkable ideas was a nearly impossible task. The judges were astonished at what these learners were capable of with nothing but the gift of their own minds. With no technical experience whatsoever, competitors came with just an idea, and with 12 weeks of stimulation in a structured programme, these ideas were transformed into relevant, innovative, implementable initiatives that address real-world problems.

After much deliberation, team Kevin Naylor and Jo Duvenhage (from Worcester Gimnasium) walked away as ultimate prize-winners, with their exceptional idea of a mental health communication platform for teens. The grand prize includes a bursary for these learners to study at a South African University.

Winners will also be visiting Germany in December 2022 on a technology tour, facilitated by SIEMENS Digital Industries. *"It's nothing less than an absolute privilege to be partnered with SIEMENS, as they open doors in industry to our winners that hundreds of engineers can only dream to access. This truly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,"* said Prof Leenta Grobler.

Watch this video for more about this amazing initiative:  
<https://youtu.be/JLERqYDT7ys>



*NWU Business School's Dr Retha Scholtz presented the*

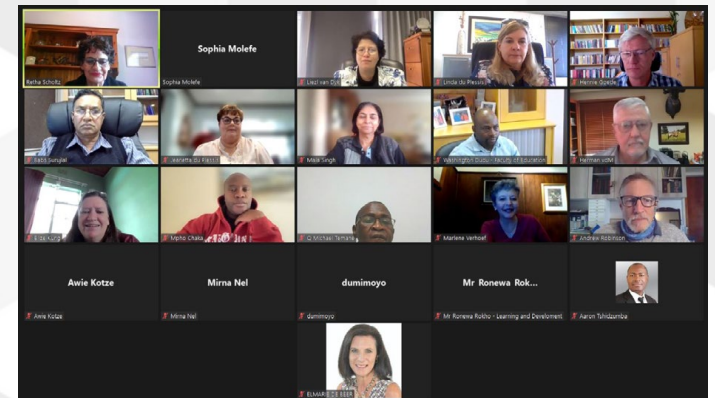
# ***EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE, CONFLICT AND STRESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP***

The NWU Business School has presented the 2-day Emotional Intelligence, Conflict and Stress Management workshop for senior managers within the North-West University. The session is a distinct combination of emotional and social skills and competencies that influence our overall capability to effectively cope with the demands and pressures of work and life.

The workshop helps to improve the ability to identify and regulate one's emotions and understand the emotions of others. A high EQ helps one build relationships, reduce team stress, defuse conflict and improve job satisfaction. We wish to thank the Business School's Dr Retha Scholtz for the professional and useful manner in which she presented the workshop.




*We wish to thank the Business School's Dr Retha Scholtz for the professional and useful manner in which she presented the workshop.*





# Parents pay big bucks for private schooling in face of failing education system

*Society is now seeing parents opting to water down their lifestyles by eliminating various other expenses, in order to afford exorbitant private school education.*





Recently, Curro announced a 15% increase in revenue for the first half of the year ending June, 2022. This is the result of increased learner intake across its 77 campuses.

These results further indicate the growing inclination of parents to opt for private and semi-private school offerings, believing that the South African public school system is beyond redemption.

A few years back, a study by Nelda Mouton - an associate professor at the North-West University Business School - noted that, when analysing the school system in South Africa, it became clear that the education system was flawed, with poorly performing teachers, poor work ethics, lack of community and parental support, poor control by education authorities, poor support for teachers and low levels of accountability.

Fast forward to years later, these conditions have been proliferated by the squandering of funds at higher levels, together with the unfavourable conditions brought on by Covid-19. As a result, parents are now adjusting their lifestyles, reducing other costs, so as to afford private school education.

One parent said that there was no way she would consider sending her child to a public school.

***“We would rather live every day eating simple meals and spending our grocery money on school fees than send my daughter to a public school in South Africa. The lack of discipline, the brutal violence in schools and the low moral values amongst pupils - where teachers can just do nothing about it - gives us nightmares to even think about. I will not throw my little girl to the wolves,”***  
she said.

Even Minister of Basic Education, Angie Motshekga, acknowledged the challenges that schools are facing.

In her address at the SADTU Free State Principals’ Forum in July this year, she said, “I shudder to imagine what it means to be a principal in 2022, amidst the learning losses of the past two years, occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic.

***“Despite the unfavourable environment in which the principals of ordinary public schools function, I urge all of you to focus on the core, not the peripherals.”***



Dr Nelda Mouton



## ***So what is the Department of Basic Education doing about it?***

Despite Minister Motshekga's efforts to get the public schooling sector on track, parents still argue that these efforts are minimal - being that it was 2022 and a number of schools were still battling with improper infrastructure and basic sanitation.

In a press release, the Department of Basic Education revealed that it had completed 1 040 sanitation projects across schools in the country, with 13 more expected to be completed by 2023. But, Motshekga had also said in recent reports that the money, needed to build proper infrastructure to address the issue of overcrowding at schools, was still not available.



## ***What are parents' options with regard to their children's education?***

For the most part, parents say that they feel like their hands are tied and there is only one option at their disposal: private schooling. This comes at a price though - a very high price. School fees for learners between Grade 1 and Grade 7 ranges from around R96 000 to R115 000 per year.

Parents who cannot even think of affording fees like this, together with teachers, try take pro-active measures to improve the conditions at their children's schools. One teacher in eMbalenhle, Phindile Sibande of Ikusalethu Secondary School, fundraised money to buy 130 chairs for learners in his school so that they did not have to sit on the classroom floor.

In Tshwane, parents protested and shutdown Sediba Sa Thuto Primary School, citing overcrowding. Parents demanded that prefab structures be sent to help solve the problem. Their pleas were eventually heard by the Education Department.

For now, there is little hope from parents' sides that the issue of the failing education system would be addressed by the State, but the private sector is doing more to play its part.

Anglo American, in partnership with the Department of Basic Education, recently launched an education programme to improve outcomes for learners in 100 early childhood development sites and 100 primary and secondary schools local to its mining operations. There is hope that more companies like the mining giants will pick up the baton and help to bring the country's education system up to standard.

\*Source: Citizen

# Youth members captivated during NWU Business School's Short Course on Entrepreneurial Skills

The NWU Business School's Small Business Advisory Bureau (SBAB) offers a Short Course on Entrepreneurial Skills and offers business advice to prospective entrepreneurs in starting a business. We are excited to have kicked off with contact sessions for groups of students recently. For the first time since the major hit of COVID-19 in 2020, we are able to present face-to-face classes, and what a pleasure for all!

Mr André Coertzen, from the North-West Business Chambers, managed to secure a sponsorship from the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conversation and Tourism and, in partnership with SEDA (Small Enterprise Development Agency), a group of young individuals in the Rustenburg region was nominated to attend a short course offered by the Business School. The first group's contact sessions commenced on Monday, 22 August and concluded on Friday, 26 August, at the SEDA offices in Rustenburg. The second group attended in Bloemhof from 29 August to 2 September and the third group from 19 to 23 September in Taung.

Interestingly enough, most of the first group of course attendees actually own their own businesses - some start-up, and others established small businesses. The students shared that they found the course content valuable and will definitely draw on the knowledge, skills and insights learnt to successfully manage their businesses.


Johanna Manyapelo and Prof Herman Thom, facilitators and presenters of the Short Course on Entrepreneurial Skills, also invited Floyd Mokwena, coordinator at the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), from the Bonjala district, to attend the course and share information and knowledge with the course attendees. Mr Mokwena explained how youth members can apply for grants to assist them in running their businesses. The minimum grant to be applied for is R1000 and the maximum, R250 000. Applications are open to youth members between ages 18 and 35.

The NYDA is running a number of other support programmes for young business owners too.

SEDA has also registered the course attendees on its databases, which allows them access to relevant information, should they want to become service providers within government departments.

**We look forward to seeing these young business owners, and future business owners, succeed in running their businesses and it is our privilege to be a part of their foundations.**





# *NWU Business School's SBAB round-table discussion on Broad- based Black Economic Empowerment*



Recently, the Business School's Small Business Advisory Bureau (SBAB) hosted its first round-table discussion on Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) with Mr Sibusiso Maphatiane, member of the Presidential Black Economic Empowerment advisory council.

The aim of the discussion was sharing of views among stakeholders on current BBBEE regulations, and to gain expert input on practical solutions that could be implemented to potentially improve the design and workings of the current policy.

The discussion further sought to promote economic participation by all. Insights were shared and value was added. We look forward to more such relevant discussions in the near future.

# *South Africa named Africa's most valuable brand*

Mr Jeremy Sampson, a member of the NWU Business School's Advisory Board, was interviewed about this on the CNBC Africa News channel.

*Click to see the insightful interview.*

<https://www.cnbc.com/media/6313016382112/>





# BUSINESS SCHOOL ADDRESSES BURNING ISSUES AT NAMPO ALFA

Recently, the NWU Business School was involved at Nampo Alfa where we hosted five panel discussion sessions with distinguished South African business and thought leaders.

The first discussion entailed **practical advice about international seasonal and contract work opportunities in agriculture.**

Prof Pieter van der Zwan, a professor in taxation at the North-West University said it's not as simple as going abroad, earning money and paying taxes. *"It is much more complicated than that. In principle, wherever you work, you are obligated to pay tax, however, there are many exemptions for different scenarios. There are also various options of how to go about with the money earned when returning to South Africa. My advice is to get in contact with a professional who can assist you with this, and always make sure that you are tax compliant."*

Ms Marianne van der Laarse, the Managing Director of "Agrijob Recruitment Specialists" spoke about the do's and don'ts when considering employment overseas.

*"Make sure you do it for the right reasons; determine what your goals are, and then stick to it. The whole application process can be overwhelming, but remember that there are various companies that specialise in helping people with that. There are endless opportunities for young people abroad, which provide the opportunity to really make good money. Go on, and explore it,"* she said.

Ms Shantelle Francis, Director of "Recruiting for the USA" gave advice and insights about the labour market and employment opportunities abroad. *"Interesting enough is that South African citizens are in very high demand in the overseas labour market because of our determination, ability to work hard and loyalty."*

Much interest was shown in the discussion as various questions came from the audience.

More detailed information can be found in a video recording of the panel discussion, which will be made available in due time.





The second panel discussion at Nampo Alfa saw the NWU Business School inviting business and thought leaders to discuss the topic of **diversification of farming (and agribusiness) in Africa**.

Mr Thina Nodada, Director Waymaker Global Trade Solutions said South Africa is definitely the gateway to the rest of Africa, but to a huge extent, the rest of Africa sees South Africa as a threat unless we manage to prove to Africa countries that they can benefit even more than they currently do. *“We’ve got a big responsibility towards the African economy, but a mind shift from local framers are also needed to explore markets across our borders. Huge opportunities await!”*

Mr Wikus Jacobs, Farmer and Agricultural Economist elaborated and said it comes down to the produces on the farms to make this happen; that the markets have an appetite for it; and that we do have the capabilities to do just that. However, we lack capital and need invertors to make this happen.



As soon as we market ourselves out there, you’ll see opportunities multiplying.

Dr Dirk Strydom, Grain SA Lead Nampo, Marketing and Research Coordination said *“there is a huge need for improved institutional capacity in South Africa to set up structures which will ultimately see more successful agri production through South Africa, into the rest of Africa. We need to think out of the box. We do not only need to focus on exporting our local products, but there is a huge need for our skills too. We can export that too”*.



## DAY TWO

During another discussion, the NWU Business School placed focus on the topic of a **national livestock identification system for South Africa - is it improving farm management or adding costly red tape?**

Mr Kobus van der Merwe, Director of “ID Scan” says there is very impressive technology available in the market that helps with the identification and marking of animals which obviously helps the fight against livestock theft. *“It is a fact that the entire production chain can benefit from this technology, and various elements of this technology can be incorporated into the so-called national livestock identification system,”* he said.

Mr Gerhard Schutte, CEO of the Red Meat Producers’ Organization says European countries pay as much as 10% of their input costs to be compliant with a national livestock identification system. *“Fortunately, we are not there yet in terms of costs, and I think the system should be offered voluntarily. Obviously, it can be of great benefit if one sees everyone being compliant with the system, which will then serve as a mechanism to gain safe access to the market. However, my opinion is that there is still a lot of water to flow into the sea before we will see it as a mandatory system to which all producers must comply. This would be ideal, but I still suggest that it be implemented gradually and voluntarily.”*

Prof Leenta Grobler, a professor in Digitalisation and Digital Economies at the NWU Business School mentioned that the safekeeping of the data from such a national identification system should be of greatest priority because it will be catastrophic if herds' data falls into the wrong hands.

*“However, to convince producers to comply with such a system, the real benefits to the producer should be very clear. For instance, having access to your own herd’s data will certainly lead to better production and other agricultural practices which can lead to greater profits. It is indeed very possible to develop a national identification system that allows for the entire value chain to benefit from. For example, it is extremely important in European countries to be able to trace the history of the animal in question, before it is consumed. When implemented right, such a national identification system will help to provide peace of mind for the consumer.”*



During the second discussion of the day, a huge focus was placed on the topic of **foot and mouth disease**, and the question was asked if it is time to reconsider the approach.

Dr Danie Odendaal, Director of the Veterinary Network said the control of deadly bacterial diseases; insect-borne viral diseases, sexually transmitted diseases; and other bacterial and viral diseases are done on a private basis (own initiative and financing) by the stock farmers and in certain cases, with the help of the private veterinarian. *“Two diseases that cannot be controlled by individual livestock farmers or private veterinarians are bovine brucellosis and foot-and-mouth disease. This requires public funding (taxpayer money). The main function of the entire state veterinary services (>200 state veterinarians and >1,000 animal health technicians) is to control these diseases at a cost of more than R1 billion paid by the tax payer for the service in the public interest.”*

Dr Odendaal added that in terms of compulsory vaccinations against foot and mouth disease, it is far-fetched to expect that the whole of South Africa will agree and comply with it. *“What also contributes to this is that the vaccine way is overpriced. It is also ridiculous that we have to import the vaccine from Botswana. I am convinced that we can produce a better quality vaccine on local soil, and at a cheaper price than it is currently imported.”*



Mr Isak Staats, General Manager of Wool and Mohair at BKB said agreed that more must be done from the government regarding strategies to combat foot and mouth disease. *“We have many specialists in the public sector, but we don’t see the solutions. This is worrying.”*

Mr Gerhard Schutte, CEO of the Red Meat Producers’ Organisation said we must remember that government did not create this disease, and that producers are the ones who “smuggled” it into our borders. *“Yes, the state has a certain responsibility towards this, but producers must also be held accountable. Unfortunately, it is the case that at any feedlot or auction there are large numbers of animals together, which creates a huge risk for the spread of foot and mouth disease.”*





Dr Celestine Ayok a livestock consultant from Nigeria said the outbreak and inadequate handling of foot and mouth disease has a huge impact on international imports and exports, and subsequently, the economy. *“I import a lot of cattle from South Africa to Nigeria, but these days I am very hesitant to import from South Africa. Remember, Nigeria is a foot and mouth disease-free country. Did you think what a huge catastrophe it would be if I had to be responsible for bringing foot and mouth disease into Nigeria.”*

Dr Odendaal concluded - *“it is quite easy to contain foot and mouth disease on a specific farm with the use of a vaccine, but we have done one thing wrong - that is the huge increase in commercial buffalo farming. Remember, once a buffalo is infected with foot and mouth disease, it remains infected for life. The buffalo are bought and sold all over the country, which allows for the disease to spread further and further.”*



## DAY THREE

On the third and final day of the Agri+ Indaba with the NWU Business School and Nampo Alfa, a focus was placed on the licensing of firearms, and the question posed to our distinguished panel members was **“where are we as a country heading in relation to gun control?”** They specifically referred to the newly proposed Firearms Control Amendment Bill in answering this question. The proposed Bill contains positive elements, as well as areas of concern.

Prof André Duvenhage, Political Analyst (NWU Business School), said that we have some of the strictest legislation in terms of firearm control. He says that the problem with these is that it does not stop those individuals who obtain weapons illegally and penalizes those who are compliant and legally obtained a weapon. Prof Duvenhage has made the statement that it can take more than 2 years to get your firearm licensed. He suggests that the system of licensing our firearms should be optimised.



*Mr Fred Camphor, CEO SA Hunters and Game Conservation Association, said that gun ownership is a contentious issue with some historical roots. He also said that it is important for regulators to distinguish between different weapons and the reasons for possession.*

*Adv Johan Hamman, a member of the Pretoria Society of Advocates, is of the opinion that the new Bill, as well as many aspects in the original Firearms Control Act contains some possible unconstitutional sections. A balancing act of the constitutional right to property ownership versus the right to freedom of association, this is the right to life versus the states duty to ensure a safe society, is a difficult one.*

*This was the last session at Nampo Alfa 2022 and ended the week on a high note.*

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