

**THE STORE  
WILL BE  
OPEN AGAIN  
MONDAY  
24/03/2025**



# NC reaps victory at national hackathon

DANIE VAN DER LITH

THE AIR was thick with anticipation at the Seed4Africa National Hackathon, where young minds from across South Africa gathered in Victoria Bay to tackle one of the world's most pressing challenges – food security. Over two intense days, from March 11 to 12, teams poured their hearts into innovative solutions, but when the final announcement came, it was the Northern Cape's Concordia Care team that emerged victorious. Their reward? A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to represent South Africa in Italy this July, competing on an international stage.

The competition, co-funded by the European Union and hosted by Learning Academy Worldwide, challenged participants to develop practical and sustainable food security solutions. For Concordia Care, the approach was simple yet powerful – reviving traditional farming techniques that require minimal equipment, making them ideal for the arid conditions of the Northern Cape.

**TEARS, CHEERS, AND A SHARED VISION**

When the judges announced their name as the winning team, the Concordia Care members were overwhelmed with emotion, said George Herald journalist Michelle Pienaar. Some cried, others cheered, and for a few moments, the reality of what they had achieved seemed almost too big to grasp. Their project had

struck a chord with the judges – offering an effective, sustainable, and culturally rooted response to the challenge of food scarcity in dry climates.

But the Northern Cape wasn't the only province making waves at the hackathon. Two teams from George High School, "Green Harvest" and "AgriFlow," along with a second team from Concordia, also received recognition. Each of these teams walked away with R2,000 in funding to further their projects. "AgriFlow" focused on a cutting-edge approach – indoor agriculture using high-tech farms that minimise environmental impact while ensuring year-round food production. Meanwhile, Concordia's "Climate Smart Farming" project explored goat farming with breeds specifically suited for the harsh Northern Cape conditions.

## BRIDGING IDEAS ACROSS REGIONS

Participants from across the Northern Cape – including learners from Namakwaland High School, students from the Learning Academy Worldwide bridging programme in Concordia, and NCR TVET College students – joined forces to bring creative solutions to the table. Their participation was the result of months of outreach and promotional efforts in the Southern and Northern Cape, encouraging young innovators aged 18 to 32 to embrace the challenge of problem-solving through a hackathon.

Each team was tasked with creat-

ing a comprehensive strategy – one that included marketing materials, business plans, and promotional artwork. They had to think fast, design from scratch, and refine their pitches on-site. While they could bring pre-prepared elements, the final challenge had to be tackled in real-time, adding to the high-energy, high-stakes atmosphere of the event.

## WHAT EXACTLY IS A HACKATHON?

For the uninitiated, a hackathon is a blend of two concepts: "hack," meaning a creative solution to a problem, and "marathon," representing the intensive, time-sensitive nature of the challenge. These events push participants to think on their feet, work collaboratively, and present fully fleshed-out ideas within a limited time frame.

The judging panel reflected the international nature of Seed4Africa's vision, comprising representatives from Kenya, Benin, Italy, and South Africa. Their task was no small feat – selecting a winner from a pool of brilliant young minds dedicated to shaping a more food-secure future.

As Concordia Care prepares to take their ideas to the global stage in Italy, the real victory lies in the movement this competition has ignited. Across South Africa, young innovators are proving that solutions to our most pressing problems don't always require massive budgets or cutting-edge technology – sometimes, they just need fresh thinking, determined hearts, and the courage to take action.

# 'My son is not a rapist'

SANDI KWON HOO

GLADYS Mthukwane, the mother of rape accused Douglas Mthukwane, steadfastly believes that her son "is not a rapist".

Douglas is standing trial for the rape of a 14-year-old girl and two other women, who were allegedly threatened at gunpoint.

Testifying in the Northern Cape High Court recently, Gladys stated that her son did not possess a firearm.

"I help him clean his flat and do his laundry, as I have a washing machine at home. While I do not know what happens at his flat when I am not there, as I have my own place, I do not know my child to be a rapist. I have a problem with these allegations of rape," she said.

She added that she was aware of the contents of items stored at her son's residence.

"I know that he does not keep a firearm at his flat. He would always call me or his sister to help him decorate his place. I also drove his motor vehicle – if it was dirty, I would take it to the car wash."

Under cross-examination by the State, she conceded that she had never cleaned both her son's flat and his vehicle on the same day.

Douglas meanwhile objected to what he described as the "unethical behaviour" of the media, accusing journalists of intimidating him in court.

"They don't know what journalism is. They are here to pro-



**Rape accused Douglas Mthukwane. Picture: Sandi Kwon Hoo**

mote falsehoods about me. Why were they not here when the complainants testified?"

He accused everyone of conspiring against him.

"The prosecution is calling the media whenever my witnesses or I have to testify," he alleged.

Douglas insisted that an affidavit he submitted to the court, objecting to his psychiatric evaluation report, should be read into the record so that the media could report on it.

"In that affidavit, I deal with the media. Never mind, I will see how I deal with the media in my own way," he remarked.

He added that he was being subjected to a "trial by media".

"Every time, my flat gets broken into when I appear in the media," he claimed.

Acting Judge Sharon Erasmus advised that all the complainants testified in camera and postponed the matter until July 18 for closing arguments.

## OPINION

# When doing your best still gets you in trouble

GREY MUTTER BY  
LANCE FREDERICKS

DO YOU know those times when you try to do your best but still get into trouble?

Seriously ... how was I supposed to know there was a better Afrikaans word for "lizard"?

Having only learned a few Afrikaans words, and all just in the year before starting my Primary School career, my vocabulary was limited and dodgy at best.

I would try to communicate with my Afrikaans friends, but mostly through gestures and semaphore flags – my Afrikaans was THAT bad.

And knowing full well that I suffered with that language handicap, my parents nonetheless sent me off to school one day. I suspect that they did it, not because I was ready for school, but they needed the peanut butter to last at home. Now, surviving primary school in the early to mid-70s wasn't for the weak. Teachers were stern, strict, and scary – especially Afrikaans teachers.

I was always on my best behaviour in Afrikaans class, doing my homework when I remembered, but I forgot a lot because playing outside was more fun.

One day, the teacher stuck a picture of a lizard on the board and asked us to name it in Afrikaans.

My hand shot up, and I confidently blurted out the only Afrikaans word I knew for lizard: "Geikie!"

The class roared with laughter, and the teacher's sideways glare made me realise I'd earned myself some "cuts" – the delightful term for a caning. I was reminded of the cuts I received for referring to

matches as "meikie stokke".

Through Teacher's clenched teeth, I heard the word "akkedis" for the first time.

Decades later, I learned that "geikie" means gecko, not lizard. The lesson? Even when you try your best, you can still get into trouble. These days, adults don't get cuts, but we often get punished for trying our best.

A dear friend of mine loves to share encouraging messages, and recently, he sent me this gem: "Fear mismanaged, leads to sin. Sin leads to hiding. Since we've all sinned, we all hide, not in bushes, but in eighty-hour workweeks, temper tantrums, and religious busyness. We avoid contact with God." That shook me.

Think about it. Ask anyone with a job how they're doing, and the answer is always: "I'm so busy!" Since Covid, work pressure has surged. Remote work blurred boundaries, workloads increased, and economic uncertainty fueled job insecurity.

Additionally, technology has intensified expectations for constant connectivity, while the relentless push for productivity has brought tighter deadlines and increased performance tracking, leaving many overwhelmed.

Is it any wonder people are frustrated and irritable?

I saw a post last week that summed it up perfectly: "If you keep people exhausted and distracted, they won't organise. If you keep them struggling and divided, they won't resist. The system isn't broken, it's working as designed."

Personally, I don't like the sound of that!

## NOTIFICATION: ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION PROCESS

In accordance with the requirements of Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (Government Notice R982 as amended, promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998-NEMA), notice is herewith given of an application/s which will be subjected to a public participation process.

<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>Genade Boerdery (Pty) Ltd</b>
<b>Application/s:</b>	An Environmental Authorisation (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended for the following listed activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>GNR 984 (2014, as amended): Activity 15 (clearance of more than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation).</li></ul>
	Additional listed activities and/or water uses may be identified during the process.
<b>Location:</b>	The proposed project is located on the farm Middel Plaats South No. 104, Sol Plaatje Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province. The site is ~8km south of Schmidtsdrif. The centre point of the site is -28.785582°S, 24.074790°E.
<b>Activity:</b>	The applicant wishes to create 8 new cultivation (pivot) areas for the cultivation of potatoes. The development of these pivots will occur in phases over the course of 5 years and the crops will be rotated to prevent blight and allow for conservation of the soil. Once the planting cycle for a pivot area is completed, the area will be reseeded with grazing grasses for cattle. Seven of the new cultivation areas will each cover ~60 hectares and one will cover ~50 hectares, resulting in a total area of ~470 hectares of indigenous vegetation clearance by the end of the five-year period.
	Irrigation requirements will be met using the applicant's existing Lawful Water Use, which authorises the taking of water from the Vaal River system for irrigation of up to 60 hectares. No additional water resources will be required as only one crop area will be planted at a time.

EIMS will be following the procedures defined in the EIA Regulations for undertaking a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. In accordance with Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, a public participation process will be undertaken. You are hereby invited to register and comment on the proposed project and application/s. Please note that only registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) will be informed of future project information and opportunities for participation. By registering as an I&AP you consent to the collection and processing of your personal information as per the EIMS Privacy Notice available at [www.eims.co.za/public-participation](http://www.eims.co.za/public-participation). In order to avoid missing out on opportunities for public participation please submit I&AP registrations, or any queries, comments, or concerns with regards to this application, as soon as possible to EIMS at:

Contact Person: Alexander Msipa  
EIMS Reference Number: 1683  
Postal Address: P.O. Box 2083; Pinetown; 2123  
Telephone: (011) 789 7170/ Fax: (086) 571 9047  
E-mail: [middelplaats@eims.co.za](mailto:middelplaats@eims.co.za)  
Please include the project reference number **1683** in all correspondence.

Further information will be available at [www.eims.co.za/public-participation/](http://www.eims.co.za/public-participation/). Please note that in the event that you are unable to access the website due to data constraints please contact EIMS for alternative arrangements.



## GENERAL NOTICES • ALGEMENE KENNISGEWINGS

## GENERAL NOTICE 706 OF 2025

## NOTIFICATION: ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION PROCESS.

In accordance with the requirements of Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (Government Notice R982 as amended, promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998-NEMA), notice is herewith given of an application/s which will be subjected to a public participation process.

<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>Genade Boerdery (Pty) Ltd</b>
<b>Application/s:</b>	<p>An Environmental Authorisation (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended for the following listed activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GNR 984 (2014, as amended): Activity 15 (clearance of more than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation).</li></ul> <p>Additional listed activities and/or water uses may be identified during the process.</p>
<b>Location:</b>	<p>The proposed project is located on the farm Middel Plaats South No. 104, Sol Plaatje Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province. The site is ~8km south of Schmidtsdrif. The centre point of the site is -28.785582°S, 24.074790°E.</p>
<b>Activity:</b>	<p>The applicant wishes to create 8 new cultivation (pivot) areas for the cultivation of potatoes. The development of these pivots will occur in phases over the course of 5 years and the crops will be rotated to prevent blight and allow for conservation of the soil. Once the planting cycle for a pivot area is completed, the area will be reseeded with grazing grasses for cattle. Seven of the new cultivation areas will each cover ~60 hectares and one will cover ~50 hectares, resulting in a total area of ~470 hectares of indigenous vegetation clearance by the end of the five-year period.</p> <p>Irrigation requirements will be met using the applicant's existing Lawful Water Use, which authorises the taking of water from the Vaal River system for irrigation of up to 60 hectares. No additional water resources will be required as only one crop area will be planted at a time.</p>

EIMS will be following the procedures defined in the EIA Regulations for undertaking a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. In accordance with Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, a public participation process will be undertaken. You are hereby invited to register and comment on the proposed project and application/s. Please note that only registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) will be informed of future project information and opportunities for participation. By registering as an I&AP you consent to the collection and processing of your personal information as per the EIMS Privacy Notice available at [www.eims.co.za/public-participation](http://www.eims.co.za/public-participation). In order to avoid missing out on opportunities for public participation please submit I&AP registrations, or any queries, comments, or concerns with regards to this application, as soon as possible to EIMS at:

Contact Person: Alexander Msipa  
EIMS Reference Number: 1683  
Postal Address: P.O. Box 2083; Pinetown; 2123  
Telephone: (011) 789 7170/ Fax: (086) 571 9047  
E-mail: [middelplaats@eims.co.za](mailto:middelplaats@eims.co.za)  
Please include the project reference number **1683** in all correspondence.



Further information will be available at [www.eims.co.za/public-participation/](http://www.eims.co.za/public-participation/). Please note that in the event that you are unable to access the website due to data constraints please contact EIMS for alternative arrangements.

**ALGEMENE KENNISGEWING 706 VAN 2025****KENNISGEWING: OMGEWINGSMAGTIGING AANSOEKPROSES.**

Ooreenkomstig die vereistes van Hoofstuk 6 van die Omgewingsimpakbepaling (OIB) Regulasies (Regeringskennisgewing R982 soos gewysig, afgekondig kragtens die Nasionale Omgewingsbestuurswet 107 van 1998-NEMA), word hiermee kennis gegee van 'n aansoek/e wat aan 'n openbare deelnameproses onderwerp sal word.

**Aansoeker:** Genade Boerdery (Edms) Bpk

**Aansoek/s:** 'n Omgewingsmagtiging (OM) in ooreenstemming met die Nasionale Omgewingsbestuurswet (Wet 107 van 1998) (NEMA), Omgewingsimpakbepaling (OIB) Regulasies, 2014 soos gewysig vir die volgende gelyste aktiwiteit:

- GNR 984 (2014, soos gewysig): Aktiwiteit 15 (opruiming van meer as 20 hektaar inheemse plantegroei).

Bykomende gelyste aktiwiteite en/of watergebruike kan tydens die proses geïdentifiseer word.

**Ligging:** Die voorgestelde projek is geleë op die plaas Middel Plaats South No. 104, Sol Plaatje Pleatlike Munisipaliteit, Noord-Kaap Provinsie. Die terrein is ~8km suid van Schmidtsdrif. Die middelpunt van die terrein is -28.785582°S, 24.074790°E. Verwys asseblief na aangehegte projekliggingskaart.

**Aktiwiteit:** Die aansoeker wil 8 nuwe verbouings (spilpunt) areas skep vir die verbouing van aartappels. Die ontwikkeling van hierdie spilpunte sal in fases oor die verloop van 5 jaar plaasvind en die gewasse sal geroteer word om roes te voorkom en die bewaring van die grond moontlik te maak. Sodra die plantsiklus vir 'n spilpunt voltooi is, sal die gebied hersaai word met weidingsgrasse vir beeste. Sewe van die nuwe verbouingsgebiede sal elk ~60 hektaar beslaan en een sal ~50 hektaar beslaan, wat sal lei tot die verwydering van 'n totale oppervlakte van ~470 hektaar van inheemse plantegroei teen die einde van die vyf-jaar tydperk.

Besproeiingsvereistes sal nagekom word deur die aansoeker se bestaande Wettige Watergebruik te gebruik, wat die neem van water uit die Vaalrivierstelsel vir besproeiing van tot 60 hektaar magtig. Geen bykomende waterbronne sal benodig word nie aangesien slegs een gewasarea op 'n slag geplant sal word.

EIMS sal die prosedures volg soos omskryf in die Omgewingsimpakbepaling (OIB) Regulasies (GRN982 van 2014, soos gewysig) vir die onderneming van die Omvang- en Omgewingsimpakbepaling (OIB) proses. In ooreenstemming met Hoofstuk 6 van die OIB Regulasies, sal 'n openbare deelname proses onderneem word. U word hiermee uitgenooi om te registreer en kommentaar te lewer op die voorgestelde projek en aansoek/e. Om te verseker dat u geïdentifiseer en geregistreer is as 'n Belangstellende en Geaffekteerde Party (B&GP) en dat u kommentaar vasgelê word, dien asseblief u naam, kontakbesonderhede, die rede vir u belangstelling of enige bekommernisse, skriftelik of telefonies by EIMS indien. Neem asseblief kennis dat slegs geregistreerde B&GP's ingelig sal word oor toekomstige projekinligting en geleenthede vir deelname. Deur te registreer as 'n belanghebbende en geaffekteerde party stem u in tot die insameling en verwerking van u persoonlike inligting soos per die EIMS Privaatheidskennisgewing beskikbaar by [www.eims.co.za/public-participation](http://www.eims.co.za/public-participation). Om te verhoed dat geleenthede vir publieke deelname misgeloop word, dien asseblief B&GP-registrasies, of enige navrae, kommentaar of bekommernisse met betrekking tot hierdie aansoek, so gou moontlik in by EIMS by:

Kontak Persoon: Alexander Msipa

EIMS Verwysingsnommer: 1683

Posadres: P.O. Box 2083; Pinetown; 2123

Telefoon: (011) 789 7170/ Fax: (086) 571 9047

E-Pos: [middelplaats@eims.co.za](mailto:middelplaats@eims.co.za)

Sluit asseblief die projekverwysingsnommer **1683** in alle korrespondensie in.



Verdere inligting sal beskikbaar wees by [www.eims.co.za/public-participation/](http://www.eims.co.za/public-participation/). Neem asseblief kennis dat in die geval dat u weens databeperkings nie toegang tot die webwerf kan kry nie, kontak asseblief EIMS vir alternatiewe reëlings.