



MKI in collaboration with Accenture launched Jozini Digital Innovation Centre

On the 20th of September 2022, Moses Kotane Institute launched a Digital Innovation Centre in the Ndumo area, Jozini. This Digital Innovation Centre is one of the nine Digital centres within the province of KwaZulu Natal, and it will provide key services to entrepreneurs and innovators to establish themselves as well as serve the local population. The centre was the product of a fruitful partnership with Accenture, a global professional services company that aims to provide innovation and research support to communities and entrepreneurs. The opening of the centre was officiated by Jozini Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr. Mfananaye Ncanana, Izinduna and local Councilors.

This centre is unique in its structure as it is situated near a farm of 500 hectares owned by the local farmers, a packaging facility for farmers of which all these developments are supplied by a solar power station of 55 Kilowatts which serves as an alternative when there's a power outage during load-shedding. As stated above, the centre will offer entrepreneurial training, and innovation support and grant community members access to ICT services. This is done with assistance from trained facilitators employed by Moses Kotane Institute. The centre is composed of a computer lab, which consists of workstations connected to the internet, a rest area for patrons and a helpdesk for patrons to get assistance whenever they encounter difficulties. These premises are conducive to learning and are well-structured, and nearby to Mahlabeni Primary School so pupils from the school can visit the centre for their school projects.

As the launch of this facility was officiated by Jozini Local Municipality Mayor, and, Traditional leadership, the programme was filled with insightful presentations from all relevant stakeholders. A warm welcome from Induna, Mr. Tembe, and a token of appreciation as a community was delivered, Mr. Mthembu from Mnothopansi Farmers briefed the audience about the challenges they encounter in marketing their harvests, he continues to state they thank the solar power supply as it will minimize the cost of electricity to farmers.

The African proverb that states if you want to go fast, go alone but if you want to further go together. This was reiterated by Ms. Khethiwe Nkuna, Executive: Business Responsive at Accenture who thanked MKI for partnering with Accenture and confirmed that much can be achieved if this partnership continues.

MKI's Research and Innovation Manager Dr Xolani Ngema addressed the audience about the vision, mission, and mandate of the MKI, he also shared the services of MKI. Dr Ngema went on further to state that "we are excited to offer this centre to the community of iNdumo and want to take this opportunity to thank the community for working so well with us thus far and coming together in making this initiative a success." After this insightful presentation Jozini Local

Municipality, Mayor Cllr. Ncanana cut the ribbon and the centre was officially opened and the community can benefit from the services offered.

MKI is committed to fulfilling its mandate and thus promotes its vision and mission statements through engaging in projects like this which undoubtedly will bring a huge impact to Jozini Community.