

Mtazi Agricultural



“I feel that there are many more opportunities coming our way” – Zwelethini Lushaba

Zwelethini Lushaba and Nonjabulo Thwala run a small-scale farming operation in the rural Wagendrift area outside Piet Retief. Despite having little education and being from an area with few opportunities, the hard-working couple have built a sustainable farming business that supports their family of nine.

Financial support and business coaching from Mondzi Zimele has played an instrumental role in this family’s business venture.

Subsistence farming has been a way of life for Zwelethini and Nonjabulo for the past 20 years. Cows, chickens and goats roam the homestead and various crops including maize, tomatoes, cabbage, spinach and onions are planted on their nine-hectare plot of land.

Their farming operations were hampered by a lack of transport, cattle and goats trampling their crops and a lack of irrigation for the dry seasons.

Formalising the business

In 2016 they made a giant leap forward when Mondzi Zimele helped them register their company, Mtazi Agricultural. Formalising the business opened up new markets and opportunities.

Today Mtazi Agricultural employs three people and supplies vegetables to Mondzi’s Food For Forests programme as well as informal local markets.

“Now that we are registered and I’ve attended Buhle Academy, I feel that there are more opportunities coming our way,” said Zwelethini. “We are fencing off more land and want to expand our business into the Dumbe market soon.”



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Mondzi Zimele provided a low-interest loan for essential equipment, including irrigation and fencing, to get the farming operation more productive.

MZ provided financial management training and sent Zwelethini on a poultry and vegetable farming course at Buhle Academy. TWK and the Department of Agriculture also provided support.

“They are hard working entrepreneurs and we will continue to support them wherever we can,” commented Mondzi Zimele extension officer Sikhumbuza Khoza.

