

**NAME OF FIRM:** OABS Development Pty Ltd  
**NAME OF STAFF:** Halalisiwe Msimango  
**PROFESSION:** Agriculturist (crop production)  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** 15 March 1986  
**NATIONALITY:** South African

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## QUALIFICATIONS

2009 Bachelor of Agriculture Plant production, University of Stellenbosch.  
2013 Project Administration Certificate, University of Cape Town.  
2014 Agricultural Leadership Development Programme Certificate, University of Pretoria.  
2016 Honours Degree: Agricultural Extension, University of Pretoria.  
2019 Hydroponics Vegetable Production certificate, Agodirwe Agri-training and Mentoring Services.  
2020 Poultry Production Certificate, Agricultural research Council.  
2020 Results-Based Project management: monitoring and Evaluation certificate, University of the Witwatersrand.

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## EXPERIENCE

Halalisiwe Msimango is a female Agriculturist with a variety of experience in the Agricultural field. She held various positions in the agricultural fraternity over the past 11 years thereby giving a wide range of skills and understanding of different areas. She started her professional career as a project coordinator at Casidra. Her duties included to liaise with beneficiaries, compile a budget and budget control, negotiate with suppliers and contractors to obtain project resources, compilation of business plans, project administration. Halalisiwe joined Agri Mega Group as a managing director at Agri Mega Empowerment Solutions where she implemented CASP projects for department of agriculture Western Cape. The commodities contracted to Agri Mega Empowerment solutions were: Sheep and wool, dairy and grain projects. She also managed training division as well as consultants.

When Agri Mega Non-profit expanded their footprint to the northern part of South Africa Halalisiwe became the director for all agricultural services within the group. The responsibilities of this position included to develop new business strategies that will attract funder both nationally and internationally; provide technical assistance to the four agricultural divisions within the group of companies namely projects services, incubation projects, farmer support services and OVM farming; obtain and implement projects from different commodity organizations; Liaise with different government departments; identify potential joint ventures. And report writing to all Government Departments, sponsors, donors, and board of directors.

She then joined Hortgro as a project manager for Deciduous Fruit Producers Trust. The trust received funding from the Jobs Fund to commercialise 23 black owned businesses within the deciduous fruit industry. As such her responsibilities towards the programme were to assist the programme in achieving its objectives which were broadly as follows: to strengthen the capabilities of agricultural sector's role players to comply with increasingly strict private and public standards; to support private sector organisations and commodity associations in strengthening their ability to plan and implement strategies/initiatives geared towards market access. This involved the support of existing industry initiatives such as expansion of existing production units, market development and ethical trade awareness in the fruit. She supported commercial and smallholder farmers to comply with the proliferating standards and sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

Halalisiwe went on to become an Operations and Technical Manager at Wouldn't Be Cool (WIBC), a black owned idea shaping company. WIBC is a business ideation and open innovation hub that promote entrepreneurship among youth. WIBC implemented the first rooftop garden rooftop garden programme in South Africa. Halalisiwe was responsible for to bring various support necessary to commercialise smallholder farmers through hydroponics roof top food production. Hydroponic and aquaponics is new in the South African agricultural space. She was responsible for the development of hydroponics and aquaponics businesses, entrepreneurial skills development, market access as well as mentorship. She further worked for Urban Agriculture Initiative as a technical consultant for hydroponics projects.