

Winter 2017 edition

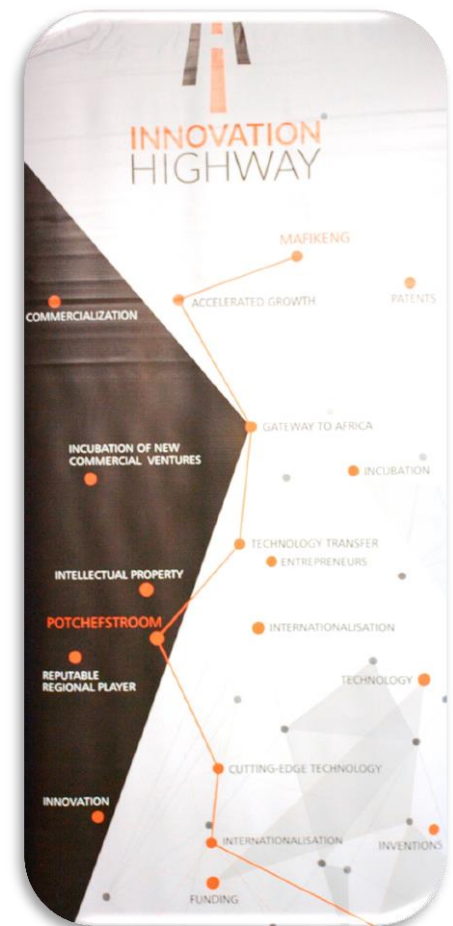
## North West Innovations are repositioning the province

### *Progress update on top three innovations from North West Innovation Competition*

Significant progress has been made to develop, expose and market the innovations of the top three winners of the recent North West Innovation Competition. The NWDC is proud to report on these developments and the contribution they are making to reposition the North West Province as a serious role player when it comes to innovation.

Khupari Mpona (from Debrak), Morebodi Kaotsane (Taung), and Prince Nkoe (Mogwase) were crowned as the top three innovative minds in the province during the awards function held in February 2017.

Since then, the competition's project partners have made significant progress to develop the top three ideas, into commercial and marketable products while also empowering their innovators with relevant training and exposure. The project partners include the North West University's Innovation Highway, TIA, The Office of the Premier and the NWDC.



## **Moonlight Livestock Reflector**

Morebodi Kaotsane from Taung proposed the brilliant idea of marking cows and donkeys found next to roads with a reflective substance that would make them visible at night, improving road and animal safety.

Morebodi's innovation has since been officially named the *Moonlight Livestock Reflector*. Through the Innovation Highway, a development plan was drafted that includes the development of a refined product and its related brand, a video and electronic brochure for advertising purposes.

Morebodi also participated in the North-West University Innovation Showcase Day, hosted by the Standard Bank Incubator in Rosebank, Johannesburg. The NWU and Innovation Highway realised that they needed to introduce some of their start-ups to the heart of commerce, seeing that big industry might not as readily come to North West Province. Representatives of these start-ups briefly pitched their businesses to potential funders and partners in true TED Talk style, after having been coached by Standard Bank's highly capable communication expert, Kefilwe Morobane. The event contributed hugely to the product visibility of Moonshine and also the confidence of Morebodi to present public pitches.

In addition, exploratory meetings in which the product was pitched were held with one Centurion based corporate and a state-owned institution during May 2017. Both meetings were very fruitful with both companies are demonstrating a tangible interest in Morebodi's product.

## **Veggie-Garden-in-Bag**

Khupari Mpona from Debrak designed a truly innovative water-wise nursery for growing crops that could benefit a community at large.

A development plan has been drafted which includes the development of a packaged model as well as a video and electronic brochure for advertising purposes.



The project team are working on the concept of packaging Khupari's innovation in the format of grow your own Veggie-Garden-in-a-Bag, which can be marketed as a ready-made start-up kit with all the seeds and equipment required to start a vegetable garden from scratch, employing Khupari's innovation methods, which include irrigating crops from used 2 liter cold drink bottles. Watch this space, we are excited about things to come!

## Open source Safety App

Prince Nkoe from Mogwase, suggested the development of a Digital Risk Assessment tool for the mining industry that shall function as an open source peer to peer safety network.

A Development Plan is being drafted and this opportunity has been referred to the application development support initiative of Department of Science and Technology.



*The top three winners of the North West Innovation Competition, pictured at their awards function in February 2017 with FEED MEC Wendy Nelson (left) and Dr KL Sebego, Director General in the Office of the Premier (right). The three winners are, pictured from the left: Khupari Mpona, Morebodi Kaotsane and Prince Nkoe.*

[Read the original article on the Innovation Competition, published in the Autumn 2017 edition](#)

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