

Indigenous Knowledge-Based Technology Innovation INVESTMENT SUMMIT

2-4 June 2026 | Birchwood Hotel &
OR Tambo Conference Centre, Gauteng

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PROGRAMME

DAY ONE – 2 June 2026

Official opening, Small business theme and Pitching session

Time	Activity	Venue
07:30 – 09:00	Registration and Walkabout for Minister and Guests	Registration in front of Terminal A
09:00 – 09:45	Opening Plenary Session: Welcome Address and Keynote Speech Programme Director: Ms Samke Mhlongo, Founder – Next Chapter Global • Welcome Address: Dr Kenny Tenza, Acting Deputy Director General (DDG): Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) • Keynote Speech by the Minister: Honourable Prof Blade Nzimande	Terminal A
09:45 – 10:15	Why Invest in the IK-Based Technology Innovation Sector? Professor Rasigan Maharajh, Prof. Public Affairs: Tshwane University of Technology (TUT)	Terminal A
10:15 – 11:00	Response speeches by the Hosting Partners • Dr Joe Molete , Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC): Student Life, Transformation, People and Culture, North-West University (NWU) • Mr Victor Kgomoewana , Executive Director: Marketing and Communication, University of Limpopo (UL) • Prof Fulufhelo Netswera , DVC: Research and Post-graduate Studies, University of Venda (UNIVEN) • Dr Bangani Jeffrey Mpangalasane , Chief Executive Officer (CEO): The Innovation Hub (TIH) • Prof Nnenesi Kgabi , Chairperson: National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF)	Terminal A
11:00 – 11:30	Tea/coffee Break (30 Minutes)	



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THE INNOVATION HUB
Innovation Catalyst for Gauteng City Region
A subsidiary of the Gauteng Growth and Development Agency





Time	Activity	Venue
11:30 – 13:00	SMMEs and Entrepreneurship-Focused Research, Development and Innovation Facilitator: Dr Joe Molete, DVC, NWU • Ms Retang Phaahla: Setsong • Mr Prince Msomi: Prijap • Ms Mirl Cunningham: Honeybush • Ms Joyce Rwexwana: I-Brand Respondents: • Mr Rendani Tshishivhiri: Small Enterprises Development and Finance Agency (SEDFA) • Mr Zakheni Ngubo: Innovation and Research Commercialisation Agency (IRCA)	Terminal A
12:55 – 13:00	Announcements: • Venue for lunch • How pitching sessions will work after lunch	Terminal A
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break (60 minutes)	Serengeti
14:00 – 16:00	Pitching sessions, Programme Director: Dr Phuti Chelopo-Mgobozi, TIH	
Parallel-sessions	Pitching session A Facilitator: Dr Takalani Dzaga, UNIVEN Evaluation Panel Members • Dr Michael Magondo: Wouldn't it be Cool (WIBC) • Dr Edwell Gumbo: Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) • Prof Oladapo Aremu: NWU	Terminal A
	Pitching session B Facilitator: Dr Lele Moroole, NWU Evaluation Panel Members: • Ms Ofentse Nobela: South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) • Mr Masibonge Silevu: Department of Eastern Cape Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (ECEDEAT) • Mr Seth Galetuke: Thuni Farms	Terminal B
	Pitching session C Facilitator: Ms Tsakani Nyoni, UNIVEN Evaluation Panel Members: • Dr Mongezi Mbangcolo: Eastern Cape Development of Agriculture (ECDA) • Mr Themba Maduna: Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DLRRD) • Mr Zakheni Ngubo: IRCA • Prof Makhotsa Lekhooa: NWU	Sophia Room, International Building
16:00 – 16:15	Tea/coffee Break (15 Minutes)	
16:15 – 17:00	Day 1 Closing Session Facilitator: Prof Vhonani Olive Netshandama, UNIVEN • Report and response/s to student and MSMEs Pitching sessions: Dr Chelopo-Mgobozi, TIH Vote of thanks: Prof Vhonani Olive Netshandama, UNIVEN	Terminal A

DAY TWO – 3 June 2026

Pivoting the NSI through IK-Based Innovation and Interface Programmes

Government policies, strategies and enabling; Innovations in Medicine, Nutraceuticals and Cosmeceutical industries; Digital technologies

Time	Activity	Venue
09:00 – 09:10	Plenary: Welcome Recap and Plan for Day 2: Mr Ben Durham, Chief Director, Bio-Innovation (DSTI)	Terminal A (all sessions on Day 2)



Time	Activity	Venue
09:10 – 10:40	Policies and Strategies for an IK-Based Innovation Sector Facilitator: Mr Victor Kgomoewana, UL Panel Members: • Mr Ben Durham: DSTI • Dr Kaizer Thembo: South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) • Dr Daphney Mayindi-Bosch: DLRRD • Ms Nontombi Maseko: Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic) • Dr Rakeshnie Ramoutar-Prieschl: University of Pretoria (UP) • Mr Garth Strachan: The Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa Ltd (IDC)	
10:40 – 11:10	Tea/coffee Break (30 Minutes)	
11:10 – 12:45 (1 hr, 35 min) Parallel sessions	Interface: Growing the Nutraceuticals and Health Infusions Industries through IK-Based Innovations Facilitator: Dr Ncebakazi Galada, iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu (iWS) Panel Members: • Prof Ashwell Ndhlela: UL • Dr Nomusa Dlamini: CSIR • Dr Salmina Mosehle: University of Mpumalanga (UMP) • Dr Solomon Mabapa: UNIVEN • Prof Olaniyi A Fawole: University of Johannesburg (UJ) • Dr Cecilia Bester: Agricultural Research Council (ARC) • Prof Tafadzwanashe Mabhaudhi: UN University	Terminal A
	Interface: Growing Health and Well-Being Industries through IK-Based Innovations Facilitator: Dr Rakeshnie Ramoutar-Prieschl, UP Panel Members: • Prof Nceba Gqaleni: University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) • Prof Motlalepula Matsabisa: University of the Free State (UFS) • Prof Namrita Lall: UP • Mrs Phatheka Ndzotoyi: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) • Prof Makhoto Lekhooa: NWU • Dr Meshack Mofokeng: ARC • Dr Dashnie Naidoo-Maharaj: ARC	Terminal B
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch Break (60 minutes)	
13:45 – 14:50 (1 hr, 5 min) Parallel sessions	Strategies for Scaling and Industrialising IK-Based Innovation Sector Facilitator: Dr Hlupheka Chabalala, DSTI Panel Members: • Prof Kgabo Moganedi: UL • Prof Moses Azong Cho: CSIR • Dr Lutendo Mathomu: UNIVEN • Prof Vukosi Marivate: UP and Lelapa AI • Prof Vinesh Maharaj: UP • Prof Abram Madiehe: University of the Western Cape (UWC)	Terminal B
	Private Sector Dialogue: Lessons about Scaling – Equity and Co-Investments Facilitator: Ms Amanda Gcabashe, Olintshi Panel Members: • Dr Zithobile Toyo: Tiger Brands • Dr Deepark Maharajh: UVU Bio • Dr Michael Magondo: Wouldn't it be Cool (WIBC) • Mr Seth Galetuke: Thuni Farms	Terminal B



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Time	Activity	Venue
14:50 – 15:55	Catalytic Regulatory Systems for Manufacturing and Commercialisation	Terminal A
1 hr, 5 min	Facilitator: Ms Nontombi Maseko, the dtic	
Parallel sessions	Panel Members: • Mr Zakheni Ngubo: IRCA • Ms Thembi Kheswa: Reputation and Sustainability Wired Group (Pty) Ltd • Mr Seth Galetuke: Thuni Farms • Ms Nosipho Boo: DEDEA	
	Financial Opportunities for Entrepreneurs	Terminal B
	Facilitator: Dr Ncebakazi Galada, iWS	
	Panel Members: • Ms Monique Atougua: Nature Finance • Ms Tandokazi Quma-Moyo: TIA • Mr Nkosinathi Dlamini: SEDFA • Ms Siphwe Sibanda: Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) • Ms Takalani Ramuthaga: the dtic • Mr Cebo Mayekiso: KaiConnect	
16:00 – 16:30	Closing session for Day Two	Terminal A
18:00 – 22:00	Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony	OR Tambo



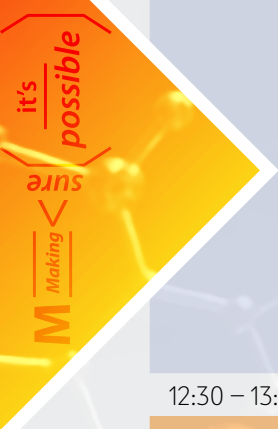
DAY THREE – 4 June 2026

Investment Strategy for Sovereign IK-Based RDI, Enterprise Development and Industrialisation

09:00 – 09:10	Plenary: Welcome – Dr Hlupheka Chabalala, DSTI	Terminal A
09:10 – 10:10	Towards a Sovereign African Knowledge-Based Funding Strategies Facilitator: Dr Hlupheka Chabalala, DSTI • Ms Tandokazi Quma-Moyo: TIA • Mr Katleho Ralehoko: NRF • Ms Nontombi Maseko: the dtic	Terminal A
10:10 – 10:30	High Level Summary: Dr Andile Grootboom	Terminal A
10:30 – 11:00	Tea/coffee break (30 Minutes)	
11:00 – 12:30	Closing Plenary Session Facilitator: Dr Hlupheka Chabalala Responses by International Collaborators: • Chinese Embassy • SADC Secretariat: Mr Reaboka Morakabi Response by Student and Youth Representatives Response by IPLCs and SMMEs Representatives Response by Partner Organisations: • Prof Fulufhelo Netswera: UNIVEN • Dr Bonginkosi Dladlama: UL • Prof Thebe Medupe: NWU • Ms Jansie Niehaus: NSTF • Ms Ntombi Radebe: TIH	Terminal A
12:30 – 13:00	Closing Remarks: Deputy Minister – Honourable Dr Nomalungelo Gina (DSTI)	Terminal A
13:15 – 14:00	Lunch (45 Minutes)	Serengeti



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