



MUT STUDENTS ARE DOING IT FOR themselves

– with a little help from Dr Sakhile Ngcobo

Back in 2019, more than 60 aspiring student entrepreneurs had the rare privilege of learning from and being mentored by a seasoned executive with extensive experience in the mining, rail, maritime and agricultural sectors. It was during MUT's 40-year anniversary celebrations and Dr Ngcobo had come back to his *alma mater* more than 20 years after his graduation to share his expertise with the next generation.

Dr Ngcobo ran a full-day masterclass on entrepreneurship as his way of giving back to an institution that had shaped and given him a very strong foundation in agriculture. As he shared memories of his time on campus, the students could not believe that a man with such an impressive business resumé had once been a student and spent time in the same lecture halls and dining halls as them. They were only convinced when Dr Ngcobo pulled out his archives and shared retro pictures of himself and his friends on field trips and at MUT

parties – and then they were truly inspired to go after their entrepreneurship dreams!

This masterclass class conducted by Dr Ngcobo two years ago sharpened the skills of students to become more innovative when designing their project plans and drawing up their business proposals. This has resulted in many student entrepreneurs competing successfully in the Department of Higher Education and Training's Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) programme.