



## Upper Midlands Agricultural Transformation Initiative

### UMATI REPORT JULY to NOVEMBER 2017

#### 1. UMATI subscriptions

At an UMATI Board meeting of 25/7/2017 attended by all Board members and representatives from the associations MMAA, KVA and NRLA and MIP, it was tabled and accepted that UMATI would request a monthly contribution of R6000 each from these organisations from November 2017.

UMATI is now a registered NPC and the application for registration as PBO (Public Benefit Company) is in its final stages with our consultants and auditors Colenbranders Inc.

Thank you to these Associations for their positive response to this commitment for 12 months until the situation is reassessed prior to the end of that period.

UMATI has just finalised their new Standard Bank account and this will be controlled by Tony Le Roux out of MMAA offices.

Please see attached schedule re UMATI expenses.

#### 2. UMATI website

After a number of unforeseen setbacks UMATI's website is now up and running and according to Andre Schoeman, our website developer, is attracting well above average interest. To have a look, please go to [www.umati.co.za](http://www.umati.co.za)

Andre is also running our Facebook page, which is attracting a great deal of interest.

#### 3. UMATI logo

The previous logo was too large and not practical to use. Please note our new logo: in the centre are clasped hands displaying UMATI is "All working together for the community", within a water secure environment as symbolised by the blue water drop, surrounded by an agricultural motif signifying land and crops.

#### 4. Media

KWANALU sent out a media release about UMATI in June, resulting in several articles on UMATI's activities in:

- The Witness newspaper
- The Farmers Weekly, which in the same edition featured UMATI in the editorial column, with the editor making mention of the Vredefort Dairy debacle where in excess of R180m was used in a corrupt

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venture, and then said, imagine what the UMATI farmers could have done with those funds given the right opportunity!

- Landbouweekblad
- Bizcommunity

In addition, AFRA (Association for Rural Advancement) interviewed UMATI for a documentary, focusing on commercial farmers being land owners and farm dwellers.

### 5. **Support for UMATI**

A number of banks and businesses have agreed to support UMATI in the interests of transformation to sustain the viability of their commercial farmers. These include Standard Bank, AAM, Mascor, Gromor, TWK and Danone as well as several others still to be confirmed.

### 6. **Upgrading Kamberg tourism**

UMATI with CLR Richard Khumalo have held meetings with DARD and Ezemvelo about projects that would upgrade all tourism activities at Kamberg Nature Reserve and benefit the Thendela community living there. This would involve a joint venture with the community. With assistance from UMATI, James Martin on behalf of Umgungundhlovu has already started some projects at Thendela.

### 7. **Umgungundhlovu Water Resource Project**

The original MIP dam building project now known as “UMGUNGUNDHLOVU WATER RESOURCE PROJECT” was presented to the Umgungundhlovu District Council on 3 October 2017 and approved.

Subsequently the Mayor the HON CLR TE MAPHUMULO visited the proposed dam sites on the Little Mooi in the Kamberg and Hlatikulu and gave her undertaking that her Council would support the scheme. This has resulted in a process whereby land procurement for the dam will be expedited as it now becomes a community-based project for the benefit of all.

Further work is now to continue with our consultants MBB and interaction with DWS. A meeting has been arranged with DWS to inform them of these developments and to plan the way forward with this ground-breaking water resource project that has the capacity to benefit the entire community of the Mpofana catchment area.

It is a model based on three pillars: INFRASTRUCTURE, EDUCATION & RADICAL TRANSFORMATION.

A full document is available on this project while further details are available on UMATI's website at [www.umati.co.za](http://www.umati.co.za)

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**MAYOR OF UMGUNDHLOVU VISITS MPOFANA TO VIEW PROPOSED DAM SITES FOR WATER RESOURCE PROJECT** Seen here with the Mayor at centre are UMATI officials Themba Ngcobo, James Kean, Graham Armstrong, with Gcino Shabalala of LPM, the Municipal Manager of Mpofoana Municipality and Councillors, and Bheki Nene.



### 8. TWK support

TWK has committed to supporting Developing Farmer activities where commercial farmers are willing to assist or partner in agricultural projects. UMATI looks forward to pursuing this positive initiative with TWK.

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### 9. **AFRA**

UMATI has met with AFRA on a number of occasions to discuss the issues and challenges that face both land owners and farm dwellers.

### 10. **Municipal FPSU (Farmer Production Support Unit)**

UMATI members continue to support our Municipal FPSU (Farmer Production Support Unit) and AGRIPARKS. This has involved a great deal of time and attending meetings with all role players including DARD, DRDLR, municipal officials and other NGOs. The main objectives have been to advise Government organisations on how best to re-establish the developing farmers who have CPA and State owned lands that are no longer productive. This has included a number of farm and CPA visits. There is some progress in this and Government has recently allocated R71m to this cause. As neighbours and responsible citizens we cannot sit back and watch any more Developing Farm failures.

### 11. **AGRITECHNA EXHIBITION**

James Kean, Chairperson of UMATI, attended the AGRITECHNA EXHIBITION in Hanover, Germany from 14 - 19 November. Apart from the fact that James strives to keep his farming at a high tech level and the exhibition being one of the most advanced in the world of this type, he also used this opportunity to discuss UMATI with European agriculturists interested in agriculture in Africa. A full report of this visit will be available on the website.

### 12. **Education**

On behalf of UMATI, James and Cheryl Kean are busy securing bursaries from our members to continue supporting the students at Weston and hopefully adding one or two more for 2018. We are awaiting results of the students who have been sponsored by UMATI and their members this year.

### **UMATI WOULD LIKE TO THANK ITS SUPPORTERS AND SPONSORS:**

COLENBRANDERS INC (who support UMATI in admin and financial matters); STANDARD BANK; TWK; DANONE; GROMOR; KWANALU; AAM; NELAWAY CONTRACTORS; MPOFANA MUNICIPALITY; UMGUNGUNDHLOVU MUNICIPALITY

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