



**Sunday World** **UNSUNG**  
**HEROES**  
**CELEBRATING YOUTH 2022**



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

**MTN** **Pulse**







INTRODUCING



with your hosts, Uncle Waffles and Robot Boii.

Bag a

**PAID INTERNSHIP**

and other opportunities with the dopest in the game

For more info, turn to page 13.

***What are we doing today?***

**Dial**

**\*411#**

**WhatsApp**

**Y'ello to 083 123 0011**

**Download**



MTN App



# FOREWORD FROM EDITOR: SALUTING OUR INNOVATIVE YOUTH

This is our second chapter of the Sunday World Unsung Heroes Awards – a campaign this newspaper launched in June last year in recognition and celebration of our country's youth. Sunday World Unsung Heroes is dedicated to saluting young people who continuously pursue their goals with vigour and row against the tide to change lives.

They perpetually work for change in their daily lives at the time when political systems seem to be conspiring against them.

Among a myriad challenges South Africa is confronted with today is the youth that is despondent, losing hope about their personal and collective destiny. These are young people who

are facing uncertainties as political systems struggle and fail to absorb them into the mainstream economy.

Poverty is draining their determination. They struggle to handle social, political, and economic complexities and frustrations of current times. They hardly feel the benefits which were supposed to come with freedom, the very freedom which was inspired and piloted by the generation of June 1976.

We are faced with a grave societal problem where young people have decided to adopt an indifferent attitude to themselves and their future. This hampers what is supposed to be their personal commitment and involvement to soar beyond current social barriers and impediments.

To many of them, these barricades appear impossible to overcome. The road ahead is too foggy. It renders their ability to row past stormy frontiers impossible to think about and not worth pursuing. They ask themselves why political and other systems appear to be conspiring against them at a time when they have acquired education that is supposed to steer them to a better life for themselves and their families. They see the systems to be full of noble promises and connotations, yet signifying nothing of value in practical terms.

However, amid this sense of despair and hopelessness, there are millions of others who never give up. They succeed in achieving what many think is impossible to realise in their lifetime. These are the Unsung Heroes and Heroines whose remarkable journeys are told in this special supplement.

We celebrate and salute their innovative minds and lack of fear to venturing into

unknown terrains. They demonstrate an extraordinary sense of "Innovation in Tackling Tomorrow's Challenges Today".

Their stories are inspiring. Like that of Dr Decent Mkhombo – one of the unsung pathfinders who became the youngest medical student in the country when he enrolled for a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery at only 15 years old at the University of Limpopo in 2016.

Dr Mkhombo tells a story of how he literally spent all his teen years at varsity and how challenging it was to be in a new environment at that age. And yet, with a great sense of determination and majestic vigour, Mkhombo soared beyond what many among his peers believed could not be done.

Dr Mkhombo's inspiring journey is similar to many others splashed across this supplement today. They include a story of young Thulile Khanyile, an award-winning academic in the sciences, whose goal, she says, is to show African girls that they are the face and future of science and technology.

We are truly humbled to honour these exceptional young men and women of our nation today. Their different life accounts are a true source of inspiration and inspire confidence in the ability of young people to make South Africa a great nation.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to all the sponsors whose generosity and belief in youth innovation ensured that the Unsung Heroes project is realised. These sponsors include MTN (title sponsor) as well as the Central University of Technology, Presidential Climate Commission, Department of Agriculture Land Reforms and Rural Development, the Free State Department of Education, Department of Forestry Fisheries and Environment, Department of Tourism, National Lotteries Commission, National Youth Development Agency, SA National Roads Agency, TELKOM, Thabo Mphelo Films and the University of Limpopo.



EDITOR: WALLY MBHELE

Photo by Bongiwe Mchunu

## AMAZING STORIES OF

## PERSISTENCE & INNOVATION

Once again this year the South African public responded with enthusiasm in nominating youngsters who punch above their weight in various spheres of life. All of them are united by a desire to engineer change or simply excel in their fields, thereby setting a powerful example to others. They are all seeking solutions. It's an absolute joy to read about their various paths to success.

As you will read in the pages, you will notice that some of the stories can be situated in one of the biggest tragedies of our time – the outbreak of coronavirus (Covid-19). While the pandemic has been crippling in many ways, some of our young heroes launched their initiatives despite it or because of it. Sharon Moatshe launched Sharon's Café in Woodstock, Cape Town, despite the national lockdown. The business is still going strong. Lebohlang Nyandeni launched his coffee business, LebzCafe, at round the same time. Keketso Reneta Mokgothu, from Odendaalsrus in the Free State, invented Motswako honey and turmeric booster to solve the health challenges that came with the Covid-19 headwinds. Mapula

Legodi inadvertently started a new skipping rope enterprise after creating a skipping challenge online during those uncertain times of the mandated lockdown. These are just a few inspiring stories. You will see the rest in these pages.

While it's been a pleasure compiling these stories, we experienced sorrow at the beginning of this project when Diketso Setho, one of the young heroes we had profiled suddenly passed away after a short illness. He was a talented programmer and innovative thinker from Ivory Park, Ekurhuleni. We salute his spirit and hope that the work he started will go on (see page 9).

Around that time we were also grieving the passing away of one of our writers, the highly respected Phindile Xaba. She was a seasoned hand in journalism who deeply cared about empowering others, particularly young people. She was a beloved colleague, sister and friend. She will be forever missed. We dedicate this supplement to her.

Phakama Mbonambi  
Project Editor

Sunday World **UNSUNG HEROES**  
CELEBRATING YOUTH 2022

**100+**  
**UNSUNG HEROES**  
**FROM AROUND**  
**SOUTH AFRICA**

We kindly request you to start nominating your candidates for Sunday World Heroic Women. Nomination details can be found inside this supplement. See page 14.

## CREDITS

Editor  
Wally Mbhele

Project Editor  
Phakama Mbonambi

Project Manager  
Anastacia Martin

Content Producers  
Xolani Shezi  
Khangale Makhado  
Siza Mtimkulu Seheri  
Phumla Mkize  
Phakama Mbonambi

Researcher  
Coceka Magubeni

Web developer  
Siyabonga Majola

Digital Manager  
Anastacia Martin

Pictures Editor  
Bongiwe Mchunu

Proofreader  
Mangaliso Mdhlela

Media Sales & Sponsorship  
Anastacia Martin  
Xolo Mpangeva  
Marion Davids

Circulation  
Maphala Makgoba  
Lebogang Motloung

Administrator  
Roslyn Olifant

Public Relations  
Marketing With Meaning  
Marketingwithmeaning@gmail.com

Production  
Russel Benjamin

Design, Layout & Production  
The Ethical Agency  
Theethicalagency.co.za  
@theethicalagency

Video Production  
Thabo Mphelo Films

Advertising and Sponsorship  
Anastacia Martin  
Anastacia@sundayworld.co.za

© Published by Fundudzi  
Media (Pty) Ltd

18 Hume Road, Dunkeld West,  
Johannesburg

Contact us:  
Anastacia Martin  
011 268 6300  
anastacia@sundayworld.co.za

Twitter:  
@SundayWorldZA

Facebook:  
Sunday World

Instagram:  
sundayworldza

LinkedIn:  
Sunday World Newspaper

With thanks to those who made  
Unsung Heroes possible:

Kabelo Khumalo  
Bongani Mdakane  
Lerato Balendran  
Buhle Khumalo  
Tania Challis  
Sandi Krige  
Mandlenkosi Mavengere





NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

**OUR YOUTH. OUR FUTURE.**

## Promoting sustainable livelihoods and resilience of young people for a better tomorrow

In 1994, June 16 was declared as commemoration of National Youth Day in South Africa. This is the day the country reflects on the massacre of school children during the Soweto Uprising of 1976. Each year, June 16 is therefore a day to recognise the struggles of the youth of 76 and celebrate the impact they brought in the liberation of our country. We also take a moment to reflect and honour the resilience of the youth of 1976.

It is estimated that 20,000 students took part in the protests. In remembrance of the events of 16 June 1976, June 16 every year since 1994 is now a public holiday in South Africa, named – The Youth Day.

The year 2022, marks 46 years since the 1976 Student uprising which began in Soweto and spread countrywide, profoundly changed the socio-political landscape in South Africa.

As the NYDA, we understand the challenges that are facing the youth of today. These young people remain resilient against all odds. We continue to foster dialogue session with the youth and enable additional access to opportunities through the partner network of the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention and many other stakeholders. This is our ongoing battle to defeat youth unemployment,

youth landlessness, youth unsafety especially from GBVF and all other crimes, youth drug and alcohol abuse, youth exclusion from ownership and participation in the mainstream economy.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and femicide (F) remains a persistent, widespread problem in our country and excessively impacts on women and children. The Crimes Against Women in South Africa Report by Statistics SA shows that, femicide in SA is five times higher than the global average. It is for this reason that during this Youth Month, we engaged with the young people in an effort to find solutions that will end the GBVF and inequality.

Education and prior work experience play an important role in the labour market. Unfortunately for the youth lack of work experience is a stumbling block that results in them finding it hard to secure employment.

The NYDA has played a key role in empowering young people and creating easy access to the platform through our walk-in centres across the country. NYDA has also played a major role in ensuring a commitment from all partners and to share opportunities onto the network.

The Pathway Management Network affords young people the opportunity to successfully transition into and through the labour market, in a context of unacceptably high youth unemployment. This is done through partnerships with opportunity holders in business, government, and civil society.

Young people are provided with learning and earning opportunities. These include learnerships, internships, jobs, volunteering and youth service positions, free online learning, training programs as well as support and advice on how start their own micro-enterprise.

Furthermore, through the National Youth Service Programme, we seek to coordinate and implement community service activities in all the nine provinces.

**National Youth Service**  
Proud to serve

**NYS AIMS TO:**

- Strengthen service delivery
- Build patriotism
- Promote nation-building
- Foster social cohesion










Most recently the NYDA introduced ERP as another way of enabling faster and easier access to opportunities, services and products. This is how young people can access the portal and register.

# HOW TO REGISTER ON OUR PORTAL





## STEP 1



-  On the NYDA website, click on the NYDA Portal menu item
-  Click on the Register menu item
-  Click on the Youth Enquiry/Registration Button
-  Complete your profile
-  Click Submit

## STEP 2






-  Wait to receive an email from us
-  Once email received, click on invitation button
-  Enter your new password
-  Click Submit

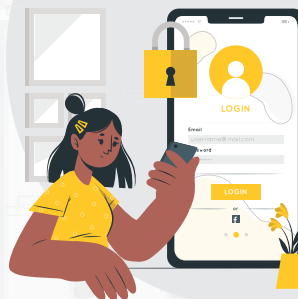
## STEP 3






### APPLY FOR OUR PRODUCTS

-  Once you are logged in, you will have access to all our products and services that you can apply for
-  Choose a product or service and complete your application
-  One of our friendly personnel will keep in touch with you either by email or telephone, so make sure you keep a lookout

## STEP 4



### LOGIN TO THE PORTAL

-  Enter username (email address)
-  Enter Password
-  Click on the sign-in button

## STEP 5



### HOW TO RESET YOUR PASSWORD

- 1** On the login screen, locate and click the "Reset Password" link
- 2** Enter your email address (Please double-check for any mistakes)
- 3** Click on the "Confirm" button
- 4** A confirmation message will appear on the screen that an email has been sent to you.
- 5** Open your email and click on the "Change Password" button
- 6** Capture your new password and click on the "Confirm" button.



The current challenges of the day, require young people to rise to the occasion, raise their hands up and become change makers. These are our 2022 Trailblazers who are community builders, risk takers, job creators, innovators and entrepreneurs.

## TRAILBLAZERS CAMPAIGN 2022



**Kgopotso Pearl Sekwati**

Kgopotso Pearl Sekwati is hardworking young woman who wants to change the lives of young people through her after school project. She is also an author, self published and advocates STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Aviation and Mathematics) by teaching children from a young age coding and robotics.



**Matome Rodden Rakhoma**

Matome Rodden Rakhoma is a trailblazer who has been instrumental in the development of communities in Blouberg Municipality providing social and educational services including building a community library.



**Montjane Mohlomphegi**

Montjane Mohlomphegi offers extra classes for primary and secondary school learners. Through his organisation, Montjane also offers free computer lessons and access to Wi-Fi for learners to do their school researches.



**Lunga Ngcabashe**

Lunga Ngcabashe started his business graduating from varsity. Ploughing back into his community, this young trailblazer teaches kids dramatic arts. Despite starting small, Lunga has been able to change the lives of young people through the arts, won several awards and is celebrated by many in his community of Tsomo in the Eastern Cape.



**Siyanda Khumalo**

Siyanda Khumalo is a young, black and disabled director of a non-profit organisation based in a small township of Glencoe. He is passionate about uplifting the lives of children and youth and the community at large through his charity projects. Siyanda is trailblazer that shows that disability is not inability.



**Farani Tshishonga**

Farani Tshishonga is a former UJ student. Born and bred in Limpopo Province, this young trailblazer turned his home into an entertainment centre which offers access to various activities that include swimming, movies and other fun activities for the kids.



**Avhasei Messie Raphaelani**

Avhasei Messie Raphaelani is a trailblazer who is committed to finding solutions to put an end to gender-based violence against women and children. Furthermore, she continues to help less privileged young people with supply of sanitary towels.



**Thabang Shongwe**

Thabang Shongwe from Backyard Farmers is a job-creator who provides opportunities for youth. He has been able to convert an illegal dumping site into a community park. Thabang's organisation was formed in 2020 to tackle food insecurity, environmental degradation and tourism. Furthermore, Thabang uses his organisation to encourage community members to have their own backyard gardens.



**Edwina Mlondobozi**

Edwina Mlondobozi is the founder of Girls Matter Drive Organisation. This young trailblazer has been driving social change in her community for the past five years. Amongst her many initiatives, Edwina has been able to secure sponsors for wheelchairs for a special school in Limpopo.



**Tankiso Joseph Moremi**

Tankiso Joseph Moremi is a 27-year-old founder of Kasi Hero Foundation from Pimville, Soweto. Despite losing his job due to COVID-19, Tankiso approached a group of other young unemployed people in his community to start a soup kitchen. The soup kitchen runs from Monday to Saturday serving hot meals to over 300 children daily. Tankiso has also been able to secure donations of 25 wheelchairs, 1000 school shoes and blankets for the elderly in need. He has been able to create earning opportunities for 12 young unemployed people who are cooking for kids and receive monthly stipends from a well-known foundation.



**Etienne Basson**

Etienne Basson, an Ida's Valley (Stellenbosch) local and has been working in under resourced & violent communities in the Western Cape for the last 9 years. He has worked for various NGOs during this time focussing on Project Development and Management, Community and Stakeholder Engagement, Environmental Education and Training. The last 2 years he has however shifted his focus towards the start-up and implementation of his own NGOs. In 2020, Etienne founded Envirolove and Ida's Valley Community Trails. Etienne's NGOs aims to advocate environmental stewardship and community ownership of natural resources and natural spaces in marginalized communities and support the sustainable management thereof to provide environmental, economic and social benefits for communities.



**Koketso Fortunate Mathibe**

Koketso Fortunate Mathibe is one amazing young leader who is making a difference in the lives of less privileged children. Through her car wash initiative, Koketso has managed to raise funds to buy school shoes and school uniform for those children in need.



**Phakamani Ndlovu**

Phakamani Ndlovu is passionate about social change, youth and community development. He started his community work at a young age and in 2009 he registered a NPO. Later in 2017, he started Phakamani Empowerment with a focus on social behavior change to educate the young on safer sex practise, circumcision, STI screening and treatment and condom usage, etc. He is also a public speaker who gives motivational talks at schools and TVET colleges.



**Dr Simo Mthethwa**

Dr Simo Mthethwa is the founder and a director of Mthethwamatics movement, a non-profit organization that aims at promoting Mathematics understanding and skills to young people from previous disadvantaged backgrounds. Dr. Simo is passionate promoting a positive Maths culture in South Africa. This is evident as he has been able to find creative ways to enhance interest in Mathematics. Dr Simo also encourages young people to participate in Maths competitions.





**Lehlohonolo Mabaso**

In 2020, Lehlohonolo Mabaso initiated a clean-up campaign in Qwa-Qwa, turning illegal dumping sites into community food gardens and youth business sites into fruits and vegetables markets. This young trailblazer aims to stop climate change by reducing carbon emissions. Food and garden waste from illegal dumping sites is turned into compost which then gets used to growing food that benefit over 113 vulnerable people in his community. Lehlohonolo's Qwakhanda E Ntjha NPC has been able to create employment for 12 people.



**Masonwabe Fuma**

Masonwabe Fuma is a change agent who works hard towards changing the lives of young people and the communities in which they live and operate in. He is a 28-year-old dynamic and innovative youth and community developer, a Multi Award Winning Entrepreneur, Inspirational Speaker, Activist and Leader. As a result of the youth and community development work he does, the exceptional leadership and commitment he has in transforming the lives of young people and communities, he received the 2022 Africa Honorary Award in Community Development at the Africa Top 40 under Forty Awards Ceremony which was held in Accra, Ghana.



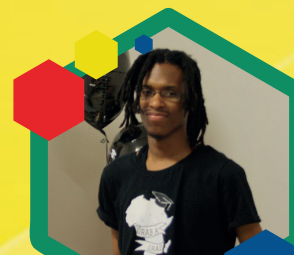
**Dr Paballo Mosala**

Dr Paballo Mosala is a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Cape Town. Her research focuses on repurposing readily available therapeutic drugs to treat and combat helminth infections. This project aims to develop strategies that will improve the quality of life and reduce mortality in developing countries, much like South Africa, with lack of basic sanitation. Dr Mosala received several accolades in her short academic career including Golden Key Honors Award, scholarships from Tiso Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Duncan Baxter Award, Frank Forman Grant, several NRF merits and a full scholarship to attend the prestigious AAI Course in Immunology at University of California, Los Angeles, USA. She was recently named among the Top 50 Inspiring women in STEM 2021.



**Mbongiseni Mngomezulu**

Mbongiseni Mngomezulu is a 28-year-old Social Worker. He is playing a pivotal role in addressing substance abuse in the community of Standerton. He renders outpatient treatment services including individual, group and family therapy as well as runs awareness campaigns on substance abuse where members of the community are educated about the dangers of substances abuse. He also renders voluntary services on Saturdays where he provides capacity building workshops.



**Thando Shabalala**

Thando Shabalala is dedicated to youth empowerment in South Africa. Thando, like many other graduates was unable to find stable employment after he graduated from the University of Cape Town in 2019. Thando, alongside two other co-founders, started GrabAGrad in December 2020, a company that helps unemployed graduates use skills developed at college and university to create real and practical solutions. Since its launch, GrabAGrad has provided basic training to 65 graduates, provided advanced training and placement on contracts at GrabAGrad to 28 graduates and integrated 12 graduates into their core team.



**Cwenga Katlego Koyana**

Cwenga Katlego Koyana is an outstanding trailblazer and was honoured with the UCT Inspirational Graduate award for her recent endeavours at the 2022 UNESCO & Women@Dior Conference in Paris, France. Cwenga also represented South Africa and Africa at the conference where her initiative, Talitha Together, won the Dream for Change Project against 75 other initiatives in the running. Talitha Together is an initiative that serves to provide education, empower, and support pregnant girls in Africa. Cwenga also manages her business, Value Youth SA Podcast, a podcast incubation business that provides podcasting services to schools and youth organisations, giving the youth a platform to voice out their visions and dreams. She is also passionate about issues such as poverty, hunger and GBV and volunteers at various organisations to tackle these issues.

In addition to our 2022 Trailblazers, President Cyril Ramaphosa was joined on stage by another cohort of young people who did not let age stand in their way of achieving greatness.



**Nozuko Tshoba – NYDA Beneficiary**

Zii Zucchini (Pty) Ltd is a registered company founded by a young, aspiring, dedicated and enthusiastic female, Nozuko Tshoba from Mthatha in Eastern Cape. The business is based at 03 Aloe Street, Fortgale in Mthatha, EC. The business is a retail company. She supplies different kinds of cleaning chemicals in and around Mthatha, Qumbu, and Tsolo. The business has been in operation from June 2018. The owner used her personal savings and support from family to buy some of the required stock (pine gel, thick bleach, liquid soap) to start the business.



**Sibusiso Ngwenya – Skinny Sbu Socks**

What started as a 21-year-old selling socks to make up money for rent in April 2013 is now Africa's Number 1 Sock Brand with distribution in all of South Africa's 9 provinces through retail giant The Foschini Group (TFG). The SSS Brand is all about complementing the hectic lifestyle of an urban consumer. Under 30 recipient, Mail & Guardian TOP 200 and GQ Best Dressed Man.



**Nasiphi Mnganga – YES Candidate**

Nasiphi Mnganga is a 23-year-old currently based in a small village called Entsimekweni in Sterkspruit. She recently obtained a qualification from the University of Fort Hare in Bachelor of Social Science in communications and is currently pursuing her honours degree.





# YOUTH IN BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

KZN



[instagram.com/mathebula.bandile](https://www.instagram.com/mathebula.bandile)

## BANDILE MATHEBULA, 28

KwaMthombeni Empire

“

We are just leaves in the stream of life; we go wherever the wind takes us because wherever the wind takes us is where we should be.”

**B**andile Mathebula, 28, is a businessman game-changer, a founder and chairperson of a family business, KwaMthombeni (KMT) Empire, located in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. He always looks for new ways to do business. His company, established in 2020, manages various business portfolios in digital media, interior and exterior design.

## Hulisani Mushiane, 33

Makarina Consultancy

“

Business opportunities are like buses, there's always another one coming.”  
– Richard Branson



[linkedin.com/in/hulisanihelenmushiane](https://www.linkedin.com/in/hulisanihelenmushiane)

**H**ulisani Mushiane, 33, is the founder and managing director of Makarina Consultancy, an environmental consulting company with branches in Limpopo and Gauteng.

Established in 2012, the company consults mainly in the mining industry, and does everything from compliance to facilitating business deals between prospective clients.

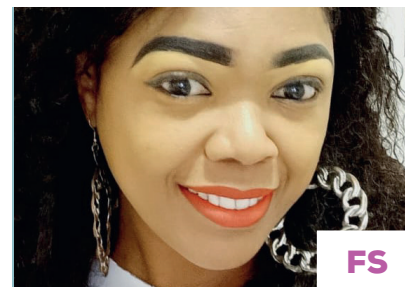
Mushiane travelled extensively with her parents, triggering a passion to study environmental science. “I have always loved to conserve the environment based on the travelling experiences that afforded me an opportunity to interact with different people,” she says.

Through her company, Mushiane takes part in public and stakeholder engagements and deals with water use applications and other environmental management programmes.

“Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope.” – Martin Luther King Jr.

## Lungiswa Mohlouoa, 32

Mrs MHL



[facebook.com/mahlumba.lungiswa](https://www.facebook.com/mahlumba.lungiswa)

**L**ungiswa Mohlouoa, 32, from Bloemfontein in the Free State, is a young hero who excels at business. She owns a successful online clothing boutique called Mrs MHL that she started in 2019. On top of that, Mohlouoa is a teacher and motivational speaker.

She retails trending fashion that accommodates all genders at reasonable prices. Her love of fashion began at varsity when she felt the pressure to look the best at all times, something that was difficult to achieve since both her parents were pensioners.

Once she had made extra money she would go to shops called “Clear Outs”, which sold rejects where she would buy fashionable items and be dressed up in style, sometimes for as little as R100.

## KARABO MATHIBELA, 23

Exceptional Clothing

“

You are the company you keep; if your friends don't align with your goals and dreams then they are not for you.”

[instagram.com/mr\\_exceptional6?igshid](https://www.instagram.com/mr_exceptional6?igshid)



**K**arabo Mathibela, 23, is a streetwear fashion designer from a small village of Dennilton in Limpopo who owns a clothing line called Exceptional Clothing. He started the business five years ago and his fashion talent is already renowned, making him a young entrepreneurial hero. In 2021, he was honoured with the Dennilton Clothing Brand of the Year Award for producing unique and original streetwear fashion. Influencers and models wear his brand on social media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook.

In February this year, Mathibela's designs were showcased at Reboot Fashion Show at the Women's Monument in Tshwane. “The show was created to showcase designs by upcoming fashion designers and entrepreneurs,” says Mathibela. “It was also to inspire and empower young people who needed to showcase their talents.”

This ambitious young man runs his business from home and sells the streetwear online.

## KEKETSO RENETA MOKGOTHU, 33

Mtswako Honey and Turmeric Puree Booster

**K**eketso Reneta Mokgothu, who hails from the humble town of Odendaalsrus in the Free State, is determined to leave her mark in the food processing industry.

Her new company, Mtswako, produces a honey and turmeric immune booster to be soon available on the shelves of Roots Butchery nationwide. Witnessing the negative impact of Covid-19, with people losing their loved ones and jobs as the global economy faltered, inspired her to find a solution to the health challenges facing humanity.

“A challenge can also be challenged.”

She concocted the recipe in her own kitchen. “I came up with a product that has health benefits which is safe for consumption as well as made from natural ingredients,” she explains.

After a rigorous process of product testing, shelf-life determination, nutritional information determination, product branding, and operations from the mini-plant, Mokgothu managed to produce Mtswako Honey and Turmeric Puree Booster. The product, which sells for R50 a bottle, is approved by MLS national laboratory.



[facebook.com/www.mtswakobooster](https://www.facebook.com/www.mtswakobooster)

## Yonela Lindinxiwa, 27

XLNT Music Galaxy Inc

**Y**onela Lindinxiwa, 27, from Mfuleni, Cape Town, is an energetic businessman. He owns a thriving fast food outlet Zamarora and XLNT Music Galaxy Inc, and a production company. He also mentors videographers and artists. Lindinxiwa joined forces with Sivuyise Makhanda, Melikhaya Silwana and Nangamso Majola in February 2021, to grow his fast food business. They now have two outlets with six full-time employees.

“I am inspired and would like to see disadvantaged communities succeeding in solving problems,” says Lindinxiwa.

“Create opportunities when there is none at your disposal.”

He is concerned about the high unemployment rate. Business growth could in a small way help to solve the problem.

In addition to creating employment, he wants to help rehabilitate the youth through art and music. He has sponsored a local soccer team, bought a soccer kit and boots. He provides the team with transportation, especially for away games.

He is part of Men-Care, an organisation raising awareness about gender-based violence in the country. In 2015, the organisation received a recognition certificate as a gender equality partner.



[facebook.com/XLNT-Music-Galaxy-Inc](https://www.facebook.com/XLNT-Music-Galaxy-Inc)





# YOUTH IN BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

GP



## DIKETSO SETHO, 25

Ghetto Heroes Tech Innovation

“

The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do.” – Steve Jobs

[twitter.com/diketso\\_setho](https://twitter.com/diketso_setho)

**D**iketso Setho of Ivory Park, Ekurhuleni, is a young man to watch out for. The 25-year-old is the founder of Ghetto Heroes (GH) Tech Innovations and GH Mall. The idea to establish the two entities was prompted by the desire to empower the youth with Fourth Industrial Revolution skills. Coding is an essential skill. “Simply put, coding means feeding our commands to the computer so it can perform the tasks. It’s a vital skill in a high-tech society,” says Setho.

Setho displayed a knack for technology from an early age. By the time he was a teenager, his fame for repairing phones and other appliances had grown.

He taught himself computer programming, and started teaching coding skills at various schools on a voluntary basis. In 2017, he launched GH Tech Innovations. Through this organisation, Setho and others spread the passion for coding among youngsters.

GH Mall, on the other hand, is an online outlet that gives township businesses an opportunity to sell their products and services online.

## Mpho Kenneth Staat, 32

G Staat

“

I hate to see suffering and social challenges people face.”

[facebook.com/kenneth.staat](https://facebook.com/kenneth.staat)


FS

**M**pho Kenneth Staat, 32, from Thaba Nchu, Free State, regards himself as a man of the cloth and a social entrepreneur with a mission to make a difference in people’s lives.

At 15, he dropped out of high school to undergo four-year training as a pastor in Cape Town. “That’s when I developed a love of working with people through community projects,” he recalls.

However, he quit the ministry and moved to Johannesburg where he developed an interest in making clothes. He enrolled with SewAfrica Fashion College, Pritchard Street, Johannesburg, to study pattern-making. After finishing the course, he hosted free sewing lessons for children from eight years old to women in their 60s at the Tabernacle Church of God in Ivory Park, Midrand.

In 2016, he went back to studying theology at the Johannesburg Bible College. Four years later, he returned to Thaba Nchu where he enrolled in a clothing production course at Motheo TVET College.

At the end of 2020, he launched G Staat, a social enterprise providing accommodation to college students, sewing lessons, and handbags made from recyclable materials.

“With the little funds we have, we’ll continue serving our community,” he says. “We encourage our students to open their businesses, make a living and participate in the circular economy. But we need more capital to make this a reality.”

Staat is determined to grow G Staat into a strong brand with multiple units reminiscent of Richard Branson’s Virgin Group. Staat is, without a doubt, a man on a mission.

“

Confidence is a response of who you are. You can only appear as what you know.”

## Mapula Legodi, 33

The Confidence Activator

**E**ntrepreneur Mapula Legodi is a multidimensional professional making an indelible mark in various spheres.

Legodi, who lives in Polokwane, Limpopo, proved her entrepreneurial acumen when she started a skipping rope challenge during the Covid-19 national lockdown that, much to her surprise and delight, spawned a new business that sells skipping ropes – branded and wrapped safely inside bottles.

In addition, she does weight loss and nutrition coaching sessions with her clients via social media. “I have always believed in challenging the status quo, pushing boundaries and inspiring people, especially the youth to become the best versions of themselves,” says Legodi.



LP

[instagram.com/Mapula\\_legodi](https://instagram.com/Mapula_legodi)

## LEBOHANG NYANDENI, 24

LebzCafé

“

Live your dream while time is still by your side because you have nothing to lose except the fear of the unknown.”

[facebook.com/lebohanganthony.nyandeni](https://facebook.com/lebohanganthony.nyandeni)


GP

**L**ebohang Nyandeni, 24, is a coffee connoisseur. It was great entrepreneurial heroism he displayed when he founded a coffee business called LebzCafé in the middle of the pandemic last year. Today, his cafe, in Evaton, south of Gauteng, thrives, offering a wide range of coffee products, including freeze-dried instant coffee and hot chocolate.

“Our coffee beans are custom-roasted for us in Montague Gardens, Cape Town,” he says.

“It was difficult starting out because I had to raise my own capital. Some of the resources had to be imported,” says Nyandeni.

“We got orders from as far as the Eastern Cape, and customers would hesitate to pay for delivery fearing it was costly. We convinced them to see the value.”

Not only does LebzCafé sell coffee from mobile trolleys around the township, it also runs a pop-up kiosk at Evaton Mall as well as delivers products to far-flung customers. “We wish to get as many South Africans as possible to start their day with iKoffie,” Nyandeni concludes.

“

Young people, please take the time to understand and know who you are. Establish a firm foundation and be true to yourselves.”

## NOMPILO SHARON DLADLA, 26

NSD Career and Training Institute and Nathi Youth Development Foundation



KZN

<https://bit.ly/3xGIEix>

**N**ompilo Sharon Dladla believes social and innovative entrepreneurship are vital ingredients to keep society together. Dladla, 25, from Maqongqo, Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal, is an intern at the Department of Economic Development Tourism and Environmental Affairs. Her job is to ensure that the strategic objectives of the department are being achieved to serve the residents of KwaZulu-Natal.

Dladla holds three degrees from the University of KwaZulu-Natal: a BA Social Science degree, a BA Social Science (Honours) and a BA Commerce (Honours). She is pursuing a Masters in commerce at the same institution. Dladla, who was born with albinism, has been a director and albinism ambassador for Nathi Youth Development Foundation since 2019. She educates and raises awareness around albinism.

## MPHO HOTTIE, 32

Mpho Hottie Finance and Advisory

“

Live the wonderful life that is in you. Let nothing be lost upon you. Be always searching for new sensation. Be afraid of nothing.”

[facebook.com/MHFA2021](https://facebook.com/MHFA2021)


WC

**M**pho Hottie, 32, from Cape Town in the Western Cape, is a highly qualified academic, tax practitioner and accountant, and runs a business programme to improve business skills for small business enterprises.

Hottie is enrolled for a PhD degree at the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance at the University of Cape Town where she teaches financial literacy and tax education.

She holds a B.Com degree, two post-graduate diplomas in Accounting and general management and an MBA.

A lack of knowledge among entrepreneurs prompted Hottie to design a tuition programme that entails financial literacy and taxation.

“I encountered a lot of small businesses with enormous potential, but which battled as a result of these issues and a lack of capital,” says Hottie.





GP

## CALLAN ABRAHAM, 27

### Data-Led Insights

“

Data-science is a creative art. You need to be able to develop and trust your perspective before you touch a dataset.”

<https://bit.ly/3yOXil8>

Callan Abrahams, 28, is a heroic youth who uses data science to solve many problems facing the country. For her, no problem is insurmountable. “As an entrepreneur, data scientist, futurist, and technologist, my value could be summarised by one word: solutionist (problem-solver),” she says.

Abrahams heads three entities: Data-Led Insights, Wake Up - Shake Up, and Viiibes. While operationally separate, these entities allow Abrahams to combine her love for mathematics, statistics, technology, digital, creativity, user experiences, innovation, and business to bring about lasting solutions to a range of social development issues South Africa faces. “I solve problems. Sometimes that takes the form of working with data to help businesses make data-led decisions. Other times I am creating awareness about mental health or speaking to young people at schools,” she says.

At the workplace Abrahams, who holds an Economic Science and Mathematics degree from Wits University, believes in inspiring others to thrive, particularly women. “I create spaces where people are encouraged to bring their talents and contributions to the forefront. I encourage everyone to have an opinion and share it on multiple platforms.”

## Palesa Ntsoi, 31

Faded Black Innovations

“

You are always responsible for how you act no matter how you feel.”

<facebook.com/palesa.ntsoti.3>

Palesa Ntsoi, 31, is the founder of Faded Black Innovations, an NPO specialising in transforming traditional NPOs into social enterprises by expanding their capacity to achieve efficiency, sustainability and effectiveness. The organisation is based in Westonaria, west of Johannesburg.

“Our approach is based on participative experiential learning through our social entrepreneurship workshops and Accelerator Programme. NPOs generally struggle to get funding or are unable to create other income streams,” says Ntsoi.

She says traditional NPOs in townships are not prepared for the changing CSI world since for far too long they relied on philanthropy. “We are training them to be social enterprises, so that they can be self-sustainable,” says Ntsoi.

Faded Black Innovations has five employees, and conducts workshops on social entrepreneurship, trains young people in community engagement and community resource mobilisation. Its philosophy is: if jobs are created in low-income areas, personal well-being will increase and the quality of life in neighbourhoods will improve.



GP

## Sheldon Tatchell, 32

Legends Barber

“

I have failed in my business many times but that never stopped me from trying.”

<facebook.com/SheldonTatchell>

Sheldon Tatchell, 32, from Eldorado Park, south of Johannesburg, started cutting hair in his mother's bedroom at the age of 14, charging R20 per haircut and today he owns a chain of hair salons where the price is R120, depending on the style.

His business, Legends Barber, has expanded to 65 outlets across South Africa and other parts of Africa – Lesotho, Namibia and Botswana. The head office, which employs 500 employees, including trainees, is in Randburg, Gauteng.

Tatchell says he has always been passionate about hair. “It is amazing how easy it is to create long-lasting relationships when you provide a customer with consistent satisfactory service.”

In growing the business, Tatchell has built relationships with influential names, including the late musician Ricky Rick Makhado.

In terms of business achievements, Tatchell says that money has never been the main objective. “My greatest achievement is building a successful yet sustainable business and brand. Providing a safe space to equip and nurture hair-grooming skills is at the core of this business,” he says. “It gives me so much joy knowing that I am contributing to the alleviation of youth unemployment in various communities.”

## SHARON MOATSHE, 28

Sharon's Café

“

I am inspired by each and every black woman who succeeds and thrives.”

[instagram.com/sharon\\_moatshe/?hl=en](instagram.com/sharon_moatshe/?hl=en)


WC

Sharon Moatshe has to be one of the bravest women in the world having renovated, refurbished and launched her eatery, Sharon's Café, right at the start of Covid-19 lockdown in the country.

“That shows our customers how determined we were to establish ourselves. They can see how we were able to manoeuvre through the storms as many businesses closed down,” says Moatshe.

The cafe is located in Woodstock, Cape Town, in an exquisitely decorated building.

Moatshe, 28, from Kagiso, west of Johannesburg, came to the Mother City to study at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. She obtained a diploma and a B.Tech degree in public relations. She is pursuing a Master's degree in Public Relations at the same institution.

Moatshe is now also a director at InKind, a non-profit organisation (NGO) that teaches young people about robotics, coding and writing.

The NGO hosts signature programmes called Young Minds, a writing competition that encourages young learners to express themselves through writing and publishing.

Lubabalo Tybosch, 35, is a young man who grew up in Mlungisi township, Stutterheim, Eastern Cape, and is the Chief Executive Officer of Uniqova, an information technology solutions company.

This University of Johannesburg B.Com IT Management graduate was motivated towards his line of work by the level of poverty and inequality he saw while growing up. Uniqova, which operates from Queenstown and Johannesburg, has a social responsibility initiative called The SA Mark, which strives to contribute towards poverty alleviation and social cohesion. It supports social entrepreneurship and crime reduction initiatives.

The SA Mark's mission involves helping budding artists with brand development, brand recognition and growth and digital marketing. A lack of funding, dedicated corporate office building and personnel, remain a challenge. However, he says multiple roles he plays has helped him to understand the business clearer. “Dealing with these challenges has been affirming that despite living with a disability, my capabilities have set me apart,” says Tybosch who, at the age of 10 was involved in a life-threatening taxi accident that rendered him immobile for six months. He is a National Development Plan 2030 Youth Ambassador.

## LUBABALO TYBOSCH, 35

Uniqova

“

Love recognises no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.”

– Maya Angelou



EC

<linkedin.com/in/lubabalo-tybosch>



SANRAL celebrates the  
**youth of South Africa.**



BLUEPRINT 4890/E

Celebrating our  
**past pathfinders.**  
Paving the way for  
**tomorrow's leaders.**

**SANRAL. Beyond Roads.**

**SANRAL**



**BUILDING SOUTH AFRICA  
THROUGH BETTER ROADS**





# YOUTH IN BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

# Telkom

KZN



## Zinhlezonke Zikalala, 29

Sibizi Media Innovation

“

If your dreams do not scare you, you're not dreaming big enough.”

[instagram.com/isibizi\\_magazine](https://www.instagram.com/isibizi_magazine)

Zinhlezonke Zikalala, 29, is a change-maker, who hails from rural KwaZulu-Natal (KZN). She is making a name for herself in digital publishing, determined and focused with boundless energy and vision to tell youth-focused stories.

Co-owner of Sibizi Media, her outfit produces *Sibizi Magazine*, *Sibizi News* and *Known Magazine*. “All our publications aim to put the spotlight on black youth-owned businesses and young professionals to promote an entrepreneurial culture,” Zikalala explains.

Sibizi Media is KZN-based. “We have a team of 20 people across all three publications, with *Sibizi Magazine* as our flagship publication.”

The digital media, established in 2017, operated as a digital marketing agency. The shift to publishing was initiated in 2019. A journalist by training, Zikalala burns with a passion for storytelling. “Youth stories were not documented enough nor told in their voices. And that's what I wanted – for our stories to be told by us,” she says.

## TUMISANG ABEDNIGO NKWE, 28

TANE Education, Dese Footwear, Kasi Eats, Bereka Mosadi Seminar

“

Financial freedom is attainable if one becomes an entrepreneur...”



NW

[facebook.com/tumisang.abednigo.7](https://www.facebook.com/tumisang.abednigo.7)

Tumisang Abednigo Nkwe is a 28-year-old businessman and social entrepreneur from Taung, North West.

His entrepreneurial spirit was triggered by a desire to empower himself and others. He believes that entrepreneurs can solve many social and economic challenges. And this, he says, motivates him to be of service to his community. He owns Dese Footwear, TANE Education (SA Learning Books), Kasi Eats and Kasi Drive.

Established in 2020, Dese Footwear trades in premium sneakers. Plans are afoot to open more retail stores nationwide, and factories to produce them are about to be established.

Nkwe holds a Higher National Diploma in Business, a Bachelor of Business Management degree and a Postgraduate Diploma in Education.

He has written study guides for business studies, economics and mathematical literacy for grade 10 to 12 learners. The books are used by the North West and Gauteng schools and are published under the banner of TANE Education, which was launched in 2017. Last year, Nkwe opened Kasi Eats, a food delivery business.

Nkwe also established the annual Bereka Mosadi Seminar, a women empowerment initiative that hosts women events.

GP

## Palesa Ramolefo, 25

amandla.mobi


[instagram.com/palesa\\_everyday](https://www.instagram.com/palesa_everyday)

In a country contending with unacceptably high youth unemployment, access to the internet is crucial so youngsters can access information about opportunities, such as starting their own businesses, but data is expensive. In a world turned upside down by a deadly pandemic, learning has moved online, but data is expensive, shutting out learners from low-income households.

This is the central struggle in the life of Palesa Ramolefo, a 25-year-old journalism graduate who is one of the leaders at amandla.mobi, an organisation that challenges South African mobile network operators to significantly reduce costs of data

“We need to come together with whatever skills, talents, or gifts we have to bring much-needed solutions.”

for the benefit of all citizens, particularly those in marginalised communities. The organisation runs the #DataMustFall campaign that Ramolefo, a long-time community activist in Soweto, joined in 2019.

For her, the data campaign is about closing the inequality gap in our society. “If those who can afford these high prices are complaining, imagine the struggle of low-income earners or people who don't earn anything at all,” she says. “We cannot keep exacerbating the inequality gap in our country, especially when it comes to accessing basic needs.”

NEW

INFINITE

15GB

R299  
PM x 24

15GB Premium All-network  
Anytime data, thereafter  
standard definition data.

6 000 Telkom-to-Telkom minutes

300 All-network minutes

6 000 SMSs

Mobile Device Optional

Call 10213  
Click [telkom.co.za](https://www.telkom.co.za)  
Go to any Telkom shop

Live your Monate

T&C apply. E&OE.

## Unlimit your life on the move

Move, connect and live with data that goes on and on.

# Telkom





GP


[twitter.com/brucedube](https://twitter.com/brucedube)

## BRUCE DUBE, 33

Nine80 Digital Media

“Don't be scared to start small with what you have and where you are, and every little step is a step closer to your dream.”

Bruce Dube, 33, is a pioneering digital publisher with a vision of providing his readers empowering content at the tip of their fingers. The organisation is based in Tshwane, Gauteng.

Dube is the managing director of Nine80 Digital Media, a Pan-African digital publishing and advertising business with a range of titles targeting Africa's youth demographic of ages 16 to 28. The company operates in South Africa, Botswana, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Nigeria.

Among the company's many offerings is a start-up magazine, which is a platform for inspiring entrepreneurs to share their stories.

The company was inspired by the need to facilitate access to youth content. Other titles include *SA Hip Hop*, *Youth Village*, and *Botswana Youth Magazine*.

Because of the company's Pan-Africanist nature, the products the organisation produces reach millions of African youth every month. “Due to the growth of the user base we have managed to partner and work with some of the biggest brands on the continent,” says Dube.

Dube has reaped several accolades as a change-maker. In March 2013, he was also selected as one of the top five prominent young people in Africa and Latin America by the World Bank.

## MUKONDLETERI DUMELA, 31

Xitsonga.org

“Mistakes are inevitable when working on innovative and new ideas so go easy on yourself.”

[facebook.com/Xitsonga.org](https://facebook.com/Xitsonga.org)

A few years ago, while still a student at the University of Pretoria, Mukondleteri Dumela, 31, struggled to find translations for Xitsonga names on Google for some research project he was working on. Rather than despair, he became motivated to build digital tools that could elevate his home language as well as other African languages.

In 2012, Dumela founded the Xitsonga.org website, together with Hlulani Baloyi (product manager), Hlawuleka Maswanganyi (lead developer), Ntshuxeko Ndhlovu (editor in chief), Akani Maluleke (social media manager) and Irvin Maceke (intern developer).

In 2015, they created a Xitsonga Dictionary app that translates thousands of words from

Xitsonga to English. The pioneering app won the 2020 Fundi Best Educational award.

“We target South Africans who want to learn the Xitsonga language,” says Dumela, a software developer who grew up in Nyavani village, outside Malamulele in Limpopo. “I was inspired to start digitising Xitsonga due to its lack of representation in both digital and media platforms. Google only added Xitsonga to Google translate on May 2022.”

He believes that young people need to play a role in innovation. “South Africa is a young democracy and we, the youth, have a unique responsibility to modernise and industrialise our country,” he says.

## NOMANDLA NGCOYA, 28

D Chem Group

“If you want to be successful don't limit yourself because even the degree you have chosen doesn't limit you.”

[linkedin.com/in/nomandla-ngcoya-39b3a48b](https://linkedin.com/in/nomandla-ngcoya-39b3a48b)


GP

Nomandla Ngcoya, 28, is a trailblazing Pietermaritzburg-based bio-chemist. She is also a proud owner of D Chem Group manufacturing company.

Located in KwaZulu-Natal, the chemical company produces detergents, cosmetics and perfumes.

Despite operating in a male-dominated world of chemistry, she is determined to succeed. One of the major challenges she initially faced was being undermined whenever she disclosed to others in the industry she was in the chemical manufacturing business space. It was only when she changed the way she introduced herself: “Hi, I am Nomandla Ngcoya, a PhD student at UKZN and I am the founder of D Chem Group, a detergent, cosmetic, and perfume manufacturing company”, that she was taken seriously.

Her products are available at the Spar Selgro Centre and Mphophomeni Mall in Imbali Youth Enterprise Park in Pietermaritzburg. She owns a factory shop in the same area.

Ngcoya loves to empower others, and this manifests in how she allows institutions to place learners in her company for practicals or in-service training without getting paid for it.

The company employs three people, excluding Ngcoya.

## Ole Matlala, 30

Reslocate

GP


[facebook.com/reslocate](https://facebook.com/reslocate)

“Being awake is an achievement in itself as it presents the opportunity to explore countless opportunities that can make a difference in your life or somebody else's.”

Following a job loss as a brand strategist, during the first Covid-19 lockdown in 2020, Ole Matlala, 30, was forced to look for “something sustainable that could make a difference in people's lives”.

After chatting to his two friends, Lucas Tsholofelo Mohaswa and Zii Boikanyo, they co-founded Reslocate, an interactive online platform that connects property owners to students seeking accommodation.

You can access Reslocate through mobile App website or as an app download through the Google play store and Huawei app gallery.

Reslocate is a game-changer in the tech and innovation field, thanks to Matlala's resilience and vision, and willingness to partner with others to solve a common problem.

Matlala, who is also a marketing director for Reslocate, is concerned about South Africa's high unemployment rate, and the need for youngsters to access quality education.

“We are currently talking to a potential partner to provide free coding lessons for students who do not have access to the necessary resources to help them go to university or college,” he says.

## Themba Sivate, 29

1st Response App

Themba Sivate, 29, is a software developer with a flair for using technology to make life a little easier. Sivate lives in Diepsloot, north of Johannesburg. He recently launched a ground-breaking app called 1st Response that allows users to easily access critical emergency services. He wanted the app to help curb the scourge of gender-based violence (GBV) so that victims would call for police help in stealth. “I asked myself, what will I do if I were a woman and found myself in the situation of GBV?”

The app includes other emergency services such as paramedics, fire fighters, anxiety and depression counsellors. He created the app with a capacity for an accurate GPS so that emergency personnel could reach their destinations easily, a critical factor in saving endangered lives.

“Start something, and tell yourself that you'll finish it no matter what.”

The app took Sivate a year-and-a-half to build. “Imagine if you could report GBV without making a phone call, and without leaving your house,” he says.

The app is available for Windows, Android and Huawei Devices and will soon be available for Mac and iOS. Sivate is now working hard to ensure the app is data-free.

To build the app, Sivate, who holds a BTech: Engineering Computer Systems from Tshwane University of Technology, had to teach himself a new programming language. “In my experience, I've learnt that I'm more likely to learn through building a project. I don't want to use technology I already know. By the time I finish the project (software), I would have learnt a lot because I got stuck a lot and researched a lot about it.”



GP

<https://bit.ly/3O5kYdC>





KZN



## MFANELO S'PHELELE CALVIN NDLELA, 30

Electri-Coal Technologies

**“The person who will kill your dream is the one you see in the mirror. Don't let that be you.”**

<https://bit.ly/3O5kYdC>

**M**fanelo S'phelele Calvin Ndlela, 30, was born in 1992 in Mtubatuba, KwaZulu-Natal.

In 2012, he passed his first year B.Com Accounting at the University of KwaZulu-Natal but ran out of funds to register for the second year.

In October 2013, he was stabbed seven times during a mugging incident, but survived the ordeal.

In 2014, he registered for second year, but dropped out in June due to a lack of funds.

In September of the same year, he founded Electri-Coal Technologies. The company has multimillion-rand projects locally and in Zambia. It manufactures, installs, services and digitally monitors.

Electri-Coal has some funding from the Department of Science and Innovation's Technology Innovation Agency, and has a three-year enterprise supplier development contract with the T-Systems, a German conglomerate, and Business Doctors, to supply smart utilities system. The system can help reduce Eskom's load-shedding challenges.

In February this year, the company was awarded the South African Youth Climate Innovative Awards for its smart sensor and water tank monitoring system. The system was lauded for innovation. It allows local municipalities to deliver water to communities efficiently.

## STHEMBELE NJOBO, 32

Naugh Media Communications

**“Do as much as you can with what you have.”**

<https://bit.ly/3QvEqIr>

**I**n May 2016, after a year of struggling to find work, Sthembele Njobo, 32, founded a technology-driven public relations company to help small businesses and independent artists in Kathorus, east of Johannesburg, maximise their online visibility.

Naugh Media Communications (NMC) offers data-driven social media results with an internal media house. It also offers digital public relations strategy, content creation, copywriting for local search engine optimisation (SEO), paid ad campaigns, media training, brand photography and video SEO.

He believes SEO guarantees business success. “When customers search for products or services you offer, you need to rank high,” says Njobo. “Google's search algorithm is the gatekeeper standing between you and your customers, so you need to impress Google first.”

Njobo also mentors creative entrepreneurs through a recreation space he set up at home in Palm Ridge during the Covid-19 shutdown. “I've been receiving mentorship from various people. In return I'm passing that knowledge to those in the creative space around me,” he says.

“Entrepreneurship is a lonely space. I empower young people to embrace mental fitness. I promote proper breathing techniques through meditation, an organic way of coping with stress.”

GP



GP

## Dr Tiisetso Elizabeth Lephoto, 33

Microbiologist and Innovator

**“The schools I went to had insufficient learning and teaching resources and I had to depend on the power of imagination to succeed in everything I did.”**

[instagram.com/dr.tiisetsolephoto](https://www.instagram.com/dr.tiisetsolephoto)

**D**r Tiisetso Lephoto, 33, from Johannesburg, is one of South Africa's brightest young researchers. Her passion for science, agriculture and innovation is unquestionable.

Her expertise in insect pest control and management in farms and agricultural industries has enabled her to discover indigenous microscopic worms that can infect and kill insects within 24 to 48 hours.

“Recognised as one of the youngest PhD graduates in the field of cell and molecular biology, I obtained my PhD in Nematology, Agricultural Innovation, Genomics and Biotechnology at the University of Witwatersrand at the age of 26,” she affirms.

Lephoto is passionate about youth development and mentorship. She helps out at the GoMaths Tutoring, and has been selected as one of the 30 global emerging leaders under TechWomen, a US-based programme that empowers, connects and supports the next generation of women leaders in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) from Africa, Central and South Asia, and the Middle East. “I am now working on producing a generation of scientists and innovators.”

## MUZIKAYISE MASHELE MBUNGELA, 35

TheMousist.co.za

**“Never let the fears of others shake or intimidate you.”**

[facebook.com/TheMousistcoza](https://www.facebook.com/TheMousistcoza)



MP

**M**uzikayise Mashele Mbungela, 35, is an extraordinary multimedia content creator who embraces technology to tell stories.

A resident of Ngodini township, outside White River in Mpumalanga, Mbungela founded his company, TheMousist.co.za (pronounced “The Mouse-ist”), in 2012. Back then he mainly freelanced as a graphic designer before venturing into wedding photography and videography.

From the start Mbungela relied on the power of the internet to market his business. He learned the trick of effective search engine optimisation so that customers could find him easily online and he studied his clients closely so he could give them the best service.

Today, Mbungela produces jaw-dropping content using his smartphone – composing music, live streaming events, creating video tutorials and promotional videos and shooting documentaries. Technology is the bedrock of his work. “Technology is everything; it makes life so much easier. It would be near impossible for one, particularly a youth, to operate a business without embracing technology nowadays,” he says.

Mbungela also teaches others the ropes of content creation and running of business so they can start their journeys earlier than he did and avoid the pitfalls he faced starting out.

# It's time to celebrate the women of Mzansi

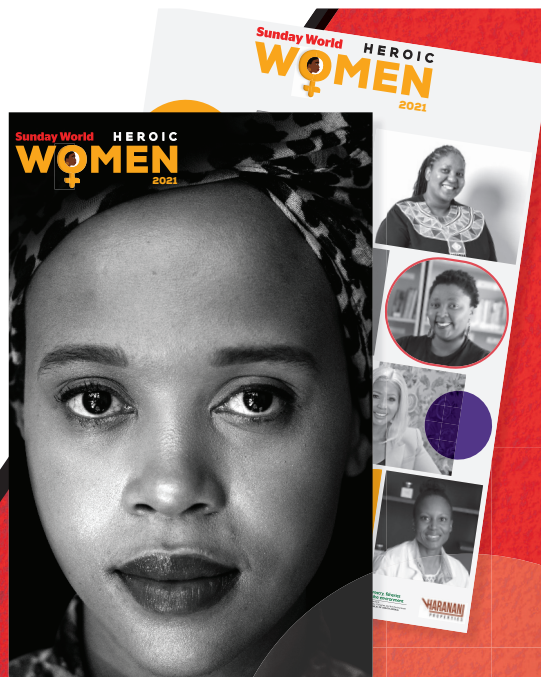
IN AUGUST, SUNDAY WORLD WILL HONOUR OUR HEROIC WOMEN

**NOMINATE NOW**

[sundayworld.co.za/nominate-women-2022](https://sundayworld.co.za/nominate-women-2022)

Who innovate for good to improve the lives of others; develop the economy and businesses; champion innovation and scientific development; and promote environmental conservation and academic excellence. These Heroic Women boost SA's standing globally.

It's time to sing their praises.







# Bag a **PAID INTERNSHIP**

and other opportunities with the dopest in the game

**Whether it's in music, fashion, content creation, food, or sports.**

If you are on the come up and hustling your way, don't sleep on yourself.



Bag a **PAID MUSIC INTERNSHIP** where you will either be mentored by UMG artists and production team or work across all the UMG departments.



Bag a **PAID SPORTS INTERNSHIP** at ASEM where you will get a thorough experience of the sports industry. You will get to rotate across various departments within ASEM.



Bag a **PAID CONTENT CREATION INTERNSHIP** at Seriti TV. You'll move across the departments before choosing the department you would like to focus on for the remainder of the internship.



Bag a **PAID FASHION INTERNSHIP** at The Fashion Agent. You will be mentored by Annette herself and will be exposed to the whole value chain of the fashion industry.

## To get on the Pulse

**1**

Switch to MTN.  
Dial **\*411#** to join  
MTN Pulse.

**2**

Post a video on the socials  
showing us what you do  
and how you do it your way.

**3**

Use **#OnThePulse**  
& tag **@MTNza**.

**MTN**Pulse







# YOUTH IN ACADEMIA AND EDUCATION



GP



## DR HLOOGELO CLIMANT KHOZA, 30

Lecturer at the University of Pretoria

“No one owes anyone anything. You owe yourself.”

<https://bit.ly/3N5kVgG>

**H**loogelo Khoza, 30, from Zebediela village, Limpopo, is a teacher of teachers in science.

In 2010, he registered for a Bachelor of Education degree at Wits University. After graduating in 2013, he enrolled for an Honours degree in 2014. In 2015, he added a Masters of Science in Education and a PhD degree followed in 2017, which he completed in 2020.

Since 2019, Khoza has been a lecturer at the University of Pretoria, responsible for teaching science education and supervising Honours, Masters and PhD students.

“I teach for relevance to develop an individual to also develop others,” he says. Next year he plans to register for a Master’s degree in leadership in higher education. His wish is to be a renowned professor at one of the leading universities in the continent.

## KGONTSE MANUEL, 31

Lefatshe la Metsi Educational Centre

“Success is not final, failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts.”

<facebook.com/kgontse.gibundaa>



GP

**K**gontse Manuel, 31, founded Lefatshe La Metsi Educational Centre in Vosloorus, Ekurhuleni, which is making a mark in the education sphere.

It all began a few years back when she was an intern at the Ekurhuleni Municipality after completing a Diploma in Logistics and Supply. One day she noticed that her Grade 2 nephew was struggling with his studies, and so she decided to help. Then another woman reported that her children were also not coping.

Armed with determination and R1 800, Manuel kick-started her educational project, buying three square tables, as well as a few chairs, and educational charts that she put in a garage of her house.

This was a month before coronavirus struck. Now the centre boasts 47 children, three teachers and three classrooms. They help learners with extra lessons, homework and assignments. The foundation phase learners are helped to master the fundamentals of reading and writing.

“We also deserve better as black people. That is why we established this affordable centre and I do not see myself doing anything else,” says Manuel, a second-year Bachelor of Education in Intermediate Phase student at the University of South Africa.

GP



## Keatlegile Mabena, 26

Lecturer and Author

“You are powerful beyond belief. Don’t let anyone talk you out of your dreams. Don’t let people minimise you to a lesser version of who you really are.”

<facebook.com/keatlegile.mabena.71>

**A**fter enduring a painful loss of his mother at the delicate age of 15, who was tragically murdered by her lover, Keatlegile Mabena, 26, has achieved what many his age would not even dream of. He is a university lecturer, author and motivator to learners at his former school, Mmamogwai Secondary School in Moiletswane village near Brits, in the North West.

He is studying towards a PhD degree in Development Studies at Unisa, on the back of a string of cum laude achievements in population and development studies.

Mabena has been for the past three years a lecturer of development studies at Unisa.

Mabena recently self-published a book entitled *Breaking the Chains* about his coming to terms with his mother’s painful death. “The purpose of the book is to remind people that you can turn your pain into power, that pain is a circumstance but suffering is a choice,” he courageously explains.

The book is available directly from Mabena, through any of his social media platforms – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or LinkedIn – for R230 a copy excluding delivery.

“Do what you have to do, to do what you want to do.”

## Leseo Ramarou, 35

Dedicated and committed educator



WC

<facebook.com/ramarou.leseo>

**L**eseo Ramarou, a 35-year-old lecturer at the Northlink TVET College in Bellville, Cape Town, has a well-earned reputation as a highly dedicated and committed educator. He always goes the extra mile to ensure his students succeed academically.

A product of Northlink himself, where he studied practical welding after graduating in electrical engineering at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), Ramarou has been in academia since 2016. That was when Ramarou, who grew up in Kutlwanong township, in the Free State, realised that teaching was his calling despite having dabbled in different industries before.

Nothing makes him happier than imparting knowledge to students. In 2018, he obtained a post-graduate certificate from CUT, Welkom. His career as both lecturer and facilitator exposed him to people from different cultures and communities.

## Letlaka Mphuthi, 35

Compu-WizKidz

“Maybe Compu-WizKidz will produce the next Elon Musk or Mark Zuckerberg someday.”

**L**etlaka Mphuthi, 35, is turning youngsters in his neighbourhood of Phuthaditjhaba, Free State, into young computer gurus.

In 2018, he converted his garage into a small media centre to teach Grade 1 to Grade 7 learners the ins and outs of computer coding and programming.

The advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) prompted Mphuthi to launch Compu-WizKidz at home to protect kids from “the risk of being left behind.”

“With the new 4IR inventions, the banking system has advanced. Even retail stores are taking the self-service route... so we have to introduce coding at a very young age to give these kids a fighting chance to become data scientists,” says Mphuthi.

Mphuthi obtained an A+ and N+ diploma in computer networking from the Tshwane University of Technology in 2009.

He also tutors children in mathematics and basic English and Sesotho (vocabulary, grammar, and reading of story books) using only computer-based programmes where kids learn problem-solving skills by themselves. “The programme teaches them to be self-reliant.”

Mphuthi, whose late parents were both teachers, also hosts leadership camps and training, focusing on interpersonal and intrapersonal skills development, for Grade 12 learners and prefects.

Compu-WizKidz, which is self-funded, has worked with about 200 kids since its inception. “A lot of the kids want to join us but we turn them away because our space is small. It pains me,” he says.



FS

<facebook.com/letlaka.mphuthi.7>





# YOUTH IN ACADEMIA AND EDUCATION



GP

## PALESA MARY MOFOKENG, 26

Edtech Bridges

“

Home is where the heart is. For me, teaching is home and that's where my heart is. It is not for the faint-hearted.”

[twitter.com/edtechbridges](https://twitter.com/edtechbridges)

**P**alesa Mary Mofokeng, 26, is an academic who works hard to produce exceptional students through her innovative, inclusive and dialogical teaching methods.

She teaches at the Rosebank College (Pretoria CBD) and has just earned a Master's degree in educational technology degree with Wits University. Mofokeng did her undergraduate and Honours degrees at the same university. “My teaching practices encourage my students to be actively involved in the processes of learning,” she says.

As a student, Mofokeng was involved in a number of leadership roles, including serving as a member of the Student Representative Council. She has appeared in a number of online academic discussions where key issues in African scholarship are discussed.

Her mother died when she was only five and she grew up a lonely child. She credits her teachers for steering her towards the teaching profession after seeing her potential.

Last year, Mofokeng, together with three colleagues, co-founded Edtech Bridges, a non-governmental organisation that “capacitates teachers to use technology as a teaching tool to enhance learning”. The focus is on township and rural schools.

KZN



[facebook.com/mntimande](https://facebook.com/mntimande)

## SICELUMUSA PRAISEGOD SHONGWE, 31

Education activist

“

... Make a little difference where you are because if you can shine on the mountain make sure that you shine on the valley as well.”

**F**or Sicelumusa PraiseGod Shongwe, 31, knowledge is power. After years of observing young people with potential, choose wrong career paths due to inadequate information, in 2005 Shongwe, who hails from Paulpietersburg, KwaZulu-Natal, established Tholakele Edu-Career Expo to provide crucial information to the youth about market-related careers.

In 2006 and 2007 he hosted eDumbe Science Festival, which brought together institutions such as Unisa, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the Department of Higher

Education and Training, the South African Astronomical Observatory and the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants. The objective of the festival saw more than 50 learners accepted at tertiary institutions.

Shongwe, who grew up in the poverty-stricken village of eDumbe, is determined to help his community to be empowered through education and knowledge. “If we could have a youth hub where young people can access information without having to pay, and a bursary scheme for learners in eDumbe, that would be a dream come true,” he says.

## NKHENSANI MATHEBULA

Makhensi Mathebula Education Foundation

“

If you want to change your tomorrow, change your decisions today.”

[facebook.com/nkhensaninancym1](https://facebook.com/nkhensaninancym1)

**N**khensani Mathebula is committed to using education as a tool to overcome poverty in disadvantaged communities.

In 2019, she founded Makhensi Mathebula Education Foundation (MMEF), a non-profit organisation that supports Grade 12 learners who battle with academic performance and social issues in her community of Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga and surrounding areas. She is the managing director of the self-funded foundation.

The foundation provides mentorship, study guides, and career expos to learners, helping 50 students with uniforms and study guides. It helped learners from four different high schools get tertiary funding through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme. The high schools they have worked with are Thembeke High in Lekazi, Cyril High in Mathafeni, as well as Nyamande and Mafemani schools, both in Bushbuckridge.

Mathebula says working with Grade 12 learners has been enriching. “Having an encouraging hand changes everything for teenagers in high schools.”



MP

GP



<https://wa.me/27715770895>

## MAPULA ANNAH ZICHALLY, 30

Lehlasedi Primary School

“

Education is the centre of our existence; we reflect what we learn and know. Without education we cannot be proud images of ourselves.”

**A**t nine, Mapula Annah Zichally, 30, decided to become a teacher to “teach life lessons to the youth”. This was after watching her father dying at the hands of young thugs who robbed him of his items.

Zichally was born in Mankweng, Limpopo, but grew up in Diepsloot, north of Johannesburg. She teaches English, natural science and technology to Grade 6 and 7 learners at the Lehlasedi Primary School in Sharpeville, Vereeniging, on the Vaal.

Her school lacks basic facilities such as a library,

a hall and a playground. It is located in a crime-ridden area, and often gets broken into.

Zichally has developed projects – such as how to save water – and entered competitions to secure sponsors to improve the challenging conditions at her school.

Last year, she scooped first prize at the annual Department of Basic Education Excellent Teacher accolade at the National Teaching Awards. Also an art teacher, she “always goes beyond the call of duty”.

GP



## MALESIBA BELVIA MALEBANA, 28

I Care, Christian Revel Children's Home and Door of Hope

“

I am fulfilled when I see young men and women who people think they could never be anything make something out of their lives.”

[linkedin.com/in/belvia-malebana-b32547109](https://linkedin.com/in/belvia-malebana-b32547109)

**D**espite holding a demanding corporate job, Malesiba Belvia Malebana, 28, has made it her daily routine to tutor learners and university students, without charge.

Malebana, who originates from Polokwane, Limpopo, but lives in Johannesburg, works full-time as head of operational finance at Absa's Stockbrokers.

From Tuesday to Thursday, she conducts tutoring sessions at the I Care Centre, a foundation that alleviates the plight of street children through education and financial support. She has been a head tutor and mentor since 2016.

“I tutor in subjects such as business management, economics, finance, mathematics and accounting,” she says.

Malebana heads the Motherless Child Campaign, an organisation involved in raising funds to provide shelter and day-to-day needs for the children. She takes part in community development projects through the Christian Revel Children's Home and Door of Hope.

Malebana holds a Bachelor of Commerce in Economics and Econometrics, Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) in economics and Master of Commerce from the University of Johannesburg.

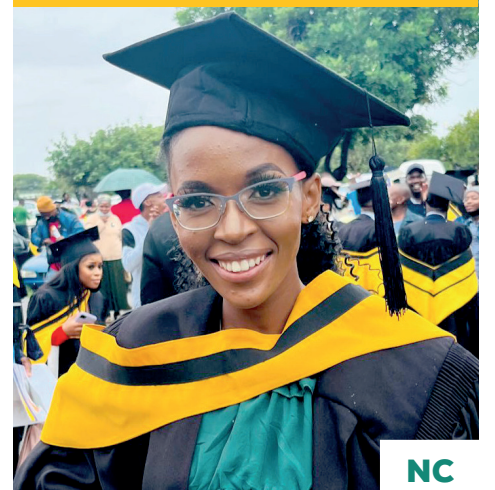
## Omolemo Molaso, 23

Academic

“

Go out there do what you want and don't let your condition define you or hold you back. Don't forget to shine brighter than a diamond.”

<https://bit.ly/3y4NZk7>



NC

**A** month ago, Omolemo Molaso, 23, graduated cum laude with a National Diploma in Economics Management and Analysis from the Tshwane University of Technology.

Molaso's academic achievement is even more remarkable because she has visual disability. She was born with high myopia and amblyopia, a condition that affects vision and causes blindness. But she has no intention of allowing her disability to hold her back nor define her.

“My entire first year I was always at the library. Everyone knew that I was the library girl,” says Molaso, who hails from Batlharos, Northern Cape.

Surrounding herself with the right friends and never being afraid to ask for help also contributed to her success.

Molaso is now studying towards an Advanced Diploma in Financial Management (CFA) while also being enrolled in a learnership. Her ultimate goal is to study towards a PhD degree and become an economist.

Molaso is grateful to her family, particularly her mom and late dad, for giving her a solid basic education.

Her advice to other disabled youth: “Disability is just like any other condition you have to live with. Do not underestimate yourself because of your condition.”





**PROF MAHLO  
MOKGALONG**

*Vice-Chancellor  
and Principal*

## Strategic overview

### Vision

To be a leading African university focused on the developmental needs of its communities and epitomising academic excellence and innovativeness.

### Mission

- To provide excellent and relevant academic programmes, research and community engagement initiatives which respond to the development needs of communities;
- To enhance the use of a variety of evaluation and monitoring instruments aimed at assessing and improving the University's overall academic standing and status as represented through its three core activity areas;
- To enhance access for under-prepared and for socially and economically disadvantaged students in particular, and to provide expanded study and life support services to all students of the University in order to ensure success in their studies;
- To strengthen and maintain close collaboration with commerce, industry, the government, local authorities, and professions in producing suitably qualified and equipped career-oriented graduates;
- To provide planned opportunities for the development of all staff of the University and particularly of the academic staff in respect of their teaching and learning as well as research skills; and
- To diversify the University's funding streams significantly, particularly the increase of third stream income, in order to support the launching of new teaching and learning, research and community engagement activities and quality sustainability of the existing ones.

## Dr Kingsly Shikwambana, 33

Karabo Mo Africa Foundation

“

*The thing about me is that I always finish what I start. This has been my driving force during my academic years.”*

[facebook.com/kingsly.shikwambana](https://facebook.com/kingsly.shikwambana)



**Y**oung Dr Kingsly Shikwambana, 33, from Burgersdorp village, under Greater Tzaneen Municipality, is another success academic story, not only for the University of Limpopo but for the entire country at large.

Although only 33, his academic achievements are impressive. He currently holds several degrees in Horticulture, a branch of plant agriculture dealing with garden crops, generally fruits and vegetables as well as ornamentals plants.

**H**e investigated the conundrum of Hass avocado's poor colour development during ripening, which changes from green to purple to almost black.

While this purple colour has become established as a ripening indicator for the import markets, producers, and consumers, it, however, seems to have failed markets that import Hass avocados from South Africa in recent years and has affected the promised fruit quality (PFQ) agreement between the South African avocado industry and the lucrative European market.

His study concluded that postharvest practices and postharvest treatments that promote sugar accumulation in the skin and promote ripening colour are key to reducing poor coloration of Hass avocado which would stabilise the export industry.

The humble and soft-spoken Shikwambana holds Bachelor, Masters and PhD caps in Horticultural Science

degrees, a feat he achieved at the university between 2011 and 2021.

“I am fascinated by the diverse opportunities Horticulture offers and I decided from the beginning that I would study horticulture due to its contribution to the quality of life, beauty, sustainability and rehabilitation of the environment and the human condition,” says Shikwambana, whose interest is in research and teaching.

He grew up in a village where his mother worked in the fields where she faced challenges such as pests, poor growth, and poor development of her plants.

That was a telling moment for him as curiosity caused him to study agriculture.

It has always been his goal, he says, to find solutions to problems.





LP

## DR THABANG LEGODI, 25

MBChB qualification

“

If you want to do anything, give it your all.”

[facebook.com/robertothabang](https://facebook.com/robertothabang)

**D**r Thabang Legodi, 25, from the village of Ga-Mashashane Ga-Mapangula in Limpopo province, has the kind of discipline many youths could use to help mould them into successful beings later in life.

Having lost his parents as a child, and many times going to bed without food, this humble background recently saw him stand out as a trailblazer in the world of academia. He was among the first group of medical students at University of Limpopo (UL) to attain an MBChB qualification and he was the first class rep and the deputy chairperson of the UL Association of Medical Students from 2016 to 2018.

“I was also awarded a certificate for my outstanding work as a student by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mahlo Makgalong, for being diligent in student leadership, which was cultivated in my high school years where I learned how to be a leader as President of the Learners Representative Council,” Legodi says proudly. In high school he was in a class by himself as the top learner, therefore these accolades should not come as a surprise.

This devout Christian says he always wanted to be a doctor but had no insight of what it really means except thinking that doctors are people with money, they heal people and make an impact in the world. “So, in 2014 when I got to high school, my principal Mr T E Rammutla called me to his office and asked me what I wanted to be when I finished high school, and I told him I didn’t know,” he says. His principal proposed that he study medicine. Although Legodi had always wanted to be a doctor, this proposition by someone he looked up to fueled his childhood dream. The rest is history.

## Phuti Mokgehele, 23

University of Limpopo Exemplary Alumnus

“

Hard work, commitment and dedication are the only keys to success.”

<https://bit.ly/3OnBJQZ>

**P**huti Mokgehele, 23, from Botlokwa, Limpopo, is one of the distinguished graduates from the University of Limpopo.

In 2018, he enrolled for a Bachelor of Science in Water and Sanitation at the institution to help resolve water scarcity and contamination issues in his province and the country.

“I wanted to explore water science since water in South Africa is one of the most limited resources, especially in many rural areas,” says Mokgehele. “I also wanted to learn more techniques of cleaning water since the one we get in Limpopo isn’t purified – it’s too salty.”

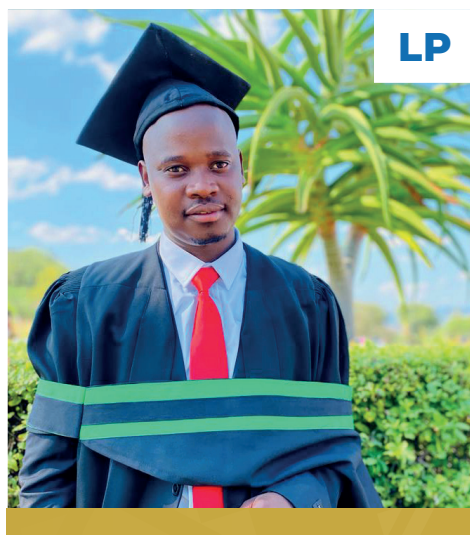
During his honours and final year last year, Mokgehele invented a water decontamination method that improves the quality of water while saving thousands of rands.

The project was undertaken at the university’s laboratory in collaboration with Vitaone8, an industry partners and a water treatment plant based in Sandton, Gauteng.

Called the adsorption method, the technology improves the quality of water at Gauteng’s Roodeplaat Dam to prevent eutrophication, which leads to the growth of plant life like algal blooms, a green mat-like plant that prevent sunlight from reaching the bottom of the water, limiting the amount of oxygen available in the water.

The technology could save the cost of purifying water (about R1.2-million per year) to drinking levels at the Magalies Water (Wallmansthal Water Treatment Plant), Pretoria, Gauteng. As we speak, the University of Limpopo, Magalies Water and Vitaone8, are working on a more detailed and bigger pilot before implementing the project at a larger scale. The project will involve Masters and PhD students.

“As water scientists, when we improve water systems we improve the lives of ordinary people so they can have access to safe, clean water,” says Mokgehele.



LP



LP

## GEORGIA RAMAKGWAKGWA, 24

University of Limpopo Exemplary Alumnus

“

Work hard and don’t let the situation drag you down.”

**D**r Georgia Ramakgwakgwa, 24, of Lenyenye, Limpopo, is living proof that a poor family background and heartache cannot stop anyone from achieving their dream.

Dr Ramakgwakgwa is the daughter of a domestic worker, Selina Ramakgwakgwa, who left her in the good care of her grandmother, Maria Ramakgwakgwa, while she plied her trade in Johannesburg, Gauteng, to make sure she went to bed with a full stomach daily and her educational needs were met.

Dr Ramakgwakgwa is one of 47 graduates from the initial 60 students who enrolled for a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery the University of Limpopo in 2016 after receiving a bursary from the Limpopo Department of Health. She graduated Cum Laude.

But her achievement is marred by sadness and grief – she lost two people she valued the most.

Firstly, in her third year at varsity, she lost a close friend. “My friend encouraged me to work harder in my studies. Losing her was an extremely emotional and depressing time in my life.”

Then in 2017, her grandmother fell sick and her mom resigned from her job to look after her. But, unfortunately, in January last year, the granny – the woman who raised her; her pillar of strength – died.

“She was one of the reasons I studied medicine,” says Dr Ramakgwakgwa. “She pushed and encouraged me to study hard, emphasising that I get an education, unlike her and my mom.”

Dr Ramakgwakgwa is doing her internship at the Lebowakgomo Hospital and Community Service, Lebowakgomo, Limpopo. She not quite sure what line of medicine she would specialise in at the end of her internship, but says she has an affinity for internal medicine. “I have always enjoyed it since the beginning of my training and throughout my clinical rotations. It gratifies me,” she says.



## Decent Mkhombo, 22

University of Limpopo Exemplary Alumnus

“

Dreams do come true; you can win if you want to.”



LP

**D**r Decent Mkhombo, 22, made headlines as the youngest medical student in the country when he enrolled for a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery at only 15 years old, at the University of Limpopo, in 2016.

“I literally spent all my teen years at varsity,” says Dr Mkhombo. “It was quite challenging to balance the social and academic aspects of life in that new environment at that age.”

Dr Mkhombo, 22, from the University of Limpopo, graduated this year as the youngest doctor in South Africa and is currently interning at Mapuleng Hospital, his home hospital. Adding that he couldn’t be at a better place, he says working at the medical facility has been a true eye-opener for him and that he’s more driven to serve the community and save more lives, especially those of the poor and less privileged.

The young doctor wants to become a specialist and would like to venture into gynaecology and nuclear medicine.

He says being accepted to study medicine at the university was an honour and a privilege for him as his parents, who are both teachers, are former students of the University of Limpopo in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Dr Mkhombo’s only sibling is also a medical doctor. “My sister was inspiration to me, and I guess the desire to work in the health sector runs in the family,” he says.

Dr Mkhombo says his journey into the medical profession at such a tender age was made possible by the University of Limpopo and he’s forever thankful for this. “The university didn’t waste time in accepting my application and made sure I got a bursary to pursue my studies from the Limpopo Department of Health.”





# YOUTH IN ACADEMIA AND EDUCATION

## Sinazo Hafula, 27 Dedicated Teacher

**S**inazo Hafula, 27, is selfless and always puts others' needs first. A teacher by profession, this year marks her fourth year as English first additional language educator of Grade 11 and 12 at the Samuel Johnson Secondary School in Zastron in the Free State.

Hafula teaches in the poorest district of the province, where the residents depend on social grants. "The children I teach motivate me," she says. "Most of them are burdened with responsibility of changing their situation at home and break the cycle of poverty through education."

“Make sure you pursue this career [teaching] for the right reasons.”

She goes beyond the call of duty in supporting learners, even buying school uniform for those in need. She also helps her learners in other ways. "I assist my Grade 12s to apply for bursaries, and also help them with varsity applications annually," she explains.

She also leads by example, encouraging learners to stay in school if they are to make headway in life. In 2021 she obtained an honours degree in education in a record time with an average pass of above 60%, while keeping a full-time job. "This self-development helped me to produce a 100% matric pass in 2021."



FS

[facebook.com/sinazo.hafula](https://facebook.com/sinazo.hafula)

LP



<https://bit.ly/3tHXm6P>

## Prof Witness Maluleke, 35 Senior lecturer, University of Limpopo

**W**hen Prof Maluleke, 35, was six years old his father, a police officer, was killed in 1992 during an unrest in Katlehong, east of Johannesburg.

That incident influenced him to study policing at the Tshwane University of Technology, earning a Doctor of Technology: Policing degree in 2016. Maluleke, a qualitative rural criminology/stock theft researcher, is a senior lecturer at the University of Limpopo, Polokwane, in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

"I prepare my students to solve real-life problems," says Maluleke. "Students

“It's important to respect and help others, with an application of high ethics, morals and positivity.”

need theoretical and empirical frameworks to combat, prevent and investigate various crimes and maintain public order." Maluleke, born at Xikukwani village, Giyani, Limpopo, has supervised 11 Master's students and two doctoral candidates in criminology, forensic studies and policing.

To fulfil his ultimate goal of "restoring the love of education to young people in South Africa's rural areas", the academic launched the biennial Hlayani Excellence Awards of Learners (HEAL) at his alma mater, Mashengani Primary School, in 2017, where three of the best Grade 7 learners were chosen and awarded certificates and medals for their excellent school work.

GP



[facebook.com/juniordrivingmanual](https://facebook.com/juniordrivingmanual)

## MBALI MAVUNDLA, 29 Kids On The Road - Junior Driving Manual

“One day we're gonna make the onions cry. The young, black youth are gonna change the narrative using our unfulfilled dreams as motivation.”

**T**wo months ago Mbali Mavundla, 29, published a ground-breaking road safety book aimed at learners, proving that writing remains a powerful tool of disseminating knowledge.

Although the *Kids On The Road - Junior Driving Manual* is primarily aimed at learners between Grade R and Grade 7, it is still applicable to high school and ABET curricula. The idea is to familiarise learners from a young age with the fundamentals of road safety. The benefits are twofold: they will use the road carefully and it will make it easy for them to remember the rules of

the road when they eventually go for their own driver's licences. "Enforcing formal education in the process of obtaining a driver's licence, and making this book part of the curriculum would mean skilled and knowledgeable motorists on our roads. It would also help to end the corrupt acquisition of driver's licences," says Mavundla.

To write this ground-breaking book, Mavundla tapped into her journalism training, and it took only two months to undertake the project. The book costs R250 and is distributed through PEP stores and The Book Circle Capital in Melville, Johannesburg.

## TEBOGO CLEMENCE MOLEPO, 31

Teacher Kwagu Primary School, Limpopo

“The major reward for me is to see a black child achieve academic excellence and prospering in their personal lives.”

[facebook.com/Kgwadu-Primary-School](https://facebook.com/Kgwadu-Primary-School)



LP

**T**ebogo Clemence Molepo, 31, a teacher at Kwagu Primary School in Limpopo, knew from an early age that he was destined to influence young minds through sharing knowledge.

"I have been taught by great leaders and teachers, who made me dream of becoming a teacher who also contributes meaningfully to society and the wider community," says Molepo.

At Kwagu Primary School, he teaches learners in intermediate phase as well as those in senior phase, which are those between Grade 4 and 7.

Molepo enhances teaching and learning using technology to teach and collaborate with other educators.

During the national coronavirus lockdown, Molepo, who studied at the University of Venda and began his teaching career in 2016, intensified his use of technology. He used visual platforms such as Moodle, school Facebook learning page, parents WhatsApp group and many more apps to continue giving lessons to learners.

A selfless and innovative educator, he also started a coding club called Kgwadu Coding Club, to help learners at his school to be exposed to technology in the many ways of learning.

**M**bali Blaai, 29, from Carletonville, west of Johannesburg, is a reading activist who advocates for her community to read.

Blaai, a graduate who holds Honours degree in Public Governance (North West University), postgraduate diploma in corporate governance (Monash South Africa) and the University of Johannesburg (registered for MBA), organises regular spelling competitions.

"I am a strong advocate for The Self-Education Movement and I believe that people must take personal responsibility for their own continuing education," says Blaai.

Her journey started at age nine in Grade 3 when she was granted the best reader award, a book and a certificates for her efforts. "I think that was when the seed and love for reading was truly planted." Her book titled *The Invitation of a Reading Activist* provides key relatable and personal strategies to help people adopt a reading lifestyle.

She mentors different reading groups through the Releaders Book Club Africa, and organises spelling BEEs competitions at schools in collaboration with the local municipality to ignite the love of reading among children.

## MBALI BLAAI, 29 Carletonville Book Club

“If you have to doubt anything, doubt your doubts.”



GP

[linkedin.com/in/mbalenhle-blaai-016a65136](https://linkedin.com/in/mbalenhle-blaai-016a65136)

## Keamogetse Tisane, 23

Junior Lecturer & Table Doctor

“Some of us are not afforded the opportunity to live life as we want and we have to create it ourselves.”



GP

[facebook.com/kea.tisane](https://facebook.com/kea.tisane)

**K**eamogetse Tisane, 23, is an exemplary academic and doctor in the making who is passionate about inspiring the next generation of scholars. Tisane, who grew up in Ga-Rankuwa, Tshwane, holds a BSc degree in Life Sciences and a BSc Honours degree in Anatomy from Sefako Makgatho Health Science University, where she works part-time as a junior lecturer and table doctor. She's also busy with her MSc degree in Anatomy.

Tisane makes time to help high school learners apply to different tertiary institutions, providing advice on courses,

career options and funding opportunities.

She wishes to see more young people choose careers in science. "Scientists work hard to find new methods that will assist with issues such as finding cures and medication for certain diseases, methods that improve crop production, which can create jobs in agriculture, and tackle unemployment and food insecurity, as well as innovations to tackle global warming."

Her goals for the future? "I want to be part of a team that will discover something great in research that will impact people's lives."



## SHAPING THE FUTURE THROUGH INNOVATION

The Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT) is situated in the Free State. It's dedicated to quality education and training in many technological fields, such as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and others.

About 47.7% of CUT students are admitted in priority fields of Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics. By 2030, the university aspires to reach 50% of student intakes in this area.

CUT offers fully accredited academic programmes by accredited bodies such as the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA), South African Board for People Practices (SABPP), Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) and have a strong affiliation with several Sector Education and Training Authority (SETAs). All faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology learning programmes are accredited.

### MEET FOUR CUT GRADUATES WHO BEST REPRESENT WHAT THE INSTITUTION STANDS FOR.

#### DAVID MPHOSHA, MOYENG DITHEBE

Tourism management graduates

“We are studying the big global travelling agencies and want to compete with them for business in the future,” says Mphosha.



FS

Varsity buddies and tourism management graduates David Mphosha and Moyeng Dithebe are working part-time in the hospitality sector while working on their dream job as co-owners of a travel agency – Funbase Tours & Consulting.

The Central University of Technology graduates are hosting their first tour of Bloemfontein on June 30, all as part of a process to build a name and brand that people will, five years from now, trust as the authoritative in local and international travel.

The 24-year-old Mphosha, from Ladybrand, near Lesotho's capital Maseru, who turns a five-minute drive in the Bloemfontein CBD to meet Dithebe into a tour of the interesting landmarks

along the way, says he fell in love with tourism in high school.

“I have also discovered that people in Bloemfontein are not into visiting local tourist attractions. I want to change all of that,” he says.

He found a kindred spirit in 23-year-old Moyeng, from Odendaalsrus, a gold mining town in the Free State's border with North West.

Dithebe says he fell in love with the idea of packaging a fun traveling experience for people when he was introduced to tourism as a school subject in Grade 10.

The duo, who graduated this year with a National Diploma in tourism management, uses social media to get clients.

What is it like to be black, queer and a manager in the corporate world? This is the question that inspired Master's graduate Nkosana Tshisa's thesis.

The human resource management graduate is on a mission to shine the spotlight on sexual orientation discrimination by contributing to academic knowledge in the field of human resources.

“My interest is queer research and in particular black queer research. Though you don't say it, straight people are treated better than queer people,” says Tshisa. “They write about us when it comes to gender-based violence, HIV-Aids but I also want to know ‘how are we as managers, as employers, as employees,’” says Tshisa.

“The higher education sector is more embracing of people like me. It is all about imparting knowledge and being a change catalyst without being a certain way. You are taken seriously through your work, not how you present yourself.”

Tshisa says the study also found that closeted people tended to have more unfavourable workplace experiences. “They cannot stand up for their rights and cannot defend practices that are discriminatory against queer people,” says Tshisa.

Tshisa, who works as a junior lecturer at the Central University of Technology's Welkom campus, graduated last year at the same institution.

The 27-year-old from Mafikeng in North West also facilitates and moderates seminars and conferences. “I also want to write a lot of articles and attend more conferences so that my work gets out there.”



FS

#### Nkosana Tshisa

Human resource  
management graduate

“I was bullied for being queer ... So, I knew that whatever topic I choose for my studies it must speak to issues that affect people like me.”

### CUT PROJECT SOARS

South Africa is among the top 10 countries with the highest rate of unemployment.

To play a significant role in the alleviation of this challenge, including issues of urbanisation and food insecurity, CUT Enactus students entered the Enactus Virtual National Competition, winning numerous awards and advancing to the final round.

The team presented Village Fa, an innovative project aimed at decreasing urbanisation, eradicate poverty, stimulate employment, generate income and promote sustainable development.

The team's CUT Community Engagement Unit collaborated with youths from Gladstone village, Thaba Nchu, Free State,



Interstate Bus Lines and Patriot Vision in Action, to implement an agricultural project in July last year.

The project gave birth to the Green Golden Grey Cooperation, a farming enterprise with 14 beneficiaries, now commercial farmers, from Gladstone village.

To kick-start the venture, the team planted potatoes because it's multi-seasonal and its profits are guaranteed. The entity is harvesting 24 000kg of potatoes, which are being distributed at different markets in the Free State.

Thanks to this initiative, South African's Village Fa has advanced to the Top 12 projects in the Race to Feed the Planet Competition after beating 68 teams from 16 countries, and will now compete with universities from Brazil, Egypt, India and Germany.

Only four projects will advance to the final at the Enactus World Cup in October this year. Hopefully, Village Fa will make the final cut and win the ultimate prize. The 12 projects are sponsored and mentored by the Archer-Daniels-Midland, an American multinational food processing and commodities trading corporation.



FS

#### MAGAUTA NTSOEU, 25

National Diploma in Tourism  
Management in 2019 (cum  
laude), Advanced Diploma in  
Tourism Management  
(Cum laude)

“I consider myself a leader and I also want to produce leaders.”

Go-getter Magauta Ntsoeu, 25, has her future laid out. It is no secret that she's eyeing the position of head of department: tourism and event management at the Central University of Technology. Ntsoeu's name is a familiar at the institution's campus in Bloemfontein. It is engraved for posterity on several trophies in recognition of her outstanding achievements as the top student in the department since 2016.

“I consider myself a leader and I also want to produce leaders,” she says.

She obtained her National Diploma in Tourism Management in 2019 and Advanced Diploma in Tourism Management last year, both cum laude. She has been a recipient of the vice-chancellor's scholarship since 2017, and is completing her post-graduate diploma this year. She is also already working on her topic for her Master's degree.

As a student assistant at the university, Ntsoeu manages 100 supplemental instruction (SI) leaders who are assisting with 175 modules at the institution. SI leaders are students who are excelling in their subject field and are chosen to assist other students.

An orphan raised by her aunt and husband, Ntsoeu has also excelled as an exchange student in the US for a 10-month programme at the College of DuPage in Chicago, Illinois, where she completed two foundation certificates in her chosen field. “I see myself wearing a red gown to honour my mother,” she says.

### TUKULU OVER THE MOON TO BE PART OF CUT CYCLING CLUB

Idah Maujane Tukulu, from Phelindaba, Bloemfontein, is excited to be part of the CUT cycling club.

She is a CUT postgraduate student currently pursuing her Postgraduate Diploma in Project Management.

She also holds a Diploma in Marketing Management and Advanced Diploma in Logistics and Transportation Management which she obtained cum laude.

Maujane is also a STEP Student Assistant in the Dean of Student Affairs office.

She joined the CUT cycling club because she has always been interested in cycling sport, and this was the perfect opportunity for her.

“This is the best decision I have ever made. I got to mingle with funny, welcoming and loving people willing to assist me with training after I acquired all the equipment,” she says.

Though she has not cycled for years, she did not feel like an outsider. “One thing I loved most was seeing female cyclists. It motivated me, as I see them carrying the women's flag higher,” she adds.



Idah Maujane Tukulu

Maujane thanked the management, staff, and external participants for the great opportunity.

“I am encouraging other students to come and join the club to learn, network, and have fun because it is also good for our health. Let's use the available sports activities as part of student life and create the best memories in our university life. Let your light shine bright,” she says.

Maujane is a fun and energetic individual who loves running, hiking, and going to church. On weekends she enjoys hikes with Bloem Social Hiking Cl.





SPONSORED CONTENT



DR TATE  
MAKGOE

MEC for Education Free State

The Presidential Youth Employment Initiative (PYEI) implemented by the Department of Basic Education in the Free State has been hailed as a pathfinder in assisting the youth and young graduates gain the skills and experience they need to find employment without creating animosity and competition between teachers and staff at schools.

MEC for Education Dr Tate Makgoe and the custodian of the PYEI in the province, which is implemented as the Basic Education Employment Initiative, says 15 309 young people are currently employed as part of phase 3 of the initiative to reduce youth unemployment in South Africa. For continuity, he adds, most of the youngsters were also part of the previous phases.

“In the past, we would not have been able to do this without teachers and other support staff seeing these youngsters as competition,” he says.

Implemented in five-month long contracts to help the youth gain work experience so that they are better equipped to enter the labour market, the first phase started on November 1 2020 to March 31

2021 and the second on November 1 2021 to March 31 this year.

The youth, aged 18 to 34 years, are appointed as education assistants (EAs) and general school assistants (GSAs) to support schools in the province.

The EAs provide support to teachers in the classroom by preparing the classroom before lessons. They also assist in identifying learning gaps during lessons in order to assist with extra classes to bridge those gaps. EAs also reduce the administrative workload of teachers by marking registers. Some EAs are also appointed as reading champions to improve the ability of children to read for comprehension.

The GSAs assist in keeping school premises clean and with maintenance work. They also assist teachers in integrating information and communications technologies in classrooms and help pupils with science and technology projects. They also assist in the admin of the school.

“It is important for the state to create job opportunities for young people in South Africa to alleviate unemployment,” says Makgoe. “It is also good that the

president and his Cabinet used a department such as education for this programme because education touches every community. Almost every community has a school.

“If communities see schools as their hope, they will guard them against crime and vandalism. If communities see that school is not only a place of learning but a place that also employs their children, they will assist us in taking care of the school.”

Makgoe adds that through the programme the province also has its conversation on how it can engage more young people to get them ready for employment.

“Through our work with the Central University of Technology we have discovered that our STEM [science, technology, engineering and maths] graduates don’t understand entrepreneurship,” he says.

“We need to expose them to more fields, so that they can work in the field of engineering for example.”

Thami Mngoma, the principal of Mabeoana’s Primary School in Mangaung, Bloemfontein, has made it his mission to ensure that his school has a reputation for excellence in all the programmes it offers and participates in.

From soccer teams that are loathed for 12-2 thrashings, to choirs that hog the spotlight, Mngoma wants his pupils, teachers and now education assistants and general school assistants to be highly sought after wherever they go.

“We are a school that prides itself in the fact that when we participate in any programme, we do our best. Even with the PYEI [Presidential Youth Employment



Mabeoana’s Primary School in Mangaung, Bloemfontein

Initiative], I tell our learners, parents, educators, support staff and the EAs and GSAs that when we perform well, our circuit, which is the heartbeat of Motheo district, also performs well,” he says.

The school falls under the Motheo district, which together with Xhariep, Lejweleputswa, Thabo Mofutsanyana and Fezile Dabi make up the province’s five education districts.

“I tell them that our circuit is the pulse of the Motheo district, if our heartbeat is not okay, Free State will not be okay.”

THAMI MNGOMA

Principal of Mabeoana’s Primary School in Mangaung, Bloemfontein

“I tell them that our circuit is the pulse of the Motheo district, if our heartbeat is not okay, Free State will not be okay.”



FS

The 61-year-old Mngoma says the school, which has 603 pupils, has benefited greatly from the assistance offered by 12 EAs and five GSAs.

The appointment of the youth in the school has been a game-changer. “As a principal, I don’t have to stress, even when I get a notice that one of teachers is not feeling well, I know there is an EA that will ensure that learning is not interrupted.”

Mngoma, who trained as a secondary school teacher, arrived at the school in 1995 as deputy principal. He was appointed principal in 2007.

“In my career as teacher in secondary schools, I was frustrated by the fact that many children did not grasp basic concepts in maths and science that were supposed to have been taught in primary school. I jumped at the opportunity to make a difference in building a strong foundation for maths, science and reading.

He says he follows his pupils’ performance when they go to secondary school. “Last year, one of our former learners was in the top 10 in the Motheo district.”





FS



## MOKHELE RABOLINYANE, 27

Electrical engineering graduate, general school assistant at Mabeoana Primary School

“I have developed a love for teaching since coming at the school as a GSA (general school assistant)....”

Electrical engineering graduate Mokhele Rabolinyane would have been delivering parcels in Bloemfontein had it not been for an advert he saw for the Presidential Youth Employment Initiation calling for applicants to apply as teacher and general school assistants.

The 22-year-old Rabolinyane is employed as a general school assistant at Mabeoana Primary School in Mangaung, Bloemfontein.

When Rabolinyane, who has a national diploma in electrical engineering from Central University of Technology, is not involved in the general maintenance of the school, he is helping pupils with maths, natural science and technology.

Together with Thebe Masiu, 31, who has a national diploma in music, they are part of the 17 young people who are gaining work experience while contributing to the education of pupils in the area. They have been an invaluable part of the school since 2020, when the first phase of the programme, which is implemented in five-month long contracts, started in the province.

“I have developed a love for teaching since coming at the school as a GSA (general school assistant),” said Rabolinyane who was also a pupil at Mabeoana. “I provide support in maths, natural science and technology. I also help learners with building models as part of their school projects,” says Rabolinyane.

“As EAs [education assistants] and GSAs we are a bridge between learners and teachers. When teachers are explaining concepts, I observe the learners and write down words that may confuse them. I also note which learners are not participating and try to find out why they are not engaging with the subject.”

Masiu, who has a diploma in music from the University of the Free State, is an EA, and as a reading champion for the school he helps pupils learn to read for understanding. He also facilitates reading classes at Mabeoana to inculcate a culture of reading at the school.

“For 30 minutes each day, everyone at the school participates in reading – from cleaners to cooks – we all play a part to ensure that learners are able to read for comprehension,” he says. “I arrange extra classes for learners who have a reading challenge.”

FS



## Xoliswa Didi

Principal at Pholoho Special School for pupils with severe intellectual disabilities

“It is a challenging environment; one day you are faced with a learner who has an epileptic episode, another day you are calming down learners who are having an emotional outburst”

Just next to the Mangaung police station on Mohapi Street is Pholoho Special School for pupils with severe intellectual disabilities. Here, the extra hands offered by the Free State education department as part of the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative almost brings the principal to tears.

Xoliswa Didi says the 25 youth who are employed as education assistants and general school assistants have improved the quality of teaching and learning because teachers are now able to focus on teaching. “Thanks to the initiative, teachers are for the first time since I joined the school in 2003 able to focus on teaching,” the principal says.

The school has 560 pupils who are in grade R to 6 who need thorough supervision all the time because some are not able to make decisions on their own, such as opening or closing a tap or going to the bathroom.

“Our children also come from difficult environments. Some are orphans in the care of grandparents, while others come from families that give them little care or attention.



Pholoho Special School for pupils with severe intellectual disabilities.

“On Mondays, a teacher spends 30 minutes just trying to calm the learners down because of the stressors they were exposed to during the weekend.”

Didi says with the assistance of 20 EAs and five GSAs, the school can provide multi-level teaching, which is the preferred method of teaching at the school because pupils in the same class are not on the same intellectual level.

“These young people go beyond the call of duty in an environment that is difficult,” she said.

“It is a challenging environment; one day you are faced with a learner who has an epileptic episode, another day you are calming down

learners who are having an emotional outburst. But I’m proud of the calibre of youth we have in our school, we have had no cases of injuries,” she says.

The school – which has a boarding facility for 20 girls and 20 boys from other towns in and outside the province – has two deputy principals, nine departmental heads, 39 educators, seven occupational therapists, one physiotherapist and one social worker.

## Xoliswa Gubuza, 27

Education assistant at Pholoho Special School for pupils with severe intellectual disabilities

“Since coming here and interacting with the children, my goals have changed. I want to teach children who are autistic.”

Xoliswa Gubuza is one of the education assistants at Pholoho Special School and the 27-year-old says the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative could not have come at the better time for her.

“When I heard President Cyril Ramaphosa talk about a programme to employ the youth as education assistants, I was excited. I thought I would be able to realise my goal of saving enough money to complete my N6 so that I can have a qualification in human resources.”

What 27-year-old Gubuza thought would be a job to save money has become a huge learning experience and her new home. “I’m helping but I’m also learning. I fell in love with the children; they teach you patience and kindness,” she says.

“Since coming here and interacting with the children, my goals have changed. I want to teach children who are autistic,” she says.

And for 28-year-old Dicketseng Pesa, who has a national diploma in language practice and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education from the Central University of Technology, the initiation was the opportunity she needed to do what she loves.

“Coming to the school and working with the children has been life-changing,” says Pesa. “I’m a reading coach for Grade 4 and 5. I started a reading club and realised that the

children could not read,” she says. “We do picture reading and reading letters – and with those tools we tell each other stories.”

Ayanda Chokolo, who has a Diploma in Language Practice and media from the Central University of Technology, says it was big adjustment because some of the pupils do not talk or are passive.

“They will act like they don’t know or don’t care. Then one day, they do exactly what I have been teaching them. It is the most rewarding feeling,” says the 23-year-old.

Travel and tourism graduate from Motheo Technical and Vocational Education and Training College, 31-year-old Boniswa Dyasoni assists the social care worker for Grade 2 classes.

Her dream of becoming a flight attendant changed when she fell in love with teaching. She has now completed her N6 studies and done her practicals in early childhood development.

Katleho Moeti, who studied electrical engineering at Motheo TVET College, joined the school as an EA in November 2020 with phase 1 intake. He is involved in maths, woodwork, sewing, welding and arts and crafts.

FS







# YOUTH IN ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY



EC

## MUSAWENKOSI ROSINA DLAMINI, 22

Vukani Environmental Justice Movement in Action

“If you want something perfect, do it yourself.”

[facebook.com/musawenkosidlamini.rosina](https://facebook.com/musawenkosidlamini.rosina)

Musawenkosi Dlamini, 22, joined the Vukani Environmental Justice Movement in Action (VEJMA) as an environmental monitor and volunteer at its launch in 2016 in Emalahleni, Mpumalanga Highveld.

VEJMA, a non-profit organisation (NPO), tackles environmental issues such as air pollution and climate change. It also educates residents on how to care for the environment through recycling, among other things.

Dlamini says the air residents breathe is toxic, and this doesn't bode well for her as she suffers from asthma and kidney failure.

“I participate in community awareness campaigns against the abuse of the environment,” she says. “We need to learn how to protect our environment.”

In 2019, VEJMA and groundWork, another environmental justice NPO, took the SA government to the Pretoria High Court demanding it improves the air quality on the Highveld. The two NPOs won the so-called “Deadly Air Case”, and proved sweet victory for Dlamini. She wrote an affidavit as a supporting document to build their court case.

Dlamini studies Information Computer Technology Level 4 at the Nkangala TVET College, Emalahleni.

## ABONGILE NKQAYI, 30

Ma Afrika Energy Group

“Self-motivation and self-belief are important as there are many discouraging variables in the early stages of all development, including entrepreneurship.”

[facebook.com/abongile.nkqayi](https://facebook.com/abongile.nkqayi)

His grandmother's lung condition caused by the burning of organic waste in open-air inspired Abongile Nkqayi, 30, from Malmesbury, Western Cape, to get into the waste and energy sector.

With a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Sociology and Political Science, Nkqayi has participated in a number of Entrepreneurial Masterclass programmes through the South African Renewable Business Incubator. His company, Ma Afrika Energy Group, focuses on converting organic waste into energy and high-value byproducts such as organic fertilisers.

The company, established in 2020, comprises technical advisers with more than a combined 35 years of electrical and mechanical engineering experience. It was selected as one of 12 Driving Force for Change winners by the national Department of Environment, Forestry, and Fisheries.

“Ma Afrika Energy Group is disposing of the waste wood at a high financial and environmental cost and making use of expensive diesel generators for their energy needs,” says Nkqayi.



WC

## NOMFUNDO MKHABA, 35

Waste for Change

“The earth needs saving and for that to happen we need solidarity.”

[facebook.com/mfundo.mkhaba](https://facebook.com/mfundo.mkhaba)

When Durban-born 35-year-old environmental rights activist and project developer Nomfundo Mkhaba co-established a non-profit organisation (NGO) Waste for Change in 2019, the vision was to reduce waste from going into landfills. She had just graduated from the Centre for Environmental Rights. “I wanted to activate community participation where we believe it is the government that needs to do things for us,” she explains.

They started to identify illegal dumpsites, collected and sorted waste into different categories, selling it to various outlets to

create revenue. “From the sales, the money would go back to the community members who assisted with pick-ups. Our focus was to low-income communities that lack waste management services.”

Mkhaba works in the eThekweni Municipality with a team of 30 local communities, some of whom considered as “the scum of the community”. The idea is to support them on their journey to recovery. Since 2020, the NGO has dedicated Saturdays to picking up waste for recycling purposes. The NGO also offers climate education and other awareness programmes.

LP



[facebook.com/katlego.malesa](https://facebook.com/katlego.malesa)

## KATLEGO SEGOPOTSE MALESA, 35

Social and environmental justice activist

“Have love and passion for what you do. In that way your work will not be difficult and demanding.”

Growing up in the rural area of Ga Makgopane that is surrounded by mines, near Sekhukhune, in Limpopo, Katlego Segopotse Malesa, 35, observed a lot of social injustices and non-compliance by the mining sector. The injustices included not only environmental issues or social and labour matters. They had to deal with land and gender issues, or a lack of water in communities or house cracks and relocation challenges.

Malesa is deputy chairperson of Sekhukhune Combined Mining Affected Communities as well

as deputy secretary of Mining and Environmental Justice Community Network of South Africa (MEJCON- SA). “At MEJCON we run projects, workshops and training with communities to enhance their knowledge. We also assist those in need of legal assistance to address gender-based violence, among others.”

The organisation also distributes food parcels to vulnerable communities and women-headed homes. “I'm also seeking to elevate the voices of women in my community; to give them the courage to speak about gender issues.”



MP

## THOBEKA GUMEDE, 31

Centre for Environmental Rights

“The environment is the core of our existence.”

[instagram.com/gumedethobeka/?hl=en](https://instagram.com/gumedethobeka/?hl=en)

## JABULISILE MAKHUBU, 32

Mabola Alternatives Committee (NPO)

“To share information with others can make a huge difference in developing your community and even the whole world.”

[facebook.com/jabulisile.makhubu](https://facebook.com/jabulisile.makhubu)

Jabulisile Makhubu, 32, defines herself as an environmental activist in her community of Wakkerstroom, Mpumalanga, as well as a community volunteer, who helps to tackle persistent socio-economic issues such as hunger and poverty.

She developed this sense of commitment after graduating from high school in 2009 due to poor service delivery in her community. In 2015, she got involved in the environmental sector.

Makhubu is the chairperson of a non-profit organisation, Mabola Alternatives Committee, which is made up of seven activists who advocate for the exploration of sustainable socio-economic opportunities in the community. Occasionally, they conduct campaigns that encourage people to, for instance, plant vegetable gardens in an environmentally-friendly manner. “As a result, we are slowly but surely winning the fight against hunger,” she says.

This passionate community activist is also concerned about ensuring all community members of Wakkerstroom are fully informed of socio-economic development opportunities and activities in their area for their own benefit. “I try to ensure that the voice of the people on the ground is heard for the benefit of everyone in the community,” she says.

Thobeka Gumedede, 31, is an environmental warrior who uses the law to fight for environmental justice and the provision of a healthy environment for all.

Gumedede, an LLB graduate from the University of Zululand, is a practising attorney at the Centre for Environmental Rights in Cape Town, which is made up of lawyers who work with communities and civil society organisations in South Africa to realise our Constitutional right to a healthy environment by advocating and litigating for environmental justice.

“The law is one of many tools that can be utilised to protect the constitutional right to a healthy environment,” says Gumedede. “I wanted to use this tool to campaign for stronger environmental laws, to compel compliance with constitutional and environmental obligations and to have the ability to call for adequate enforcement action against the transgressors of the law relating to the environment.”

She laments the harm of climate change and calls for action. “We need to do more to protect the environment for ourselves and future generations. It is a matter of life and death. Think of the recent floods in KwaZulu-Natal and the drought in Cape Town. If we (especially government) do not make drastic changes about, it will get worse.”

EC



# THE CLIMATE CHALLENGE

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges the world faces today. South Africa is in a part of the world that is severely impacted by climate variability. Extreme weather patterns, unpredictable rainfall and natural disasters are increasing in scope and severity. Recently, KwaZulu-Natal experienced devastating floods that led to the loss of lives and severe damage to infrastructure. The Western Cape has been grappling with prolonged drought and Gqebera contends with water shortage. Other areas of life are feeling the pinch too. Climate change endangers ecosystems, threatening our food supply.

Overall, climate change disproportionately affects poorer communities as it endangers lives and livelihoods. Indeed, climate change exacerbates South Africa's triple challenges of poverty, unemployment, and inequality. South Africa is one of the most unequal countries in the world; the divide between the rich and the poor is larger than ever; currently, the unemployment rate, at over 35%, is at record levels (StatsSA 2022).

It is time for the country to act and limit the causes of climate. Young people, women and other vulnerable groups are also called upon to be part of the search for solutions. Climate change is not a subject for grown-ups, policy-makers or government. It's a pressing issue that affects everyone. Curiously, while climate change is a serious challenge, it also offers young people a chance to think innovatively in search of answers for the kind of world they will inherit in the future. Action must start now.

## CAUSES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

First, let's understand what causes of climate change. The main driver of climate change is the greenhouse effect. Some gases in the Earth's atmosphere act a bit like the glass in a greenhouse, trapping the sun's heat and stopping it from leaking back into space and causing global warming. Many of these greenhouse gases occur naturally, but human activities are increasing the concentrations of some of them in the atmosphere, in particular carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases.

## COMMON CAUSES FOR RISING EMISSIONS ARE:

- Burning coal, oil and gas produces carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide.
- Cutting down forests (deforestation). Trees help to regulate the climate by absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. When they are cut down, that beneficial effect is lost and the carbon stored in the trees is released into the atmosphere, adding to the greenhouse effect.
- Increasing livestock farming. Cows and sheep produce large amounts of methane when they digest their food.
- Fertilisers containing nitrogen produce nitrous oxide emissions.
- Fluorinated gases are emitted from equipment and products that use these gases. Such emissions have a very strong warming effect, up to 23 000 times greater than CO<sub>2</sub>.



Ayakha Melithafa, climate activist

## HOW SOUTH AFRICA TACKLES CLIMATE CHANGE

In December 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa established the Presidential Climate Commission (PCC), an independent, multi stakeholder platform to coordinate and advise on the country's climate change response. The idea is for a just and equitable transition towards a low-emissions and climate-resilient economy and society. It will be a society that ensures decent work for all, social inclusion, and the eradication of poverty. A society where the interests of the most vulnerable to climate change are protected, including women, children, people with disabilities, the poor and the unemployed, and protect workers' jobs and livelihoods. The PCC facilitates dialogue between social



partners on these issues, defining the type of society we want to achieve, and detailed pathways for how to get there.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND OTHER GROUPS

The just transition will mean the eventual decommissioning of coal mines that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, which will affect jobs in the entire fossil fuel value chain. When that happens, jobs will be lost but the just transition plan seeks to leave no one behind. Thriving mining towns will not be turned into ghost towns. Just transition seeks to make sure that every South African has the skills to adapt to a new low-carbon society. While jobs will be lost, new ones will be created. Young people will need to acquire skills for tomorrow such as 3D laser printing, cleaner production technology, hydrogen economy and in the auto sector value chain. "There are huge opportunities for entrepreneurship in the green economy. There are also opportunities in gas, in solar grid repairs and maintenance, distribution and recycling of used electrical component. Broadly, young people must

# Just Transition and Youth

lead in finding technological solutions and innovation to address the climate crisis," says Blessing Manale, PCC Communications Manager.

While the protection of the environment is paramount, the just transition also stresses governance and the inclusion of youth, women, workers and disadvantaged in decision-making. "Young people will inherit the Earth in the future. By being active in seeking solutions, they can shape policies and invent solutions for a sustainable future. They can also be more aware about their lifestyle choices and shun food products and other goods products that were not manufactured sustainably," says Manale.

He also urges young South Africans to be on the lookout for funding, incubation and learning opportunities for their green projects. "There are incentives in the pipeline for various sector like green tourism, water and waste management, agriculture and farming and small scale renewable energy enterprises and solar businesses."

**When it comes to tackling climate change, it's a matter of now or never. "If we don't go green, we simply won't cut it economically,"** says Manale.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PCC AND HOW YOUTH CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE CLIMATE CHANGE DISCUSSION, PLEASE VISIT:**

[climatecommission.org.za](https://climatecommission.org.za)



**PRESIDENTIAL CLIMATE COMMISSION**  
TOWARDS A JUST TRANSITION

change, research, marine conservation, and international collaboration as part of the South African National Antarctica Programme and Expedition (SANAPE).

Her activism has seen her represent youth voices from the Global South on various national and international platforms, including the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, and at the COP 27 Glasgow meeting in November last year. In her own words: "The impact of the Western Cape droughts on my family, and the suffering of my mother, as a small-scale farmer devastated by dying crops, made me realise that it is more than just youth activism and wanting to change the world. The impact of climate change is hitting our homes and disrupting our lives, daily."

[instagram.com/ayakhamelithafa](https://instagram.com/ayakhamelithafa)

## A YOUTH VOICE OF CLIMATE ACTIVISM

**AYAKHA MELITHAFA**  
(PCC Commissioner)

Ayakha Melithafa, founder of the Ayakha Melithafa Foundation and the youngest Board Member at Future Stories Alliance, is a Non-Executive Director at the African Climate Alliance, a youth-led climate advocacy group that organised the #climatestrike protests in Cape Town in collaboration with more than a million youths around the world. At the ACA, she previously held the role of recruitment official and spokesperson. She is also a graduate of Project 90 by 2030's YouLead Initiative.

Ayakha, a recipient of the Charlotte Manny Institute's Women of Firsts Award, was one of five matric winners in the Antarctica programme, which raises awareness about issues relating to climate





# YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE



## Nkosinathi Mduduzi Mkhumbane, 34

### Mawela Poultry

Keenly observing his father's work and success in Malelane, Mpumalanga, inspired Nkosinathi Mduduzi Mkhumbane, 34, to also venture into farming.

"I was motivated by the hard work he put into his business," he says. "He was not formally trained as a farmer, yet he was able to make a profit and put me through school."

Mkhumbane, born in Naas township in Mpumalanga, is the owner of Mawela Poultry, a broiler producing project housed at the Rooiwal Agricultural Park, Lynwood, Tshwane, on the 5ha leased

land from the City of Tshwane.

Mawela Poultry, established in 2018, produces 20 000 broilers a month. The farm employs three full-time employees, and hosts university students for practicals in farming. This year it took in five interns from the Tshwane University of Technology.

Mkhumbane, with a Diploma in Plant Management from the Lowveld College of Agriculture, now called the University of Mpumalanga, aims to become a leading industrialists within the agricultural sector in the near future.

“Besides being perpetual jobseekers, young people need to be employers.”



<https://bit.ly/3zPmaO8>

EC



<facebook.com/ddintlemaphala>

## Dintle Maphala, 28

### Goedehoop Farm

Dintle Maphala, 28, owner of Goedehoop Farm in Aliwal North, Eastern Cape, is well on her way to becoming a top farmer. Maphala received as a gift the 287ha farm from her parents in 2016 after completing her National Diploma in Farming Management from the Boland College in Worcester, Western Cape.

The farm rears Angora goats, and produces mohair, its main source of income. It also trades in beef cattle and chicken eggs. Maphala, the last of eight children, says her parents bought the farm in 2008 when she was in high school. At the time she helped out in the farm, for example milking the goats before going to school.

“Do not limit yourself; grab all available opportunities with both hands and run with them.”

The farm also rears Brangus cattle and egg-producing chickens. She also plants oats and Lucerne.

Maphala employs three full-time employees, four temporary workers during the kidding (goat birthing and nurturing) season, vaccination and dipping period and 18 temporary workers during the shearing season.

Maphala holds certificates in pig and poultry production. She is the deputy chairperson of Eastern Cape's Youth in Agriculture and Rural Development, a structure established in 2007 for youth development in agriculture.

EC



<https://bit.ly/3mZDnwA>

## NKOSINATHI MAKAMELA, 22

### Lolo Mixed Farming

“Use any tool you can get to fight for your dreams.”

Nkosinathi Makamela's road to being a successful small-scale farmer at only 22 was made possible by the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NASFAS).

In 2019, when he was 20, his mother, Nobangile Makamela, died after suffering severe headaches, leaving seven children and a husband, Matikiti Makamela.

When she passed, Makamela, from Komkhulu, eMunye village, Idutywa, Eastern Cape, was enrolled as a first year BSc degree in Agriculture at the University of Fort Hare, Alice.

His parents were subsistence farmers. With his mom gone, his dad, who was in his 60s, battled

running the farm. The young man asked if he could take over.

He agreed. Makamela then registered Lolo Mixed Farming in 2020 and used his R1 500 NASFAS allowance to invest in farming.

"We need funding: a tractor, an incubator and a borehole as there's water shortage in the area," he says.

Last year, Makamela won the National Youth Development (NYDA) Trailblazer Award and Eastern Cape Youth Award in the farming category.

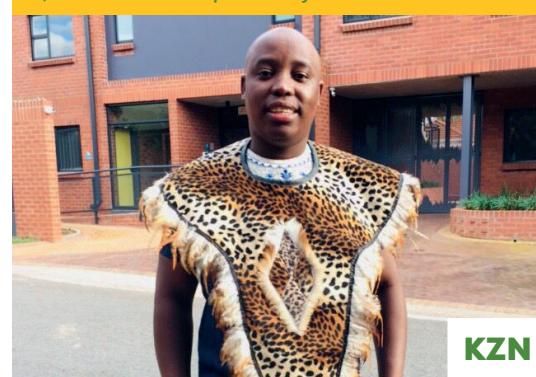
Makamela is in his final year, and determined to become a commercial farmer.

## Siphiwe Mfundo Mjwara, 30

### Mbelu Poultry Farm

“Nothing comes easy in life.”

<facebook.com/siphiwe.mjwara>



Siphiwe Mfundo Mjwara, 30, is a proud owner of Mbelu Poultry Farm in Umlazi, Durban. He understands the value of food security and the importance of creating jobs.

He started his poultry business last year. He already had a passion for poultry farming, and, after losing his job in 2020, he had to come up with a plan to feed his family, including his six-year-old daughter. He then turned a backroom at his home into a coop and raised R2 500 that he used to acquire feeders, lights, food, day-old broilers and sawdust.

The business has two full-time employees and two casual workers. The production is currently 200 chicken per cycle. While he's doing well, he feels the pain of being a start-up. "The challenge I have is getting and securing guaranteed clientele. Not getting customers means no sales and that means I spend more on food and other things needed to take care of the chicken," says Mjwara, an Electrical and Electronics Engineering graduate from the University of Johannesburg.

QwaQwa-based Lehlohonolo Mabaso, 34, is a driven individual whose aim is to serve his community.

Through his NPO, Qwakanda, Mabaso initiated a community garden project which employs eight full-time workers.

Linked to these is a drive to keep the environment safe and clean by eradicating illegal dumping sites.

One morning he had just thrown a waste plastic at an illegal dumping site next to the local sports stadium. A former primary schoolmate who seemed homeless rushed to pick up the plastic, ripped it open and fed from the leftover food.

"That was the day I took a vow to launch a clean-up campaign that would turn all illegal dumping sites into community gardens so that the poor could access food at every corner instead of garbage," says Mabaso.

The project collects food waste from homes and other outlets to produce compost. This creates part-time work for bicycle owners who collect garbage. The garden project got into full swing from August 2021 and has borne fruit with the harvest of produce that includes spinach, pumpkin, carrots, butternut, peppers, corn, onion and beetroot.

## LEHLOHONOLO MABASO, 34

### Carletonville Book Club

“We are the ones we have been waiting for.”

<facebook.com/Qwakanda>



FS

## SIVIWE KETYANA, 34

### Backyard Garden

“My heart is in farming and farming needs perseverance.”



<facebook.com/inganathi.betela>

Siviwe Ketyana, 34, is a young farmer on the rise. Shortly before the coronavirus pandemic broke out, he started a backyard garden at his home in Motherwell, Eastern Cape, planting spinach, potatoes, beetroot and cabbage.

Although he had started the garden to feed his family, he ended up supplying his produce to many of his destitute neighbours who faced hardship during the national Covid-19 lockdown. "My garden was very helpful to many poor families after the stress and struggle of the lockdown. I helped them without expecting any gain," says Ketyana.

He has since added broiler chickens to his farming project. Although unemployed and constantly needing money to grow his operation, Ketyana has laid a solid foundation for a successful farming future.

In fact, agriculture has long been his passion even at high school. He studied Primary Agriculture for two years at Lovedale FET College in Alice. "My plan is to be a successful farmer someday and employ youth to reduce unemployment and criminal activities in the community," he says, adding that young people should consider careers in agriculture.





# YOUTH IN UNIFORM


**MTN**Pulse

## John Moloko Radingoana, 28

### Police Officer

“Being a policeman/woman is not a job but a calling that you must give your all.”

A passion for making a difference in his community motivates John Moloko Radingoana, 28, to be always there for the community he serves as a police officer. He is stationed at SAPS Silverton, east of Tshwane.

Radingoana has been in the police service for seven years, a profession he chose to fulfil his father's dream of his son becoming a policeman. His daily routine includes patrols, attending to community complaints, conducting stop-and-search to prevent crime. He also gives advice to the youth on how to stay on the right side of the law. “For me being a

police officer is a calling,” he says.

Some of the challenges Radingoana faces include suspects who resist arrest. “I always use minimum force to overcome resistance,” he says.

He has learnt from his senior colleagues to remain calm when provoked by community members he serves.

He grew up in a rural community of Ga-Matlala Ramosehebo, Limpopo, and later relocated to Mamelodi, Tshwane, where his father-in-law, who is also a police officer, inspired him to join the police service.


**GP**
[facebook.com/mlkwagaradingoana](https://facebook.com/mlkwagaradingoana)
**KZN**

[facebook.com/NeneNtandoyamadlokovu](https://facebook.com/NeneNtandoyamadlokovu)

## Ntando Briton Nene, 29

### Professional Male Nurse

Ntando Briton Nene, 29, from Osizweni, Newcastle, is a professional young male nurse, working tirelessly to bring healthcare to rural communities in KwaZulu-Natal.

Nene was studying towards a Bachelor of Administration when his mother was diagnosed with cancer and later succumbed to the disease in 2013. That was a turning point for Nene. In 2016, he enrolled for nursing at the KwaZulu-Natal College of Nursing, in Pietermaritzburg. After qualifying in 2020, he practised in the rural areas. It's a job he does with great dedication.

“Being a health care provider means promoting health care services, but most importantly serving as a platform to interact with people of various strata, backgrounds and beliefs.”

He took up a challenging post in Pomeroy Community Health Centre in Msinga uMzinyathi District, KwaZulu-Natal. The reality of working in a rural area soon hit him. “There were many challenges, especially myths associated with Covid vaccines. Part of my role as a professional nurse is to educate,” says Nene.

There were also difficulties of inaccessibility to some communities due to a lack of proper roads and sanitation and water. But Nene endured, proving that young heroes can make an impact anywhere in the country, not just in urban areas.

**LP**

[facebook.com/komotso.ramaube.7](https://facebook.com/komotso.ramaube.7)

## KHOMOTSO RAMAUBE, 35

### Law Enforcement Officer

“A law enforcement officer is sworn to protect public safety and should be dedicated and always on standby.”

Khomotso Ramaube, 35, takes pride in her traffic officer's uniform and does her job with pride and dedication. Her priority is ensuring people's safety on the roads.

Born in Groblersdal, Limpopo, Ramaube works for the Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality's Traffic Department.

“My duty as a law enforcer is to ensure that all road users, including pedestrians, use our roads in an orderly and safe manner to avoid car crashes, deaths and traffic congestion,” says Ramaube. She grew up loving the traffic officer's

work. She remembers an incident when, as a child, she was sent to buy bread. On her way there, she saw traffic officers operating a speed machine, stopping cars. She camped there for hours, observing what the officers were doing until a cousin came looking for her.

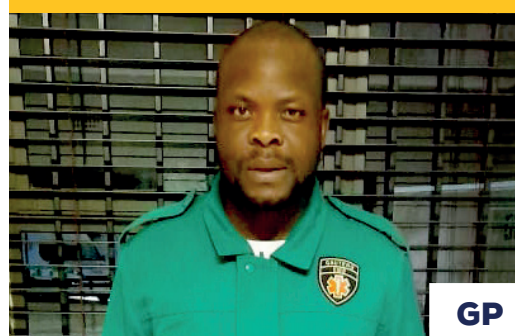
Ramaube loves helping young learners to cross busy streets on their way to and from school. She also never misses an opportunity to teach and make them aware of road signs.

This strong law enforcement officer is never fazed by rude and aggressive motorists.

## LEHLOGONOLO FRANS LESO, 30

### Hospital Emergency Services Driver

“Commitment is what gets you started, consistency is what gets you somewhere and persistence is what keeps you going.”

[wa.me/0614781486](https://wa.me/0614781486)

**GP**

Lehlogonolo Frans Leso, 30, is a young hero who wears his uniform to work with pride. He works as a basic life supporter or driver in the emergency services division at the East Rand Hospital, Springs, east of Johannesburg. He always strives to be of service to others.

He works a 12-hour shift including call outs to motor or pedestrian accident sites, and attending to house calls involving trauma and the transfer of patients from hospital or clinics.

Anyone else can buckle under the workload, but not Leso. “When I leave work at the end of my shift, I know I've helped to make a difference in the lives of my patients and their families.” He says: “Seeing the smiles on their faces makes me look forward to work.”

His mother died in January 2021 due to Covid-19 complications. In death, she remains his role model who instilled in him the values of service and fortitude. He continues: “She taught to make wise choices. I will always respect her.”

Sebatatso Tsaoane, 27, a registered nurse and midwife from the Free State, is a tireless activist for the promotion of women's sexual reproductive health and rights and the alleviation of cervical cancer.

She has made it her mission to spread the gospel of health education to women in disadvantaged areas across her province through awareness campaigns, including cervical cancer screenings, under the auspices of her organisation, Black Woman Arise Women's Health Foundation. Health education also targets traditional, faith-based and political leaders.

Tsaoane's activism began after she was diagnosed with endometriosis. “Because of my knowledge as a nurse I was able to persist and finally get proper medical attention,” she says. “Endometriosis is often misdiagnosed for up to 12 years in many women.”

In 2019, she was one of the 10 midwives who were invited to attend the International Confederation of Midwives for The Young Midwifery Leaders Programme in the Netherlands.

## SEBABATSO TSAOANE, 27

### Midwife Activist

“Wherever you go, and whatever you do, leave footprints in the sands of time.”

[facebook.com/SebatatsoConnieTsaoane](https://facebook.com/SebatatsoConnieTsaoane)

**FS**

## Mpho Raseroka, 28

### POMPA Life (CPR)

“Wearing the uniform for me is a symbol of selflessness. This is a symbol of individuals who have the highest honour of serving people from all walks of life.”


**GP**
[instagram.com/survivalcpr](https://instagram.com/survivalcpr)

Each time professional nursing sister Mpho Raseroka, 28, goes to work she knows that her uniform is a symbol of her commitment to serve her community through the provision of quality healthcare.

Raseroka, who qualified as a nurse in 2015, works at Charlotte Maxeke Hospital in Johannesburg. For her, nursing is a unique profession contributing to every citizen's well-being through preventing disease, saving lives, and promoting healthy lifestyles.

At work, she believes in the power of collaboration to get better results. “We can learn from each other and we should all aim

to reach the best possible outcome in all situations,” says Raseroka.

She is part of the Gauteng Department of Health Nursing task team whose aim is to improve policy development, organisational development, strategic management, and governance within the nursing profession. She advocates for the inclusion of young nurses in health policy formulation.

Raseroka also runs a POMPA Life (CPR) awareness campaign on her social media page, and has recently joined Survival CPR to teach community members basic CPR skills “so they can be able to handle emergency situations that can save lives”.





## YOUTH IN TOURISM

Tourism remains a key driver of South Africa's national economy and a major contributor to the South African economy and employment of citizens. The outbreak of the coronavirus (Covid-19) has, however, dealt a severe blow to the tourism sector. Visitor numbers dropped dramatically due to restrictions on travel. Operators struggled to cope and many shut down their operations, leading to job losses.

As the sector slowly recovers and contemplates its future, tourism needs to make more room for youthful operators: tour operators, guesthouse owners, consultants, bloggers and chefs. Luckily, there are pioneering young players to look up to. Collectively, these players who help to put South Africa on the world map as an attractive destination.

Meet some of them...



tourism  
Department:  
Tourism  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

GP



facebook.com/VilakaziST

### TSHEPO KENNETH MARUMO, 32

Vilakazi Street Tourism

“Do tourism with us anytime and anything leisure...”

**T**shepo Kenneth Marumo's passion for growing tourism on the world-famous Vilakazi Street in Soweto was motivated during his internship at the Mandela House Museum on that street. This was during the Fifa World Cup in 2010 when Vilakazi Street, once home to Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, buzzed with tourists.

The experience inspired Marumo, 32, to establish a business focussing on making this famous street a major tourist attraction and a business hub for small businesses.

Marumo, who hails from Orlando West, Soweto, studied towards a Bachelor's Degree in Tourism Development from University of Johannesburg and founded Vilakazi Street Tourism six years ago.

As a micro tour operator, Marumo works with four tourism interns and believes in collaborations to grow the industry. He works closely with local bed and breakfast establishments, restaurants, arts and crafters as well as with other operators who promote tourism on Vilakazi Street.

### Theo Makhathini, 35

The Dream Basket

“If not me, then who? If not now, then when?”



instagram.com/thedreambasketsa

GP

**T**heo Makhathini's The Dream Basket, a home-based online lifestyle company and brand, reflects her passion for all things travel, food, and kitchenware. Based in Roodepoort, west of Johannesburg, the company, which was established in 2017, has a unique approach of making tourism beneficial to small and rural communities.

“Through travel, we curate unique experiences and retreats to places not frequently visited, hidden gems and untapped locations,” explains thirty-five-year-old Makhathini. “We currently have a road trip to a remote village of eMdumbi, in the Eastern Cape, a place with beautiful scenery, beaches and warm waters, where like-minded people who are open to trying something new gather. These are people who want to travel differently, have delicious food, and who need that well deserved self-care getaway!”

The Dream Basket prides itself in involving the communities it takes tourists to, thereby helping to create jobs.

“If you focus on your abilities, the rest will come.”

### Gcinokuhle Dube, 30

Loxtion Tours



facebook.com/gcinokuhle.dube

**D**ube, 30, from Cato Manor, KwaZulu-Natal, landed in the tourism industry by accident.

He was short of one course to complete a list of seven subjects required for Grade 11 and he chose tourism not knowing that he would fall in love with it.

He enrolled for a one-year tourism certificate from the Durban Central Technical College in 2011, and, while studying, he discovered the rich history and culture of Cato Manor (Umkhumbane).

“Cato Manor is ranked with Sophiatown and District 6 but our area is silent and not well-marketed. I believe that through tourism we can make this community famous,” says Dube.

Dube registered Loxtion Tours in 2017 and the company specialises in booking accommodation, car hire, shuttle service and cultural and historical tours in and around Durban for local and international tourists.

Loxtion Tours has serviced more than 500 clients since its inception and works hand in hand with eThekweni Municipality, Tourism KwaZulu-Natal, Durban Africa and other tourism bodies in KwaZulu-Natal. “I want to share the untold rich history of Cato Manor with the rest of the world,” says Dube.

## SA JUNIOR CULINARY TEAM

**A** team of four young chefs, plus their trainer, represented South Africa at the 2022 World Chefs Congress and won a silver medal in the Africa Culinary Cup competition on 3 June in Abu Dhabi. The World Chefs Congress, which occurs every four years, is a platform for chefs to network and compete in a professional and inspiring environment.

The Junior SA Culinary Team was made up of **Siyabulela Kobo** (team manager), **Afika Xashimba** (chef), **Maseehah Karodia** (chef), **Dillen Kruger** (pastry chef) and **Kabelo Mohatli** (chef).

The experience of being at this global food expo is something team members still savour. **Chef Kobo**, 40, says: “It means a lot for me as a teacher. I love working with young chefs as they are the future. I learned a lot during my time at the World Chefs Congress. I am just transferring the skills so that in the future we may gain the global culinary competition status,” says Kobo.

Born and bred in eCaguba, just outside Port St Johns in the Eastern Cape, Kobo relishes the fact

that the team won a silver medal on a global stage showcasing South African cuisine. “I believe the world is noticing.”

Another ecstatic team member is 22-year-old **Xashimba**, also known as Fifi, who worked teammate Mohlati to prepare the mains. The results brought joy. “It was a very emotional moment for me cause we worked so hard for it,” she says.

Xashimba, who lives in Cape Town, dreams of someday having “my own brand (a restaurant and a show)”. Her advice to other youngsters wishing to become chefs: “The industry is fun and you will enjoy it if you love it. It comes with challenges and a lot of hard work. When that happens, you need to be patient with yourself.”



**Karodia**, who comes from Lenasia, south of Johannesburg, prepared the starter in Abu Dhabi and assisted with the main course and desserts. She says the experience “expanded my vision and made me realise that there’s a lot more out there within our industry. There is a lot to learn.”

Karodia works as a junior pastry lecturer at the Johannesburg Culinary and Pastry School. She dreams of travelling our country and other international destinations

“to gain as much knowledge and experience in different exotic cuisine and open something of my own in due course and pass knowledge and skills on to future generations”.

**Kruger**, a student pastry chef from Bloemfontein in the Free State, grew from being at the culinary congress. “I met so many new people and experienced so much at the congress. I received work opportunities, learned so much about what it actually means to be a chef,” says the 20-year-old chef.

If he were to advise any tourists to sample South African foods, it would be “everything because we South Africans are known for our delicious foods, but my starting point would be Cape Malay food. Who can say no to mutton breyani?”

The last member of the team **Mohatli** hails from Bushbuckridge Zone 1, Mpumalanga, and holds an advanced diploma in patisserie, food preparation. He enjoyed the Abu Dhabi experience. “Competing against highly trained and skilled chefs in such big stages was so amazing,” says Mohatli. “Taking what I’ve learned from the expo and applying in my cooking will definitely sharpen my skill as a chef and help me grow.”





# **Celebrating**

---

# **YOUTH**

# **IN TOURISM**

---



**tourism**

Department:  
Tourism  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA







# HEROES IN SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE



MP

## NATHI E DE NARRATOR MOYO, 20

N:E Clothing

“

Life is a party, so dress for it. Style comes and goes but fashion is my mother language.”

[facebook.com/nathie.moyo.9](https://facebook.com/nathie.moyo.9)

Meet Nathi Emmanuel De Narrator Moyo, 20, a self-taught young designer from Rockdale, Middleburg, Mpumalanga, believes everything is possible.

Moyo has mastered his work in which he specialises in casual and art wear. Art wear is an individually designed piece of handmade clothing, created as expressive art.

The name of his Brand is N: E Clothing, while his slogan is “Fashion Forward”.

Moyo has showcased at various fashion shows around the country. He believes fashion is part of the revolution on earth, and that people should embrace new ideas.

At a tender age of 16, while still in high school, he created a bag that he proudly carried to and from school. He has never looked back, and has always been fashion conscious.

Moyo is a sole operator. He plies his fashion design trade from his home. He mainly relies on his social media to market his work.

His inspiration, he says, comes “from our very own David Tlale” and the legendary English fashion guru, Charles Frederick Worth, designer and founder of House of Worth in the 19th century.

## MMELI NDI MANDE, 26

Inanda Trail Running Club

“

One planet, one people as long as we remember that we share one future we will survive.”

[facebook.com/inandatrailrunningclub](https://facebook.com/inandatrailrunningclub)

Mmeli Ndimande, 26, resides in Inanda, Durban, and believes the involvement of the youth in sports contributes to the development of solid citizenry.

Ndimande, upon realising the only popular sport in his hometown was soccer, resolved in 2018 to establish the Inanda Trail Running Club.

“After many years of being involved in sport, I realised there was a need for the sport club to be involved in community matters,” says Ndimande.

He grew up involved in mountain biking, canoeing and trail running. As time went by, he recognised that sport has had positive impact on him, and could not turn his back on it.

He believes that sport gives young people the urge to play, and instils a sense of purpose, leadership, discipline, respect and confidence.

His team has competed in events such as Dusi Canoe Marathon, athletic and trail runs, for both girls and boys.

His sporting entity is also engaged in community work.



KZN



KZN

## LULEKA MHLANZI, 29

Author, Poet and Youth Facilitator

“

Intentional living is an opportunity to watch yourself, your decisions are deliberate. You programme yourself into the person you envision.”

[facebook.com/lulekamhlanzi](https://facebook.com/lulekamhlanzi)

Luleka Mhlanzi, 29, hails from Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal. She is determined to develop the youth in her area.

She is the author of *Confiscated Identity*, also a published and performing poet, actress and creative writer. She is a youth programme facilitator, and a go-getter.

She sees herself as an agent for change. Her footprint is found in some of her work – in various African youth change programmes such as Gold Peer Education, Enke Youth Forum and Activate Change Drivers.

She works with organisations such as The Institute of Africology, among others. She is a youth programme facilitator at Heartnet, and curates poetry sessions.

Her talents and interests were unearthed at a tender age of 14 at high school. She organises sessions at schools to guide teenagers in self-development and social and emotional intelligence programmes.

“Each time I facilitate a session I make certain the answers to these questions come from the group,” says Mhlanzi.

## Vuthari Nkuna, 20

Finding Utopia

“

Leave the world a better place than you found it. Leave something that shows your impact...”

[instagram.com/the.utopiansociety](https://instagram.com/the.utopiansociety)

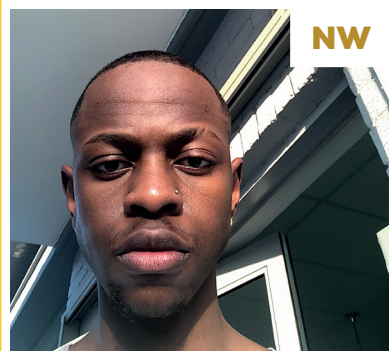
Vuthari Nkuna is an ambitious and goal-driven young man who wants to bring about change through arts and culture.

The 20-year-old second-year BA Law student at the University of Pretoria is the founder of an outfit by the name of Finding Utopia, a cultural movement established when he was 16.

The aim of the organisation is to help the youth to express themselves through arts, culture, sports, and to produce young people who possess the courage to stand up for their rights, resisting physical abuse, sexual assault, and to be conscious about mental issues, including depression.

“I look forward to impacting society through music, fashion, fine arts, and poetry,” says Nkuna.

Three years ago, on March 9, 2019, Nkuna held a successful exhibition expo at his former school in Rustenburg, focusing on racism, xenophobia, homophobia and gender-based violence.



NW



FS

## JANE MAMOTSE MPHULO, 33

Drama and Theatre Arts

“

Every challenge is only as big as the mindset and the perspective you choose to have. Choose wisely.”

[facebook.com/janemamotse.mpholo](https://facebook.com/janemamotse.mpholo)

Jane Mamotse Mpholo, 33, is a Drama and Theatre Arts graduate from the Free State, who is passionate about using art to tackle sticky social issues, provoke discussions and seek interventions.

“The traumas I have encountered have played a huge role in me using art for awareness and change,” she explains. “I was raped at the age of 13, lost my parents to HIV at the age of 17, and endured my sister's death when her husband poured petrol on the car and set it alight.”

Mpholo says it was only after performing a show that had themes of rape many years later that she understood the violation from her childhood. “We have touched the lives of thousands of kids and adults. Because the story comes from me, they feel they can trust me,” she adds.

Mpholo and her team work in collaboration with the provincial Department of Social Development and schools.

Mpholo's work has been recognised on several distinguished platforms such as Love Life FS Role Model 2020/21 and Black Women Arise Most.

## KEBONANG MOGAADILE, 33

Gatalenna Athletics Club

[facebook.com/kebonang.mogaadile](https://facebook.com/kebonang.mogaadile)

Despite finding himself suddenly unemployed due to the coronavirus, and having to depend on farming chickens in his backyard for income, Kebonang Mogaadile, 33, still makes time to use sport to develop youth in his community of Itsoseng township, in the North West.

In 2020, he founded Gatalenna Athletics Club, and already the youth club has participated in track and field in the provincial championship.

“Growing up in Itsoseng I didn't get a chance to play much sport because of limited resources and a lack of awareness about different sporting codes,”

he says. “At varsity I got a chance to play sports and get involved in different outreach programmes.”

The exposure to sport made Mogaadile, a Wits University BSc (Honours) graduate in geology, to realise the importance of sports for his community. “Establishing Gatalenna Athletics Club helped to enhance social cohesion in the community,” he adds.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 restrictions on gatherings made it difficult for the club to attract more people to attend fitness training and events. But he continues with his quest.

“Waking up every morning and knowing that a young person's life might depend on what I do on a daily basis gives me hope and encourages me to do more.”

## Khehla Chepape Makgato, 33

Samanthole Institute of Creative Arts and Khehla Chepape Makgato Youth Library

[instagram.com/chepapethegreat/?hl=en](https://instagram.com/chepapethegreat/?hl=en)

Twelve years ago, Khehla Makgato, 33, who grew up in Makotopong, Limpopo, and now lives in Ga-Dikgale in the same province, founded Samanthole Creative Arts and Workshop to promote arts and culture.

Through this entity, Makgato holds workshops at different locations in Limpopo, the Free State and Gauteng, where he teaches visual arts and basic art to rural children and the youth.

In 2016, he established the Khehla Chepape Makgato Youth Library in Ga-Mathabatha, Limpopo, to provide books to rural schools and communities.

“

It has to be passion and humility that is your driving force.”



GP

He holds a Fine Art Printmaking Diploma from the Artist Proof Studio, and a Media Practice Diploma from the Boston Media House, and awaits the results of his MA Fine Arts thesis.

The thesis shines light on the history of Batlokwa tribe during the period 1813 and 1824, and ensuing inter-tribal battles through that period.

Makgato has exhibited his work nationally and internationally, including in France and the US.

He has produced a play titled, *Man Alone*, staged at the Market Theatre, Johannesburg, in 2019.

Nosiphiwe Madlebe, 34, from Mdantsane, Eastern Cape, is proof that disability of the body is not disability of the mind.

Madlebe was born with a condition that caused her to walk with a limp.

Her mother left her in the care of her grandparents. Her grandfather, Sebenzile Madlebe, 73, introduced her to different sporting codes at a tender age, despite being unable to play herself.

“Being restricted from playing sports made me realise there's so much more that I could give besides being on the field.”

Based in Paarl, Western Cape, Madlebe is head of marketing,

media and publicity for the South African Football Association (Safa) Cape Winelands and Drakenstein Local Football Association (DLFA). Although she couldn't play, she learned the sporting fundamentals.

In 2006, she registered for a journalism diploma at the Walter Sisulu University, but was forced to quit her studies due to financial difficulties.

Madlebe writes about grassroots football, and profiles athletes and administrators on the Safa Winelands website and Facebook page. This year she was voted Cape Winelands District Sports Journalist of the Year and Western Cape Sports Journalist of the Year.

## NOSIPHIWO MADLEBE, 34

City Harvest Food Security

“

Keep on knocking on doors; you'll never know who might open. Eventually, someone will open.”

[linkedin.com/in/nosiphiwo-madlebe-639506208](https://linkedin.com/in/nosiphiwo-madlebe-639506208)



EC





# Paying It Forward

Structured Capacity Building is how the NLC empowers the often **UNSUNG HEROES** who work in communities to help them grow and sustain their organisations. The programme is aimed at funded beneficiaries to assist them with financial management, governance, project management and other skills to successfully implement their projects.

Through the **Train the Trainer** module, participants are empowered to transfer knowledge, skills and information to other NLC beneficiaries in their vicinity so that they can also benefit from this development initiative.

**Train the Trainer** is a comprehensive SAQA unit standard-based course intended for all persons who need to facilitate learning using a variety of given methodologies.

Formal recognition will enhance their employability and also provide a means to identify competent learning facilitators in future.

 **08600 65383**

 **[www.nlcsa.org.za](http://www.nlcsa.org.za)**

**STAY  
SAFE**  
**PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA**  
TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS





# COMMUNITY YOUTH HEROES



## Thabo Madimetja Stuart Ledwala, 31

Maraba Reviving Hope Multipurpose Centre

Thabo Madimetja Stuart Ledwala, a 31-year-old community activist from Kalkspruit GaMaraba, Limpopo, is the co-founder, facilitator and chairperson of Maraba Reviving Hope Multipurpose Centre.

Ledwala, Jacob Magongwa and the late Lethabo Chewa, established the NPO in 2017.

Ledwala, a self-confessed recovering alcoholic-turned-motivational speaker, also attends the youth events, and talks about the dangers of substance abuse. The organisation seeks to achieve its objectives through school motivational drives.

He is engaged in employment projects and development programmes. Health and gender-based violence awareness issues are his concerns.

Occasionally, the NPO facilitates socio-economic transformation dialogues and workshops, and promotes indigenous games, sport and development activities.

Earlier this year, the NPO, in partnership with the Department of Social Development and the National Youth Development Agency, successfully held a seven-day entrepreneurship training event. Ledwala was elected on the Polokwane Local Drug Action Committee.

“Initially, I believed that I am into community development to change the lives of others, but I later realised that the person who was changing was me.”



LP

<https://bit.ly/3N5CM76>



LP

## KIKI RACHUENE, 28

Phumelela Youth Empowerment

“Perseverance is the mother of success.”

[linkedin.com/in/kiki-rachuene-6836811a3](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kiki-rachuene-6836811a3)

Kiki Rachuene, 28, from Ga-Mphahlele, Limpopo, is the co-founder of the Phumelela Youth Empowerment. Her focus is to help underprivileged youth to make an impact in life.

She is concerned about young learners who loiter the streets. The mission is to keep them away from toxic street activities. “Poverty is one of the main contributors to drug addiction, teenage pregnancy, gender-based violence and mental health problems,” she says.

Rachuene contributes to the well-being of the underprivileged youth who lack basics. She receives donations, including school shoes.

While studying for a qualification in chemical plant operations at the Capricorn TVET College, she and two classmates, Mathapelo Seritshane and Lethabo Mashego, formed Phumelela Youth Empowerment. The focus is to enhance after-school programmes such as dancing and singing. The programme helps learners with homework and career guidance.

Accommodation is an issue. She has to struggle to find a room to rent. However, this did not dampen her spirit. She continues to help learners make progress in their studies.

The advent of Covid-19 impacted badly on the project. Its activities had to close because of restrictions imposed.



GP

## CLERAH LERATO SETHOLE, 27

Precious Hope Foundation

“Seeing more of our black young people succeeding motivates me; knowing that we all come from challenging backgrounds, but we do not give up.”

[facebook.com/HopeForOurPreciousChildren](https://www.facebook.com/HopeForOurPreciousChildren)

Clerah Lerato Sethole's heart is as precious as her self-funded non-profit organisation (NPO), Precious Hope Foundation.

Founded in 2019 in Mhlakeng township, west of Johannesburg, the NPO is a learner support organisation. It helps local students to continue to navigate their schooling path long after they have earned a matric qualification.

“The work I do creates role models who want to create a safe environment that takes career guidance and life skills to heart,” says the 27-year-old Sethole.

The NPO provides peer education to Grade 8 to 10, and assists Grade 9s to choose subjects for Grade 10. To Grades 10 and 1 students, career guidance is intensified through the introduction of different career fields, mainly relating to the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

In Grade 12, the NPO invites educational institutions to provide career guidance to students.

In addition, the organisation hosts business programmes for learners keen to run their own enterprises. Importantly, it organises career exhibitions for matriculants, out-of-school youths and jobseekers.

Events are held for Grade 12 students to apply for internships, tertiary education, bursaries, employment and to register their own businesses.

Giving back to the community is a trait Maselemo Mokoena inherited from her parents.

Born in QwaQwa, the Free State, Mokoena, 29, says her mother owned a crèche and soup kitchen.

Once a month, she helped her late father, a priest at the United Presbyterian Church, hand out food parcels to impoverished community members.

Between 2018 and 2019 she worked as a centre manager for the Phelang Disability Home in Bloemfontein.

She assists with administration and fundraising in non-profit organisations such as Sunflower Hospice and Olesego Place of Safety.

She holds a diploma and a degree in Public Management from the Central University of Technology, and runs community outreach campaigns which include Happy Feet, Easter Egg Hunt and Christmas Carols.

Through Happy Feet, she raises funds to buy shoes, gloves and socks for pupils that walk barefoot to school in winter. She hosts Early Christmas Carols. The Easter Egg Hunt takes place a week before Easter, and teaches about Easter as reflected in scriptures.

Last year, Mokoena received a Community Builder of the Month Award from Manguang Issue newspaper.

## MASELEMO MOKOENA, 28

Happy Feet, Easter Egg Hunt and Christmas Carols

“If you look around and see that your community has a lot of problems, there's no better time to start fixing them than right now.”

<https://wa.me/27730967300>



FS

## Thusoyaone Kenneth Dipone, 27

Seeding Youth Service Centre

“Success consists of moving from failure to failure without losing one's enthusiasm.”



[facebook.com/thusoyaonekenneth.dipone](https://www.facebook.com/thusoyaonekenneth.dipone)

Thusoyaone Kenneth Dipone, 27, comes from Kuruman in the Northern Cape. He is an active young man who has the best interest of youths at heart, running an entity, Seeding Youth Service Centre. Dipone works at a youth centre to assist the youth fill in job applications.

Additionally, he creates emails for them as well as helps them to process the South African Revenue Service e-filing registrations. Because of his work, most youth in his community are computer literate, and are able to communicate effectively.

Dipone holds a qualification in Applied Principles of Mentoring and Coaching Certificate. He has been a

volunteer since 2015. “I was inspired and motivated by a desire to transform the lives of young people in my community,” says Dipone.

Some of the activities offered at the centre include leadership development and life and personal skills development. He facilitates internships programmes through different government departments and private sector.

Outside of his daily work, Dipone and his team are engaged in a campaign called I'm Becoming A Lady. They distribute, among other things, dignity packs, including toiletries and sanitary towels for girls.

“I am capable; I am enough because God said so.”

## LUVO EXCELLENT SITYEBI, 32

Mhlango View Community Development

[facebook.com/excellent.sityebi](https://www.facebook.com/excellent.sityebi)



GP

Mhlango View, in Phola Park, east of Johannesburg, is an underdeveloped township that grapples with many social ills, such as teenage pregnancies and gender-based violence.

After a thorough consultation, Mhlango View Community Development co-founders, Bubele Tyhobeka, Monde Mzimkhulu and Luvu Sityebi, convened a community meeting for young people to discuss burning issues within the community.

This community organisation, which was established in 2020, mobilises the community, especially the youth, through workshops to address social ills in the area. He and his team have established

under-13 and under-15 local soccer teams, a venture that has helped keep the community together and the youth from straying.

Sityebi says they are in the process of organising a netball team. They collaborate with established organisations, including the Thokoza SAPS, social workers and the Phola Park Clinic.

The community organisation has embarked on a drive to empower spaza shop owners by inviting business experts to impart business expertise such as bookkeeping and stock control.

Sityebi is a former local primary school administrator. He has studied inventory/stock control management.

Dineo Koloko, 31, is the founder and director of Let's Read Together, a non-profit organisation based in Hammarsdale, KwaZulu-Natal, which she established due to her conviction that every human being is duty-bound to make a difference in other people's lives.

Koloko credits acclaimed poet and storyteller Gcina Mhlophe as her role model. “She has been a pillar of strength to me, and sometimes calls to motivate me when I feel down,” she says. “My efforts in literacy actually come from most of the work I have been privileged to do with her organisation, the Gcinamasiko's Arts

and Heritage Trust”. The amazing work of Koloko's Foundation is anchored in three programmes. The first is educational, which includes early literacy which goes up to adult education for further education and training. The second deals with social awareness rooted in HIV and gender-based violence prevention and education. The third focuses on food security and home-based care.

Koloko is determined to make a real difference in Hammarsdale, and has been recognised by both Radio 2000 and 5FM for her outstanding community contributions.

## Dineo Koloko, 31

Let's Read Together NPO

“If you do things for pay or recognition you may make it but from the heart – you will always make it! Period.”

[facebook.com/194316174505785](https://www.facebook.com/194316174505785)



KZN





# COMMUNITY YOUTH HEROES



## Angelo Faizel Booyse, 30 Ubuntu Youth Forum

Angelo Booyse, 30, would like to see youth in his community of Victoria West, Northern Cape, take part in local projects, earning a decent living.

As a member and spokesperson of Ubuntu Youth Forum, he routinely approaches private and public institutions to source business, investment and job opportunities for the local youth.

The organisation, which was founded by Booyse and three other directors as a non-profit company in 2019, has 315 volunteer members comprising males and females aged between 16 and 34 years. Its membership is drawn from three Northern Cape towns of Victoria West, Loxton and Richmond. "I am passionate about youth development. I'd like to see youth explore opportunities and have an option of choosing to become employees

"I inspire confidence in our society due to my direct involvement with the activities."

or employers," says Booyse. Booyse says the organisation participates in many community outreach initiatives. Booyse is also the deputy chairperson of reference committee with the local extended Public Works Programme, known as the Community Works Programme, where he continues to influence the employment and empowerment of youth in local projects such as in the soon-to-be-built airport in Victoria West.



facebook.com/angelo.booyse.12



EC

## NASIZO MNDENDE, 27 Inkciyo Eastern Cape

“

My background and lifestyle motivate me to be an inspiration to other young people.”

facebook.com/nasizo.mndende

Nasizo Mndende, 27, who hails from Ntlongyana village, Elliotdale, Eastern Cape, is at the forefront of the fight to uphold the isiXhosa cultural traditions as well as groom the next generation of youngsters who are morally upright, and who make right choices from an early age.

For the past six years Mndende has been running Inkciyo Eastern Cape, an organisation that encourages youngsters, both boys and girls, from rural areas, to take pride in their cultural heritage, and abstain from harmful practices that could lead to teenage pregnancies and alcohol abuse.

The organisation hosts camps such as art and cultural events and career guidance talks.

Mndende, who holds a Bachelor of Social Work degree from the University of Fort Hare, says the programme has more than 300 members.

This year, the Eastern Cape Provincial Arts and Culture Council donated a laptop, mattresses and other necessary equipment. "We still need more funding to reach out to as many areas as possible," says Mndende.



LP

## ELVIS PULANKANA SEROKA, 32 Maretlagadi Welfare

“

I will leave to be the ears, eyes and voice to all those who are not able to do a thing on their own.”

facebook.com/seroka.elvis

Elvis Pulankana Seroka, 32, from Jane Furse in Limpopo, is the epitome of selflessness in helping those who are less fortunate.

In 2016, Seroka and his mother converted their seven-roomed house to become a care facility called Maretlagadi Welfare, which houses 17 disabled children. They also established an after-school service to help learners with homework and computer literacy.

His passion for community work started many years ago, sacrifice playing with friends in order to help his single mother look after his younger sister born with autism.

The service Seroka offered later expanded to helping other parents and families in the area. "Running a home can be challenging, especially if you don't have funding. The kids' nappies are expensive. Then, there are further expenses of food, electricity and monthly stipend for our six helpers," says Seroka, adding that there are many children on the waiting list.

Njabulo Happy Togane, 28, from Cinderella Park in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal, is a dedicated community worker whose aim is to uplift the youth within his hometown and beyond.

"If young people are capacitated with sufficient resources, they can lead their own struggles and develop sustainable solutions towards addressing socio-economic issues," says Togane.

Through his youth organisation, Empowering Youth, Togane was able to help young people to develop life skills.

The organisation measures its success by looking at the number of learners they support, for example, successfully registering them for the National Student Financial Aid Scheme. It's also effective in referring youngsters to organisations that offer emotional and psychological support.

The organisation, which has six volunteers, is self-funded. However, it has partnered with established NGOs willing to support their work. The entity has no offices, and uses the local library's boardroom to conduct meetings and other activities.

## Njabulo Happy Togane, 28 Empowering Youth

“

Work smart, dream big and believe in yourself.”

facebook.com/njabulo.togane



KZN



EC

https://bit.ly/3naS93u

## Luvuyo Vertigo Myataza, 30

Masesebenzisane Job Portal

“

I am willing to go longer, work harder and give more than anyone else.”

within our community," says Myataza. After finishing matric in 2012, Myataza could not proceed with his studies because of financial difficulties, and could not find employment because he did not have post-matric qualifications.

Each attempt by Myataza to seek employment yielded no result. The Masesebenzisane Job Portal became an answer to his prayers. Now he uses his portal to help others in his community to find a job.

Luvuyo Vertigo Myataza, 30, from KwaNobuhle, Uitenhage in the Eastern Cape uses his time to assist others to better their own lives.

Through the Masesebenzisane Job Portal, which he established in 2013, he helps people to find employment, internships, bursaries and scholarships.

"The reason I established the portal was because I noticed there was high level of unemployment



WC

## Anneeda Pekeur, 33

Anneeda's Endo Outreach Project

“

Stand your ground; rise above your circumstances.”

facebook.com/anneeda.sacco1

Anneeda Pekeur, 33, lives in Montagu, Western Cape. She tirelessly works to spread the word about endometriosis, a condition that makes it harder for a sufferer to fall pregnant, to her community through her non-profit organisation, Anneeda's Endo Outreach Project.

In 2016, she lost her baby, and was later diagnosed infertile. Soon thereafter she registered her organisation, Anneeda's Endo Outreach, to help raise awareness about, and fight the stigma attached to endometriosis and lupus.

Endometriosis is a disorder whereby a tissue similar to the lining of the womb grows outside the womb, making it harder for a sufferer to fall pregnant. Its growth is prone to swelling

and bleeding during a woman's menstrual period.

Pekeur started to struggle with the condition at the age of 10 at the onset of her menstrual cycle. However, her ailment was only diagnosed when she was 21. Her condition worsened, causing her to suffer from fatigue, chronic pain and hypertension. Later she was diagnosed with lupus.

She used her own funds sourced from her mother and other benefactors to start a programme to help provide the destitute with food parcels and other necessities of life such as nappies and sanitary products.



KZN

## ARNAV DASRATH, 18 Linking Arms

“

Be the change you always want to see in the world.”

https://bit.ly/3xxupve

Although only 18, Arnav Dasrath from Shallcross, Durban, is a committed community, social and environmental activist.

The Eden College Grade 12 learner started showing interest in community work at the age of six.

If his family was on the road, he would ask his parents to stop the car to give something to any beggar, even if it meant giving away his own meal.

"My goal is to impact as many lives as I am able by providing basic needs to people who cannot afford them," says Dasrath.

His ultimate dream was realised at the age of 16 when he founded his NPO, Linking Arms, with the help of his parents since he was

a minor at the time.

In the past year, he successfully completed 1053 community service hours virtually and in person, while a director of his school's health committee.

Some of his initiatives include raising over R3 000 with The KwaZulu-Natal Blind and Deaf Society for the children's cancer research.

During his school vacation, Dasrath volunteers in the paediatric ward at the Prince Mshiyeni Hospital, Umlazi, reading stories to children and playing games with them.



MP

## KABELO JOHN CHABALALA, 31

Young Men's Movement

“

There is an expiry date on blaming your father's absence for things that are going wrong in your life.”

facebook.com/kabelo.chabalala.5

Kabelo John Chabalala, 31, is a humanitarian with a big heart.

In 2016, he founded Young Men's Movement (YMM) to help boys from his village of Pankop, Mpumalanga, and nearby communities, live responsible lives by avoiding being violent and not feeling entitled.

Chabalala, a freelance writer, uses dialogues and debates to further the aims of his organisation. In a country grappling with high incidents of gender-based violence (GBV), YMM is a beacon of hope.

"As a communicator, I realised that one of the things we struggle with as boys and men is expressing our feelings," he explains. "So, I realised that my personality and my professional skills were a brilliant combination to help boys talk about their challenges and their dreams

and aspirations."

Chabalala facilitates mentorship programmes at his home, whereby social issues such as GBV, teenage pregnancy, mental wellness, doing chores at home, careers and dating, among others, are discussed. "Today my community is thankful for the work we do to ensure the streets don't consume our boys," he adds.

In 2019 Chabalala received recognition as Community Builder of the Year from the Marcia Lebombo Foundation. The previous year he was acknowledged as one of 200 Obama Leaders: Africa 2018.





**THABO MPHELO FILMS** – is a creative multimedia production company that specializes in providing services in development and fully fledged film, television, events, music productions inclusive with pre and post productions.

Situated at the wing of Smit and Henri Streets in Braamfontein, Johannesburg, Thabo Mphelo Films (TMF) possess multiple studio facilities for television, film, commercial and still productions, including a venue for hire for corporate and private events and a gallery.



Through our work ethic and professionalism, we have provided production space for various production companies which had produced popular television shows such as The Big Debate, One Mic, Zaziwa, Ones and Twos Majakathatha among other shows including glamorous events for big corporate companies.

TMF also has its own in-house studio and post production facilities, for our clients to utilize our services effectively without any hinderance.

Our studio facilities are also a home for the daily popular youth television talk show, Daily Thetha, which is produced by TMF for the SABC Education on SABC1. TMF prides itself as a young and 100% wholly black owned production with the niche to empower young South Africans, especially women in the TV and film production space.

The company's success is built through consistent project deliverables to our clients through providing quality and professional work that is relevant to our client's target market. We have proven over the years of work that our capabilities to execute projects tasked by our clients create waves and leave a remarkable mark. We are playing our huge role in various broadcasters such as the SABC, ETV, MNET, including digital platforms and outdoor advertising through audio-visual solutions.

#### Brand Association

TMF brand association has created long standing relationship with companies that we work with through services such as providing television production studio facilities, stage designs and construction, sound engineering, lighting, event management, hiring of production equipment as well as providing post-production facilities.

**S**ABC 1 flagship educational television talk show, Daily Thetha broadcasts from Monday to Thursday at 10:30am to 11:30am on SABC1 under the banner of SABC Education.



**THABO MPHELO FILM STUDIOS**  
115 CNR SMIT & HENRI STREET  
BRAAMFONTEIN (JHB)



[info@thabomphelofilms.com](mailto:info@thabomphelofilms.com)



+27 11 339-1147  
+27 11 482-9289

**SABC 1** **EDUCATION** Enriching minds. Enriching lives.

# daily thetha

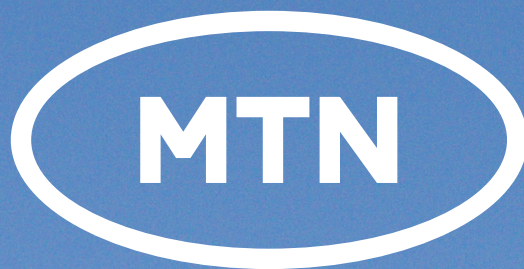
**DAILY THETHA S4**

**MONDAY TO THURSDAY**  
**10:30 – 11:30**  
**SABC 1**

**#WOZAEMABHOZENI**

[dailythetha\\_sabc1](#) [Daily Thetha SABC1](#) [daily\\_thetha](#)





Join **MTN**Pulse

For discounted data offers and dope experiences for under 25s

# Put the squad on your way

**MTN**Pulse

# 2GB

**Social Pass Bundle**



**FREE**

**Pulse does it your way. Secure FREE 2GB MTN Pulse Social Pass Bundle for you & your skeem every time they join successfully.**

**To put them on:**

- Switch to MTN
- Dial \*411# to join MTN Pulse
- Select 'Refer a Friend'

***What are we doing today?***

**Dial**

**\*411#**

**WhatsApp**

**Y'ello to 083 123 0011**

**Download**



MTN App





Join **MTN**Pulse

For discounted data offers and dope experiences for under 25s

**Chop  
it up  
your way**

Get that new **MTN Pulse Youth Bundle** with data and voice that lets you chat, post and call your way. Dial **\*411#** to get this bundle for only R49. Valid for June & July only.

**MTN**Pulse

**Youth Bundle**

**10GB**

**R49**

Weekly Bundle

**5GB** ANYTIME DATA

**5GB** NIGHT EXPRESS

**FREE**

**30min** Pulse-to-Pulse

Limited time offer

**What are we doing today?**

**Dial**

**\*411#**

**WhatsApp**

**Y'ello to 083 123 0011**

**Download**



MTN App