

Mbulelo Sikade takes the crown

A general agricultural worker from Diemersfontein Wine Estate outside Wellington became the fourth winner of Agri's got Talent competition, when he bowled over judges and won the hearts of fans at the gala event that was held in Paarl on Friday night.



Sikade who earlier in the competition said he could not believe that he made to the top ten, on Friday night said he felt amazing. "I was almost crying when I heard I was in the top ten. It was straight from God."

Sikade faced stiff competition from the ten other finalists in what is described as agriculture's *Idols*. The talented Afri-rapper from Panorama Farms in Tulbagh, Jason Baartman, was second and Jason Tiras, also from Diemersfontein Estate, was third.

VinPro Foundation CEO, Unathi Mantshongo, said that agriculture is fortunate to work with multi-talented individuals. "Agri's got Talent is a platform that celebrates these talents but more importantly for us this project brings people together from all walks of life in support of each other. This theme resonates with what the VinPro Foundation stands for as we are continuously investing in an inclusive industry built on the capabilities of talented people."

HORTGRO executive director, Anton Rabe, said that he is always at a loss of words when he sees the talented individuals in the agricultural sector. "They get up on stage and sing with confidence as if they have been doing it for years. I get goose bumps every year when I attend Agri's got Talent. It is with events such as these that we wish to illustrate the multi-dimensional facets and diversity of agriculture – it is clearly not just about products, production and processing, but about people."

The 2005 South African *Idols* winner and guest performer Karin Kortje, who was also one of the judges, said to the finalists that if music is in their hearts they must never give up. "I was an apple packer from Grabouw, but I believed that music was my calling. Never give up on your dreams." The other judges included musical star Sima Mashazi, actor Maurice Paige and vocal coach Eurica Scholtz.

The singing competition's Top 10 underwent a week of intensive singing and stage training led by local artists Frieda van den Heever and Hein Poole. Petra Nel from PROCARE was the group's life skills facilitator.

Agri's got Talent is the foremost singing competition in the agricultural industry and is a joint project between HORTGRO, the VinPro Foundation and the Western Cape Department of Agriculture.

The aim of the competition is to give talented farm, pack shed and cellar workers in the fruit and wine industries the opportunity to develop their singing talent. The winner received a cash prize, clothes and will in future perform at agricultural events.

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Mbulelo Sikade sing kroon los

Mbulelo Sikade, 'n algemene landbouwerker van Diemersfontein Landgoed buite Wellington, het Vrydagaand die vierde wenner van Agri's got Talent geword, toe hy die beoordelaars en ondersteuners se harte verower het met sy towerstem en lewendige verhoogpersoonlikheid tydens 'n glansgeleentheid in die Paarl.



Sikade wat vroeër nie kon glo dat hy die Top 10 gehaal het nie, was Vrydagaand oorstelp met vreugde. "Ek het amper begin huil toe ek gehoor het ek is in die Top 10. Hierdie is van God."

Sikade moes Vrydagaand uithaal en wys na stywe mededinging van tien ander talentvolle finaliste in 'n kompetisie wat beskryf word as landbou se *Idols*. Die briljante Afrikaanse rymkletsers van Panorama-landgoed by Tulbagh, Jason Baartman, was in die tweede plek, terwyl Jason Tiras, ook van Diemersfontein derde was.

Unathi Mantshongo, uitvoerende hoof van die VinPro Stigting, het gesê die landbousektor is gelukkig om soveel talentvolle individue te hê. "Agri's got Talent is 'n platform wat talent vier, maar wat meer belangrik is is dat dit mense van verskillende groepe saambring om mekaar te ondersteun. Dit is 'n tema wat sterk met die VinPro Stigting resoneer omdat ons hard daaraan werk om 'n inklusiewe bedryf te bou met ruimte vir almal se talente."

Anton Rabe, HORTGRO se uitvoerende direkteur, het gesê dat hy telkens verstom staan oor die wonderlike talente wat landbou werkers het en die mate van self vertroue waarmee hulle optree. "Dit is asof hulle dit al jare lank doen. Ek kry elke keer hoendervleis en 'n knop in die keel as ek hierdie geleentheid beleef." Volgens Rabe is dit geleentheid soos Agri's got Talent wat die multi-dimensionele aard van die landboubedryf illustreer. "Die vrugtebedryf gaan nie net oor produkte, produksie en prosessering nie, maar dit gaan oor mense."

Die 2005 *Idols* wenner en gaskunstenaar Karin Kortje, wat ook een van die beoordelaars was, het aan die finaliste gesê dat as musiek in hulle harte is, hulle nooit moet opgee nie. "Ek was 'n appelpakker van Grabouw, maar ek het geglo dat musiek my geroep het. Moet nooit opgee op julle drome nie." Die ander beoordelaars was die sangster, Sima Mashazi, die akteur, Maurice Paige, en die stemkunstenaar Eurica Scholtz.

Die Top 10 finaliste het 'n intensiewe opleidingsweek onder die ervare hande van die bekende kunstenaars, Frieda van den Heever en Hein Poole, agter die rug. Petra Nel van PROCARE was hul lewensvaardigheids-afrigter. Agri's got Talent is die voorste sangkompetisie in die landboubedryf en word gesamentlik deur HORTGRO, die VinPro Stigting en die Wes-Kaapse Departement van Landbou, aangebied. Hierdie jaarlikse kompetisie bied aan talentvolle plaas-, pakhuis- en kelderwerkers in die vrugte- en wynbedryf die geleentheid om groot pryse te wen en hul sangtalent te ontwikkel.

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Onderskrif:

VLNR: Die Afrikaanse rymkletser Jason Baartman van Panorama Farms in Tulbagh was tweede. Mbulelo Sikade (in die middel) van Diemersfontein in Wellington dra die Agri's got Talent 2017-kroon en Jason Tiras (ook van Diemersfontein) was in die derde plek.

Caption:

From left: Afri-rapper Jason Baartman from Panorama Farms Tulbagh was in the second place, Mbulelo Sikade (middle) from Diemersfontein Estate in Wellington takes the crown and Jason Tiras also from Diemersfontein was third.