

KEVINOT FARMING

WINS NATIONAL PRESIDENTIAL SMME AND CO-OPERATIVE AWARDS



“ I received support from SEDA in a form of Drought Relief Funding in 2022. ”

Nonopa Tenza runs the award winning Kevinot Farm in Ongeluksnek region of Matatiele in the far corner of EC bordering KwaZulu Natal and Lesotho on the other side.

Kevinot is derived from the initials of Tenza’s family members. The farm has been in the family for over 35 years when father-in-law entered into a lease agreement with the then Transkei government to make use of the 406Ha farm.

Following years of inactivity following the passing Tenza’s father-in-law, Tenza and her husband took full control in 2021 sacrificing a successful white-collar profession which provided the bacon opted to go into full time farming.

Tenza is a corporate and investment banker by profession, having completed her master’s in accounting and Finance degree at Dundee University in Scotland.

“The business was started to continue a family legacy; it is a farming business that operates out of a farm previously run by my late father-in-law as

a subsistence farming operation. After his passing in 2014 the farm was underutilised and falling into disuse, so we decided to revive it and Kevinot Farming was birthed”.

“We are serial entrepreneurs, and venturing into the agricultural space came as a social endeavour, as were going to invest in a project that was going to give back to the local communities by increasing agricultural productivity as well as providing some with employment opportunities thus alleviating poverty and fighting rampant unemployment plaguing rural communities like Matatiele,” said Tenza.

Kevinot Farm is 406 hectares of fertile farmland, subdivided into successful livestock and crops farming venture. The arable land is subdivided into paddocks for 100 cows made up of a breeding herd of F1 Angus cows, pedigree Angus bulls, a mixed 200 flock of sheep consisting of Donhe merino and Dormer sheep. On the cropping side, they plant yellow maize, sugar beans as well as stock feed grass varieties of lucerne and teff grasses respectively.



“The business was started to continue a family legacy”.

Tenza and her farming venture recently scooped the 2022 Presidential rural entrepreneurship award.

“I received support from SEDA in a form of Drought Relief Funding in 2022 after the farm was impacted by the April 2022 floods. Their support and customer service were impeccable and efficient. In November 2022 the Department of Small Business Development hosted the Inaugural National Presidential SMME & Co-operatives Awards and I had the honour of receiving the Rural- Based SMME of the Year award”.

“Currently the main challenge is the security of tenure of the farm, we inherited it from our late parents who had got this lease from the former Transkei government, and we are waiting for further information from the current dispensation on the status of the old lease”.

Efforts have been underway for some time now to have this lease transferred to Kevinot Farming as it currently runs its operations there. This is a big challenge when it comes to long term strategic planning and raising funding to develop the farm and grow the business,” added Tenza.

“DSBD exists to support and champion the establishment and growth of small businesses in South Africa. Therefore, any budding entrepreneur should not hesitate from seeking assistance from them. They have different forms of support required by entrepreneurs on their entrepreneurial journey,” concluded Tenza.

