

SUMMIT Programme

DATE: 29-30 May 2025

VENUE: Donald Gordon Auditorium, Wits Business School, Parktown

Background



South Africa's pressing youth unemployment is not just a challenge—it's a call to action. #MATHUB'OLUSHA, an initiative by Rendzo Network Africa in partnership with Services SETA, is bringing together South Africa's national skills ecosystem: SETAs, SMEs, youth, educators and policy shapers into one national conversation, to chart a real roadmap for impactful SME-youth engagement, with the aim of finding workable solutions designed to accelerate SME participation in youth economic inclusion efforts. **Why does #MATHUB'OLUSHA matter?** Because South Africa's greatest opportunity is its youth—and its most underutilised growth engine is its SMEs. These businesses, often not the focus in youth placement efforts, are already doing the work—quietly, impactfully, in every city, town and village across South Africa.



Partners:



Associates:





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DAY 1: LEARNING FROM INTERNATIONAL & LOCAL EXPERIENCE

09:00 – 09:45 | Arrival & Registration

Delegates arrive, register and enjoy arrival tea



09:45 – 10:30 | Summit Opening

- Singing of the National Anthem
- Welcoming by Services SETA: **Ms. Duduzile Mwelase**, Acting Executive Manager: Corporate Services
- Scene-setting – by youth
- Introducing the #MATHUB'OLUSHA Initiative – Whence, why, and where to?: **Mr. Septi Bukula**

10:30 – 12:00 | Panel 1: Global perspectives on linking SMEs & youth

Fostering SME-youth engagement – what can we learn from international experience?

1. Presentation of the #MATHUB'OLUSHA research study by Rendzo Network

2. Panel discussion with:

- **Mr. Christopher Nisbet**, Assistant Client Manager & ECITB RHIF Project Manager: Forth Valley College, Scotland
- **Mr. Kareem Al-Sallal**, Advisor – Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Economic Development and Employment (E4DE): GIZ, Jordan
- **Mr. Simon Perryman**, Fellow: British Council, UK

Moderator: **Mr. Septi Bukula**, Rendzo Network



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12:00 – 13:00 | Panel 2: Local experience in fostering SME–youth engagement

What can we learn from the experiences of various local players working in the field of youth placement, especially those focusing on SME placements? Panel discussion with:

- **Mr. David Wilson**, Director: National Mentorship Movement
- **Ms. Goitseone Lecogo**, Key Accounts Manager: Youth@Work
- **Mr. Errol Freeman**, CEO: Lulalab Foundation
- **Mr. Ronnie Midaka**, CEO: SA Graduate Development Association
- **Mr. Zwelidumile Magano**, Senior Project Manager: Skills and Inclusive Workplaces: National Business Initiative

Moderator: **Ms. Oniah Nkosi**, City of Tshwane



13:00 – 13:45 | Networking Light Lunch

14:00 – 15:00 | Panel 3: Local Experience in SME–Youth Engagement (cont.)

Panel discussion with placement Institutions and SETAs.

- **Mr. Andile Sipengane**, Head: Umngeni Water Services Institute of Learning
- **Mr. Willem Grobler**, MD: Connect Me Youth
- Services SETA (tbc)

Moderator: **Dr. Tebogo Umanah**, CATHSSETA

15:00 – 15:30 | Networking refreshment break

15:30 – 16:30 | Panel 4: SMEs and youth perspective

Panel discussion:

- **Mr. Sakhumzi Maqubela**, MD: Sakhumzi Restaurant
- **Ms Rito Gabeni**, Intern: Rendzo Network
- **Ms Reamogetse Segooa**

Moderator: **Mr. Mzwanele Memani**, Dept of Small Business Development

16:30 – 17:00 | Day 1 wrap up



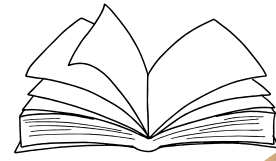
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DAY 2: CRAFTING THE WAY FORWARD



09:20 – 10:00 | Arrival and refreshments

10:00 – 12:00 | Co-Creating the Future

Day 2 is a working session of the Summit. It will start with an Open Mic for participants to share their key takeaways from day 1 and highlight what they believe should have been but was not covered.

Next, the input gathered through the ERRC™ Framework Real-time Insight Boards on day 1 will be used to identify and itemise priority collaborative actions to unlock accelerated SME-youth engagement.

12:00 – 13:00 | Summit Action Plan – Where to from here?

13:00 – 14:00 | Summit Closure and Networking Lunch

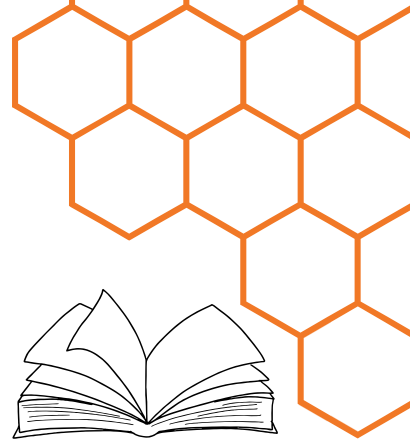


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REAL-TIME INSIGHT BOARDS

The #Mathub'Olusha Summit will use the ERRC™ (Eliminate–Reduce–Raise–Create) framework, a Blue Ocean Strategy¹ framework designed to spark practical, focused, and breakthrough ideas that can transform how South African SMEs engage with youth. The ultimate aim is to co-create a model that enhances ecosystem-wide collaboration to further accelerate SME-youth engagement, building on both existing and potential new efforts. Guided by this framework, the Summit will seek to:

- (a) **E**liminate whatever no longer adds value
- (b) **R**educe what that is overdone or unnecessarily complex
- (c) **R**aise what works but needs to be scaled
- (d) **C**reate what is missing but needed to achieve greater results.

Participant Action:

Please visit each ERRC™ Board around the auditorium and share your ideas by writing on a sticky note and posting it on the relevant quadrant labelled as below. You can contribute based on your experience as a SETA or other youth placement funder, a higher education or other youth placement institution, an SME, or a youth organisation. [Attendees joining virtually will participate in the exercise via Mentimeter].

Please be bold and specific.

[1] Based on “Blue Ocean Strategy: How to Create Uncontested Market Space and Make the Competition Irrelevant” by W. Chan Kim and Renee Mauborgne, 2005.

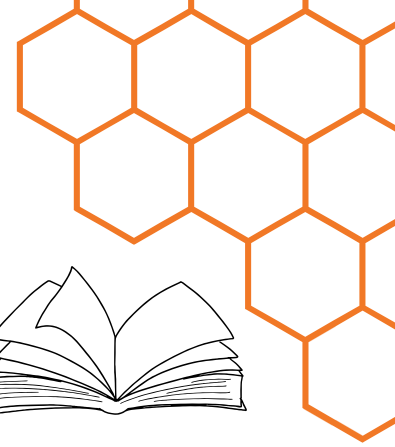


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What should we **Eliminate / Reduce [INHIBITORS]** / **Raise / Create [ENABLERS]** to make SMEs a more potent launchpad for youth? Focus on: (a) **Policy-level** ideas, **programme-level** suggestions, and **mindset shifts**.

<p>ELIMINATE</p> <p>What should we eliminate? What policies, practices, assumptions, or systems are outdated, block meaningful SME-youth engagement, or frustrate both youth and SMEs?</p>	<p>RAISE</p> <p>What should we raise? What is already working well and needs to be enhanced, scaled up, expanded or invested in further? Where does untapped value currently exist?</p>
<p>REDUCE</p> <p>What should we reduce? What processes are unnecessarily complex, too costly or resource-heavy, result in duplication and inefficiency? What costs SMEs too much to participate? What can be simplified or scaled down?</p>	<p>CREATE</p> <p>What should we create? What is missing that could make SME-youth engagement thrive? What new ideas, platforms, or partnerships could unlock greater youth access to SMEs? What bold ideas or actions could unlock scale?</p>

All ideas will be captured, thematically grouped, and used to inform Day 2 breakout sessions, and ultimately feed into the final Summit Action Plan.

Partners:



Associates:

