Marketing and Communication
Private Bag X1106, Sovenga, 0727, South Africa
Tel: (015) 268 2121/3210, Email: mosela.selepe@ul.ac.za URL: www.ul.ac.za

Media Invitation 01 July 2026

UNIVERSITY OF LIMPOPO SHOWCASES IMPACT OF R5 MILLION KGODISO DEVELOPMENT FUND INVESTMENT ON EDUCATION, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

Members of the media are invited to attend a strategic stakeholder engagement between the University of Limpopo (UL) and the Board of the Kgodiso Development Fund (KDF), which will provide an opportunity to showcase the impact of a landmark R5-million investment aimed at advancing education, research and agricultural development in Limpopo Province.

The funding supports the University of Limpopo's Enhanced Bursary and Farmer Development Initiative. The programme seeks to address skills shortages in agriculture, strengthen smallholder farming and generate locally relevant research that contributes to sustainable food systems and economic development.

Guided by its mission of Finding Solutions for Africa, the University of Limpopo continues to leverage strategic partnerships to create meaningful social impact through three interconnected pillars:

- Expanding access to higher education through bursaries that will support 25 final-year BSc Agricultural Science students and five postgraduate students;
- Strengthening rural livelihoods and food security through an eight-month capacity-building programme for 50 smallholder potato farmers across Limpopo Province; and
- Promoting research and innovation that generates practical solutions to support agricultural productivity and inform policy and practice.

Implemented under the leadership of Professor Victor Mmbengwa of the School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, the initiative reflects the University's commitment to community engagement, sustainable development and the transformation of rural economies.

KDF Board Chairperson Setlakalane Molepo says this partnership reflects Kgodiso Development Fund's commitment to building a more inclusive and resilient South African food system. “By investing in both future agricultural talent and smallholder farmers, we are creating opportunities for young people, strengthening farming communities and supporting sustainable growth across the agricultural value chain,” he adds

The visit by the KDF Board forms part of an ongoing stakeholder engagement and progress review process and underscores the value of partnerships in driving inclusive growth and creating opportunities for communities. The programme will include a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Jeffrey Mabelebele, followed by engagements with project implementers and stakeholders responsible for delivering the initiative.

Members of the media are invited to cover this important occasion and gain insight into how strategic investment in education, agricultural development and research is changing lives and empowering communities across Limpopo and beyond.

Event Details
Date: Wednesday, 08 July 2026
Time: 09h00
Venue: University of Limpopo, Turfloop Campus, Polokwane

Media RSVP and enquiries Mr Johannes Selepe
Publications Manager
Tel: 015 268 3210/ 082 882 581
Email: mosela.selepe@ul.ac.za
Department of Marketing and Communication
University of Limpopo

Ms Asa Skiti
Spokesperson
Marketing and Communication
Kgodiso Development Fund: asadumodwa.skiti.contractor@pepsico.com

About University of Limpopo

The University of Limpopo (UL), established in 1959 as a college, has evolved into one of Africa's most innovative universities, offering competitive and industry-relevant qualificationsIts Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) is designed to respond to the developmental needs of communities while reflecting academic excellence and innovation.

The University comprises four faculties and serves a student population of over 24,000, including both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

About Kgodiso Development Fund

Kgodiso Development Fund (KDF) was established in 2020 as part of PepsiCo South Africa's Public Interest Commitments following its acquisition of Pioneer Foods. With an initial investment of R600 million, the Fund drives inclusive economic growth by supporting the development of black farmers and small and medium enterprises across South Africa's agricultural value chain.

Through strategic partnerships, capacity development programmes, catalytic investments and market access initiatives, KDF works to strengthen the sustainability, competitiveness and resilience of black-owned agricultural enterprises. By fostering innovation, collaboration and inclusive participation in the food system, the Fund aims to contribute meaningfully to South Africa's agricultural transformation while creating lasting economic opportunities.

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