Swiss-SA Venture Leader Programme – 2020

Background:

In 2011, the South African government and the Swiss Federal Council on Scientific and Technological cooperation agreed to implement and execute the Swiss-SA Joint Research Programme (SSJRP). The implementing partners to this agreement are the University of Basel (Switzerland) and the Technology Innovation Agency (South Africa). The contracted training provider for the Venture Leaders programme for the past nine years has been Venture Lab(Switzerland).

Objectives of the partnership are to:

- strengthen the entrepreneurial capacity of researchers and innovators towards the commercialisation of their research projects;
- implement projects and activities in the perspective of increasing competitiveness of technology enterprises in the Republic of South Africa and Switzerland and their internationalization through international cooperation and technology;
- collaborate in promoting the National Systems of Innovation of both the Republic of South Africa and Switzerland; and
- exchange experiences and best practices by looking at the management of innovation processes and public and private resources for innovative enterprises in the Republic of South Africa and Switzerland.

Swiss-SA Venture Leaders Programme

The programme, has since inception trained and developed more than five hundred entrepreneurs-innovators in South Africa. The programme provides for an in-country, three days Advanced Technology Entrepreneurship training programme and the top ten entrepreneurs are given an opportunity to visit Switzerland. The visit to Switzerland focuses on allowing South African Entrepreneurs-Innovators to explore the international markets (i.e. understanding the international entrepreneurial landscape, visiting hubs of excellence such as the Medical Valley and participating in a Pitch Battle between South African and Swiss entrepreneurs) and to connect with possible

partners and follow-on funders.

During 2020 with the COVID19 global pandemic and its restrictions and challenges the implementing partners had to formulate innovative strategies to deliver the Swiss-SA Venture Leaders Programme. The programme was presented online and allowed for participants to connect virtually. After the successful completion of the Advanced Technology Entrepreneurship Programme, we are pleased to present the Swiss-SA Top ten for 2020 as per the table below:

Name	Surname	Race	Gender	Trading Name	Sector	Province
Ziningi	Malinga	Black	Female	Ziningi Imbali Enterprises	Advanced Manufacturing	Gauteng
Sandiswa	Poswa	Black	Female	Trove Clothing	Advanced Manufacturing	Eastern Cape
Pontso	Moletsane	Black	Male	Nosetsa	Agriculture	Limpopo
Micaela	Peters	Coloured	Female	Weave Connect - EdTech Service Targeting Women	ICT	Western Cape
Khotso	Maloi	Black	Male	CONAT	ICT	Free State
Karabo	Sitto	Black	Female	EcoDiesel and dispensing solution for small and medium size businesses	Energy	Western Cape
Tshenolo	Tshite	Black	Male	TTICS Ferrochrome Pty (Ltd)	Advanced Manufacturing	North West
Luvuyo	Ndiki	Black	Male	Red Village Trading (Pty) Ltd	ICT	Western Cape
Amanda	Godwin	Black	Female	Mwari Delivery	ICT	Gauteng
Dalumuzi	Dube	Black	Male	Proceptworks (Pty) Ltd.	ICT	Gauteng

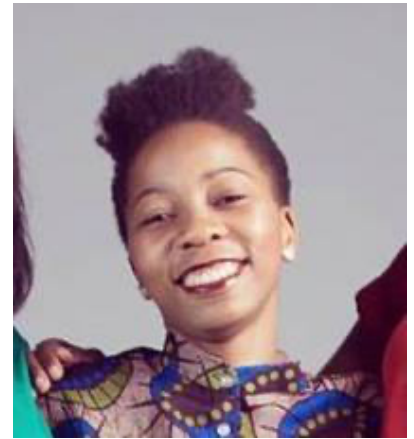**Swiss-SA Venture Leader announced SA Winner at the 2020 Innovation Summit Pitch Battle**

Mukundi Lambani, owner of Ambani Africa and participant to the Venture Leaders Programme was announced SA Winner at the 2020 Innovation Summit.

About Ambani Africa

Ambani is a learning App that makes early learning easier because it allows Grade R learners to learn subjects such as reading, maths, and life skills in their mother-tongue. Ambani offers 'gamified' educational content for multi-sensory learning in African languages. The app uses Augmented reality to teach foundation phase subjects that are curriculum-aligned in the language of the user's choice.