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|  | **Innocent Lephaswa Rakubu** Innocent.rakubu@up.ac.za: +27 79 096 4234 |

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| **Personal Information**  |

Surname : Rakubu

Name : Innocent Lephaswa

Date of Birth : 1996-10-06

Identity No : 9610065891084

Gender : Male

Race : African

Nationality : South African

Home language : Sepedi

Other languages : English, and Tshi-Venda

Criminal Record : No

Marital status : Single

License : Yes (code 10)

Residential address : Stan number 478/308

 Tembisa, Difateng

 Secretary street

 1632

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| **Personal Statement**  |

I am a candidate who is self-motivated and strive for excellence. Self-discipline, trust, loyalty, and endurance are my strongest qualities that I have depended on over the years. Critical thinking is a tool that I employ in completing every task, which in turn motivate me to be efficient.

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| **Personal values**  |

* Hard work and teamwork
* Focused minded
* Consistency and enthusiasm
* Honesty and reliability
* Loyalty and dependable
* Open to learning

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| **Awards**  |

**Vice Chancellor’s Awards 2016 University of Venda**

**Vice Chancellor’s Awards 2018 University of Venda**

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| **Education**  |

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| **Start – finish dates** | **Name of institution** | **Qualification** | **Area of specialization** |
| February 2021 – Present | University of Pretoria | Masters of Science In Entomology | Entomology |
| January 2016 – November 2019 | University of Venda | Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (BSCHRN) | Agricultural Biotechnology, Entrepreneurship, Physiology of Horticultural crops, Olericulture, Agricultural Entomology, Weed science, Tropical, Subtropical and Nuts trees production, etc. |
| January 2015 – November 2015 | Fedile high school | National senior certificate | Mathematics, Physical sciences, Life sciences, and Geography. |

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| **Research Experience**  |

In my honours’ project I was investigating the effects of two farming systems, namely vertical farming and horizontal farming on production of onions (*Allium cepa* var texas grano 502 PRR). In horizontal farming, the onions were planted horizontally on the floor in a sawdust. In the vertical farming, the onions were planted on maize meal bags (50 KG) filled with sawdust. Fifty holes per bag were made so that onions can be planted. The onion were irrigated with water that was mixed with soluble fertilizers. The main results observed from the research is that, in vertical faming, high number of onions can be planted per unit area. The water moved from top to the bottom side of the bags because sawdust has poor water holding capacity. As a result, onions planted at the lower side of the bags had taller leaves and bigger bulbs than the onions planted on the upper side. In the horizontal farming, low number of onions were planted per unit area and onions had tall leaves and bigger bulbs because water distribution was equal throughout the surface.

Entomopathogenic nematodes (EPNs) of the families Steinernematidae and Heterorhabditidae have been used as the biological control agents of many important insect pests in agriculture. In my current MSc project, I am investigating the insecticidal potential of entomopathogenic nematodes on pupae of *Gonipterus* sp. 2. Despite the availability of the biological control agent such as the egg-parasitoid, *anaphes nitens*¸ *Gonipterus* sp. 2 continues to cause significant damage on commercial eucalyptus trees. My MSc project, therefore, aims to test virulence of local EPNs species on pupae of *Gonipterus* sp. 2.

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| **Work Experience**  |

**Tutoring** **February 2019 – November 2019**

I served as a tutor in the School of Agriculture under the Department of Horticultural Science.

**General Farm worker January 2019 – February 2019**

I spent six weeks working as a general farm worker at Tshatala farm in Musina, Venda. Here I learned how to install drip irrigation system, prepare land, apply basic fertilisers, plant tomatoes, harvests and package butternuts, sweetcorn, and sweet melons.

**CPHB Intern March 2020 – February 2021**

I spent one year working as an intern at FABI under the CPHB internship programme, University of Pretoria. Here I learned about how to write scientific reports, conduct a research project, rear insect such as eucalyptus snout beetle, collect field data, and to operate various scientific tools such as Polymerase chain reaction machine and microscope.

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| **References** |

**Ms Fhatuwani Thovhogi (Honours co-supervisor)**

Lecturer

Horticultural Sciences

University of Venda

Fhatuwani.Thovhogi@univen.ac.za

**Ms Samantha Bush (Internship project supervisor)**

Research assistant

Zoology and Entomology

University of Pretoria

samantha.bush@fabi.up.ac.za

**Prof. Brett Hurley (Masters supervisor)**

Associate Professor

Zoology and Entomology

University of Pretoria

brett.hurley@fabi.up.ac.za