

For Immediate Release: Panel debate to explore the workings of social innovation in SA

Cape Town, 6th July - The developmental gaps faced by South Africa today can be effectively addressed through social innovation.

However, in order for social innovation to thrive, all sectors of the South Africa's economy – private companies, government departments and non-governmental organisations – are required to collaborate in order to create an enabling eco-system.

The Innovation Edge, a social fund that identifies and supports bold ideas in early learning, will host a panel discussion on the 21st July in Cape Town, with the goal of identifying the components of an enabling eco-system for social innovation.

“An enabling eco-system is one that provides a fertile ground for the seeds of ideas to take hold, survive the first vulnerable stages of tentative growth and to flourish across the development landscape,” says Sonja Giese, programme leader at the Innovation Edge.

“The Innovation Edge aims to play a part in creating this enabling eco-system and hope to engage with other sectors on ways to work together to achieve this, ” added Giese.

The panel will be made up of the following:

- Lesley Williams, founder and managing director of Impact Hub Johannesburg.
- Ayla Goksel, CEO of Ozyegin Social Investments
- Phindile Tshabangu, Enterprise Innovation Network at the Economic Development Partnership.
- Maija De Rijk-Uys, head of the PwC Accelerator South Africa
- David Harrisson, CEO of D G Murray Trust

The discussion will be moderated by U-Start founder and Cactus Advisors' Zachariah George.

To attend the event, RSVP to Ezlyn Barends on ezlyn@dgmt.co.za

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Notes to Editors:

The Innovation Edge is a project of Ilifa Labantwana, a national programme, initiated and supported by a donor partnership, which aims to provide implementation evidence, build national capacity and galvanise informed political support for the provision of early childhood development services at scale, focusing on the poorest 40% of children under six.

www.innovationedge.co.za

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