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IPPS Southern African Region  
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South Africa

To whom it may concern

Student Exchange Nomination

It is with pleasure that I hereby nominate Mr. Mpendulo Gabayi for the Australian Student Exchange. He came to Kirstenbosch as a qualified horticulturist seeking experience on the Groen Sebenza programme. His words during his interview for the position was "I just wish someone would give me a chance to prove what I can do", were never said more true.

I've not met another young horticulturist with such a passion for learning and an inquiring mind. He wants to know everything, experience everything and tries to apply his knowledge to all he does. He expects no-one to promote him, but tenaciously seeks opportunities himself to learn, upgrade his skills and apply his mind with new gained knowledge.

He has proved to be of an unusual calibre and left a lasting impression with me and I can see the value of his driven interest and willingness to work hard.

Mpendulo is well spoken, has a quick mind, grasps information swiftly and efficiently completes tasks – often exceeding expectations. Along with effectively completing complex tasks, he also takes initiative and additionally gives innovative suggestions. He is self-motivated and works very well independently.

During his exposure on this Groen Sebenza programme, he was required to present formal PowerPoint presentations, and he did so thorough professionalism.

I feel he, and his future career in the horticultural industry, would greatly benefit through expanding his view of the global industry. This young man shows much promise and will be an asset to the South African industry in future.

Kind regards

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## **Mpendulo Gabayi**

### **IPPS student exchange**

As a young boy growing in the small village of Mtata in Eastern Cape, I was mostly exposed in vegetable farming; sawing, ploughing, harvesting and daily skoffling (weeding) was a norm in our family. I developed a love for plants in general and I never noticed until I started my high school career, when I was introduced to Horticulture in standard 8 during a visit to the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden and other gardens, parks and nature reserves around Cape Town.

The IPPS student exchange program would shape and mould me to become a stronger individual and also can challenge me in a way that I as a young horticulturist have possibly limited myself. I would like to explore, gather and learn about other ways of plant production specifically propagation systems and techniques along with other horticultural techniques that are used in the horticulture industry in Australia, also the garden landscapes. I would like to get more exposure for personal growth because this opportunity could afford me exposure to different techniques and methods which differ from country to country. These techniques and methods will also advance my career as I would apply the learnt experiences throughout my career as a horticulturist.

I would share and pass the knowledge to other South African horticulturist and most importantly would like to use that knowledge to better South African horticultural production and systems, and surely improve my work skills.

I have never been out of the country before and this could be my only chance that could open doors for other opportunities in my career outside South Africa.