

Please complete this nomination form accurately, completely but succinctly.

1. Contact details

Nominator (Person)	Nominating Organisation	Signature	Date	e-mail address
Abraham Oliver	University of the Western Cape		25/02/2026	aoliver@uwc.ac.za

Nominated Person	Nominated Organisation	Sub-sector one of the following: Private Sector or Academia or Public Sector or Non-Profit	Cell phone number	e-mail address
Manie Regal	UWC	Academia	0822023188/ 0822007052	mregal@uwc.ac.za

2. Short description

+100-word description of what the innovation / solution is and who needs to be recognised for which parts of the solution.

(e.g., new service /product /solution /regulation /infrastructure /institutional capacity)

Transformation of unused Post Office into a Community Trading Post / Community Trading Incubator. Township entrepreneurs face risk on daily basis- gang violence, extortion -pay gangsters money to operate, lack of technology and absence of eco-system support. To make matters worse the clientele of community entrepreneurs is not prepared to come to their place of operations due to risk of theft and safety.

We need to be intentional to provide innovative and practical pathways for community entrepreneurs to industry networks, new markets, affordable infrastructure but more importantly pathway to personal growth, hope and acknowledgement.

The launch of the trading incubator on 8 October 2024 the first of its kind connected to a university and blue-chip company. The University of the Western Cape & Sanlam joined hands to breathe life into term inclusive economy. This was start of entrepreneurial experience for 10 township entrepreneurs. Allow me to cite example of one of Hub MSME's -A self-taught fashion designer who launched his brand, Truth Gexa Designs, in 2019, growing it from a bedroom - to become a winner of Athenkosi Gexa, founder of Truth Gexa Designs, was the 1st prize winner at the 2024 Bellville Business Expo to International Exposure at B20 in Nov 2025. Our innovation is focused on the human capital aspect. We believe that the character and calibre of people will be building blocks for vibrant township economy. The secondary innovation is connecting ecosystem partners who proverbially position them as the giants on whose township MSME's can take a moment to breathe in a safe environment and see a future for them beyond their immediate dark circumstances.

How do you leapfrog from a community-based operation to a CBD marketplace? The sustainability of any business is built on the premise of a strong network and the promise of access to the market. Community businesses lack the necessary network connections to leverage trade opportunities in the CBD. We believe that the UWC Sanlam Trading Incubator can become a replicable blueprint beyond perimeters of Bellville.

Paul Hanratty, CEO of Sanlam, says, "SMMEs are vital to driving sustainable job creation in South Africa. Through the Incubator, we are not only providing township businesses with access to markets but also contributing to the future growth of our economy."

Manie Regal, UWC's executive director of finance, adds: "This incubator is not just about boosting small businesses; it's about creating a path to economic empowerment for marginalized communities

3. Detailed description

Please answers all the questions (a) to (j) below, and place answers in the prescribed place as indicated in the table below (to construct a results chain):

- a. What is the target business group/s that this innovation serves and improves?
- b. How many of these target businesses have already utilised this new solution?
- c. How did these businesses access and receive the new solution?
- d. What did this new solution help these businesses become better at?
- e. How did this help to improve their business performance? *Increased sales, lower costs, increased investment, increased employment, increased exports?*
- f. What exactly is this new innovative solution?
- g. What makes it new, compared what existed before? (Novelty in the WC economy)
- h. What makes it better than what existed before?
- i. How is/was the new solution made available to the target market / business group?
- j. What will ensure that the financial viability / sustainability of providing the innovative solution and the beneficial consequences remain intact over this period? *E.g. profitable business with enduring competitive advantage in the market.* What is the expected longevity of this this solution? *E.g. 5yrs, 10 yrs, 10+ years*

Output: A new catalytic innovation established, serves the WC economy	Outcome: Improved business environment (for the target business group)	Impact: Which target group of businesses benefitted & what improved for them	Longevity: Duration of benefits
<p>f. The solution is the UWC Trading Incubator, a structured business support platform combining: Physical trading spaces, shared resources (storage space, boardroom, access to WIFI and laptops), Mentorship and business coaching and Networking opportunities and exposure to potential customers and investors.</p> <p>g. Prior to the Incubator, entrepreneurs had limited Market access and access to affordable retail space. It also combines trading infrastructure with business development services through mentoring and coaching.</p> <p>h. Leveraging of like-minded partners and eco-system partners making their expertise and resources to reduce the runway to financial sustainability</p>	<p>i. Formal applications to join the Incubator and information sessions and 80 step diagnostic assessment. Township MSME's must be formally registered and in good standing with SARS</p> <p>c. Applied to be part of the Incubator program via an application and interview process</p>	<p>a. Township & Community Based MSME's- 100% Black-owned EME- Level 1 BBEE South African Black - Owned MSMEs</p> <p>b. 10 Businesses in total</p> <p>d. Training & Business Development Support, Market Access, Networking and collaboration with peers and industry mentors.</p> <p>e. Increased Sales, Increased employment, Increased exports and Lower costs - saving on rental costs & Personal Development (Confidence, Opportunity Identification, Entrepreneurial Action & Entrepreneurial Mindset, Pitching Skills)</p>	<p>j. Partnerships and sponsorships with external stakeholders to fund mentorship and infrastructure.</p> <p>Access to a new unexplored and stable market</p> <p>MSMEs being able to get their message out to the market for distribution and sales</p> <p>Training & support to an online portal</p> <p>Access to TVET interns</p>

After completing the table, read from left to right. Check for coherence and improve if needed.

4. Declaration of Evidence to verify results chain

What supporting evidence can you provide to verify the results stated above are as stated?

	Output: A new catalytic innovation established, serves the WC economy	Outcome: Improved business environment (for the target business group)	Impact: Which target group of businesses benefitted & what improved for them	Longevity: Duration of benefits
What evidence can be provided? e.g. Records, reports, peer reviews, and so forth	How to leverage and connect an existing Eco-System in an innovative and practical approach	Conducive environment to trade Accessible and affordable Network Growth Opportunities Access to HR resources	Focus is on Human capital Investment. MSME from Phillip East Feedback "I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to Sanlam for granting us the priceless opportunity to exhibit at the B20 Summit South Africa. Being part of such a prestigious platform was truly an honour, and the experience is one I will carry with me for the rest of my life. It was not only enriching, but deeply inspiring. Your support gave us the chance to showcase our work to a global audience and opened doors to meaningful conversations, new relationships, and future possibilities. I am truly grateful for the trust and confidence you placed in us, and for the exposure this opportunity has created."	Our 2 nd year of operation

5. Select the best category of award for this innovation

Sector	Award	Mark with "X"
Private Sector	6 x Catalytic innovations that contribute to growth.	
Public Sector	1 x Provincial- or National-government systemic innovation most impactful on economic growth	
Public Sector	1 x Municipal (LM+DM) innovation that is impactful on growth of their local economy	
Public Sector	1 x Public-sector innovation, enhancing good governance.	
Safety & Security	1 x Innovation enhancing precinct safety & security.	
Labour Market	1 x Labour market efficacy award Reducing impediments to increased employment.	
Academia	1 x Research most impactful on competitiveness of Industry	
Academia	1 x Tertiary education best aligned to Industry / market needs	
Academia	1 x Most successful start-up / spin out	

Academia	1 x Entrepreneurship development in higher education	x
Industry Sector Bodies	1 x Institution/s strengthening stakeholder cooperation to enhance competitiveness of their Industry.	
Organised Business	1 x Institution/s strengthening stakeholder cooperation to enhance competitiveness of their business precincts.	

6. Check that you completed all that is necessary.

7. Submit this documented and/or video recorded to innovation@capechamber.co.za.

Thank you for helping us discover and celebrate the champions shaping a better WC economy!