



Media Release: Tuesday 6 March 2018

Sophiatown-based Youth Entrepreneurs celebrate Excellence in Entrepreneurship Awards

Seven youth-owned businesses were rewarded last week at the 2018 Excellence in Entrepreneurship Awards held in Sophiatown. Over 100 guests cheered the category finalists and winners at the annual event featuring the Beeston Awards to recognise outstanding green entrepreneurship in South Africa.



The Green Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2018 went to **Thabani Voko of Visible Security Solutions**, who also took the prize for best Youth Entrepreneur. Alongside him were best Start-Up **Mapaseka Dlamini of Green Sky Farming**, and Best Female Entrepreneur went to **Lesego Seloane of Ronewa Creations**.

Right, Lesego Seloane, wins 2018 Best Green Female Entrepreneur

The event, scheduled to host Gauteng Premier as the keynote speaker, was livestreamed on Facebook, allowing one finalist, Christalla Neophyto, to watch from the UK as her business partner **Nicholas Levendis, of Packet Away**, took the special award for **Youth Sustainability at the ceremony**.

KeaObaka Mahuma, head of SME Banking at ABSA, gave a uniquely amusing and powerful address to the over 40 entrepreneurs present, on preparing your business for financing. His '7 steps' before approaching a financial institution proved illuminating and memorable.



2018 Awards Judge Ajay Lal, MD of Black Lite Consulting said 'this competition again uncovered some of the best start-ups I've come across', as he presented the Entrepreneur of the Year award to Thabani Voko.

Best Green StartUp Entrepreneur Mapaseka Dlamini with judge Ajay Lal

The event is sponsored by British philanthropist and businessman, Clive Beeston.



The criteria for the Awards included, doing business in a way that promotes trust, ethical business practices, commitment to broader society, environmental awareness and an understanding of the opportunities, needs and the demands of the African continent.

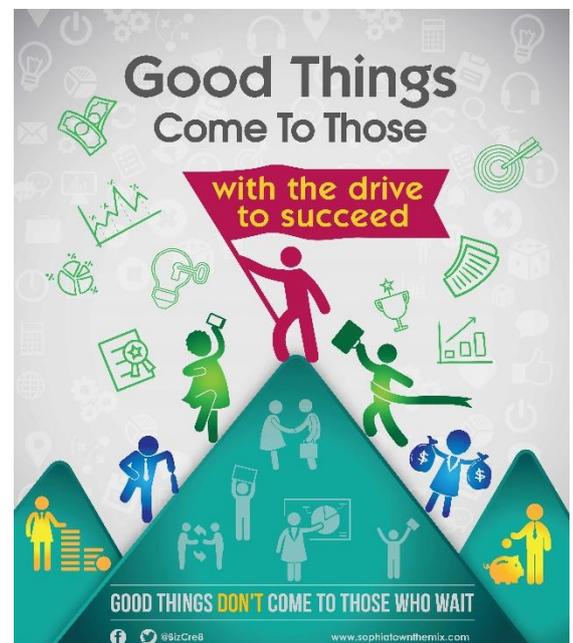
2018 Overall winner Thabani Voko receiving his trophy and prize cash investment to the business alongside his colleagues, Mr and Mrs Beeston and judge Ajay Lalu.

For interviews: Rinkie Nqolwana : 083 550 7130

Celebrating Sophiatown's uniqueness through Youth Entrepreneurship – BizCre8: [click here](#) to see a video of how BizCre8 works, and the impact on just three of the 106 new businesses created since 2016.

Start Your Entrepreneurial Journey – Make Good Things Happen: Our business ideas workshop is aimed at start-up entrepreneurs and existing businesses. With a focus on developing creative business models to develop the next great green business concept, this workshop is the first step in the BizCre8 programme developed to take your business idea from mind to market. [Click here](#) to find out more about BizCre8 and to apply for our next Ide8 workshop.

BizCre8 won the 2017 Gauteng Premier's Service Excellence Award in the Economic Growth: Inclusive Economy category



Are you an aspiring entrepreneur (age 18-35) who would like to be a part of South Africa's next generation of green entrepreneurs? Do you dream of being the next big game-changer making Good Things happen on our continent? So don't wait - register for your opportunity to get business advice, mentoring, feasibility testing, customer research and a host of other support to get your business idea off the ground.

Cost: Able to travel to historic Sophiatown (Gauteng based) and the WILL to succeed! Contact us on Tel: 011 673 1271 or email: bizcre8@sophiatownthemix.com

DEVELOPING SKILLS • HARNESSING STRENGTHS • GROWING 21ST CENTURY ENTREPRENEURS



WHAT ELSE YOU'LL FIND IN SOPHIATOWN TODAY



Open for entrepreneurship training, heritage walks, live jazz and other cultural programmes, the Trevor Huddleston memorial building was the first new public building in the suburb for 60 years. You will also find the Sophiatown National Heritage House at the site. More information: www.sophiatownthemix.com

Notes for Editors

Based in historic Sophiatown, BizCre8 was established in 2014 by non-profit company the Trevor Huddleston Memorial Centre to support the entrepreneurial talent of SA youth, to help them create sustainable and ethical businesses. BizCre8 is part of our mission offering culture and arts for all, youth development and 'doing good things' to share the heritage of the multi-cultural community, inspired by Sophiatown's symbolic history to build a South Africa where everyone belongs.

The BizCre8 Awards is annual event, highlighting the opportunities for youth in the green economy sector, while promoting ethical practice and excellence in doing 'good' business.

For more information, including how to become a sponsor for the 2019 awards contact Violet Mohotloane Tell: 011 477 3490

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