

Citrus shines in AGRI'S GOT TALENT 2019

Nonkululeko Sambo, an agricultural worker from the citrus farm KMI Farming, in Nelspruit, 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 came second, and **Zenobia Pietersen** from Marianne Wine Estate, near Stellenbosch, third.

Having never flown before, Sambo boarded a flight to Cape Town to join nine other talented agricultural workers in preparation for the gala evening final. The event was held at the Lord Charles Hotel in Somerset West, on 2 August 2019.

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 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



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

well-polished, professional initiative like Agri's Got Talent is a chance of a lifetime. Now let's see the talent in the citrus industry shine through."

And shine, it did. Sambo won over the judges and the crowd with her version of the Leonard Cohen song, "Hallelujah"

She started out 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 R5 000, 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 popular competition was held, the only one of its kind in the industry.

The AGT project, which promotes social upliftment for agricultural workers, is sponsored by Hortgro, the VinPro Foundation, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, the South African Table Grape Industry, and the Citrus Growers' Association.



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