



Dinokasi Bees and Honey Primary Co-Operative

The saying “Bees make honey and honey makes money” by reggae singer Winstone King Yellowman Forster bonds well to the youths of Dinokasi Village on the fringes of the famous Dinokeng Game Reserve (DGR).

They started their honey making project in 2017 following a chance meeting with Anton Schiele, who introduced them to the money sweet pot project that took them away from unemployment to entrepreneurship.

“The journey was never simple as this type of business was unheard of in our rural community, where liquor trading businesses, taxis and serving of traditional meal) are the only businesses that are known and strive in most cases” said Gontse France Hlongwane.

France is the leader of the six-member strong Dinokasi Bees and Honey primary cooperation situated at the gates of DGR. Their shop is situated at the gates of the famous nature reserve near Hammanskraal in the outskirts of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality.

“Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda) is subsidiary of DSBD met the co-op and assisted them to register the company and helped get it off the ground and on top the beehive for incubation.

“We underwent extensive bees keeping training as well as honey extraction training with the help of Schiele”.

The Department of Small Business Development and the Tshwane Municipality Department of Economic Development helped to bring the business to fruition.

“We specialise in bee keeping and selling of raw honey got directly from the hives and not mixed with any chemical enhancements”.

The honey is bottled right there at the source once the hives have been harvested and fresh honey squeezed out.

Dinokasi is facing a huge challenge emanating from criminals destroying bee colonies and stealing beehives.

“We also take time out and teach people about bee conversation as well as how they should approach bees with caution instead of destroying colonies by burning them down and stoning them with huge rocks.

Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda) played a huge role as it provided us with bees, hives, bottles, labels, bees feed and other raw materials needed to make a successful project,” said Gontse.

“In the next five years I want to see every shop selling our product as well as exporting some to the Far East markets and in Europe,” he concluded.