

**LIVE WEBINAR - 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 (13H00 – 14H30)**

**Theme: “Social Start-up for Sustainable Impact: The UNEAKO Approach to Environmental and Social Change”**



Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund and UNEAKO hosted a successful webinar, opening the minds of young EmaSwati about various business opportunities under the green economy.

The webinar took place on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024, leading the presentation was YERF CEO Mandla Nkambule, and the Guest Speakers Er. Atul Tripathi and Er. Ankit Tripathi, the co-founders of UNEAKO.

Uneako, an Indian based social enterprise, is committed to promoting environmental awareness and developing innovative eco-friendly solutions to address the Global Goals - **SDG8, SDG12, and SDG13.**



By equipping young entrepreneurs with the necessary knowledge and skills to create sustainable products, Uneako believes that it can inspire creativity and contribute to reducing waste, thus fostering a greener future for all.

YERF and Uneako both share the same vision of leveraging repurposed waste materials to create new products that not only have economic value but also help in reducing the amount of waste going to landfills. By repurposing waste materials, these social enterprises are not only addressing **SDG12 (responsible consumption and production)** but are also creating job opportunities and livelihoods for individuals in need.

Through their innovative solutions and commitment to environmental sustainability, companies like Uneako are playing a critical role in achieving the Global Goals set by the

United Nations. By actively engaging in sustainable practices and promoting environmental awareness, these companies are setting an example for others to follow in the pursuit of a more sustainable and greener future for all.

The speakers were excited to link up and share their entrepreneurial journey with the youth participants. Coming from humble beginnings, with a burning desire of saving the planet, recycling waste products to beautiful ready to sell branded products, comprising of both office ware and home ware was a highlight in their presentation. Ankit Tripathi, *'Our project started as a simple concept when we realized a piling heap of garbage a kilometre away from our residence. Seeing the rising climate change and environmental threats caused by non-biodegradable waste materials we envisioned and came up with a project which could see waste as raw material that could be transformed into re-usable products. Our business plan is long-term'*.

Their mission is centred around impact and sustainability. The participants were mesmerised by this idea and the fact that it is possible to establish a business using waste materials, recycling, and producing re-usable products.

During the webinar, YERF CEO, expressed delight and hope 'We are thankful to our guest speakers and attendants for making this presentation a success. We hope our young aspiring entrepreneurs would take advantage of such opportunities and start their own enterprises'

Indeed, YERF will host UNEAKO in Eswatini in January 2025. The aim is to train and equip young emaSwati interested in eco-friendly businesses. Details on the workshop will be disclosed soon. **Stay tuned for more information on this exciting event!**

### Products produced from waste material by UNEAKO!



### Comments by participants:

1. *'In the meantime, guys sanibonani. Looking for ways to incorporate such models in Eswatini will be quite interesting. I'm excited for the future'* – Luyanda Nxumalo
2. *"We would love to be involved in the process of creating such products. Just checked your website, job well done there!..... so that our youth can be equipped and be able to learn this new skill, and because here in Eswatini there are no job opportunities the youth can earn a living through this"* - Ms Temavulane Motsa
3. *'Are there specific strategies that Uneako can have in place to engage and empower local youth in the production and distribution of sustainable products here in Eswatini? Are there already any examples you have where you are distributing your products?'* – Allan-Ilyod Junior Hamusokwe
4. *'Thank you Uneako for such a presentation. Take away: observation. Eswatini need to have such products. My question is — How many machines are needed for one to start such a business. & How much are the machine for making such amazing products.'* - Paul Nkambule