

NORTH WEST ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION HUB PROJECT HANDOVER

The highly anticipated North West Entrepreneurship and Innovation Hub Project site was officially handed over today, Wednesday, 19 March 2025, at the North-West University (NWU) Mahikeng Campus. This milestone event marks a significant step in the province's commitment to empowering entrepreneurs, fostering innovation, and driving inclusive economic growth.

Hosted by the NWU in partnership with the North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation, and Tourism (DEDECT) and the Young African Entrepreneurs Institute (YAEI), the handover brought together government officials, academia, development agencies, and young entrepreneurs. The event signified the formal transfer of the building site, paving the way for the construction of a state-of-the-art Entrepreneurship and Innovation Hub that will serve as a catalyst for business growth and innovation in the province.

The North West Provincial Government reaffirmed its commitment to the project by officially announcing funding support, reinforcing its dedication to creating sustainable economic opportunities and job creation for the province.

Delivering the keynote address, MEC Bitsa Lenkopane of DEDECT emphasized the importance of investing in youth and innovation. "The North West Provincial Government is proud to support this visionary project. This hub will serve as a beacon of hope for aspiring entrepreneurs, offering access to skills development, mentorship, and funding opportunities that are critical for business success," said MEC Lenkopane.

As the province's knowledge hub, the North-West University will play a strategic role in driving economic development. The initiative will not only benefit students but also empower entrepreneurs across the province by equipping them with the necessary tools and resources to transform their ideas into thriving businesses.

"Universities are no longer just institutions of learning; they have become dynamic hubs of innovation and entrepreneurship. The North-West University is committed to fostering a culture of creativity, supporting startups, and facilitating knowledge transfer through research, technology, and networking. This will ultimately drive economic growth and address global challenges," said Prof. Tyobeka, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of NWU.

Echoing this sentiment, YAEI CEO Mr. Risuna Maluleke emphasized the transformative impact of the project. "The hub is more than just a building; it is a symbol of our collective belief in the potential of young people in the North West. YAEI is excited to see this vision come to life and to continue working with partners who share our commitment to empowering the next generation of African entrepreneurs," said Maluleke.

A symbolic site handover ceremony marked the official commencement of the hub's development, generating a shared sense of excitement and optimism among stakeholders. The North West Entrepreneurship and Innovation Hub promises to be a game-changer, providing a space where ideas will flourish, businesses will thrive, and the province's economic landscape will be transformed.

Issued jointly by:

North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation, and Tourism

Departmental Spokesperson: Mr. Jeremiah Matebesi

Email: jeremiahmatebesi@nwpg.gov.za

Contact: 072 333 0325

North-West University (NWU)

Manager Communications: Mr. Oscar Mosiane

Email: oscar.mosiane@nwu.ac.za

Contact: 076 684 5014

Young African Entrepreneurs Institute (YAEI)

Marketing, Communication & Events Manager: Ms. Zenaye Skosana

Email: Zenaye@entrepreneursinstitute.org.za

Contact: 071 338 1399