



The Cape Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Cape Higher Education Consortium

WESTERN CAPE ECONOMY INNOVATION AWARDS NOMINATION FORM 2026

Please complete this nomination form accurately, completely, but succinctly.

1. Contact details

Nominator (Person)	Nominating Organisation	Signature	Date	e-mail address
Neeshia Ambalavanam	Small Business Academy (Stellenbosch Buss School)			neeshia@stellenboschbusiness.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
PINKIE USWAZI HLENGISA	LusPin Manufacturers CC	Private Sector & NPO	0826953809	pinkie.luswazi@gmail.com

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)

LusPin Manufacturers CC presents a dual impact solution that intergrates garment manufacturing with skills development to address unemployment in underserved communities. Through LusPin manufacturers, Stitch to Stitch NPo and the collaboration with learners we produce high quality apparel while equipping unemployed women,youth and single parent entrepreneurs with practical entrepreneurial skills.This innovation helps people move from learning to earning,creating jobs and enabling small business start-ups within the clothing value chain and other sectors.
Recognition should be given to Pinkie Luswazi-Hlengisa for developing and leading the solution,partners and mentors for their Technical support and guidance,and the production team
A key strenght of the solution is the intentional exposure to the Small Business Academy and other institutions which supports enterprise formalisation and business growth.

3. Detailed description

Please answer 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).

For instance, the answer to question (a) should be written in the third column next to (a).

- 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 to what existed before? (Novelty in 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 an enduring competitive advantage in the market.* What is the expected longevity of 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. <small>The innovation is a dual impact programme. It combines general manufacturing skills with skills and enterprise development to create a positive culture that leads to real production which learning brings in: general construction, productivity, quality and customer responsiveness, and the skills are applied in a working situation.</small></p> <p>g. <small>A strength of the programme is the intentional exposure to the small business market, which equips and inspires beneficiaries to explore the inclusion of business as development programming for the emerging sector. Participants are then encouraged to collaborate and work together within a CMT hub, creating a more efficient, supportive, and sustainable way of building small businesses.</small></p> <p>h. <small>The model is new because it combines training with real production, productivity systems, and technical skills while also providing intentional exposure to high level business development. Skills are not only taught but empowers participants to grow, formalize their businesses and undergo further development in platforms like SBA, Thandeka college CDT etc. Participants are then encouraged to collaborate and work together within a CMT hub, creating a more efficient, supportive, and sustainable way of building small businesses.</small></p> <p>It goes beyond training by unlocking business transformatio, equipping participants not only with skills, but with confidence, self mastery, mindset and formal structures that position them for a long term success.</p>	<p>The solution is delivered through a working production hub, training programmes and strategic institutions Luspin intentionally approaches and facilitates encouraging access to the Small Business Academy as a critical growth pathway, and also access to the clothing Textile cluster affiliated to the Thandeka college for Productivity and quality and other uplifting programmes. We also facilitate a once off sessions for Self Mastery as well.</p> <p>C.</p> <p>People join the solution through church and community programmes, recommendations from others, former learners refer others, social media and our partners. A key strength of the solution is the intentional exposure to the Small Business Academy (Stellenbosch Business School), where participants gain business knowledge, confidence, and support to formalize their businesses. At the same time, the team is currently attending skills development at Thandeka College (sponsored by CICT), which is strengthening productivity and quality in CMT production. This is helping some to move from informal work into structured and credible businesses.</p>	<p>The solution serves the emerging businesses, informal traders and start-up fashion entrepreneurs, particularly unemployed women, youth and single parent entrepreneurship in the community.</p> <p>a.</p> <p>To date 50+ individuals and micro enterprises are benefiting, with some grouping themselves (currently working with Sefda in cooperation training and a growing number is transitioning into formal registered enterprises through structured business exposure programmes.</p> <p>b.</p> <p>It has improved and is improving their ability to produce quality garments, applying productivity systems, collaborate within a CMT hub, and most importantly, think and operate as a formal business owners. Luspin is also currently doing ISO 9000 through SEFDA.</p> <p>d.</p> <p>The solution is increasing income opportunities, improving productivity and quality, and enabling the formation of co-operatives among participants. Luspin is actively referring entrepreneurs to the Small Business School, supporting the ongoing formalisation of businesses and unlocking growth opportunities. At the same time, the team is participating in skills development at Thandeka College, facilitated by the CICT. This intentional exposure is enhancing productivity, strengthening quality standards building technical capacity while driving sustainability, business growth and job creation.</p> <p>e.</p>	<p>j.</p> <p>Sustainability is strengthened through production income which we are intending to increase, productivity improvements from Thandeka College, enterprise formalisation through the Small Business Academy, and increased job creation through the CMT model. Luspin is also implementing ISO 9000 systems, enhancing operational efficiency, quality standards and readiness for tender opportunities as well. The model has strong potential for 10+ years of scalable impact and job creation.</p>

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

4. Declaration of Evidence to verify the results chain

What supporting evidence can you provide to verify that 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				

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	
	1 x Local & District Municipal innovation that is impactful on growth of their local economy	
	1 x Public-sector innovation, enhancing good governance	
Safety & Security	1 x Innovation enhancing safety & security	
Labour Market	1 x Labour market efficacy award Reducing impediments to increased employment	
Academia	1 x Research the most impactful on competitiveness of Industry	
	1 x Tertiary education best aligned to Industry / market needs	
	1 x Most successful start-up / spin-out	
	1 x Entrepreneurship development in higher education	X
Industry Sector Bodies	1 x Institution/s strengthening stakeholder cooperation to enhance competitiveness of their Industry	X
Organised Business	1 x Institution/s strengthening stakeholder cooperation to enhance competitiveness of their business precincts	X

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!