

2026 Western Cape Economy Innovation Awards- Milani Education NPC Nomination

Introduction

Milani Education is a free of charge digital learning platform providing CAPS-aligned supplementary learning resources to high school learners across South Africa.

The platform was established in 2021 and utilises technology to bridge the educational divide within South Africa's schooling system and create a tangible impact on young people's lives.

Founded by a then 15-year-old learner herself, Milani was created in response to the recognition that access to quality academic support is often determined by financial means rather than academic potential.

Milani bridges this gap by providing structured, curriculum-aligned academic support that is freely accessible to all learners, regardless of socioeconomic background or geographical location.

Since inception, Milani Education has grown into a scalable digital platform with an expanding footprint in the Western Cape, representing a youth-led innovation focused on strengthening long-term educational and economic outcomes.

The platform is created for students by a student, with the vision of inspiring hope of a brighter future for the youth of today!

The Problem

The Western Cape (along with South Africa in general) faces persistent challenges in the education sector including under-resourced schools, overcrowded classrooms and unequal access to supplementary academic support.

These barriers directly affect workforce readiness and economic inclusion. Without accessible reinforcement, learners fall behind academically, limiting their progression to tertiary education and employment. Educational inequality therefore translates into economic inequality.

The Solution through innovation

Milani Education is a free, CAPS-aligned supplementary learning platform designed to:

- Provide reliable, structured academic support across high school subjects
- Support learners in under-resourced schools
- Strengthen academic foundations in key subjects

Subjects currently available include Mathematics, Maths Literacy, Maths Literacy (Afrikaans), English Home Language, English First Additional Language and History.

Learning Resources available to students include

- Video lessons
- Links to relevant resources
- PDF worksheets and past papers
- Exam preparation summaries and tips
- Interactive quizzes and multiple-choice questionnaires

Since June 2024, the platform has recorded over 8800 learning sessions, with 2135 sessions coming from the Western Cape (based on Zoho PageSense analytics).

Milani operates through partnerships with various schools and organisations and has collaborated with numerous qualified teachers and subject specialists to develop carefully curated content.

Scale of beneficial Impact on the Western Cape Economy

Milani Education already has recorded over 2000 learning sessions in the Western Cape and has recently partnered closely with The Pebbles Project – a non-profit organisation based in the Western Cape that provides after school learning centres located on partnering farms, allowing a safe space for children to receive academic support when they return from school each day while their parents are still at work. The programme is offered in several regions including Stellenbosch, Somerset West, Citrusdal, and Grabouw.

Milani recently launched its Afrikaans Maths Literacy programme in collaboration with The Pebbles Project at a learning centre in Stellenbosch. This initiative addresses language accessibility and subject-specific performance barriers within the province.

Further plans are in place for additional Afrikaans based content and subjects in the near future.

Through an innovative development, Milani's new curated skills-based learning approach uses interactive quizzes and multiple-choice questionnaires, and together with the launch of a new additional platform feature, "Gradebook" allows formalised performance and progress tracking.

By strengthening competency in gateway subjects, Milani supports:

- Improved matric outcomes & increased progression to tertiary education
- Enhanced employability
- Greater long-term economic growth and investment in the Western Cape

Milani Education contributes to the Western Cape economy by strengthening educational outcomes that directly influence long-term economic participation and workforce readiness.

Number of Businesses and Employees Benefiting

Milani's impact extends beyond individual learners.

Direct Beneficiaries

- Learners in less resourced schools
- Schools and educational centres
- Partner NGOs
- Educators and teachers using Milani supplementary resources

Indirect Beneficiaries

- Employers requiring skilled future workers
- Corporate partners aligned to education-focused CSR initiatives
- Communities dependent on improved educational mobility
- The broader Western Cape economy

By reducing educational exclusion and improving learning outcomes, Milani strengthens long-term employability and economic participation among learners who might otherwise remain marginalised.

Recognition & Credibility

Milani Education NPC has received public recognition of credibility and impact through sustainable success, which includes:

- Membership with the Cape Chamber of Commerce
- Nomination as a News 24 Young Mandela 2025
- Various media interviews
- Coverage on Newsroom Afrika
- EDHE Awards through the University of Stellenbosch

(Peer recognition and public credibility can be accessed on the various links attached to our nomination email)

Conclusion

Milani Education represents a youth-driven, scalable and economically relevant innovation helping to address educational inequality in the Western Cape.

Milani is not merely an education platform; it is a sustainable economic inclusion mechanism contributing to a stronger and more equitable Western Cape economy.