**Thabani Mkhize**

Mr. Thabani Mkhize is an experienced executive with over 10 years public sector experience in Public Policy, Strategic Management and Monitoring & Evaluation. He is currently acting as Chief Director: Business Support Services in the KZN Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. He is the Director: Integrated Planning, Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation in the Department. He has previously worked for the KZN Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs as Deputy Director: M&E. He started his professional career as a Policy Analyst in the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs.

He holds three qualifications, a BA in Media and Communications Degree, Bachelor of Social Science Honours and Masters in Policy and Development Studies all from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg Campus. Whilst at UKZN, he served as Sports Editor for the NUX student newspapers as well as Secretary General of the Golden Key Honour Society for the PMB Chapter.

He is a member of the Board of Directors for Built Environment Support Group (BESG) since 2017, a founder and Editor-in-Chief of the youth digital publication, Enterprise Exposure Magazine and Young Professional’s League, a NPO of professionals that mentors students in high schools and universities.

He participated in the New School of Research University (New York) and IDASA’s Democracy & Diversity Summer Institute (2009) as part of the Top 40 Young Global Scholars. He is a fellow and scholarship recipient of the Public Policy Partnership (PPP) South Africa and a 2016 Semi-Finalist- Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) / Mandela Washington Fellowship.