

Press release

August 2019

NONKULULEKO SAMBO WINS AGRI'S GOT TALENT 2019



An agricultural worker in the citrus industry from KMI Farming in Nelspruit, Nonkululeko Sambo, walked away with the Agri's Got Talent (AGT) 2019 crown in what was described as the toughest competition yet.

Magdaleen Philander from Nonna Estate in Worcester was second, and Zenobia Pietersen from Marianne Wine Estate, near Stellenbosch, was third.

Eight days ago Sambo, who has never flown in an aircraft before, boarded a flight to Cape Town to join nine other talented agricultural workers to prepare for the gala evening final that was held at the Lord Charles Hotel in Somerset West on Friday night.

It was the first time that the Citrus Growers' Association (CGA) joined the competition as a sponsor.

Earlier Justin Chadwick, CEO of CGA had the following to say as to why they joined the project: "For many years I have observed the growth of Agri's Got Talent, and witnessed the obvious joy and inclusivity that the competition brings. Farm workers are a treasured part of the agricultural family, and recognition of their talents and contribution through Agri's Got Talent is appropriate. When CGA was approached to get involved we jumped at the opportunity – to join a well-polished, professional initiative like Agri's Got Talent is a chance in a lifetime – now let's see the talent in the citrus industry shine through."

And the talent shone through. Sambo won the judges and the crowd over with her version of the Leonard Cohen song, Hallelujah.

Sambo who started as a general worker on a citrus farm worked her way up to complete an agricultural diploma and is currently an intern at KMI Farming.

"I didn't really have big singing dreams, but it was my friends and family who encouraged me to enter. So I took a chance," an overwhelmed Sambo said.

She won a cash prize of R5000, clothing, make-up and life-skills and voice training, as well as a recording contract worth R15 000 from Wynand Breedt, owner of Traxtudio in Worcester.

This was the sixth year that this very popular competition, the only one of its kind, was held.

Agri's Got Talent is a social-upliftment project sponsored by Hortgro, the VinPro Foundation, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, the South African Table Grape Industry, and the Citrus Growers' Association.



Persverklaring

Augustus 2019

NONKULULEKO SAMBO GEKROON AS AGRI'S GOT TALENT 2019 WENNER



'n Jong landbouwerker van KMI Farming in Nelspruit, Nonkululeko Sambo, het vanjaar die gesogte Agri's Got Talent (AGT) 2019 kroon gewen. Die beoordelaars het die kompetisie as uiters straf beskryf.

Magdaleen Philander van Nonna Estate, Worcester, was tweede en Zenobia Pietersen, van Marianne Wine Estate, buite Stellenbosch, derde.

Sambo wat nog nooit gevlieg het nie, het agt dae gelede op 'n vliegtuig na Kaapstad geklim, om saam met nege ander talentvolle landbouwerkers voor te berei vir die gala-aand wat Vrydagaand by die Lord Charles-hotel op Somerset-Wes gehou is.

Vanjaar was die eerste keer dat die Sitrusprodusentevereniging (SPV) as borg by die kompetisie aangesluit het.

Justin Chadwick, hoof uitvoerende beampte van SPV, het vroeër die volgende gesê oor waarom hulle by die projek aangesluit het: "Vir baie jare het ons die groei van Agri's Got Talent dopgehou en die ooglopende vreugde en inklusiwiteit wat die kompetisie meebring, gesien. Plaaswerkers is 'n gekoesterde deel van ons landboufamilie. Derhalwe skep Agri's Got Talent die ruimte om hul talent op 'n toepaslike wyse te ontwikkel. Toe SPV genader is om betrokke te raak, het ons die geleentheid aangegryp - om by 'n professionele inisiatief soos Agri's Got Talent aan te sluit. Dit is 'n kans in 'n leeftyd - laat ons nou sien dat die talent in die sitrusbedryf deurskyn."

En die talent het verseker geskyn. Sambo het met haar weergawe van die Leonard Cohen liedjie, Hallelujah, die beoordelaars en gehoor se voete onder hulle uitgeslaan.

Sy het haar loopbaan as 'n algemene landbouwerker begin, waarna sy 'n landboudiploma voltooi het. Sy werk tans as 'n intern by KMI Farming buite Nelspruit. "Ek het nooit regtig groot sangdrome gehad nie, dit was my vriende en familie wat my aangemoedig het om in te skryf. Ek het die kans gevat en hier is ek nou," het 'n oorstelpte Sambo gesê.

Sy wen 'n kontantprys van R5000, klere en grimering, asook 'n lewensvaardighede- en sangopleidingspakket. Daarbenewens het sy 'n musiek kontrak ter waarde van R15 000 van Wynand Breedt eienaar van Traxtudio op Worcester losgeslaan.

Vanjaar was die sesde jaar wat hierdie uiters gewilde kompetisie gehou is. Agri's Got Talent is 'n sosiale-opheffingsprojek vir landbouwerkers en word geborg deur HORTGRO, die Sitrus Produsente Vereniging, die VinPro Stigting, die Suid-Afrikaanse Tafeldruif Vereniging en die Wes-Kaapse Departement van Landbou.





Caption: The fabulously talented Nonkululeko Sambo from KMI Farming, Nelspruit, who now wears the crown as the winner of Agri's Got Talent 2019.

Onderskrif: Die uiters talentvolle Nonkululeko Sambo van KMI Farming, buite Nelspruit, wat Agri's Got Talent 2019 gewen het.



Caption: Hortgro Executive Director, Anton Rabe, and Valencia Watts from SATI, handed over the trophy and prizes to Nonkululeko Sambo (middle) from KMI Farming, Nelspruit.

Onderskrif: Hortgro se uitvoerende hoof, Anton Rabe, en Valencia Watts van SATI oorhandig hier die prysgeld en trofee aan Nonkululeko Sambo, Agri's Got Talent 2019 wenner.