



30

YEARS OF  
*empowering stories:*  
**Vuk'uzenzele's**  
legacy of success



government  
communications

Department:  
Government Communication and Information System  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





# CONTENTS

■ Foreword	6 – 7
■ Economic transformation and job creation	8 – 119
■ Social cohesion and safe communities	122 – 177
■ Education, skills and health	180 – 261
■ Consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services	264 – 281
■ Spatial integration, human settlements and local government	282 – 303
■ A capable, ethical and developmental state	306 – 321
■ A government that cares	324 – 355







# SA RALLIES TOGETHER FOR A PROSPEROUS COUNTRY



## **PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION**

President Cyril Ramaphosa has called on business, labour as well as South African citizens, to mobilise all resources to address poverty, inequality and unemployment, as the country embarks on a new era, key to which would be forging an ethical state free of corruption.

“Let us forge a compact for an

efficient, capable and ethical state, a state that is free of corruption, for companies that generate social value and propel human development, for elected officials and public servants who faithfully serve no other cause than that of our people. We must be a society that values excellence, rewards effort and rejects mediocrity,” he said.

Acknowledging that the road ahead



will be difficult, the President said the entire society would have to use courage, wisdom and perseverance to “achieve the South Africa we want.”

The President was addressing the country, shortly after being inaugurated as the sixth democratically elected President of the Republic of South Africa.

The inauguration was held at the Loftus Versfeld Stadium in Pretoria, under the theme: ‘Together Celebrating Democracy: Renewal and Growth for a Better South Africa’.

“Let us forge a compact for growth and economic opportunity, for productive lands and viable communities, for knowledge, for innovation and for services that are affordable, accessible and sustainable,” President Ramaphosa said.

He said South Africa must be a society that values its young people by creating a conducive environment for them to gain skills and be productively employed to develop our country.

“Let us celebrate the great strides we have made – demonstrated so clearly in the incoming Parliament – to raise the prominence and contribution of women in public life.

“Let us work together to fundamentally, and forever, change the relations of power between men and women. Let us end the dominion that men claim over women, the

denial of opportunity, the abuse and the violence, the neglect and the disregard of each person’s equal rights,” he said.

The President said South Africa should build a society that protects and values those who are vulnerable and who for too long have been rendered marginal.

“A society where disability is no impediment, where there is tolerance, and where no person is judged on their sexual orientation, where no person suffers prejudice because of the colour of their skin, the language of their birth or their country of origin.

“Let us preserve our natural resources for future generations, as we work with greater purpose to end the human destruction of our world,” he said.





# 30 YEARS OF BUILDING A STRONG DEMOCRACY



**At the dawn** of democracy in 1994, South Africa was filled with rays of uncertainty; however, the country demonstrated to the world, and continues to do so, that it is possible to rise above a dreadful past and work together to transition into a peaceful democracy.

This is a country that was led by an international icon, a Nobel Peace Prize winner and the first democratically elected leader of the Republic of South Africa, the late President Nelson Mandela, who was succeeded by four democratically elected presidents – former Presidents Thabo Mbeki, Kgalema Motlhanthe and Jacob Zuma – as well as the incumbent, President Cyril Ramaphosa.

South Africa, a country alive with possibilities, hopes and dreams, that has hosted international events including the Rugby World Cup, 2010 FIFA World Cup, African Cup of Nations, Cricket World Cup, Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa Summit and the World Economic Forum.

Much of the country's successes are because of its citizens, a nation committed to building their country and economy through entrepreneurship and the spirit of *vuk'uzenzele* (do it yourself), which is also the name of government's

flagship newspaper, coined by former President Mbeki. *Vuk'uzenzele* newspaper showcases the value of South Africans building their own economy brick by brick, creating incomes and much-needed jobs.

Indeed, over the 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy, the spirit of creating change has continued to prevail, with South Africans featured in the *Vuk'uzenzele* newspaper being a sign of hope and showcasing the meaning of building from humble foundations, from bakeries to farming projects and tourism-related businesses led by the young people, women and persons living with disabilities.

The stories featured in *Vuk'uzenzele* are a reflection of a government at work, showcasing how the country's tax can be used to take care of its citizens, through financing small, medium and micro enterprises, distributing grants to certain parts of society to eliminate poverty and student funding through the National Student Financial Scheme to help put students from underprivileged households through university and technical colleges; not forgetting the work being done by the National Youth Development Agency, National Empowerment Fund, Small Enterprise



Development and Finance Agency and an array of other government programmes to support entrepreneurs.

As much as South Africa is a nation filled with possibilities, it is still a young democracy facing challenges such as a low unemployment rate, a stagnant economy, high levels of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), crime and lack of basic services such as water and electricity and load shedding. We are still faced with the disastrous after-effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which took away the life of many and exacerbated inequality through job losses in an already fragile economy – a situation from which – five years later, many South Africans are still trying to recover. In an attempt to encourage job creation and support the economy, President Ramaphosa launched the Presidential Employment Stimulus, to create jobs for South Africans.

Ending women and child abuse is a societal problem that needs all hands on deck. The launch of the GBVF Response Fund, enacting new legislation and implementing the National Strategic Plan on GBVF, are steps in the right direction to end the scourge and protect the most vulnerable in society.

Since 2014, South Africa has had

numerous struggles with load shedding caused by an unstable electricity grid, delayed construction of power stations and rising electricity prices. Attempts by the Department of Electricity and Energy to remedy the situation are beginning to bear fruit, as more megawatts are being added to the grid, private investment in energy generation is being unlocked and the procurement of new green energy.

As we welcome the world to our country throughout 2025 for various blocs of Group of Twenty (G20) meetings and the G20 Summit in November, we will use South Africa's Presidency of the group to showcase our nation's rich history, scenic views, ubuntu, resilience, hope and the spirit of vuk'uzenzele!



Noluthando Motswai  
*Editor*

1994 - 2024

The graphic features a background with three diagonal color bands: a yellow band at the top left, a dark blue band in the middle, and a red band at the bottom right. The number '30' is written in a large, white, cursive script across the blue band.

30

YEARS OF  
*empowering stories*



---

# ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION

---



# VUKANI-UBUNTU JEWELLERY PROJECTS

The Vukani-Ubuntu programme empowers South African rural communities through jewellery-making, creating jobs and global market opportunities.



## COMMUNITIES TO SHINE

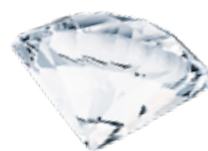
### Fashion

**lovers** in overseas countries are shining with jewellery made by some of South Africa's rural and historically disadvantaged communities.

Thanks to the Vukani-Ubuntu Community Development Programme, the jewellers from these communities are also shining brightly through their work. By empowering disadvantaged communities through training and skills development projects, Vukani-Ubuntu is helping government reach its goals of developing scarce skills, fighting poverty and supporting small business development.

### Sponsorship

Community development champion, Demos Takoulas, started the project. Takoulas, who runs Academy International, a computer and business training college, saw the need for jewellery schools in previously disadvantaged areas. Through the Academy's Outreach Programme, he got a R240 000





sponsorship from the Anglo Gold Ashante mine. It helped him to start a jewellery school in Atteridgeville, near Pretoria in 1999.

Today, there are eight Vukani-Ubuntu jewellery projects. They are situated in Mpumalanga, Gauteng, the Free State and the Northern Cape. All the projects are owned by the communities with Vukani-Ubuntu only helping to run and market the businesses.

### Working together

Together with five other community-based jewellery projects in the country, Vukani-Ubuntu has formed a co-operation that sells their jewellery to countries like Canada, Japan and America.

Takoulas said the Department of Trade and Industry, through its Black Business Supplier Development Programme, sponsors them when

they take the products to trade shows, conferences and seminars in South Africa and overseas.

### High standards

He said their students are trained to meet the high standards demanded by jewellery buyers overseas.

Jewellery design is a three-year course and costs about R40 000 per year per student. The Mining and Qualification Authority SETA sponsors half the money for each student, while organisations like the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund and the National Development Agency also help with funding.

One of the most successful projects is the Umjindi Jewellery project in Barberton, Mpumalanga. It has already created hundreds of jobs in the area.

- Ndivhuwo Khangale

1994 - 2024



# FARMER BREEDS SUCCESS WITH NGUNI CATTLE

Limpopo farmer Victor Matjuda has quickly risen to prominence as a top stud breeder through the Nguni cattle programme. With over 100 Nguni cattle, he's a key player in the province's growing livestock sector.

**Matjuda, 34,** started breeding indigenous cattle in 2009 after participating in the Limpopo provincial government's Nguni cattle breeding programme.

"Participating in the programme was a break-through for me. It helped me become one of the young successful stud breeders in province," said Matjuda.

The cattle breeding initiative - a partnership between the Limpopo Department of Agriculture, Industrial Development Cooperation (IDC) and University of Limpopo - aims to empower and upgrade cattle farming in deep rural areas.

The IDC, which has invested R2.5 million, approves grants for the project while the university helps with research and running the programme.

To qualify for the programme, applicants must own a farm equipped for

cattle or have a long-term lease at a state owned farm. They also need to show entrepreneurial abilities and cattle management skills.

Last year, Matjuda was the second runner-up at the Aspirant Young Farmer of the Year competition in the Top Producer for National Markets category.

"Reward is always a great incentive and motivation. It proves value, quality and success in all that you dedicate your time, energy and money to and where you aspire to be, saying to you the sky is but another platform to step on but not the limit," he added.

Matjuda developed his love for cattle from an early age.

"I grew up among cattle and fell in love with livestock farming in 2006. I got into the programme in 2009 with a loan of 30 cattle and a bull. They





main a stumbling block and a thorn in the flesh for many livestock farmers in the province. Grazing fields are also problematic as the more the business grows, the smaller the land becomes.

“Stock theft, veld fires, marketing issues, especially when you are starting out, is still problematic, but with the effort that the department is making, we will overcome it,” Matjuda said.

Department spokesman Kenny Mathivha said that since the introduction of the programme, many emerging stud breeders had improved their production.

have multiplied into more than 100 in the past few years,” he said.

Matjuda described working with the Nguni breed as “awesome”.

“It gives a lot of satisfaction and it’s not a ‘sissy’ animal. Being able to provide meat for families, helping breadwinners provide for their families and also being able to live a rewarding peaceful lifestyle made me realise that I made a right choice,” he said.

However, like every farmer, Matjuda also encounters problems.

“Challenges such as stock theft re-

“We are happy that the programme empowers emerging farmers to become beef production farmers and create jobs in their communities,” Mathivha said.

He added that more than 44 projects have benefited from the programme and about 1 500 Nguni cattle have been loaned to farmers.

- Sphiwe Nyathi

**For more information  
contact the Limpopo  
Department of Agriculture  
on 015 294 3000.**

1994 - 2024



# CITRUS FARMING PUTS A SQUEEZE ON POVERTY

Thirty Limpopo villagers have pooled their resources together to turn their private land into a hugely successful citrus farm.

**The villagers** are members of the Mabunda Cooperative and were each given 10 hectares of land in the Xitlakati village, near Giyani, about 15 years ago as part of the Department of Agriculture's efforts to help people start their own projects.

"It was just another project given to individuals to grow some vegetables and make a living. However, with 10 hectares each, members of the community decided to form a 300 hectare citrus farm," said project manager Benet Malungani.

Today, the farm employs 63 permanent and more than 300 seasonal workers.

Most of the seasonal workers rely solely on harvest time at the citrus farm to earn an income.



According to village headman, Billy Nkuna, the project also benefits the Mabunda royal family and the rest of the community.

"The Mabunda royal family receives a payment of R18 000 per season, which is used to alleviate poverty in the village. On top of that, they support local schools with computers and uniforms for kids from disadvantaged families," Nkuna said.

During a recent visit to the farm, Greater Giyani Mayor Pat Hlungwani said the project was an example of how cooperatives could help reduce poverty in the country.

"If everyone in any village or society could just start up something that



could absorb one or 10 people, it would make a huge impact in assisting government create employment,” he said.

Hlungwani urged society to encourage children to choose careers in the agricultural sector.

“We need to come up with some kind of motivation to make them understand that agriculture is important,” he said.

The mayor was invited to the farm to hand over building material that the cooperative bought for the 63 permanent workers.

Cooperative members supplied each of the workers with eight sheets of zinc, a door, window frame and wheelbarrow to build or extend their homes.

- Siphiwe Nyathi

**“If everyone in any village or society could just start up something that could absorb one or 10 people, it would make a huge impact in assisting government create employment.”**

1994 - 2024



# FARMERS IN LUKA FIND TREASURE IN MUSHROOMS

For over a decade, Peter Rammutla was an ordinary village cattle farmer battling to get by. But in 2008, he teamed up with five other people from Luka Village, outside Rustenburg to start the Kotulo Mushroom Cooperative.

**His interest** in mushroom farming developed after he toured Tropical Mushrooms owned by Peter Nyathi in Magaliesburg. It then struck him that there were no mushroom farms in the Rustenburg region.

When it started, the cooperative had no money to build the special structure for growing mushrooms and to

pay for electricity. It seemed to be living on borrowed time.

But in 2009, the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development came to the rescue. The department started by giving the cooperative R2,4 million, followed by a further R1,2 million in 2012 for the construction of the structure where the mushrooms are





grown. The structure has six rooms of 180 square metres each fitted with shelves. The Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda) helped the co-operative draw a production and marketing plan. Seda also helped to barcode and brand their products for the mass market.

Today, the cooperative supplies mushroom rooms to big retailers such as Spar, Fruit and Veg City and Spur. “We do the delivery ourselves,” he added. The cooperative employs 16 people drawn from the village. “We import the soil we use to grow mushrooms from Ireland and The Netherlands every quarter, while the compost is ordered locally,” explained Rammutla who added that harvesting takes place after 18 days of growing.

The department took members for training in mushroom production and allocated them a project manager who is experienced in mushroom production. The department’s Agricultural Extension Advisor also provides technical support on a regular basis.

Rammutla said there is stiff competition in mushroom farming. “The competition is very tough. We are managing because we produce quality mushrooms and people love them.”

The MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Desbo Mohono, said the department would continue to support the cooperative because it is the only mushroom project funded by the department in the Province. The department helps the cooperative get access to niche markets, given its massive nature and contribution towards rural development.

The cooperative has established markets in and around Rustenburg and Gauteng. “We produce 2,5 tons per week and our produce has proved to be the best in the market as it is 100% organic,” said Rammutla.

- Albert Pule



1994 - 2024



# FROM SUBSISTENCE FARMERS TO MAJOR SUPPLIERS

What started off as a small project by women of Skwahlane outside Nelspruit to provide food at home has turned into a prosperous business employing 39 people and producing tomatoes, butternuts, spinach and more.

**In 1996 five** women started what was known at the time as the Ikhwezi Women's Association. The women were farming to provide for their families, because of unemployment.

They produced their vegetables on a 12 hectare farm some 60 kilometres

from Nelspruit and donated by the local chief of Skwahlane. The farm has now grown into a viable business, employing 31 permanent and eight casual workers. Last year the cooperative scooped the Mpumalanga Productivity SA award for outstanding achievement in productivity improvement.



The women had to work hard to get to where they are now. In 2001 they decided to introduce four young people to their group to form what is now known as the Ikhwezi Agri-Co-operative. The aim of introducing more people to the project was to transfer farming skills and to build a sustainable business.

Makhosazane Sambo, who joined the cooperative in 2001, says that before joining the group, she was a general worker at a juice factory. “I heard that there was this opportunity to be involved in farming which was something very close to my heart since my father was a farmer. I decided to quit and become a member of the Ikhwezi Agri-Cooperative.”

In those early days, a lack of funding

made it difficult to get the cooperative off the ground, recalls Sambo.

Things improved in 2006 when the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture sponsored the cooperative with a bulldozer that was used to prepare the land.

In 2010, the group approached the Mpumalanga Department of Social Development for assistance and were granted R60 000.

“With that money we fenced off the property we were working from and also got a water pump for the crops”, says Sambo. She adds that the water pump improved their yield because the scarcity of water had badly affected their crops.

**“In 2010, the group approached the Mpumalanga Department of Social Development for assistance and were granted R60 000.”**

1994 - 2024



“We could see that our business was expanding and doing well and we were supplying to the Nelspruit National Market which supplies to all major chain stores around the province.

“In 2010 we approached the National Development Agency (NDA) for funding. With the money we received in 2011 we built an office block and a packing area. We also bought a freezer for the vegetables and a bakkie.”

Atypical day at Ikhwezi Agri-Village starts in the morning when workers head to the fields to look after their precious goods that will soon be sold all over Mpumalanga. On this particular day, the sun has reached 31

° C. Groups of workers wearing protective gear are hard at work, digging, weeding and reaping. The fields are covered with green crops waiting to be harvested.

Maxwell Mathebula, Mpumalanga Provincial Manager for the NDA, says Ikhwezi received R2 million from his organisation. In the last three years, the NDA has funded 44 food security projects and 65 small-scale cooperatives. In the ten years of its existence, the NDA has used over R1 billion to support communities through its programmes.

Mathebula expresses confidence that the members of the co-operative will continue to thrive.

“They have created job opportunities for community members and this is in line with the government priorities. The co-operative also addresses the issue of food security and nutrition. The vegetables that are produced are sufficient to change the lives of the poor while improving their nutritional status.” Sambo says for a cooperative to succeed, members must be given clearly defined roles.

“With the Ikhwezi-Agri Village Co-operative, members have special roles to play, looking after different aspects of the business such as finance, marketing and the daily running of the business. This makes working together easy as we work as an integrated system.”

Mathebula says a cooperative is a viable business model for farming as it works within a regulated framework.

“There is greater co-operation amongst members. There is an element of ownership and as a result members become committed to the cause. What is required to enhance this kind of co-operation is skills transfer. This includes leadership and management skills.”



# NOMZAMO BRANCHES INTO MORINGA TRADE

Nomzamo Mthethwa- Khoza has turned her love for indigenous trees into a lucrative business that produces various products and provides employment.

**When Nomzamo** Mthethwa-Khoza, 26, quit the corporate world in 2010 to follow her love for indigenous trees, she never dreamt that she would one day be crowned the female farmer of the year.

But Khoza came out tops when she won the top female exporter and the overall female farmer of the year award during the 2013 female entrepreneurs' awards. The awards are organised by the national Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Khoza's farm and a processing plant are in Mnini near Port Shepstone. Her company is divided into two sections: People's Bio Oil (PBO) and Morana Fire for Africa.

She makes over 201 products, which include tonics, capsules, hair food, body products, spices and sauces made from the Moringa tree. All her products are natural and have no chemicals. PBO is the manufacturing



section of her business while Morana is the brand under which the products are sold.

Her company employs 120 people and has 200 distributors of the Morana products countrywide.

## Passion for plants

Khoza hails from eNkanyisweni, a village in Mbumbulu which is 13 kilometres from Durban. She says though she studied accounting at Durban University of Technology

1994 - 2024



she always wanted to do something different.

“I had a love for plants and it interested me that alien invasive plants were affecting our green lands in the country.”

Alien invasive plants are plants that are not from South Africa and that effect plants grown in South Africa negatively.

“Around 2004, through our journey with my husband of wanting to learn more about plants and trees, especially indigenous plants, we found the Moringa plant. We did a lot of research about it and discovered all its benefits.

Years later - in 2011- we started our business, Morana, produced by PBO,” says the soft-spoken Khoza.

The Moringa tree’s leaves are rich in protein, vitamins A, B, C and minerals.

The struggle to get funding  
Nomzamo Mthethwa-Khoza, 26 has turned her love for trees into a viable business. Khoza and her husband Vusi say that starting the company from scratch with no funding and not much business experience was not easy.

“The most challenging part of getting the business off the ground was that when we knocked on doors for assistance, nobody understood what we were doing. Farming indigenous trees was something unusual.” The couple also made sure that they equipped themselves with knowledge by doing courses in agricultural studies.

They bought land from the local chief and sold all their assets to build capital to start the business because they had a vision.

“We also had a mentor who taught us how to make body lotions from the Moringa tree. Producing tonics was something that is in our families, which we learned from elders.” She says whenever they mix products, they are taken to the laboratory for nutritional value testing and whether they are safe for consumption.

Today the couple also export their products to Mozambique and Argentina. “All I can say is that our business is doing very well.”

#### Raking in the money

Khoza won R125 000 as the best farmer from KwaZulu-Natal. During the national awards, she won R250 000 for best exporting and received R500 000 for being the overall winner in South Africa.

She says winning all these categories was most unexpected and the money will help grow the business.

“I am a person that loves the environment, I always dreamt of living in a place far away, doing my own thing overlooking the mountains with a river flowing below my home.”

#### A farm with a natural view

Nomzamo and her husband, Vusi, also farm birds, chicken and mushroom. (Pictures: Mduduzi Tshabangu) Her dream of living with the environment came true as Khoza's home is situated on her farm. The air is crisp and the only noise is that of the birds and chickens.

Her thatched roof home is on a mountain top where there is a stunning view of the mountains that surround her, the manufacturing firm and the nurseries that produce the indigenous trees. To complete the look, there is a river that flows close to the distribution firm but when standing or sitting at Khoza's lounge,

one is able to see the river flow from the hill.

“We try by all means to make sure that everything we do is natural and organic.”

Khoza not only produces products from the Moringa tree but also farms indigenous trees, flowers, chickens, birds, oyster mushrooms, herbs and will soon be farming tilapia fish.

The indigenous trees that she plants include Haworthia, which can be used for landscaping, the charm tree plant and the plum bush plant which is rich in vitamin C and helps boost the immune system.

She sells the plants to nurseries and plants shops. Her chicken farm works very closely with the local community as she buys maize from local small-scale farmers to feed her chickens.

“We are also in the process of running a programme to teach the local community how to farm chicken properly.”

Her poultry farming includes cockatiels, quails and lovebirds, which she sells to pet shops.

“Oyster mushrooms are specifically for food security for all employees of the company from the area. We teach them how to farm and provide all the seeds. Whatever they make from the mushroom farming is their own benefit.”

1994 - 2024



To explore opportunities for expanding her business, Khoza is building a laboratory on the farm for testing products.

“We are also in the process of building a pack-aging area so we can plant manufacture and package all our products. We are also extending the factory to make it bigger.”

Khoza says young people should not wait for opportunities to come their way, but should create their own opportunities.

“There is so much that you can do if you have a vision. Get out of your comfort zone. Everything that we do depends on agriculture.”

**“There is so much that you can do if you have a vision. Get out of your comfort zone. Everything that we do depends on agriculture.”**









# MUYEXE WOMEN STAND TOGETHER TO FIGHT POVERTY



**Like the** name itself - Muyexe is a Xitsonga word that means alone - the village is far-flung and deeply rural. It is one of the villages identified and prioritised for development by President Jacob Zuma under the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP).

Like other parts of the country, Muyexe is affected by poverty and a high unemployment rate among the 7 000 community members scattered across five sections.

A few kilometres after entering the

village, signs of life start to emerge.

Children play on the streets and women dressed in orange Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) overalls are busy with various activities.

In the south of the village, a 17-hectare garden is a hive of activity with women singing and dancing as they work the garden in preparation for the planting season.

They are part of the Macena Vegetable Cooperative, which was started

by 40 women from the village in 1993. The women grow spinach, beetroot, pepper, butternut and sweet potato.

Maria Ngobeni, a member of the cooperative, said they supply these vegetables to the community.

“We started these gardens just so we could have food in our houses. We received assistance from the Department of Rural Development which bought us pipes and wheel barrows in 2012,” she added.

The cooperative has faced many challenges over the years including water shortages, lack of equipment and transport.

It is a member of the Limpopo Tomato Growers Association and being part of the group allows it to supply tomatoes to Agro Processors of Limpopo (APOL) on a continuous base.

“Our agreement is very simple, all they (the cooperative) do is to supply us with tomatoes and we don’t restrict them on how and when they can supply with their produce,” John Mahasha of APOL explained.

This agreement started in 2013 and has proved to be fruitful.

“We are happy with the quality of the tomatoes. We’ve never had issues apart from one or two occasions where they wanted to sell us rotten tomatoes,” Mahasha added.

A ton of round tomatoes is sold for R800, while a ton of jam tomatoes is sold at R1 200.

Ngobeni hopes the agreement with APOL will be a sign of good things to come as the cooperative has been struggling to find a market for some of their products.

“We are happy with the agreement we have with them and we hope there will be more to come in the future,” Ngobeni added.

- *Albert Pule*

1994 - 2024



# COTTON PROJECT SET TO TRANSFORM RURAL COMMUNITY



**It was bought** as part of government's Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP), that aims to tackle issues such as underdevelopment, food security, unemployment, poverty and other social ills in rural areas.

In the 2014/2015 financial year the KZN Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) spent more than R1.4 million in support of Makhathini Gin cotton project in Makhathini area.

During a recent visit to the project, MEC Cyril Xaba, who was accompanied by Deputy Minister for Rural Development and Land Reform Mcebisi Skwatsha, said the aim was to grow the farming sector so that it could help grow the economy and create jobs in the province.

"This initiative aims to enhance cotton production by small holder farmers in the Makhathini region to enable them to become sustainable producers of quality cotton and become involved additional phases of the value chain.

This will also apply to the on-going job creation potential of the project related to continuous cotton production to feed the entire value chain via the Makhathini Gin,” he said.

Deputy Minister Skwatsha said since the start of the project more than 30 farmers associations with 1 579 farmers from the area were benefiting from it.

“Farmers were selected by Ubongwa Farmers’ Cooperative based on their skills that would be beneficial to Makhathini Gin cotton project.

“This will result in farmers being involved in more stages of the value chain of cotton processing. They will also be responsible for the marketing of the cotton processed through the Gin and have already negotiated contracts with spinners. Their intention is to take responsibility for their own cotton from production until processed into garments for the retail industry,” he said.

Matozi Simelane, chairperson for the farmers, said more than 590 seasonal jobs were created by the gin during the 2014/2015 financial year.

“The project had 17 people being employed full-time at the gin for the period of 15 months, three vacancies have been created for the mentoring and training through LIMA, 11 jobs have been created for security farm guards, 23 jobs for erecting the fencing of Ikhwehle, one for safety officer, and three extension staff,” she said.

More than 577 famers who are part of 2014/15 beneficiaries are currently busy with the cotton harvesting. This has made a difference to many households in the area.

“During planting and harvesting season, we employ more temporary workers of which will help generate revenue for some households around the area. Last year alone we managed to get just over R3 million during the sale of cotton in the Gin. We hope that as from next year we will double our sales as we are in the process of getting 2 500 hectares of land that will produce cotton around Makhathini. We also try by all means to put more women under our association.”

She added that there were currently 33 per cent male farmers (525), while 59 per cent were female (938) and 8 per cent (129) youth,” Simelane said.

Deputy Minister Skwatsha said people in rural areas deserve a better quality of life.

“Through the implementation of the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme we are beginning to see a transformation of the rural landscape of our country and the improvement in the livelihoods of rural communities. We hope that the people of Jozini will hold hands together with Ubongwa to ensure that this project is sustainable,” said the Deputy Minister.

- *Thandeka Ngobese*

1994 - 2024



## SCHOOL BAGS A SHINING LIGHT

Thato Kgatlhanye is one of those young people who believes in doing business with a purpose.

**She owns** Rethaka, which is a company that produces solar powered school bags known as Repurpose Schoolbags for children living in homes that do not have electricity.

“I am a social entrepreneur, I am money and business-driven, and I am empathetic towards people.” Rethaka, comes from the Sotho word ‘Re dithaka’ and means we are all on a equal level.

Kgatlhanye, 22, comes Mogwase, just

outside Sun City in the North West.

She started her business with a group of friends in 2011 after completing matric while pursuing the ideas of becoming entrepreneurs.

“We had no idea what we wanted to do with the business, we just registered it. All we wanted to do was to be involved in business. We left it at that and went to university. We were 18 years at the time.”



During her university years she said she was given an assignment of creating a bag from a plastic bag.

“I thought how do I push the idea and make it more than just a school bag. I knew that children lived in homes without electricity and I wanted to come up with something to change this.”

Kgatlhanye, who holds a degree in brand management from Vega School of Brand Leadership, said this sparked the idea to create a solar powered school bag.

To raise start-up funding for the business, Kgatlhanye entered the South African Breweries Foundation Innovation Award and got a business grant of R300 000.

“We also got the Anazish Prize and where given about \$15 000.

The late Minister of Public Service Collins Chabane also honoured the

company with a special ministerial award last year he gave us R15 000. He heard about us but I do not know how.”

The Anzisha Prize seeks to award young entrepreneurs who have developed and implemented innovative solutions to social challenges or started successful businesses within their communities in Africa.

Creating a solar powered school bag  
Young business owner Thato Kgatlhanye with a solar powered school bag. A child receives a package, which consists of a solar panel, lamp, and the school bag made from recycled plastic.

Kgatlhanye explained that all the bags are made from plastic bags. Once the manufacturing of every school bag has been completed there is a small solar panel inserted at the back of the bag.

“So as the child is walking to school

**“I am a social entrepreneur, I am money and business-driven, and I am empathetic towards people.”**

1994 - 2024



the solar panel is being charged. When they get home, they take the panel out and insert it into a desk lamp integrating the two. The lamp has a switch that the child presses and the lamp lights-up generating electricity from the solar panel.”

Rethaka outsources the solar panels since Kgatlhanye does not have the skills to manufacture her own solar panels but it is something she said the company was working on as it grows.

“It’s very exciting to be part of the circular economy.”

“We use waste and we are part of the few companies in Africa leading the circular economy finding ways to close the loop and turning waste into worth, which is a different way of thinking and a different way of doing business.”

“A previous business model would have been to get a raw material and produce something but we are taking waste and turning it into something valuable.”

### **Rethaka’s giving partners**

Kgatlhanye said her company is not a non-profitable organisation but she sees it as social entrepreneurship.

When it comes to selling the school bags, which cost R250 per bag, she approaches sponsorship from companies, which she has termed giving partners.

“We don’t sell the bags to school. We sell them to corporates or individuals. We don’t call them clients we have termed them giving partners. They purchase on behalf of the children.”

“Our giving partners are the ones that do the donating. A company

would do it as part of their corporate social investment programme. Other companies buy conference bags and for every conference bag that they buy they also buy a school bag for a child.”

“We don’t donate the bags we just make them and get our giving partners to buy and hand them over to schools.”

On average Rethaka makes about 30 bags a day manufactured by a staff that consists of 15 permanent employees in production and three people who handle the day to day running of the business and three casual workers who collect the plastic bags at land refill sites.

“We work as a team and I have good people that work for me. Even though I am younger than almost all of them but they are good people to work with and we leave our ages at the door.”

Rethaka reaching across Africa  
She said her company had received positive feedback and were now distributing to other countries on the African continent such as Namibia and Mozambique.

“The bag has been received well because children who were using a plastic bag or carried their books underneath their arm now have a school bag. The school bag is also water proof which means their books don’t get wet when it rains.”

“For a child that has never had a school bag getting this type of bag is a big deal.

It goes a long way in giving a child dignity and knowing that when they get home they will be able to do their homework.”

“Our bag is meeting basic and necessary key things that children need. Another thing is that on every bag there are two reflector strips so that the children are visible to motorists if they walk in the dark.”

### Plans for the future

She said as part of her company’s plans for the future she was in the process of developing luxury bags.

“We want to go commercial creating this luxury bags and exporting overseas. For every bag that is brought we will donate a repurpose school bag to a school child.”

Kgatlhanye said any young person could contribute to creating jobs and starting business just like she did.

“It takes hard work and someone to dream to a goal that is actionable. Dream in detail know what you want. You become intentional about yourself.”

“Don’t forget to develop a product that will make lives of people easier. My product is gifting with a purpose it’s lighter on the environment, it creates jobs and changing a child’s life.”

- *Noluthando Mkhize*

1994 - 2024



# COTTON FARMER MAKING IT BIG



Maria Swele, a Limpopo-based farmer, is an example of what can be achieved if you have passion and a desire to bring change in your community. Swele was a sunflower farmer until she realised there was greater potential in farming cotton.

**Between 2004** and 2008 Swele specialised in planting sunflowers but after attending cotton farming training courses she decided to make the switch.

“There was a training course done by Cotton South Africa at Tompi Seleka, an agricultural college in Limpopo. I realised that cotton has more oppor-

tunities than the other crops we were planting and I'm now focusing on cotton only," she said.

Swele completed her matric in 2002 and then completed a computer course at the University of the Witwatersrand. In 2003 she completed a short course in financial management in Dennilton.

The knowledge and skills that she gained while doing the different courses are helping her cotton business.

The courses also helped her with networking because the more courses she attended the more access she had to people that are involved in cotton farming. This helped to grow her love of cotton farming.

Today Swele owns a 32-hectare farm that produces cotton, maize and peanuts and sells her products to local customers and those beyond her Maklerekeng Village.

Swele employs 112 people, comprising 105 women and seven men. Of these, 22 are permanently employed, while the others are seasonal workers.

She sells her cotton at Loskop Cotton and the money that she has made

has helped her build her own house, pay for her children's education and helped other farmers financially.

"With the little that I make, I've helped some up and coming farmers financially and they managed to plant four hectares of cotton."

Though she is running her business successfully, Swele said it has not been an easy road. One major challenge she faced was planting in a dry region.

Her advice to other female farmers is to ask for advice, especially from people who are already established in the business.

"When you face challenges don't sit and keep quiet, go to other farmers, talk to them and seek their advice, especially those with experience."

She said in the next few years she is determined to grow her business and employ more people on a permanent basis.

- Albert Pule

1994 - 2024





## LAND CLAIMANTS MILKING SUCCESS

The Eastern Cape government's R32 million investment in a dairy project that benefits hundreds of land claims beneficiaries has boosted production capacity by 60 percent.

**The recently** unveiled Wittekleibosch farm's state-of-the-art dairy outside Tsitsikamma is a partnership between 152 AmaMfengu families and their partner dairy farmer, Johan du Plessis, to commercially produce milk on the farm.

The Eastern Cape Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform's (DRDAR) investment was used to build a new 66-point rotary milking facility.

The dairy produces 16 000 litres of milk a day that it sells to giant food producer, Parmalat, through an offtake agreement.

Eastern Cape Rural Development MEC Mlibo Qoboshiyane hailed the project as an example of the "radical economic transformation" that is necessary to grow the country's economy and create jobs. "Government is investing in black-owned

**“Government is investing in black-owned businesses, encouraging partnerships between South Africans to work together in their commercial business and [remove] market blockages so that all of us can benefit from the economic opportunities.”**

businesses, encouraging partnerships between South Africans to work together in their commercial business and [remove] market blockages so that all of us can benefit from the economic opportunities,” said the MEC.

The 152 AmaMfengu families who were dispossessed of their land by the apartheid government at the height of the Group Areas Act, own Wittekleibosch farm.

MEC Qoboshiyane said that the provincial government had invested R32 million because it recognised the viability of the dairy farm and saw how committed the Wittekleibosch Dairy Trust members were to growing their business.

### **Boosting revenue, productivity**

The provincial government’s invest-

ment has boosted the farm’s productivity by 60 percent.

The joint venture has also created 40 permanent jobs. One of the beneficiaries, Nowethu Msizi, who was 42-years-old when they were evicted from the land, described the opening of the dairy as having restored the AmaMfengu’s legacy and dignity.

“We will ensure we leave a legacy of fighting poverty through agriculture. Now our children will be able to benefit from this establishment hence we are very happy with this development. This establishment will change our lives for better,” said Msizi.

- Siya Miti

1994 - 2024



# FROM CATTLE HERDER TO TOURISM STAR

A Mpumalanga-based safari operator whose love for wildlife has led to starting his own enterprise.

**Once a cattle** herder and now the managing director of a tour company, Khimbini Hlongwane bears evidence to what can be achieved through determination and passion.

Hlongwane is the founder of Vomba Tours & Safaris, a tour operator

based just outside the Kruger National Park in Mpumalanga. Established in 2015, the company is a finalist in the prestigious Lilizela Awards in the category of black-owned tourism enterprises employing under 50 people.

Hlongwane hails from a small village where he used to herd cattle and goats in the bush.

“This exposed me to wildlife from a young age and I was fascinated by the behaviour of various animals. It was really fun yet challenging because every day we had to try to find food without becoming food,” remembered Hlongwane.

His love for wildlife saw him joining Inyati Game Lodge in the Sabi Sand Game Reserve as an animal tracker in 1994. Five years later, he became a fully-fledged game ranger at the lodge, guiding tourists on game drives and walks. Now, 24 years after he entered the industry, Hlongwane has achieved his dream of operating his own company. He also received mentoring assistance from the Small





Enterprise Development Agency.

Vomba offers safaris in the Kruger National Park, village tours and trips to Mpumalanga's Panorama Route and the Mozambican capital of Maputo.

Hlongwane said his company has improved the lives of his community members. "The people are proud to see what a company from the middle of nowhere is able to achieve, and it inspires them," he said.

Vomba provides full-time employ-

ment to three locals and part-time and freelance work to another 12 people.

Future plans include educational safari drives into the Kruger Park, a collaboration with local crafters, a tented camp and an enlarged vehicle fleet.

Hlongwane gave credit to his staff who ensure that his business is a success.

- Dale Hes

1994 - 2024





# FROM DOMESTIC WORKER TO BUILDING SIDE WALKS

A woman from the Eastern Cape is proving that women can make it in road construction.





**Nontembeko Khenku** was struggling to make ends meet as a domestic worker when she came across an advert for a learnership by the South African National Roads Agency SOC Ltd (SANRAL) in a newspaper.

She applied and her application was successful, and she underwent a gruelling two-year learnership that helped her make inroads into the tough world of road construction. Nontembeko Khenku is building sidewalks and running her small business thanks to SANRAL.

“I’ve learnt how to build access roads, sidewalks and general construction skills,” said Khenku.

She is now the owner of Cambeni Construction Company, which is contracted to do work on the R61 near Port St Johns in the Eastern Cape.

“I started in August last year, I am a supervisor and we build sidewalks. They are very important because people are being knocked over by cars but now they will have somewhere to walk on. This will help

reduce the number of accidents involving pedestrians walking on, and crossing, the road,” she said.

She now has a level 4 certificate and is proud to own an independent SMME that currently employs eight people.

“In the next five years I’d like to see my company grow from grade 5. It makes me very happy to have these many people in my employ as this gets rid of poverty,” said Khenku.

She said while women face unique challenges in cracking it in a previously male-dominated sector like construction, there is absolutely nothing that stops them from making a success in this field.

Being a woman making her mark in this field initially presented challenges in terms of attitudes by some men who doubted she could deliver because of her gender.

“But because I have the skills, I cope very well by using my capabilities. Then they realise that women can indeed do this job,” she said.

**“I’ve learnt how to build access roads, sidewalks and general construction skills.”**

1994 - 2024



# FROM STREET VENDOR TO INTERNATIONAL EXPORTER

A Kwazulu-Natal trade and inward investment promotion agency is creating a platform for emerging exporters to gain access to global markets.

**Bilateral trade** between South Africa and China has yielded positive results for a KwaMashu businessman who exports oranges to the East Asian country.

Mthokozisi Mkhwanazi's Isivuno Food Company recently secured a contract to supply 10 containers of this citrus fruit to Shanghai, which is China's biggest city.

The 36-year-old's journey is a remarkable one. He was once a street vendor peddling produce he bought from the Durban Fresh Produce Market.

In 2015, he took a leap of faith and started Isivuno, which sources oranges and grapes from farmers across South Africa to export to international markets.

Mkhwanazi said winning the Shanghai contract would not have been possible without the support given to him through the emerging exporters programme run by Trade and Investment KwaZulu-Natal (TIKZN).



“TIKZN has been very instrumental in equipping me with the skills and platforms required for the growth of my business. The incubation programme focuses on export and market opportunities. I received step-by-step mentorship through the programme, including pricing and marketing the business to international clients.”

He said the organisation assisted him to register with the Perishable Products Export Control Board so that he could export high-quality products to international markets.

“They even organised an international trade mission to Dongguan in China, in collaboration with the Dongguan Economic and Trade Office. While in China, we had the chance to showcase our businesses and network with other international companies,” he said.

The trip was successful and Isivuno won a contract to export four tons of grapes to Dongguan.

TIKZN’s executive manager of export promotion, Lester Bouah, said many investors are reluctant to make investments in South Africa because of a lack of understanding of the nation.

“But since black businesses like Isivuno started trading with China, the confidence of international investors has improved,” he said, adding that through bilateral trade between South Africa and China, over 50 Dongguan-based companies are now importing goods to South Africa while timber, oranges, grapefruit and grapes from South Africa are exported to China.

- Hlengiwe Ngobese





# WATER-WISE FARMING A GAME CHANGER IN IMBALI

The stark reality of there not being enough jobs in South Africa for all citizens means that people need to start their own initiatives to survive.

**A lack of job** opportunities and stark poverty, coupled with an abundance of land suitable for farming, led to the establishment in 2006 of the Ixhiba co-operative by six women in the Imbali township near Pietermaritzburg.

Today, Ixhiba grows hydroponic tomatoes; green, yellow and red peppers; cucumbers; spinach; beet-root and lettuce with great success. Hlaleleni Buthelezi shows off her hydroponically grown spinach, broccoli and cabbage.



With hydroponic farming, plants are supported by a water and nutrient mixture, rather than soil. Plants can be grown closer together and in smaller spaces and hydroponics uses less water because the water is recycled.

Ixhiba co-operative member Hlaleleni Buthelezi (64) said they opted for hydroponic farming because they wanted to save water, and with the drought challenges recently faced by the country, their choice was a wise one.

“We try to save as much water as we can while at the same time making sure that we get good crops that are of high quality,” she said.

Buthelezi said when they started, they had no budget.

Commercial banks which were approached for a start-up loan turned them down or offered them uncompetitive interest rates.

Eventually, they knocked on the doors of Ithala Development Finance Corporation.

“It was our saving grace. They gave us a loan of R60 000, which we used to buy our first tunnel and crops.

“In 2017 we entered the Ithala’s Imbokodo Iyazenzela Women in Business competition and were selected as one of the winners. This gave us an incredible opportunity to be mentored by Ithala,” said Buthelezi.

Their mentor helped the co-operative to draft a business plan for the Agribusiness Development Agency.

“We are also receiving assistance with record keeping and better understanding our profit and loss situation,” she said.

This support means that the co-operative can investigate new markets and new growing techniques.

“We have been able to increase the number of tunnels from one to five and have provided 10 employment opportunities,” said Buthelezi.

- Hlengiwe Ngobese

1994 - 2024





# UMSINGA WOMEN FIGHT POVERTY

Not all heroes wear capes. There are a number of everyday heroes among us, quietly making a difference in their communities.

**One such person** is Lelly Mntungwa of uMsinga in KwaZulu-Natal, who started a clothing manufacturing business that has created over 100 jobs for local women and youth.

Lelly Mntungwa opened a clothing factory to empower women in uMsinga, KwaZulu-Natal. Mntungwa owns uMsinga Clothing Factory which she established after reading a report that was released in 2010 and revealed that uMsinga was one of the poorest communities in the country.

Thousands of families were left without an income when a massive shoe factory in the area closed down about 25 years ago.

The plight of the community prompted Mntungwa to leave her plush job at a bank and invest her own money into restoring part of the dilapidated shoe factory to house her new business. She hoped her own business would be a

beacon of hope for the area's downtrodden residents.

"I took the decision to resign and come back home so that I could help revive the economy of my area," Mntungwa told Vuk'uzenzele.

The factory has so far managed to create jobs for 137 people, the majority of whom are women.

"I decided to manufacture uniforms for school children because the only other factory that manufactures school uniforms in KwaZulu-Natal is based some distance away, in Durban," she explained.

Mntungwa said it is important for her to empower women, most especially in more neglected rural areas where there is a lack of access to information and resources.

"Rural life is still very much dominated



by a patriarchal system where women find themselves working harder to prove themselves,” she said. She said it is also common for them to drop out of school to run their child-headed family.

“The situation compelled me to intervene and develop these ‘young wives’ through skills transfer,” said Mntungwa.

She empowers them through job creation and skills capacitation.

“I believe skills transfer is a sustainable gift – it can empower people to become income generators and survive during difficult situations,” she added.

The factory also employs 50 young people who produce sanitary pads to help solve the problem of young girls in rural areas missing school when they are menstruating.

Mntungwa’s business is funded through the women economic empowerment

programme run by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA). Over R4 million has been committed.

Funding already received has helped Mntungwa rehabilitate a large section of the old factory and this in turn has enabled her to expand her operation and create more jobs.

EDTEA MEC Sihle Zikalala has praised Mntungwa for her vision and thanked her for the sterling job she has done in trying to eradicate poverty in the area.

“We are also proud that she employs women. We will continue to support initiatives like these as they become the engine of development,” the MEC said.

*- Hlengiwe Ngobese*

1994 - 2024



# IPELENG KWADI SETS HER SIGHTS AFRICA

Ipeleng Kwadi is making a success of her farming business locally, but she has her eye set on supplying the African continent.

**Kwadi (29)**, from Brits, in North West, is a livestock farmer and recently ventured into vegetable farming and horticulture.

She grew up in a household that was passionate about farming and says her father taught her and her siblings about farming, nature conservation and business management.

“Growing up I had to feed the chickens, open the kraal for the goats and make sure they return. I had to make sure that sick goats got medical attention and, during birthing, I would make sure that animals were comfortable. I paid attention to small details,” she says.

To gain more knowledge, Kwadi did



short courses to develop her agricultural skills.

In 2012, she worked on a family cattle farm, helping to manage the cattle, which gave her the confidence to start her own farm.

Kwadi previously worked for the Department of Basic Education. She resigned and used her pension to start her business. With 15 hectares of land ready to use, Kwadi is looking forward to expanding.

She has 11 employees, six of whom are permanent.

Kwadi also works at the North West Premier's office as a mentor to young farmers. "This initiative takes us into remote villages to find those who farm silently."

One of the highlights of her career has been uplifting other women. "I love being a role model in society, especially to girls," she says.

Kwadi's tips for emerging farmers

Research the type of farming you want to do and be clear about your goals.

Develop your business model and start small.

Take well-calculated risks. Don't think agriculture is easy. Farming needs passion because sometimes you may lose your investment.

Join emerging farmers' networks on social media.

Make use of what you have. Government funding will find you on the way.

- *Sphelele Ngubane*

1994 - 2024



# ETHNIC DOLLS SIMPLY BEAUTIFUL

Not being able to find a doll that represented her daughter's heritage and culture inspired Meyerton entrepreneur Mmule Ramothibe Ka Pityana to create her own.





**In 2012**, she went looking for a doll for her daughter. Despite visiting numerous toy shops, she couldn't find one. Her failed search gave rise to the birth to the Nandikwa Doll brand, Simply Beautiful, to address the shortage of ethnic like dolls in the market.

“Representation is vital for young girls growing up. It shows them that there are women just like them out there, thriving and that dreams can be a reality. Representation through play, especially with dolls, is changing more every day,” says Ramothibe.

She adds that it's important for girls to have a toy that represents the person she is or hopes to be, be it dolls representing male-dominated careers, dolls with different body types or dolls with disabilities and from different ethnicities.

Simply Beautiful celebrates all South African cultures not previously represented by dolls, including Sesotho, Setswana, isiZulu, isiXhosa, Siswati, Tshivenda, Xitsonga, African, Khoisan and Muslim.

“Many see her as a toy, but Nandikwa is far more than that. We use the brand to tell our African stories. Each doll has her unique story of triumph, hope, perseverance, dignity, ambition, resilience, confidence and tenacity through education,” says Ramothibe.

While Ramothibe couldn't find a

local manufacturer to make the dolls, their clothes are all made by local seamstresses.

The dolls are approximately 30cm in height and ethnic doll-related accessories, such as other clothing options, are available. They are also available with an afro hairstyle, short curly hair and braided hairstyles.

“This is the fun part. To see and appreciate the versatility and uniqueness in the way children can wear their hair,” says Ramothibe. She plans to add to the selection of dolls, across different ethnic groups, and scale the brand throughout Africa.

For more information, visit [www.nandikwadolls.co.za](http://www.nandikwadolls.co.za) or connect on Instagram @Nandikwa\_dolls.

- Allison Cooper

1994 - 2024



# FROM FARM LABOURER'S SON TO WINERY OWNER

The child of a wine farm labourer, Paul Siguqa has rewritten his story by becoming the owner of Klein Goederust Boutique Winery and Restaurant in Franschhoek, which is the only 100% black-owned wine farm in the area.



**“I want to change** two narratives with this wine farm. The first narrative is that the children of wine farm labourers will automatically follow in the same path.

The second is that, as black people, we fail when we are given land,” says Siguqa, who bought the 10-hectare farm in 2019. Paul Siguqa the owner of Klein Goederust Boutique Winery and Restaurant in Franschhoek.

His mother, Nomaroma was a farm labourer and later worked in the cellar of a local wine farm. She served as Siguqa's inspiration.

Today, his top wine is named Nomaroma, in her honour.

The determination shown by Siguqa has seen him receiving a tractor from the Western Cape MEC of Agriculture, Ivan Meyer. The handover formed part of the department's producer support and development programme.

Previously, the department contributed towards the upgrading of the farm's irrigation system.

Siguqa applied for support through the provincial government's Agricultural Producer Support and Development (APSD) programme.

This programme is facilitated by a state-owned company called Cape Agency for Sustainable Integrated Development in Rural Areas (Casidra).

The APSD programme assists farmers with producer support services, extension and advisory services, and food security services.

In turn, Siguqa has been able to support the community by employing 17 people, who work on the farm, and in the wine tasting room and restaurant.

During a visit to the winery, Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Thoko Didiza said the farm is going to be a great contributor to employment and tourism to the area.

"The opening of the wine tasting room and restaurant is testimony to government's efforts of ensuring equitable access and participation of black people in the wine value chain and the wine industry," she said.

Siguqa says he owes much of his success to government's assistance and the bonds he has formed with established farmers. He says he is being mentored by Hanneli Rupert-Koegenberg of La Motte wine estate.

**To apply for APSD assistance,  
contact Casidra at 021 863 5000  
or visit [www.casidra.co.za](http://www.casidra.co.za)**

1994 - 2024



## A TASTE OF HOME, IN A CAN!

Growing up in rural Limpopo with tasty chicken feet and necks as one of his most-loved meals inspired entrepreneur Eiren Drake (27) to can the widely enjoyed traditional dish for all South Africans to enjoy.

**Drake, the Founder** of Tin Stuf, says he was lucky to be exposed to chicken feet, necks and pap as a child.

Born in Tzaneen, Drake spent most of his weekends with his grandparents on their timber farm in George's Valley. He spent a significant amount of time with his late grandfather's

employees, whose children were his friends.

"This is when I was introduced to chicken feet, which is still one of my favourite meals," he confirms.

Later in life, when Drake became aware of the importance of food security, he developed an interest in

different preparation methods for traditional South African foods.

“There is a lack of access to affordable, nutritious protein, especially meat products. This is where the idea for Tin Stuf came from. My grandfather, was my father figure, was the brain behind the innovation,” says Drake.

He explains that it’s hard for many people to obtain chicken or meat, as they have to travel to places that are hard to reach. “They also don’t have a freezer and can’t afford electricity. This ignited my passion to find a solution to these challenges,” says Drake.

While Tin Stuf was registered in 2017, its canning facility only commenced commercial-scale operations in early 2020. The factory now employs 35 people, including several of Drake’s childhood friends who introduced him to the dish.

“They are the very people behind our innovation to develop a new product concept and our inspiration to follow through and attempt to launch it,” says Drake.

“I have the capacity to double this number of employees, with the introduction of a night shift, if the

demand for the product continues to grow,” he adds.

In February 2022, Drake was approached by the Shoprite Group and agreed to a three-year exclusive deal to supply the retailer.

The product is also available online, via Takealot.com; directly from the factory; and from a few wholesalers and informal retailers in the northern parts of South Africa.

Drake’s advice to the youth is to believe you can be successful. “Decide on your goals and believe in achieving them with unwavering passion. Listen to other people’s advice and do whatever it takes to turn your dreams into reality. You can.”

**For more information,  
visit [www.tinstuf.com](http://www.tinstuf.com).**

1994 - 2024





# EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH AGRICULTURE

**Dr Ethel Zulu** is a remarkable small farmer on the rise.

She uses her in-depth understanding of nutrition and years of experience to produce organic chickens and vegetables on her farm with the aim of empowering other women to become commercial farmers.

Dr Zulu (48), who holds a doctorate in nutrition, owns a 23-hectare farm in Cullinan outside Pretoria, where she produces and agro-processes organic veggies and chickens that she supplies to several supermarkets.

Her farm also hosts 20 students who are pursuing agricultural studies for training. Dr Zulu left her job at the North West Department of Agriculture to start her training agency, Hope Nutrition Business Consultants.

This was after she relocated to Gauteng but could not find a job as a nutritionist. She is passionate about agriculture and her vision is to get as many women as possible into farming, a field she believes has the potential to empower and create jobs.

“I served for eight years, working with

agricultural extension officers, and we helped many farmers with food safety, hygiene and nutrition. Agriculture has been my passion since I was young and I never imagined myself doing anything else.”

Through her training agency, Dr Zulu explained that she worked across six provinces, helping women and young people to run their farming operations. Dr Ethel Zulu is leading from the front on her farm where she grows organic vegetables and free-range chickens she supplies to the established supermarkets. Picture supplied by Dr Zulu.

## Commercial poultry farming

In 2017, Dr Zulu realised that her training was meaningless without results, so she bought a farm to put her knowledge into action.

Today, she has become a commercial poultry farmer with more than 7 500 broilers. Her initial plan was to produce only organic vegetables.

“I needed chickens for manure. I would go to people’s houses to collect it to keep my veggies organic. That is how the idea of the broilers came about. Within two years, we produced



5 000 broilers and started to supply local super-markets.”

She added that her chicken are free-range and organic, with zero hormones. She uses chicken manure to grow vegetables such as spinach, broccoli, cabbage and peppers.

In addition to supermarkets, Dr Zulu supplies her produce to hawkers. Her operation is so successful that she employs 12 women permanently.

According to Dr Zulu, poultry is the most critical sector in the country, as most families consume chicken more than any other kind of meat.

Dr Zulu has hopes of training more than 1 000 women in farming across the country each year. She is also set

on being one of South Africa’s trusted producers of free-range chickens and organic vegetables.

She advises aspiring female farmers to start small and not wait for government support. “When government support finds you, it will be a boost. If you need to produce 3 000 broilers, nothing stops you from starting with 20. Approach local supermarkets to get their specifications on the quality they want and work in groups so that you can meet their quality and quantity demands,” she adds.

### **Empowering women through agriculture**

Dr Zulu believes agriculture can play a role in empowering women economically and creating more jobs for women.

“If you empower a woman, you empower the nation. We are able to share our knowledge and get more people involved.”

She adds that women do not have to limit themselves to primary agriculture but need to explore other aspects of the industry such as agro-processing, packaging and reselling.

“Financial independence is the only thing that can help us end the scourge of gender-based violence and that can be achieved through farming, among other things,” said Dr Zulu.

- Owen Mngadi

1994 - 2024



# GRANDCHICKS THRIVING IN POULTRY



A North West chicken farmer has entered the poultry value chain. She is raising, slaughtering and selling her chickens on her online shop and to other markets.

**Pumla Mahuma** may have unintentionally landed up in the agricultural sector, but her success has not been accidental. Using her business insights, she transformed her in-laws' Brits farm into a full-service business called Grandchicks.

The business has three divisions. It sells live chickens, mainly to households and hawkers; has a medium-scale abattoir for small farmers and for processing its own chickens; and, finally, sells chicken pieces, ready-to-cook whole chickens and offal to restaurants, caterers and households.

The family business has seven chicken houses that can house up to 16500 chicks combined and sells its products online, via its website, or from its Brits premises.

Mahuma, a dietician by profession, has

a Master of Business Administration from Thames Valley University, London through Milpark Business School. She says her journey into the agricultural sector was accidental but is proving to be very rewarding.

“My in-laws owned the farm from where the chickens are raised. They were more cattle farmers and had only a few chickens. In 2014 when my father-in-law passed away, we had to take over the business,” she says.

In 2016, she decided to focus on poultry farming and registered the newly-hatched business. Mahuma says she quickly realised that Grandchicks needed to grow from just chicken farming to value-added services, such as the slaughtering, market preparation and sale of chickens.

Initially, outside abattoirs were used.

However, Mahuma says it became difficult to find reliable, third-party abattoirs. In 2018, after lots of hard work and saving, Grandchicks bought R50 000 worth of second-hand machinery and set up its abattoir operations.

“We had our first trial slaughter in November 2019. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic happened, but luckily we had set up the online store and, as an essential service, we were able to continue operations.”

The business employs 15 people, mostly black women from around the Brits area. “It was not intentional or a strategic move to hire mostly women. In future, I will be adding more men to balance the employment scale.”

### Food safety is a priority

Grandchicks’ abattoir can process 2 000 chickens a day. Providing high-quality and safe food is of utmost importance, says Mahuma.

“We are registered with the North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development as an accredited chicken abattoir and are also Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point-certified.”

Grandchicks chicken are grain-fed, do not receive growth hormones and are not injected with brine after they are slaughtered. “By providing safe food we can grow a healthier nation,” she says.

Speaking on the challenges of running a business, Mahuma says “you have to make it happen. Go out there and look for clients. For a small business like ours, the major challenge is market access. Our niche is that we provide an added service in the form of an abattoir, but it is still hard.”

Plans include upgrading and automating some of the machinery, while expanding into new areas and markets. “We plan to provide an end-to-end value chain service to our clientele. This means having our hatchery, feed mill, a large-scale abattoir and an eatery for the end-user because that is where the money lies.”

**For more information about Grandchicks, visit [www.grandchicks.com](http://www.grandchicks.com) or e-mail: [pumla@grandchicks.com](mailto:pumla@grandchicks.com)**

- Kgaogelo Letsebe



1994 - 2024





# PRODUCING HAIR AND BEAUTY PRODUCTS WITH IMPEPHO

**Consumed by** boredom while stuck in her flat in Cape Town at the height of the COVID-19 one evening, Namhla Dotwana had a light bulb moment that gave birth to a blossoming start-up.

Dotwana, 31, founder of Namhla Collection, recounted her journey to *Vuk'uzenzele*.

Namhla Collection is an innovative organic skincare range business based in Egotyibeni village in Tsolo, in the Eastern Cape.

The start-up journey began when Dotwana remelted an old cinna-

mon-scented candle deformed by harsh sunlight on her window sill.

When the media relations practitioner's contract with the City of Cape Town's social development unit lapsed at the end of 2020, Dotwana packed her bags to set up shop in her mother's garage in Egotyibeni.

"I make cosmetics and home spa amenities using our South African traditional indigenous sage," she gushed.

Her love for organic skincare products started when she had skin problems as a teenager which included



oily skin, pimples, and darkening of areas such as the neck. Namhla Dotwana of Namhla Collection making her mark in hair and beauty products with the use of sage (impepho).

“My business model is bioprospecting, which is the search for biore-sources that can be developed into commercially viable products for the benefit of society.”

She said she harvests sage (impepho) in the foothills of the village and infuses them into her 12-product range.

“The herb has anti-inflammatory properties to heal wounds, scars, pimples and other skin ailments issues,” she said.

In some African customs, sage is burned in sacred spaces to communicate with ancestors.

Almost three years later, the ambitious entrepreneur has a clear path.

“A thought struck me that ‘actually, why don’t we have impepho candles?’ Because in the African culture, spiritually, whenever we light up impepho, there is always a candle. I thought, ‘how about we combine the two into one?’ That was just one wildfire of ideas that came to me,” she said.

From there, she began researching the plant’s benefits for the skin.

“I started making soap and hair treatment,” she recalled.

“The last bit of training I have on

chemicals was in high school in Grade 11. It’s all just experimenting with how to infuse the herb into products and I started buying some raw materials and experimenting on my own. I’m self-taught from the internet.”

Her suppliers, she said, also shared recipes that she customised.

She describes her decision to move back home as the best she could have ever made.

“It (the business) started to flourish at the [low point] of my life after my contract had lapsed with my then employer,” she said.

Today, Namhla Collection sells 12 products in her online shop. The products range includes candles, hair treatments, soap, towels, and bath salts.

### **Support from SEDA**

Despite venturing into uncharted waters, Dotwana said she was unfazed.

She decided to approach the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) for assistance through their mentorship programmes for small businesses.

Dotswana acquired the assistance of a SEDA business advisor and received crucial non-financial assistance from this organisation.

“That’s how I ended up pitching in the SEDA national leg of the Pitch for the Funding competition. It started

1994 - 2024



provincially, where I came in second,” she admitted.

In this regard, the top three provincial winners compete nationally for the grand prize. It was here that she came out tops, bagging a R1 million cash prize in 2022.

Her ultimate plan, was to grow the herb in greenhouses.

While Dotwana is currently the only employee in the business, plans are afoot to change this.

“This year I have plans of getting more hands involved, to transfer the skill and because the demand is starting to overwhelm me. I need someone I trust, to train and make

sure that they produce the quality that I produce as well.”

She also explained that her prize money will be used to purchase industrial machinery to grow her business and a greenhouse to grow the sage.

Small businesses which are interested in taking part in the SEDA Pitch for the funding competition should visit their nearest SEDA office.

**For more information about SEDA visit [www.seda.org.za](http://www.seda.org.za) or call 0860 663 7867**

- Sihle Manda





# UNEMPLOYMENT AWAKES BEAUTY BUSINESS

The threat of unemployment and a passion for personal care led to the establishment of a venture with ambitions for global recognition.

**Refusing to** accept that unemployment was her fate when her contract expired in 2018, Kedibone Segole (28) resuscitated a life-long passion she one day hopes to grow into a global brand.

Segole established Moipone Aesthetics, a start-up that manufactures body cream, body oil, liquid soap and scrub.

“Our products are multipurpose and affordable. We use attractive and reusable packaging. [They are] suitable for all skin types and all ages. You can buy a single product and the whole family can use it,” she said.

Reminiscing on the beginnings of her venture, she said: “I started the business in 2018 when I became unemployed after my contract ended.”

She had always been passionate about personal care and lifestyle trends.

“There were products that I had previously made for myself because I grew up with sensitive skin,” she recalled.

Her inquisitive nature saw the bachelor of political science graduate immerse herself in information about the various products she stumbled upon.

“The research that I did sparked interest in how olive oil benefits my black African skin,” she explained.

Encouraged by the results, Segole mustered enough courage to package and sell the product.

Impressed by the gains, the National



Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and the Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda) approached the burgeoning business with a helping hand.

The NYDA in 2019 provided Moipone Aesthetics with raw materials to the value of R60 000. In 2022, Seda availed support in the form of export development training and she was part of the SheTradesZA programme.

Over the past five years, Segole has been forced to juggle the business with contractual employment in an effort to earn a living and keep the business afloat.

In 2020, just as the business was finding its feet, it was dealt a major blow by the advent of COVID-19.

“We were starting to make a bit of profit. COVID-19 came and all the projects that we had lined up fell through. I found myself having to sell my property.”

Despite the significant setback, she remained committed to her venture.

“I wasn’t ready to let go because I could see that it could have returns in the long term.”

Beauty Products Segole’s business has its tentacles spread to the Seda and Gauteng Department of Economic Development’s incubation programme at the South African Chemical Technology Incubator in Modderfontein. She is also part of the Innovation Hub’s incubation programme, which allows her access to production facilities at a cost.

Her ultimate goal is to see Moipone Aesthetics become a global brand.

Until then, customers can purchase products via the start-up’s social media platforms or go to [www.moipone-aesthetics.business.site](http://www.moipone-aesthetics.business.site)

- Sihle Manda



1994 - 2024





# HONEYBEES BREED SUCCESS FOR BRITS FARMER

When his honey-producing employer of 18 years abruptly had to shut down after a major fire gutted its operations, Brits-based beekeeper, Job Betha (66), had to quickly think of ways to put food on his table.

**Job Betha** the owner of Honey Nectarous.Brits is a town in the North West province.

“My father and I used to work at different farms after I finished school in the 90s. I worked for one company but then the company split into two. We stayed with the company in Skeerpoort at the time,” Betha told Vuk’uzenzele in a recent interview.

He moved with the company when it later relocated to Benoni, east of Johannesburg, and later to Silverton, in Pretoria.

When the company shut down permanently in 2007, Betha continued to receive orders from customers he had



established good working relations with.

“By then I had gained a lot of experience in beekeeping, this includes how to process it (honey) and how to get customers. Most customers were relying on me because I was the one taking orders and doing deliveries.”

Inundated by calls from desperate customers, the then unemployed Betha pounced on a business opportunity.

The birth of Honey Nectarous  
It was at this point that Honey Nectarous was born. It currently employs six people, with three permanent and the others seasonal. Betha says the early stages of the business were not easy.

“In the beginning, I bought two buckets of honey, bottled them, and registered a company – Honey Nectarous. I repackaged the honey and poured it into labelled bottles. I took it to the shops and the customers were very happy.”

For a year, Betha maintained this formula until he decided to keep his own bees to produce honey.

“I started with buying 10 hives and I placed them on a field. I had to negotiate with farmers to use their land. I was lucky enough because some of

the farmers that I [approached] didn’t refuse,” Betha says.

Due to a lack of land, the start-up does not produce enough honey to meet client demands.

Betha mitigates this by sourcing honey from smaller bee producers in the North West.

Today, Honey Nectarous produces a wide range of products that include varying sizes of raw honey.

Elements such as cinnamon, moringa, ginger and beeswax are also infused with the honey to make up other products in the catalogue.

Most of Betha’s clients are based in Johannesburg. These include The Fruit Basket, Fools & Roots, and NutriBalance, among others.

Seda offers a helping hand  
In 2009, things took a turn for the better for Honey Nectarous when it received a helping hand from the Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda) after interacting with Betha at a trade show.

“They helped me with the business plan. In 2009, they came on board and helped me buy the bee-processing machinery, which was quite vital,” he says.

1994 - 2024



The machinery was worth over R300 000.

Despite encountering functional challenges with operating the equipment, Betha says Seda's intervention assisted the business a great deal.

"I informed (Seda) that I couldn't operate the machine and it was replaced. I didn't get the one that I wanted but what I received was very helpful."

The assistance that Betha received was part of Seda's Technology Programme.

This intervention increased the asset base of Honey Nectarous. The funding assistance by Seda also meant that the company could now meet the client's expectations and increase production which ultimately increased the company's turnover.

He says growing his business from the ground-up has been slow but he was aware of areas that impact the growth of his business.

"People are so sceptical of beekeeping, I struggle to attract people to work in the business. This means that when I have to [attend to other business] I have to close shop."

"This is because I can't send people to work on the bees; I have to be there. Deliveries, I have to be there; processing, I have to be there."

Betha concluded by saying he believes that Nectarous Honey can reach greater heights with more funding.

**For more information about Seda visit [www.seda.org.za](http://www.seda.org.za) or call 0860 663 7867**

- Sihle Manda

**"People are so sceptical of beekeeping, I struggle to attract people to work in the business."**







# SELF-TAUGHT CHEESEMAKER SERVES EXQUISITE DELICACIES

**The search** for great-tasting artisan cheese and healthy, non-processed food is growing in South Africa and Mahlatse Mailula (32) is among local food manufacturers who are meeting the demand.

Artisan cheese is made primarily by hand, it includes the traditional methods of cheesemaking.

Based in Seshego in Limpopo, Mailula is the founder and owner of Latteria Delish. Her business specialises in a variety of handcrafted artisan cheeses such as Colby and Wensleydale with cranberries, mozzarella, halloumi and cheese spreads.

“Our cheese products are made from pasteurised cow’s milk and non-artificial ingredients,” said Mailula.

She is a self-taught cheesemaker whose passion started with the desire to run a business in the dairy industry. She researched dairy products and fell in love with the art of making cheese. Cheesemaker Mahlatse Mailula is the

owner of Latteria Delish.

Her business began as a passion project in her home kitchen in 2016, after dropping out of a language practice course and working in the retail sector. For about three years, she was occasionally making cheese for her family and loved ones.

“It initially took a lot of trial and error to develop the perfect blends and flavours for each cheese and variety. With time, I improved my craftsmanship and the skill of ripening cheese to get just the right aesthetics. I have put my efforts into offering rich and authentic non-processed cheese varieties with unique flavours,” said Mailula.

Latteria Delish was formalised in 2019 and Mailula began testing the market. She was inspired by the realisation that many people crave non-processed and authentic food as they are normally overwhelmed with their busy lifestyle and always resorting to processed foods.







### Grant funding from NYDA and Seda

Mailula is grateful for the R10 000 business grant that she received from the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA). She used the grant to buy a mini-fridge and gadgets for cheese maturation.

The Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda) also supported her through business training, food safety management, and helped her obtain marketing materials.

She further received business support from Telkom Business and Standard Bank, which offered business training classes to entrepreneurs in Polokwane for three months.

Mailula said her products are tested

by the Limpopo Agro-food Testing Station at the University of Limpopo and they have a shelf life of six months to a year.

So far, her business has created casual employment for two people.

“Entrepreneurship is still fairly new to me and it comes with challenges including working with inadequate kitchen utensils to make cheese... I overcome this challenge by making one type of cheese at a time,” she explains.

One thing Mailula loves about running a business, is that it forces her to grow and live life outside her comfort zone.

At the moment, her products are only available at Spar in Platinum Park in Polokwane. She also sells them at exhibitions and events.

Customers can also place orders by calling or sending a WhatsApp message to 063 646 3037.

For more information about Seda visit [www.seda.org.za](http://www.seda.org.za) or call 0860 663 7867.

To find out more about the NYDA, visit [www.nyda.gov.za](http://www.nyda.gov.za) or call 0800 58 58 58 (toll-free)

- *More Matshediso*

1994 - 2024



# PRESIDENTIAL EMPLOYMENT STIMULUS RESTORES HILLBROW

Prince Yabo (24) is an urban ranger in Hillbrow situated at the Johannesburg central business district. Until March 2023, he spent the greater part of his day begging in the corner stores of the precinct.

**This changed** when he was given an opportunity to be part of the Urban Space Management (USM) initiative which cleans the streets of Hillbrow and aims to keep the area safe.

“A lot of us were just on the corner stores hustling for money and not getting what we wanted,” he said.

Yabo has been part of the USM since April 2023.

“This helped us because we are now off the streets and we are cleaning them. It is building us a lot because we are getting compliments from people who are telling us we are doing good.”

Yabo, who receives a national minimum wage from the USM initiative, said the income came when he was

struggling to make a living.

Nonkululeko Hadebe, portfolio manager at USM, said the idea behind USM was that the cleaner the space, the easier it is to bring people into that area; for businesses and residences and just the general economy of the area.

“We try and assist in the management of parks. We do cleaning, safety and place-making.”

She explained that in 2016 Johannesburg inner city property owners, tenants and operators came together and formed an association called City Improvement District, which would contribute to employing people that would clean the streets.

This is how the USM initiative came to being.



City Improvement District is also a non-profit organisation operating in different areas where property owners agree to pay a levy to enhance the physical and social environment of the area.

This initiative manages 11 districts in the City of Johannesburg with Hillbrow being one of them.

Funding pumped into the USM initiative

The Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), an agency of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition has also played a significant role in the funding of the USM initiative through its Social Employment Fund (SEF).

The IDC received R800 million in funding from the Presidential Employment Stimulus (PES) which was to be set aside for the implementation of the SEF.

Since June last year, the funding was pumped into 28 Strategic Implementing Partners (SIP) contracted to deliver on the creation of temporary work opportunities and the USM is one of the partnerships.

USM, which also manages the daily operations of City Improvement Districts in the inner city, is a beneficiary of the Johannesburg Inner City Partnership, a SIP of the SEF.

Because of the SEF funding, Yabo and 360 people within Hillbrow are em-

1994 - 2024



ployed through the USM programme and are receiving an income.

The SEF is part of the PES introduced by President Cyril Ramaphosa in October 2020 in response to devastating economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Its aim is to create jobs and strengthen livelihoods with meaningful work. The SEF offers participants 16 hours of work per week, at the national minimum wage.

Addressing Parliament in May 2023, President Ramaphosa said the PES has created nearly 650 000 work and livelihood opportunities in the past financial year.

“These opportunities were created in areas as diverse as basic education, small-scale farming, and arts and culture. Of the people involved in the programme, 83% are youth. This brings the total number of participants in the PES since its launch in 2020 to over 1.2 million people,” he said.

### **SEF funding making a difference**

Hadebe said the funding from the SEF was making a difference in the Hillbrow area.

“Before the SEF programme, we probably had only 50 urban rangers but we have now been able to add more participants,” she said.

Hadebe explained that shop owners were saying it felt safer to operate their businesses in Hillbrow because Yabo and other participants were cleaning the area.

“The crime rate has also decreased,” she said.

Other non-government organisations can also apply with the IDC to receive PES funding for programmes that give back to the community.

During a recent media engagement, PES programme lead, Dr Kate Phillip, said qualifying organisations should be involved in work that serves the common good and have a solid track record of community-based work.

“The organisations must demonstrate a capacity to employ at least 1 000 participants at an average of 66 days per participant for nine-month. Applicants will have up to three months to ramp-up their participant numbers to the maximum intended,” she said.

Yabo concluded by saying he is proud to be contributing meaningfully to the community but most importantly grateful for having received a job that brings him dignity.

**For more information about the IDC visit [www.idc.co.za](http://www.idc.co.za) or call 0860 693 888**

- Sihle Manda









# MARAPYANE YOUTH ENDS POVERTY THROUGH FARMING



**A youth-owned** agricultural cooperative is helping to end poverty and unemployment in Marapyane, in Mpumalanga, by producing grain and vegetables.

Bakgatla Grain Project is a youth initiative with six members who want to improve the lives of Marapyane residents, especially women and youth who come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

“We plant maize on 74 hectares and sunflower on 53 hectares of land. Thembi Kola, the director of Bakgatla Grain Project, is creating jobs in the community. Photos by: Bakgatla Grain Project

“We have plans to plant more vegetables now that we have received assistance from the government,” said the director of the cooperative, Thembi Kola.

Bakgatla Grain Project leased 145 hectares of land from the Bakgatla Ba Mocha Traditional Council.

She said the council has been supportive from the inception of the farming operation.

Kola (35) and her team members officially established the cooperative in 2022, but have been small-scale farmers since 2016.

“We were inspired to start the cooperative by the love for farming and the need to employ women and youth from disadvantaged backgrounds. We also love growing our own organic and healthy food,” said Kola.

Bakgatla Grain Project believes that farming is the best way to end poverty in their community.

“If we put our heads and hands together we will never go hungry. Like Former President Nelson Mandela always advocated for the spirit of ubuntu, we believe that it is our duty to lift each other as citizens,” said Kola.

The project has so far created 99 temporary jobs. This excludes the six members of the cooperative.

The cooperative has successfully created a value chain with customers that buy its produce.



### Success and support

Bakgatla Grain Project would not be a success without the support from the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs.

The department supported Bakgatla Grain Project with the erection of a security fence, debushing, ploughing and planting, borehole drilling, construction of shade nets for vegetable production, irrigation, continuous training and access to markets. Mpumalanga Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane thanked traditional leaders for working together with the government and the cooperative to end poverty and unemployment in the community.

Her sentiments were echoed by the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Thoko Didiza, who said the government was increasing efforts to fight against unemployment and to improve the economy of the country.

The members of Bakgatla Grain Project. "We will only win the fight against

poverty and unemployment if we work together. Those of you who are not yet involved in farming must plant vegetables in your backyard to grow your organic foods, sell the surplus to your neighbours and generate income," she said.

The Minister also encouraged people in rural areas to explore various business opportunities in agriculture, including poultry, livestock and crop farming, even if they did it as subsistent farmers.

Kola further reminded the South African youth that there is life and wealth in agriculture, and encouraged young people to acquire the necessary skills so that they can run successful agricultural businesses.

Visit [www.dardlea.mpg.gov.za](http://www.dardlea.mpg.gov.za) for more information about funding from the provincial Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs.

For more information about the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development visit [www.dalrrd.gov.za](http://www.dalrrd.gov.za)

**Bakgatla Grain Project can be contacted on 072 041 9286 or 071 084 1411.**

- More Matshediso

1994 - 2024



# NO BACK-PEDDLING FOR INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEUR



**Timothy Mtsweni**, an innovative manufacturer from Bethal, in Mpumalanga, is a firm believer in young people harnessing their passion and skills and turning these into business opportunities that will create much-needed jobs. Today, he manufactures quadri-cycles after the idea was sparked in him by a school project in 2008.

It was not until eight years later in 2016 that the qualified welder decid-

ed to bet on himself and establish his business. Called Success Cravers, the start-up primarily makes quadri-cycles, hanging chairs and jungle gyms for clients across South Africa. "It was an idea that came to me when I was still in high school. We had a project whereby we had to invent something and the love for welding stayed with me forever," he reminisced. Timothy Mtsweni is running an innovative business called Success Cravers which makes quadricycles and jungle gyms for clients across the country. Photos by: Success Cravers

After completing Grade 12, while working for a smoldering company in Bethal in 2009, he was recruited for a welding apprenticeship programme. "When I finished my trade test in 2015 I decided to pursue a business venture and stopped looking for a job. That is when I started to make the quadricycles," he said. In 2015, Mtsweni purchased his first pipe bender, which he used to build his first quadri-cycle prototype. "I first had the idea in 2004 but couldn't do anything about it all these years be-

cause I had to find a job and survive,” he explained.

### Needing to succeed

Spurred by a desire to succeed but short of funds, in 2017 Mtsweni approached the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) for financial assistance. His application was approved and he was awarded a R50 000 grant.

“Bethal is a small town and there is not much to do. But with my skill and the idea, I had no option but to pursue my dream. As I was finding my way, I was lucky to find the NYDA through its outreach programmes. I went to their offices, they explained the whole process, I applied and the application was approved,” he said.

The grant proved a catalyst for the entrepreneur, who describes himself as a “hustle-preneur”.

With the funds, he was able to purchase much-needed material – including pedals, steel, and chains – in order to expand. Over the years, the innovation received endorsement from various initiatives. Among these was the Cell C Hangman pitching competition in 2017, at which he was ranked among the top 50 out of 3000 submissions.

In 2021 he was part of the Sasol Youth in Business six-month training programme. He has also benefitted from the SAB Tholoana Enterprise

Programme, an 18-month programme designed to empower entrepreneurs from all business sectors to build successful and sustainable businesses. Mtsweni’s journey has been peppered by countless obstacles and has tested his perseverance.

Timothy Mtsweni is running an innovative business called Success Cravers which makes quadricycles and jungle gyms for clients across the country. Photos by: Success Cravers “It has not been easy at all,” Mtsweni said. “The economy has not been kind to us, especially when COVID-19 came. We had to let go of four (members of) staff,” he said. Currently, the business has four employees. With his ability to adapt tested, Mtsweni developed the idea of making jungle gyms and hanging chairs. The decision to act on the light-bulb moment paid off.

“Currently I have four clients in Cape Town, Durban and Gqeberha. They place orders, pay a 50% deposit, and after that we manufacture the quadri-cycles and courier them to clients,” he said. He is upbeat about the trajectory of Success Cravers, saying the ultimate goal is to get the South African Bureau of Standards’ approval and become an established manufacturer.

**To reach Success Cravers  
call 079 415 3566 or email  
sibongiseni8787@gmail.com**

- Sihle Manda

1994 - 2024



# CONVERTING WASTE COOKING OIL INTO BIODIESEL

**Although South Africa** may not be as advanced as many developed countries in the green economy space, entrepreneurs such as Mahlatse Mamaila (32) are helping to steer the country into a cleaner future.

The green economy is a system of economic activities related to the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services. This results in improved human well-being over the long term, while not exposing future generations to significant environmental risks or ecological scarcities.

Born and raised in Bolobedu in Limpopo, Mamaila is the founder of INO Biodiesel. The Pretoria-based green energy company collects waste cooking oil and converts it into biodiesel.

“Biodiesel is a renewable substitute for petroleum diesel. It can be used as fuel for generators, mining equipment, fleets and aeroplanes.

“I have partnered with women and youth in rural communities in Limpopo, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and

Mpumalanga to collect waste cooking oil and prevent it from flowing into rivers so that communities can access clean water,” explained Mamaila.

She was inspired to start the business after reading an article about the advantages of recycling waste cooking oil. This was during the hard COVID-19 lockdown in 2020 when many citizens were faced with unemployment, job losses and failing businesses. South Africa’s green economy by transforming waste cooking oil into valuable biofuel

“I just wanted to contribute to job creation. At the time, I knew little to nothing about biofuel or recycling oil. I come from an accounting background,” she said.

When the lockdown was lifted, she registered her business in 2021 and went to The Innovation Hub to ask for assistance in order to get her business off the ground.

The Innovation Hub is the agency of the Gauteng Provincial Government that promotes economic development



and competitiveness through fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. It offers a number of incubation programmes in the bio-economy, smart industries, and the green economy.

“I received support and training for about six months, and this included practical training on how to collect waste cooking oil and produce biodiesel from it. I was also assigned mentors who groomed me,” explained Mamaila.

So far, the business has created permanent jobs for five women. It also employs five more women on a part-time basis.

“The demand for our product is much higher than what we are able to supply. Recently, a company from Zambia approached us asking if we could supply 60 million litres of bio-fuel per month, but that is currently impossible for us at the moment because we do not have the capacity to do so,” she said.

### Support and accolades

Mamaila’s business has received support and accolades from various organisations. In 2021, she received grant funding worth R85 000 from the Tony Elumelu Foundation.

The business walked away with R100 000 in 2022 when it won the brand award from the Nomzamo Mbatha Lighthouse and Hollywood Foundation. It also won R45 000 after Mamaila presented her business to the

panel members of the Esther’s Preparation Room (EPR) Global.

The EPR is a global player and professional networking platform created to support modern women.

In the same year, it also received funding worth R25 000 from Women’s Empowerment Network of South Africa, and won the 10th Gender Mainstream award at the 2022 Mail and Guardian awards held in partnership with the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. She still continues to benefit from business training offered by the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA).

- *More Matshediso*



1994 - 2024



# YOUNGSTER HITS SWEET SPOT WITH HER LOW-SUGAR CANDY BUSINESS



**A food technologist** who started experimenting with ingredients in her kitchen to make treats for the little ones in her family is now the owner of a low-sugar

bespoke lollipop business.

Karabo Makhetha Masola, 25, of Alberton in Johannesburg had a promising career as a quality technician

at a fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) company when the idea to create unique lollipops was sparked.

“I always had an interest in new development and research and the interns would share some of the exciting products they were working on. At one point, they were making wine gums and it’s something that intrigued me. I conversed with their manager and asked how they made them,” Masola recalled, who started making her own sweets in 2020.

She loves children and has a lot of nephews and nieces who often visit her place for sleepovers.

“I thought it would be nice to make them sweets. I started making wine gums but instead of achieving the texture I ended up with something more similar to hard candy,” she said.

Masola, who studied Food Science at the University of Stellenbosch, kept trying to improve and kept going back to the manager to rate her product. Encouraged by her passion and drive, the manager eventually gave her the go-ahead to use the raw materials from the lab as she worked tirelessly on perfecting her craft.

“At that point, it wasn’t a business idea until he finally said, “This is a lollipop,” she recalled. Candy business

She gradually started her company called CandyCandy, and asked her

aunt to sell her treats in her tuckshop in Soweto.

Her husband and brother-in-law also came on board and marketed the sweets in townships. That is when she started creating personalised lollipops using edible markers.

“I had to learn social media marketing, customer avatar, running adverts and fulfilling orders from all over South Africa. It was overwhelming,” she said.

Masola’s clientele was growing and she had to quit her day job last year. Her lollipops can now also be ordered on Takealot.

She still runs her business from home but now has an employee and also gets help from her husband. She is also passionate about educating parents about how sugar affects children’s health and development.

The entrepreneur now dreams of opening a factory and a candy school one day to benefit her community.

**You can contact CandyCandy on WhatsApp: 081 703 4550 or Instagram: @yourlollipopfairy (CandyCandy).**

- *Gabisile Ngcobo*

1994 - 2024



# HANDWOVEN SUCCESS: SISTERS' JOURNEY TO AGOA OPPORTUNITY

Sisters Mo Morongwe Mokone and Michelle Mokone have elevated South Africa's innovative décor scene by breaking into the lucrative United States of America (USA) market.



**However,** they are not stopping there and are now planning to grow their footprint beyond the USA and enter new markets, such as Europe and the United Arab Emirates.

The pair are the co-owners of Mo's Crib, a company that produces a range of handmade home décor products. Their product range includes handwoven baskets, planters, trays, wall art and outdoor items.

Michelle, who is the Operations and Supply

Chain Director of Mo's Crib, said their products are manufactured from unique materials such as ultra-durable polyvinyl chloride plastic, reclaimed from landfills and construction sites throughout South Africa, and various types of grass.

In 2021, the pair decided to take advantage of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) – a United States Trade Act which was enacted in May 2000.

AGOA allows 35 qualifying Sub-Saharan countries to export 1 835 tariff lines duty-free to a significant consumer market in the USA.

“We managed to benefit from the AGOA only through our shipping agent. We had already registered and received an export certificate in 2019, and by the time we were ready to export, the certificate came in very useful. It was a relief to learn that we were from an AGOA-benefiting country and that our products will not be subject to any import duties,” Michelle said.

Since 2021, the business has shipped a total of eight containers full of products to the USA. Morongwe Mokone and Michelle Mokone

“We are on track to ship two more containers before the end of 2023. We also regularly ship a container to fulfil our orders for our online store, which is fulfilled through our warehouse in New Jersey.

“Although shipping is relatively expensive, especially for a small business that is 100% self-funded, we have benefited from the AGOA through significant market access. Currently, the USA orders constitute 60% of our overall revenue,” she said.

Taking it back to why they started the business, Michelle said the idea of Mo’s Crib dates back to the 90s when Mo used to make homemade art crafts by crocheting strips of reused plastic bags into rugs.

“The actual business, however, started as a hobby in 2016 when we took part in an annual Christmas market while working full-time in our corporate jobs. The first product sold was Origami Art, which Mo learnt in London, and what we thought would be a slow sale quickly became a phenomenon, selling out within days of the market,” she explained.

“We introduced new products every year for two years until we decided to quit our full-time jobs in 2019 and

focused on the business full-time,” she added.

Before starting the business, the Mokone sisters worked full-time in their respective corporate careers. Mo was an executive assistant and a human resource personnel at a corporate firm while Michelle was working as an agricultural economist for a farmer association.

Meanwhile, Michelle was busy completing her master’s in international Trade Law at the University of Bern in Switzerland.

“Our unique skills and qualities have contributed to building the business to where it is and driving growth within the homeware industry,” Mo explained.

Mo’s Crib, which is 100% self-funded from inception, employs 12 full-time staff and 86 artisans. The pair have an internal plan to create 20 new jobs within the next two to three years.

**You can contact Mo’s Crib on 0877007161 or email: hello@moscrib.com**

**Instagram: @mos.crib**

**Twitter/X: @moscrib**

**Facebook: Mo’s Crib**

**LinkedIn: The Alice Group (Mo’s Crib) <https://agoa.info/about-agoa.html>**

- Dikeledi Molobela

1994 - 2024





# KZN FARMER CULTIVATES BIOFUEL FROM SEEDS

**A young,** curious farmer's quest to pivot from farming traditional crops has seen her become an environmental warrior. Zinhle Ngidi now cultivates seeds that produce biofuel.

For the Nkandla-born and now Durban-based farmer, it all began in 2017.

"I was running an agricultural business and looking for alternative energy crops that can grow in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), just to try and move away from the clichéd crops," she said.

She then stumbled across an article about an Italian company exploring the possibility of growing the Solaris seed in KZN.

"I reached out to them and asked if I could just be an observer in the trial. From there, I developed my business concept."

With her interest piqued, and after three years of further research and deciding to pursue



the seed, she registered her company, Igugu Clean Tech, in 2020.

Solaris is a nicotine-free tobacco variety plant with a highly improved seed yield. It is a virgin vegetable that produces oil that can be used to produce jet fuel. Igugu grows the crop, harvests it, and extracts the oil.

The oil is then put through a refining process to produce biodiesel. Zinhle Ngidi is the founder of Igugu Clean Tech. Image: Redbull / Mpumelelo Macu

While Ngidi, a trained financial planning and wealth management professional, has no background in engineering, she has experience in agriculture, having previously run her own farming enterprise.

The business journey has not been a bed of roses. She recounts how, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, the company regressed and lost potential investors.

“It has been a challenge to secure funding for our operation because we are often asked questions like ‘Where did you see this?’; ‘who has been doing it?’; ‘where are you learning this?’ and that kind of stuff,” she said.

While Igugu’s research and development of the project was self-funded, its pilot received financial investments from the Red Bull Academy and the Department of Science and Innovation’s Technology Innovation Agency (TIA).

Igugu grows the crop in three locations outside of South Africa: Kenya, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

“We started on a 10-hectare (ha) farm in Tongaat (north of Durban). In KZN, we now have about 10 000 hectares of land. In Malawi, we have 20 000 ha; in Zimbabwe, we have about 50 ha. In Kenya, we’re currently sitting on another 20 000 ha,” she said.

While the company currently has four permanent staff, it also employs over 50 employees on a contractual basis. These include professionals such as agronomists, technical advisors, farmers and chemical engineers.

“We are projecting that we will eventually employ over 2 000 people in the next three years,” she said.

Ngidi added that Igugu is setting up a 20 000 litre capacity commercial plant in Cato Ridge, in Durban, to ramp up its current 5 000 litre-a-day operation.

**For more information on Igugu Clean Tech, visit [www.igugucleantech.co.za](http://www.igugucleantech.co.za) or email [info@igugucleantech.co.za](mailto:info@igugucleantech.co.za)**

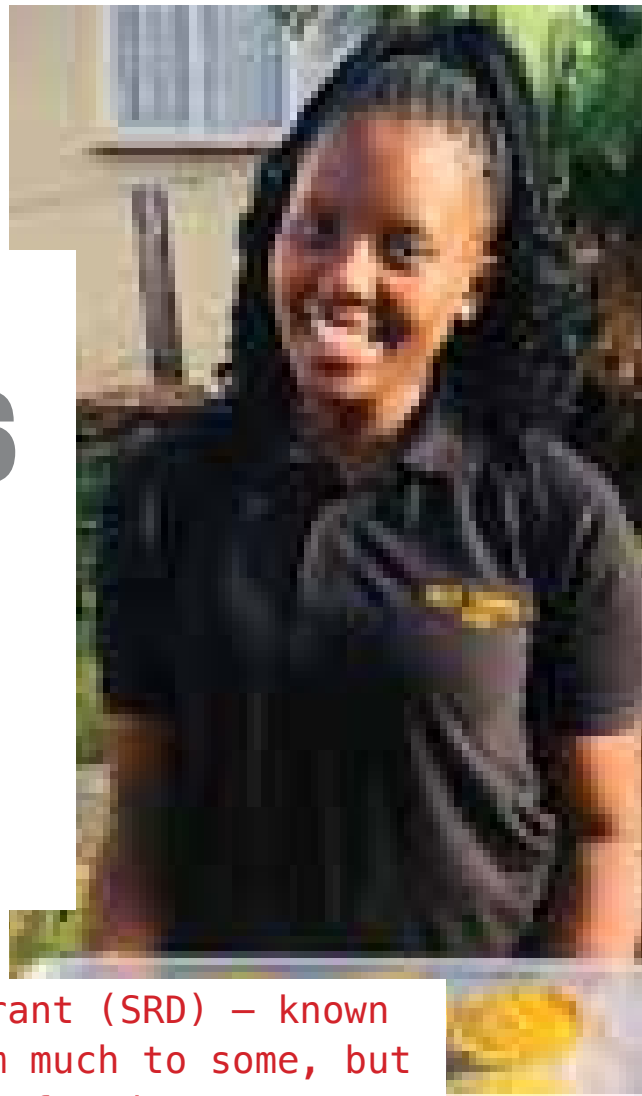
**To get in touch with the TIA, visit [www.tia.org.za](http://www.tia.org.za) /or call (012 472 2700**

*-Sihle Manda*

1994 - 2024



# SRD GRANT OPENS BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY FOR UMLAZI ENTREPRENEUR



The Social Relief of Distress Grant (SRD) – known as the R350 grant – may not seem much to some, but to many it is a path to financial freedom.

**One such former** beneficiary is Mbali Sikhosana from Umlazi in KwaZulu Natal who turned that R350 into a thriving business. She is one of 8.5 million people in South Africa who benefitted from the grant since the 2022/23 financial year. Sikhosana is the owner of Nuz Tasty Pies. “I started the business because I needed financial freedom and freedom of time. I knew I couldn’t work for someone. I have always wanted to be my own boss and create job opportunities,” she said.

The business started in January 2023. Her thriving clientele base includes individuals, event planners, tuck shop owners and six high schools.

She says although she has faced challenges as an entrepreneur, she has no regrets.

“[One of the challenges] is delivering on time due to the size of equipment that I have.

“But so far so good, I have no regrets I would do it over and over again. Although there are challenges but starting my own thing was the best decision I’ve ever made...I started with just R350,” she said.

Although this business is still in its infancy, the 25-year-old has big plans for the future.

“I wish to [deliver to other provinces]

but I'm currently struggling to find a company that couriers frozen foods. My dream is to hire 3000 employees and have restaurants all over Africa," she said.

### Extended period

Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana in November announced that the SRD grant will be extended to March 2025.

"Government proposes that the fiscal framework make provision for funding for the grant for 2024/25. Beyond this, a comprehensive review of the entire social grant system by the Department of Social

Development and the National Treasury is required," Godongwana announced.

You can apply for the SRD Grant in the following ways:

**Send a WhatsApp message to 082 046 8553**

**Visit <https://srd.sassa.gov.za/sc19/application/auth>**

**Chat to the SASSA Chatbot on [www.sassa.gov.za](http://www.sassa.gov.za)**

**You will need your ID document and will also have to have your personal and banking details at hand.**

*-Neo Bodumela*



1994 - 2024



# COVID-19 CONCOCTION UNEARTH'S ENTREPRENEUR

**A Free State** woman who was determined to protect her family from contracting COVID-19 with a homemade concoction at the height of the pandemic now earns a living from selling the mixture.

“When COVID-19 started, people were being advised to take ginger and lemon concoctions. I did the mixture to secure my family because I lived with elderly people,” Mtswako Immune Booster founder

and managing director, Keketso Mokgothu said during a recent Vuk’uzenzele interview.

Impressed by her produce, she then posted the mixture as a WhatsApp status. The mixture consisted of ginger, honey, lemon, turmeric and garlic as ingredients. It was then that a friend requested that she share a portion. After filling two jars and returning to her job, the friend placed an order for 17 more bottles two hours later.

“At the time everyone was buying these ingredients and I ended up struggling to source them. I saw a gap but I was a bit sceptical as I didn’t see myself as a businessperson. But after my friend placed those 17 orders, I had a change of heart and was determined to give this a try,” she said.

And with that, Mtswako Immune Booster was established.

A product diversification process in 2021 saw Mokgothu introduce sealed juice bottles.

“It was basically for the convenience of the customer,” said the 36-year-old who holds an N6 in management





assistance from the Goldfields Technical Vocational Education and Training College in Welkom.

Spurred-on by the positive response, Mokgothu had her produce tested and approved by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS). Today, the start-up produces three flavours.

Beyond the company's website, the produce can be purchased from Pick n Pay Odendaalsrus, Roots (Welkom), Elizabeth Street Pharmacy (Welkom), Empire Square Pharmacy (Welkom), and Spar (Riebeeckstad).

"Starting this business was not at all easy, especially because it is something that people consume and growth relies on the feedback you get from the customers. I was struggling at some point because I couldn't test my product," she said. She also detailed financial constraints that threatened to thwart the business's growth prospects.

### Business support

Her fears were soon allayed when the Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEa) supported the fledgling business with R50 000.

Mokgothu used the money for product development, which involved product labelling, testing, and compliance with the SABS. The business, which currently employs three people, used a R50 000

voucher from the National Youth Development Agency to purchase much-needed equipment.

"Seda [Small Enterprise Development Agency] is my mother in business. They help me a whole lot. They did my trademark, marketing material and product testing," she said chuckling.

While Standard Bank also bought the business more equipment, mining house Harmony opened doors to a 150sqm workshop for Mokgothu to operate from.

In February 2024, the business walked away with another R50 000 in a business pitching competition by the Township Entrepreneurs Alliance in partnership with Nedbank.

**To get in touch with Mtswako Immune Booster, visit [www.mtswakobooster.co.za](http://www.mtswakobooster.co.za) or email [mtswakobooster@gmail.com](mailto:mtswakobooster@gmail.com) for more information.**

**For more information on Seda, call: 0860 663 7867, visit: [www.seda.org.za](http://www.seda.org.za) or email: [info@seda.org.za](mailto:info@seda.org.za)**

**For more information about the NYDA visit [www.nyda.gov.za](http://www.nyda.gov.za) or call 087 158 7991.**

**To get in touch with the DESTEa, contact 051 404 9600.**

**For more information about getting your product to be tested by SABS, call 012 428 7911 or email [info@sabs.co.za](mailto:info@sabs.co.za)**

- Sihle Manda

1994 - 2024



# YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPING EXCELLENCE IN ANIMAL HEALTH

Zimasa Sammy Qwayede (27) of Mount Ayliff in the Eastern Cape is assisting farmers in rural communities to take care of animal health through her company ANIMEDS Primary Animal Healthcare Pty Ltd.

**She started** her business in 2020 after obtaining her Diploma in Animal Health at Tsolo Agriculture and Rural Development Institute.

Qwayede soon realised that there were insufficient animal healthcare services in many parts of the Eastern Cape and farmers were struggling to get medication for their animals.

“I decided to find a way to bring services closer to farmers. I started saving money and I opened a shop to sell veterinary medicine and provided services that farmers could not get easily,” she explained.

The multi-faceted company has various sections and one of them is a retail store in which farmers can

walk-in to buy animal medication including dip, antibiotics, dewormers, vaccines, feed, crop production aides, parasite control, supplementation and medication for clinical cases. It also offers advisory services for animal healthcare.

Qwayede also travels to different villages to provide farmers with veterinary services that they need and offers animal healthcare advisory services.

“We also offer animal identification services including branding, tags, and tattoos. Furthermore, our services include synchronisation of artificial insemination, sheep shearing, wool sorting, and castrations,” she said.



The company offers training for animal production in National Qualification Framework level 3 which is accredited by the Agricultural Sector Education Training Authority.

“We currently have 20 students who are training at the company,

including students who are doing work-integrated learning in animal production.”

Qwayede was equipped to start such a business by volunteering as an animal healthcare technician at the provincial Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform in 2018. In the same year, she was employed by a local pharmaceutical company as a sales agent.

She also volunteered as an animal healthcare technician at the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

In 2021, the Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda) funded her company with branding material. The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) recently signed a contract to fund her company.

She also received funding to buy animal identification equipment from the Alfred Nzo District Municipality (ANDM). The Eastern Cape Government also funded her business in 2023. ¥

**ANIMEDS Cell: 061 050 2239**

**Facebook: AnimedS**

**E-mail: [info.animedS20@gmail.com](mailto:info.animedS20@gmail.com)**

**ANDM: [www.andm.gov.za](http://www.andm.gov.za) or**

**call 039 254 5000. Eastern Cape**

**Office of the Premier: 080 121 2570**

- *Khanyisile Rasmeni*

1994 - 2024



# WORM MOM' MAKES WAVES IN FARMING



**If you think** of worms, you might imagine slimy tiny creatures but for Snenhlanhla Maduna who has been dubbed 'worm mom', her face lights up at the sight of these creepy-crawlies.

"They are harmless, the tickling sensation they create when hand-held made me overcome my initial aversion," Maduna said.

The 21-year-old from Hilton,

Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal is the co-founder of SñP Organic Products, which specialises in vermicomposting, this is a process whereby earthworms convert natural waste into compost.

"We transform organic waste into nutrient-rich worm compost, which enhances soil health and fosters plant growth."

The idea for SñP Organic Products stemmed from a deep-rooted passion for gardening and sustainable living.

"After the COVID-19 lockdown and the July unrest, we realised the impact of growing our own food. My father, Phumani Zondi and I decided to co-found SñP Organic Products."

After extensive research and training, the father and daughter duo started experimenting with different organic waste materials to turn waste into valuable compost from their backyard,

This is how SñP Organic Products was born.

The entrepreneurs target local gardeners and environmentally



conscious consumers who value organic products.

“We currently sell our compost to gardening enthusiasts who appreciate the benefits of nutrient-rich, chemical-free compost.

“We [also] provide worm bait for people who enjoy fishing. Dreaming big, we see ourselves eventually selling to farmers, golf courses and places that use compost to maintain their fields,” Maduna said.

### **SñP Organic comfrey balm**

Apart from producing compost, SñP Organic Products has a comfrey balm product that offers natural therapeutic benefits. The product is made from comfrey plants grown from their home.

Comfrey is renowned for its healing properties, particularly in treating sore muscles, backaches, painful joints, and inflammation.

“Our plantain balm is known for its anti-inflammatory and antibacterial properties, making it ideal for treating acne, rash, eczema, and irritated skin.”

SñP Organic Products currently employs one dedicated worker, who visits twice a week to assist with the operations.

“As we grow, we aim to expand our workforce, particularly targeting young, ambitious individuals aged

18 to 50 who are eager to learn and start their own ventures. Creating job opportunities for these individuals is a core part of our mission.”

Maduna said she is hopeful for future collaborations with government that can support the business’s mission.

“Government funding and support would enable us to expand our operations, educate more people, and create job opportunities for disadvantaged communities. Our vision is to establish a large-scale worm farm, producing compost and training individuals in vermiculture and vermicomposting.”

Maduna is currently studying towards a Bachelor of Education degree with Stadio Higher Education.

She said the course will equip her with the skills to effectively communicate and teach others about sustainable practices.

“ Our journey in vermicomposting and organic product development is a testament to the potential of small efforts making a significant impact. With the right support and education, we aim to transform the agricultural landscape in South Africa, one worm at a time,” she concluded.

**Maduna can be reached at [kamagubevu@gmail.com](mailto:kamagubevu@gmail.com)**

1994 - 2024





# FARMERS TO REAP REWARDS OF SA-CHINA RELATIONS

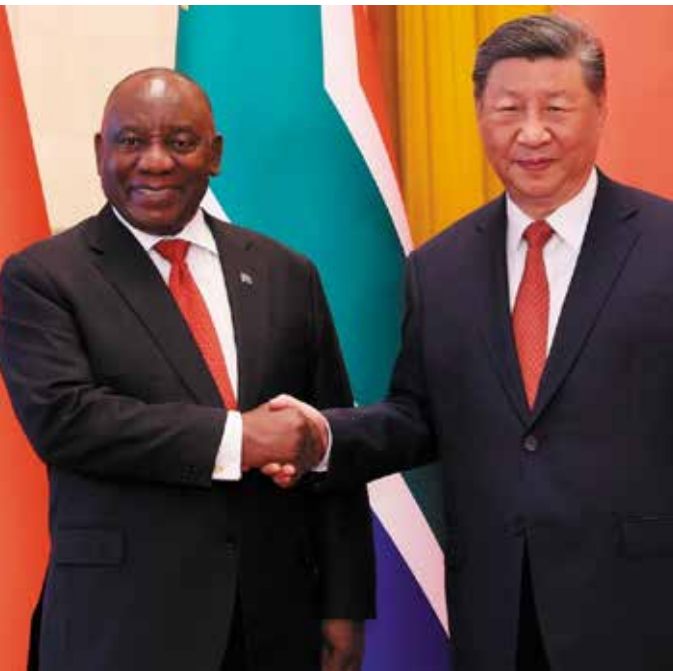
AGene Likhanya taking advantage of relations between South Africa and China. Limpopo macadamia nuts farmer's mission to uplift his emerging colleagues is about to pay off.



**The next harvest** season will see Gene Likhanya and about 30 other farmers export their nuts to China, one of South Africa's leading

trading partners.

President Cyril Ramaphosa recently embarked on a State Visit to the



Asian global economic powerhouse in an effort to entrench the strong diplomatic relations between the two countries. It follows China President Xi Jinping's 4th State Visit to South Africa on the margins of the BRICS Summit in 2023.

President Cyril Ramaphosa with President Xi Jinping during the state visit in the People's Republic of China. During the visit, South Africa placed a strong emphasis on promoting existing economic ties to strengthen the economy. China is South Africa's largest trading partner. In 2023, bilateral trade stood at 34 billion US dollars, with exports totalling 12 billion US dollars and imports at 22 billion US dollars.

Likhanya from Vhembe district in Limpopo who owns Madimbo Macs will be testament to this.

He started his farming journey on a 2.5 hectare (ha) plot in Tshakhuma in 2005 after being inspired by an uncle who had embarked on similar journey.

"I had saved up a bit of money and

managed to purchase a 2.5 ha farm. It was an industry back then that not many black people were involved in. Not many of us even knew about macadamia at that time, it was a road less taken," he told Vuk'uzenzele.

Over the last 19 years, the operation expanded to over 600 ha of macadamia, banana, honey, and avocado.

During the journey, the former United Nations peacekeeper said he had always had a dream to develop a processing marketing hub that is tailor-made for the emerging black farmers.

Gene explained that the macadamia market is not structured for small farmers.

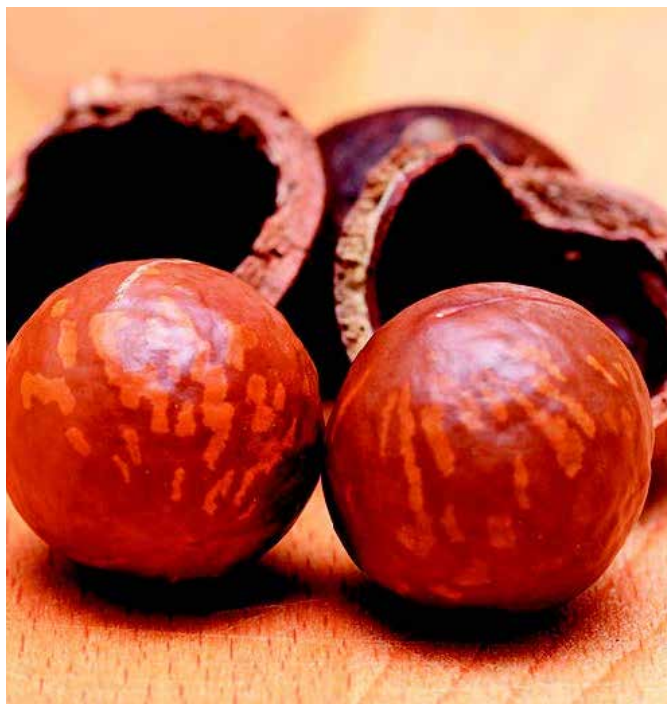
"Emerging macadamia farmers are unable to walk into facilities with half a bakkie [of nuts]," he said.

Adding that it was rare for the market to purchase macadamia nuts packaged and transported in this fashion especially since the industry does not allow for small volumes.

To counter this, Madimbo Macs, which employs over 50 people – developed a facility on one of its farms to close perceptions and barriers in the industry.

As a result, the hub will in the next harvest season export up to 1000 tonnes of macadamia to the Chinese market.

1994 - 2024



“We will be able to export all our nut-in-shell (produce), of which 99% is black-farmer produced.”

About 30 emerging macadamia farmers with a capacity to produce between five and 50 tonnes are expected to benefit from the export to China.

“We are limited to that. There is more support that we need to scale... we need a bigger facility to support the people,” he said.

Rough and bumpy  
Nuts Reflecting on his journey, he said while it had its rewards, he said it had been “rough” and “bumpy.”

“Initially, you’re coming into a business where you have no experience in. It’s a business that is extremely dominated by our

[white] brothers. You don’t have any relationships as to where to start... Access was extremely difficult,” he said.

This, he added, was before factoring the needs of farming machinery, adding that he had to rely on basic pick and shovel as a start to clear the land.

“That was all the resources we had. We had no water rights but we had rain. It was a tough journey compared to where we are now.”

The Chinese off-take took about 17 years to achieve.

“Next year will be our first time exporting. We have built the facility; we have established a market for us to start exporting directly from our own packhouse or facility. It’s an intriguing conversation because it is a business that you cannot establish overnight, it takes an extremely long time to get to the point where you are ready to export,” he concluded.

**For more information about NEDP visit [www.thedtic.gov.za](http://www.thedtic.gov.za)**  
**For more information about Madimbo Macs visit [www.madimbofarms.co.za](http://www.madimbofarms.co.za)**

- Sihle Manda







# YOUNG FARMER CLUCKS BIG AMBITIONS

**A budding** farmer in Edendale, Pietermaritzburg KwaZulu-Natal is looking to spread her wings after experiencing rapid growth in her chicken farming operation.

Ntobeko Mafu, 23, is the founder and managing director of Madame Clucks A Lot, a small-scale farming enterprise, employing seven people.

The enterprise is an organic farming company that produces broiler and layer chickens, cultivates vegetables and provides farming training

services. Mafu is also an author, having published her first book 'Letters to whoever needs to hear this: notes from me' in 2019.

Mafu's journey began in 2019 when she was 18 years old following the passing of her father, an avid subsistence farmer.

"The land that I am operating on was my dad's. When he passed on, our family circumstances changed. He used to grow food we would consume in the house, but it all dried





up when he passed on. There was a visible change within the household,” she said.

Despite lacking the skills and not having prior ambitions for farming, she was determined to continue where he had left off. She decided to take on the journey which was initially to feed the family with her produce.

Impressed by the feedback from her family and community, she decided to scale up.

Despite her determination, she concedes that the business, has not been without its challenges. Chief among these was being a young woman in a male- dominated industry.

“On top of that, I now employ people and I often have to deal with personnel issues. You hire people when they are desperate for work and that’s well and good, but once they start working they start to undermine me as a woman. When that happens, I am forced to let them go,” she said.

In 2023, Mafu, an alumnus of the Durban University of Technology’s (DUT) Innobiz Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, was elected as a delegate to attend the prestigious Asia World Model United Nations (AWMUN) Offline Conference in Thailand.

“I was selected to speak about food insecurity in South Africa. To go there I also received support from the National Youth Development Agency [NYDA] and the Msunduzi Local Municipality – which gave me pocket money for the trip. Everything else was financed by the AWMUN.”

The NYDA has also assisted Madame Clucks A Lot with equipment to the value of R50 000. This included feeders, pluckers, lights and feed.

To date, the business produces 600 broilers per cycle. These are mostly supplied to local resellers and individual customers.

With her backyard space quickly running out, Mafu has ambitions of moving to a bigger farm which, she says, will allow her to reach her full potential of becoming a commercial farmer.

“I want to own the whole value chain. I want to produce my feed and have my own abattoir,” she concluded.

- Sihle Manda

1994 - 2024



# THE HILL BOUTIQUE HOTEL BREATHES LIFE INTO TOURISM

**Koleka Cele** is an example of what it means to be on top of her game in the hospitality industry.

She is the brains behind the birth of The Hill Boutique Hotel situated in Tsolo, Eastern Cape.

Cele realised that it was a struggle to get accommodation in this area and decided to do something about it with the help of the National Empowerment Fund (NEF).

The Hill Boutique Hotel is located along the N2 highway linking Gqeberha, Mthatha and Durban. It opened its doors in September 2024, coinciding with Tourism Month.

Koleka Cele creating a vibrant tourism economy in the Eastern Cape with the help of the NEF.

The hotel features 25 well-appointed rooms, along with two conference centres each accommodating up to 63 guests. Its amenities include a spa, mini gym, mini bar, and restaurant.



Cele said her original project was 17 rooms with two conference rooms, but the scope had to be expanded because the foundation for the building became too high, so her engineer proposed a basement, which ended up increasing the rooms.

“Due to additional space in the

yard, I had another idea of creating a leisure park, with two large swimming pools, water slides and a kids' jungle gym. Unfortunately, the original funding could not fulfil all these dreams, and I have had to put the leisure park on hold for phase two," she said.

The leisure park is expected to create about ten more permanent job opportunities.

The journey to The Hill Boutique Hotel started when Cele acquired two sites, which were initially going to build a family home while keeping the other one for future development.

She said when her husband, who is in construction started building a big house they realised later that the house was too big and decided to convert it into a Bed and Breakfast.

"While we were still trying to complete the house, the Department of Social Development issued a tender for their office, we applied and were successful. The same house was then taken by the department for the local service office, and we ended up building a smaller house next to it for the family.

"I approached my architects to draft the hotel plans, even though I did not have the budget or proper idea of how I was going to make it. I wanted to fulfil my original dream of owning high-standard accommodation in the

area where such is unexpected," Cele said.

### **Funding approval**

After waiting for a long time and on the verge of giving up, Cele's application for funding at the NEF was finally approved. Cele received funding for R14.1 million which was used for construction, furniture, fittings, acquisition of two vehicles and working capital.

Her private investment of R1 million was allocated for land acquisition.

Cele who is successfully operating four petrol stations, including three in Tsolo and one in Mthatha, expressed her excitement about this new venture, noting that the hotel represents not just a business opportunity, but also "a chance to contribute to the economic upliftment of our community."

The 43-year-old highlighted that the project created 100 temporary jobs during the 12-month construction period, and created 20 permanent jobs for the hotel operations, with at least 70% of the positions filled by women.

Cele admits that running such a business is not a walk in the park, as it comes with challenges, especially for businesswomen.

"Getting trustworthy staff that will not steal and be reliable is a big challenge especially in a cash business because all my other



businesses deal with a lot in cash. Funding access is such a problem because wow, I was also on the verge of giving up the funding application.”

With a wealth of experience in running businesses, Cele learned to be calm in every situation because “I have realised that panicking has never solved any problems, instead it makes things worse.”

“The fact that government recognises women in business and has special funds that are for women only, [like] a portion of my funding at NEF is from the Women Empowerment Fund and therefore has got a lesser interest rate compared to the main loan. And finally getting funding

from NEF [even] after a very long fight, was a victory,” said an elated Cele.

Cele’s NEF funding application process included a feasibility study to determine the need for accommodation in the area and building plans.

**For bookings at The Hill Boutique Hotel contact 047 004 0051 or 079 959 5488. The hotel can also be reached via [www.thehillboutiquehotel.co.za](http://www.thehillboutiquehotel.co.za)**

**For more information about the NEF visit [www.nefcorp.co.za](http://www.nefcorp.co.za)**

- Gabi Khumalo











# BENEFICIARY OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES AGAINST ADVERSITY

Dr Nobuhle Mchunu's story of achieving academic and career goals in the face of adversity is truly inspiring. It demonstrates how far people can go if they make optimal use of government programmes to improve their lives.

**The 32-year-old** Mchunu hails from Elangeni village in Muden, KwaZulu-Natal. She works as a Senior Statistician Competent, also known as a Biostatistician, at the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC). Dr Nobuhle Mchunu is an example of how government programmes can improve lives

Biostatisticians use statistics and mathematics to gather and evaluate data for biology and public health uses.

Among the funding and support programmes that helped Mchunu escape poverty and rise to success



are the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) child support grant, the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), and the National Research Foundation (NRF) scholarship.

In an interview with Vuk'uzenzele, Mchunu summarised her life story: "I am the eldest in my family, and I have three siblings. We were raised by our mother. Our father passed away when I was just nine years old."

Because her mother was unemployed, the Mchunu family relied on child support grants to survive. After completing her primary school studies, her mother took Mchunu to Pietermaritzburg to stay with her aunt so that she could receive better education in high school.

"After completing matric in 2010, I could not further my studies for about two years, even though I passed very well. At the time, I could not qualify for NSFAS because it prioritised students from previously disadvantaged schools. I attended a former model C school, but I was not paying school fees because my aunt and my mother had applied for tuition exemption. We could not afford to pay school fees," she explained.

### Securing funding

Two years later, one of her high school teachers learned about her struggle to secure funding. The teacher helped her apply for NSFAS,

emphasising that Mchunu had not paid any school fees throughout her high school years because she came from a disadvantaged background.

"My application was approved in 2013, and I enrolled at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) for a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Chemistry but switched to a BSc in Applied Mathematics and Statistics in the second semester of the first year," said Mchunu.

After completing her degree, she successfully applied for the NRF scholarship and enrolled for a BSc (Honours) in Statistics at UKZN. She completed her honours degree in 2016 and began a Master of Science (MSc) in Statistics at UKZN in 2017. During this time, she received a scholarship from the Master's in Biostatistics Bursary Award, part of the Developing Excellence in Leadership, Training, and Science in Africa Consortium for Advanced Biostatistics Training programme.

"My scholarship was worth R150,000, and I used some of the funds to build our family home. I was also working as a tutor at the university while studying to sustain myself," she explained.

In 2018, Mchunu was accepted for the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) Centre of Excellence Fellowship, during the second year of her MSc studies. This fellowship

1994 - 2024



provided a stipend of approximately R10,000 per month, which helped support her family.

“Unfortunately, my mother passed away in the first quarter of 2018. Shortly afterwards, I found out I was pregnant. This meant my grandmother had to head the household while I was studying, as I still had to provide for my siblings,” she explained.

In 2019, the SAMRC’s Biostatistics Capacity Development programme offered Mchunu a scholarship worth R200,000 for her PhD studies. This was funded in partnership with Building Academic Partnerships for Economic Development. During this period, she was still with CAPRISA and the UKZN as a PhD candidate.

In the same year, she was offered a permanent entry-level job as a Statistician at the SAMRC. Two years later, she was promoted to a Seasoned Statistician. In 2023, she was promoted again, this time to the position of Senior Statistician.

In April this year, Mchunu was appointed Senior Statistician Competent, a position she still occupies. She completed her PhD in September 2024.

**For more information, visit:**  
**NSFAS:** [www.mynsfas.org.za](http://www.mynsfas.org.za)  
**SASSA:** [www.sassa.gov.za](http://www.sassa.gov.za)  
**NRF:** [www.nrf.ac.za](http://www.nrf.ac.za)  
**CAPRISA:** [www.caprisa.org](http://www.caprisa.org)

- More Matshediso





# CRAFTING DREAMS THROUGH CABINETRY SUCCESS



**Dipuo Phakathi** is taking her small business to new heights with the support of the NEF. Driven by a passion for home improvements, Dipuo Phakathi transformed her love for interior design into a cabinet-making business.

Dipuo Phakathi leading Denic Cabinets while creating jobs.

As the owner and founder of Denic Cabinets, she specialises in designing, manufacturing, and installing customised kitchen units and built-in cupboards for residential, retail, and corporate clients.

“After previously working in the mining and banking sectors, I decided to pursue my lifelong dream of home improvements through my

company,” she said.

While the Sandton-based business officially launched in 2019, the idea first came to her in 2016 while she was renovating her own home.

“I was renovating my home and grew frustrated by the lack of a personalised approach from the companies I consulted when re-designing my closet. This motivated me to start a business that would address the problems I had experienced,” she explained.

Her passion for home improvements and interior design, nurtured from a young age, further spurred her on.

“Growing up, I was passionate about home improvements and interior spaces. My background as



an engineer has given me a strong foundation in design, processes, and manufacturing.”

Phakathi is a metallurgical engineer, a discipline focused on transforming metals into useful everyday products.

### Design Process

In a recent interview with Vuk’uzenzele, Phakathi described the design process as a collaborative journey. It begins with a comprehensive consultation during which clients share their needs and preferences.

“We develop initial concepts in three-dimensional designs to provide clients with a visual representation of the final product,” she explained.

Denic Cabinets’ focus on quality, creative design, and bespoke solutions has attracted high-profile clients, including leading property developers and prominent South African celebrities.

Initially self-funded, Denic Cabinets recently secured a R2.7 million investments from the National Empowerment Fund (NEF). The funding, used to acquire advanced machinery, is set to boost production, reduce delivery times, and enable the company to take on larger contracts.

With the new equipment, Denic Cabinets plans to increase

production capacity from four kitchen units per month to seven, while also enhancing product quality and operational efficiency.

The NEF’s investment aligns with Denic Cabinets’ vision of becoming a leading supplier in both the residential and commercial cabinetry markets.

Phakathi added that the funding has come at an ideal time, enabling the company to expand operations and meet growing demand.

“We are excited about the new machinery, which will improve production efficiency, reduce bottlenecks, and help us serve even more clients—from high-end residential customers to large retailers and property developers.

This investment will significantly enhance our ability to scale the business,” she said.

The company currently employs 12 people.

**For more information about Denic Cabinets contact Dipuo Phakathi on 066 540 9493**  
**Email: [info@denic-cabinets.co.za](mailto:info@denic-cabinets.co.za)**  
**Website: [www.denic-cabinets.co.za](http://www.denic-cabinets.co.za)**  
**The NEF can be reached on [www.nefcorp.co.za](http://www.nefcorp.co.za) and 0861 843 633**

- Sinovuyo Mfiki

1994 - 2024



# LIMPOPO FARMER EYES GLOBAL MARKETS



**Information** supplied by the dtic  
A Limpopo company based in Zebediela is heading to Berlin, Germany, in search of export opportunities across Europe and beyond for its stone fruits.

Germany is one of the G20 countries with diplomatic ties to South Africa. In November 2025, South Africa will host the G20 Summit.

The G20 is a forum for the world's

major economies to discuss global economic and financial issues.

Ground Stone serves as a prime example of how fostering economic ties with the global community can positively impact the lives of ordinary South Africans. The company will be among a group of businesses showcasing their products at the Fruit Logistica International Exhibition in Berlin from 5–7 February 2025.

The director of Ground Stone, Dibesho Serage, expressed his excitement about the upcoming trip to Germany, which he views as a valuable opportunity to explore markets for his company's produce.

"Fruit Logistica is a renowned trade exhibition that attracts buyers, distributors, importers, and producers from all over the world. They are all searching for quality fruits to import. This platform will be ideal for networking and securing orders, enabling us to export our products to international markets," he said.

Serage's orchard is located in Matome Village and consists of 25,000 peach and nectarine trees. Currently, only 20 hectares of the 50-hectare farm are under cultivation. While the farm has the capacity to produce 300 tons of fruit annually, it is currently producing 150 tons, which are supplied to Woolworths.

"Securing an export market would allow us to increase both production and our workforce. At present, we employ 15 full-time staff, most of whom are women, and an additional eight people during harvest season," said Serage.

"Our greatest satisfaction would come from creating more jobs in

the area and contributing further to the economy of the Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality and Limpopo as a whole," he added.

### **Entrepreneurial bug**

Serage, aged 45, holds a Diploma in Industrial Engineering from the Vaal University of Technology and a Bachelor of Technology in Operations Management from Nelson Mandela Bay University.

He caught the entrepreneurial bug in 2010 while serving as chief executive officer (CEO) of a facilities management company in Pretoria. Reflecting on underutilised family land where his parents had grown maize, he saw an opportunity.

"Having grown up in a village where every yard had a thriving fruit tree, starting an orchard was a natural choice. After extensive soil testing and research, I travelled to the Western Cape to find cultivars suited to Zebediela's climate. In 2014, we began the ambitious task of populating the orchard with fruit trees from the Western Cape. I eventually resigned from my CEO role to focus entirely on the business," Serage recalled.

Today, his orchard is a source of pride for the people of Zebediela, whose fruits now grace Woolworths' shelves across the country.

1994 - 2024



# ESKOM SHEDS LIGHT ON LOADSHEDDING

Eskom has developed a maintenance plan which will enable it to perform maintenance on its power plants.

**At the end** of January, new Eskom CEO Andre De Ruyter said Eskom cannot avoid loadshedding, given the state of the power system.

“It is constrained, unreliable, unpredictable and prone to unplanned outages and breakdowns.

“We have a threshold for unplanned outages of about 9500MW. Over the past month this number has been hovering between 10 000MW and 13 500MW, which is too high. We then have to burn diesel on our open cycle gas turbines, which is a very expensive way of generating electricity,” said De Ruyter.

Eskom’s implementation of stage six loadshedding on 9 December last year demonstrated the seriousness of South Africa’s electricity challenges.

“In the past we neglected to perform scheduled maintenance as required, leading to unreliable equipment.”

To fix the system, Eskom now plans

to maintain its plants as per the original equipment manufacturers’ guidelines.

There will be an increased probability of loadshedding over the next 18 months, as Eskom fixes the system.

“We have to expect some increase in loadshedding. We will do this in a careful, structured and managed way. If we don’t implement this maintenance plan, there is a very real risk that deterioration in our system’s performance will continue. We need an intervention as soon as possible.”

## What is loadshedding?

The amount of electricity that Eskom can supply is sometimes not enough to meet South Africa’s needs.

Electricity demand is not consistent due to peak periods, when more people use electricity, and the increasing number of customers that need electricity.

As a result, loadshedding is implemented, when needed, to protect the



1994 - 2024

power system from a total blackout. Loadshedding is also being implemented so that Eskom can carry out critical maintenance on its power plants.

General power outages should not be confused with loadshedding. Normal power outages can occur due to a technical fault in the transmission or distribution network or when electricity equipment has been tampered with, such as the theft of cables.

Eskom continues to monitor the system closely and provides South Africans with updates on the status of the power system, as things can change at short notice.

### **Save electricity**

You can help to reduce the frequency of loadshedding by:

Switching off your geyser during peak periods.

Using the cold water tap, instead of the hot water tap which drains the geyser.

Turning off lights, computers and other electrical equipment at the switch, when not in use.

Using low energy globes.

Only filling kettles with as much water as you need.

To be prepared for loadshedding, visit [www.loadshedding.eskom.co.za](http://www.loadshedding.eskom.co.za)

- Allison Cooper





# R11 BILLION ALLOCATED FOR JOBS

The Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan is helping the country's economy and people recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and recent unrest.

**The Presidential** Employment Stimulus Package has allocated an additional R11 billion to support employment, as part of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERRP).

President Cyril Ramaphosa recently made this announcement when responding to questions during a sitting of the National Assembly.

He said initiatives such as the Basic Education Employment Initiative will continue, with the aim of creating jobs for the youth who have assisted in schools as part of the response to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Support for small-scale farmers and workers in the early childhood development sector also forms part of the stimulus package.



"The Presidential Employment Stimulus Package has supported close to 700 000 job opportunities to date, and largely to young people," he said.

The country's unemployment statistics have highlighted the urgent need for the public and private sectors to be actively involved in implementing the ERRP.

Results for the second 2021 Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS), recently released by Statistics South Africa, showed that unemployment has increased by 1.8%.

"The statistics released for the second quarter of this year are a reminder of our unemployment crisis and the extent of poverty in our country.

"While the interventions contained in our ERRP are necessary and significant, I will say now that they are not enough," said the President.

He added that job creation can no longer



be the mission of government alone.

“The time has now come for us to assess how far we have come, to reflect on the choices that confront us as a nation, and to take bold actions to achieve economic progress,” said the President.

### **Faster-growing economy**

The ERRP is government’s blueprint for building a more inclusive equal, resilient and faster-growing economy.

President Ramaphosa said government will roll-out infrastructure, increase local production and expand the country’s energy generation capacity.

“We are implementing a range of structural reforms to ensure that we have a reliable power supply, cheaper data, abundant and clean water, efficient-running ports and good rail infrastructure.”

Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy Gwede Mantashe recently published revised regulations for energy-generating projects.

“This was a defining moment in energy generation in our country. This will not only alleviate the immediate energy supply shortfall, but will also lead to massive investment in new projects and stimulate growth,” said President Ramaphosa.

Energy generation will provide certainty to investors that the current

electricity challenges will be resolved. This will enable investors to confidently invest in new factories, mines and other initiatives.

President Ramaphosa stressed government’s commitment to ensuring that the National Ports Authority is an independent subsidiary of Transnet, which will improve the efficiency of port operations and enable greater private investment in port infrastructure.

### **Social Relief of Distress Grant**

The violent unrest, that occurred in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng in July, dealt a further blow to the country’s economic recovery.

To support those who were left vulnerable by the pandemic and unrest, government reinstated the Social Relief of Distress Grant until March 2022.

“Thus far, close to 12 million people have applied for the Social Relief of Distress Grant and the South African Social Security Agency has started processing these and paying out,” said President Ramaphosa.

The interventions by government have sustained millions of jobs, prevented the closure of a number of businesses and provided relief to many vulnerable people.

1994 - 2024



# R25 BILLION FOR WATERBERG DEVELOPMENT

President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced R25 billion for infrastructure projects in the Waterberg District Municipality in Limpopo.



**The projects** are expected to, among other things, address issues of severe water shortages in the district which is made up of the Bela-Bela, Lephalale, Modimolle-Mookgophong, Mogalakwena and Thabazimbi local municipalities.

Addressing residents at the Shongwane Sports Ground in Lephalale re-

cently, the President said government would in the next five years complete the Moloko Water Resource Project.

During the period, government would also pursue the Waterberg rail-line and build several much-needed schools in various communities in the district.

“We know that the people of this



district are confronted with severe unemployment and poverty. We know about the problems of water, electricity, sanitation and roads. We know about access to land,” he said.

Government, he said, was also aware of the poor telecommunications network that frustrates economic development in the area.

“We need to attract investment in the area. We recently held the second SA Investment Conference and we raised R363 billion from private investment,” he said.

A portion of that money was to be invested in the mining district.

“Government will invest R25 billion over the next five years, and that’s a lot of money. Some companies will in this period implement 74 projects

worth R580 billion in infrastructure and enterprise development projects,” said the President.

The investment should be able to help government intensify its mission to assist small businesses, especially those headed by the youth and women.

“We have to work together as the community, business and various organisations. We are committed to creating jobs. We want to build schools and TVET colleges to address the issue of education,” said President Ramaphosa.

### **High levels of unemployment**

He decried the heightened levels of poverty and unemployment in Waterberg.

1994 - 2024

The graphic features a background divided into three diagonal sections: a yellow section at the top left, a green section in the middle, and a red section at the bottom right. The number '30' is written in a large, white, cursive font across the green section.

30

YEARS OF  
*empowering stories*



---

# SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

---



# WE ARE WAITING TO SHOW THE WORLD OUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY



“Viva South Africa!”

**Excitement is** rising and soccer fever is taking hold of South Africans like never before. The Confederations Cup is on our doorstep and the 2010 World Cup is just around the corner. Vuk’uzenzele took to the streets and asked ordinary people to speak their minds about South Africa hosting these two important soccer tournaments...

“All South Africans should participate and work together to make these events successful.”



**Thabiso Mokoena:**  
“My expectations are high. The ticket sales were disappointing, but it should pick up.”



**Lebogang Lerumec:**  
“We should use all the opportunities that the tournament brings to benefit the poor.”



**Neluthando Xaba:**  
“It is a chance for unemployed people to get jobs.”



**Teboho Aghana:**  
“The fans must come; we are waiting to show the world our beautiful country.”



**Kagiso Moepi:**  
“I can’t wait to see all the games. South Africa must at least reach a reasonable place.”



**Brian Taylor:**  
“Bafana Bafana must make us proud and win both the Confederations Cup and the World Cup.”



**Evashin Pillay:**  
"Viva South Africa!"



**Thabo Hlogwane:**  
"I'm so excited, I hope to get some tickets."



**Ali Mbeyani:**  
"The government must make sure that things run smoothly."



**Chantelle Sampson:**  
"I hope security will be tightened so that people can enjoy themselves safely."



**Luthando Thagane:**  
"I can't wait to see what will happen and who will win."



**Given Shabar:**  
"These events will bring job opportunities especially in tourism."



**Mpho Tlou:**  
"I hope that South Africa wins because we are hosting."



**Virginia Motsaneng:**  
"This might be the end of poverty. Tourism will bring in money."



**Lizzy Photoha:**  
"Both the Confederations Cup and the 2010 World Cup will bring good business to South Africa."



**Lebshang Sethlako:**  
"It's going to be fun, but soccer fans must not disappoint us; they should behave."



**Bontumelo Maeno:**  
"I hope things go well and people benefit from the World Cup."



**Jan Mantikus:**  
"I'm happy because poverty will decrease."



**Patience Mdzinwa:**  
"All South Africans should participate and work together to make these events successful."



**Bonginkosi Mabuya:**  
"This is a great opportunity for South Africa and the rest of Africa."



**Vusi Chilli:**  
"I'm very excited, can't wait to see which country will win."



1994 - 2024



# NEW UNIT WILL CRUSH ORGANISED CRIME

**The new** Directorate for Priority Crime Investigations (DPCI), will take over the criminal investigative work of the former Directorate of Special Operations (DSO).

The DSO was also known as the Scorpions, which closed down at the end of June. The Scorpions were formed in September 1999 under the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA).

## Serious crimes

The new unit will investigate serious crimes like organised crime, fraud and corruption, as well as crimes against the state and other economic crimes.

The new team will take over more than 600 investigations which were previously conducted by the Scorpions.

## Strict selection

Strict selection processes have been put into place to screen staff



for the new unit. Applicants must be approved by the Police's Crime Intelligence Division before being appointed.

So far, of the 221 special investigators who were in the Scorpions, some 137 have joined the new unit. Former Western Cape deputy police commissioner, Anwar Dramat, is heading the new crime-fighting unit.

## Proper equipment

The new unit will get proper equipment and facilities to ensure that it does its work properly.

The unit will have a close working relationship with the prosecutors and intelligence agencies, as well as with other state institutions. These include the Asset Forfeiture Unit, customs,



state-owned enterprises, and private forensic investigators.

### Lawyers and police

The new unit will also have lawyers who will be part of all investigations. They will provide legal guidance from the beginning of an investigation. This will help them to make up proper case dockets to increase the chances of successful prosecution.

In addition, the new unit will get full support from the Police's Crime Intelligence Division.

If there are complaints against the unit, the Minister of Police may appoint a retired judge to deal with it. The unit's powers will be properly checked to prevent abuse of power.

- Mbulelo Baloyi

### New government departments to help carry out goals

- Following the general elections in April, a new structure has been set up for Cabinet. New government departments will help the new administration to carry out its policies correctly.
- A National Planning Commission and a new Department for Performance Monitoring and Evaluation and Administration has been set up in the Presidency.
- The Department of Minerals and Energy has been divided into two

separate departments of Mining and Energy.

- The Department of Education has been divided into two, namely Basic Education and Higher Education and Training.
- The Department of Housing is now called the Department of Human Settlements.
- A new Department of Rural Development and Land Reform has been set up.
- The Department of Water Affairs was joined with Environmental Affairs to form the Department of Water and Environmental Affairs. The Forestry section of the old department was joined with Agriculture and Fisheries to form the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.
- A new Department of Tourism and a new Department of Economic Development was set up.
- The Department of Provincial and Local Government was changed to Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.
- The Department of Defence was changed to Defence and Military Veterans.
- A new Department of Women, Youth, Children and People with Disabilities has been formed.
- The Department of Foreign Affairs was changed to the Department of International Relations and Cooperation.

1994 - 2024





# 2010 WORLD CUP ZAKUMI REPRESENTING THE SPIRIT OF AFRICA



**Zakumi represents** the people, land and spirit of South Africa and Africa. As a mascot, Zakumi will be an ambassador for the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa.

A mascot is a person, animal, or object believed to bring good luck. It is like a representative for an organisation or a sports team. The first mascot used for a FIFA World Cup, was a lion called World Cup Willie. It was introduced in 1966 when England hosted the World Cup. Since then every World Cup has had its own special mascot.

**“The name ‘Zakumi’ is a combination of ‘ZA’ standing for South Africa and ‘kumi’, which means ‘10’ in different languages across Africa.”**

### Warmth of Africa

The name ‘Zakumi’ is a combination of ‘ZA’ standing for South Africa and ‘kumi’, which means ‘10’ in different languages across Africa.

Zakumi is said to be a partyloving animal. One of his jobs will be to turn the 2010 FIFA World Cup into a joyful and unforgettable event.

With his big smile and warm heart, he will also show the thousands of international guests and soccer fans the warmth and spirit of the African continent.

### Inspiration

But Zakumi will not only represent South Africa and Africa, he will also be a representative of the FIFA World Cup in general. He is said to be young, energetic, smart and ambitious. He will bring some fun and add to the atmosphere of the tournament.

He will become a symbol that people around the world will easily recog-

nize as the friendly face of the 2010 World Cup - an inspiration for young and old.

### Made in South Africa

Zakumi was designed and made in South Africa. The leopard was chosen as a symbol, because the lion and the elephant and most of the other animals that are part of the “Big Five” have often been used as symbols.

FIFA decided to give Zakumi a specific personality and personal history. He was born on 16 June 1994. This is of great importance in South Africa. 16 June saw the beginning of the Soweto youth uprising, while 1994 was the year that South Africa had its first democratic elections.

Zakumi will not only be the face of world cup soccer. He will also play a role in the build-up to the Confederations Cup, which will take place in South Africa next year.

- Mbulelo Baloyi

1994 - 2024



# CONSTABLE SHIKHATI RAISES THE BAR

As a child, Constable Kulani Shikhathi dreamt of becoming a police officer.

**As an adult,** she has not only realised her dream but has also become the first woman to join the Tactical Response Team (TRT) in Mpumalanga.

Shikhathi, 25, is not only an inspiration to all everyone who knows her but is also an outstanding police officer and a pioneer in her community.

Born and raised in Tzaneen, Limpopo, she is the youngest of five children, including two who are police officers. Her older sister is Constable Charlotte Shikhathi, who is stationed at the Ngodwana Police Service and the other sister, Sector Commander Captain Shirley Shikhathi, is at the Nelspruit Police Service.


After completing matric at the Bankuna High School in 2004, Shikhathi pursued her love for food and obtained a Diploma in Hospitality and Catering from the Vaal Tech-

nikon. She then worked as a chef at the Emnotweni Sun Hotel, honing her skills, but soon realised that her real passion lay in policing.

In 2009, finally ready to follow her dream, she enrolled for the South African Police Service (SAPS) Basic Training Course at the Pretoria West College.

An adrenalin junkie, who thrives on





challenges, it's no surprise that her favourite subjects at college were street survival, weaponry and physical training. After completing her degree and then field training at the Nelspruit Police Station, she saw a memo requesting candidates to apply for the pre-selection to the TRT and signed up without hesitation. She was on probation at the time.

A few months later, she was selected to train with the TRT. The unit is called in to handle medium to high security risk needs of various police stations and clusters. They combat crime, restore public order (crowd control), escort dangerous criminals, provide tactical assistance to other units, police sporting events and assist during disaster management.

According to Shikhathi, in her line of work fitness is key. Only police members who are mentally and physically fit are chosen. In order to pass the physical test for the unit, candidates had to complete an 8km run in under an hour while wearing a bullet proof vest and carrying a R5 rifle.

The run included jumping over a wall eight times in under a minute, shuttle runs, leopard crawling and pistol shooting.

“To get through the 10-week rigorous training one needed to learn to motivate oneself. I have always been somebody who believes in finishing what I start,” she said.

Even though Shikhathi had her moments of weakness, her mental attitude allowed her to remain focused and finish the training.

“I was the only woman and felt I could not relate with my group members, that is when I realised that I needed to have mental strength. My motivating factor was not only the pride of having completed what I had started, knowing that I was the only woman to ever do so was the icing on the cake that pulled me through.”

Her determination also earned her the respect of the male candidates who were part of the training.

“She pulled her weight and shocked the guys. We are very proud to have her in our team. She is a remarkable police officer,” said one of her colleagues Captain Gajeni Ndlovu.

Constable Shikhathi said she feels fulfilled in her job.

“I enjoy every second of being in the team. I love my job and I have no regrets for leaving the hospitality industry to pursue my calling. One day I hope to become a commander.”

She urged young women to join the police service and try out for the TRT unit.

“We owe it to ourselves, as women, to challenge ourselves to reach greater heights,” she added.

- Samona Murugan

1994 - 2024



# ELDORADO PARK TAKES THE WAR TO DRUG DEALERS

Enough is enough! Drug dealers beware! We are taking back our streets and we will fight for the rights of our children!" This is a warning from Eldorado Park parents, who have had enough of drug peddlers and dealers taking over and destroying their children's lives.

**The area came** under the spotlight after President Jacob Zuma visited the drug-ridden community this year, following desperate pleas from parents for action to be taken against drug dealers.

Following the visit, Government established a Presidential Inter-sectoral Plan in Eldorado Park bringing together the police, the departments of Social Development, Community Safety and Basic Education, as part of a Drug Master Plan to reduce drug use.

Ties have also been strengthened between the police and community members, which has led to almost 1 500 arrests, up to seven kilograms of drugs and more than 600 tablets being seized in just two months.

**"The only way to win the war against drugs is to fight together – the police, parents, learners, teachers and community members must join hands."**





Thirty seven more police officers have been deployed to the area to intensify policing.

“We are working night and day and over weekends to crack down on drugs, crime and other problems in the community,” says Communication Head of Eldorado Park SAPS, Captain Phillemon Khorombi.

“The only way to win the war against drugs is to fight together - the police, parents, learners, teachers and community members must join hands.”

This call has been heeded by mother of two, Dani Williamson. “We used to blame the police a lot for problems in the community, but if we as parents do not take responsibility for our children, how can we expect others to?”

Williamson, along with a group of parents spoke to Vuk’uzenzele, during a recent visit to the community. “People are no longer afraid to re-

port crimes because we know now that the police mean business,” says Eldry Jacobs. “We cannot be afraid of these druglords anymore.”

Reports of drug-related crimes have drastically increased thanks to an anonymous SMS tip-off line 32211 launched by the Eldorado Park SAPS. The tip-offs have led to 25 lolly lounges being shut down in the area. A lolly lounge, explains Capt Khorombi, is the township name for homes where people sell and do drugs. Most of the young drug users are girls, some still in high school. These youngsters get caught up with the wrong group of friends, and bunk school and spend their days in these lolly lounges, whilst their parents think they are still at school.

To combat this, the police have implemented a school monitoring team headed by Constable Natasha Govender. An Adopt-a-Cop programme was introduced at 17 schools in the area, and during school visits and raids, the team confiscated dagga,



liquor and mandrax. The Department of Basic Education has also identified nearly 700 learners from high schools to undergo Behavioural Change Educational Camps during school holidays.

Capt Khorombi says the most common drugs used are Crystal Meth, CAT and a concoction called Nyaope. Nyaope is a mixture of heroine, dagga, battery acid, rat poison, ARVs and other dangerous ingredients. Despite Nyaope not being recognised in terms of the Drug Act, it is still very much used.

The departments of Social Development and Community Safety in Gauteng have also run workshops for parents to identify children hooked on drugs.

Signs to look out for  
The workshops teach parents to look out for signs of drug use in their children. Symptoms include children becoming withdrawn and isolated, staying in their rooms, losing appetite, or eating too much. Some become violent and aggressive, and keep bad company. “Parents must be aware of where their children are at

all times, and who they are hanging out with.”

The police have also increased their monitoring of the area, conducted raids and random stop and searches on more than 23 000 vehicles. Police have also re-opened 279 cases that had been withdrawn. They have been re-sent to the Senior State Prosecutor, complete with drug lab reports.

The Department of Social Development has also introduced a substance abuse programme in partnership with the Ke-Moja drug prevention programme. Support groups have been established and 15 children sent on a diversion programme.

Gauteng Provincial Commissioner, Lt General Mzwandile Petros, thanked the community for its cooperation. “The community has come forward with information that has assisted the security forces in searching, arresting and seizing drugs in the area. We have extended our focus and have included surrounding areas like Ennerdale, Lenasia, Soweto, Windor and Westbury. These high visibility operations will continue and we appeal for more information

**People with information on any Drug related activities can anonymously contact Crime Stop at 08600 10 111 or SMS Crime Line at 32211. All information received will be treated as confidential.**





# COMMUNITY CRIME BUSTERS OF SEBOKENG

Jabulani Dlomo has been a champion of community crime-busting in Sebokeng for the past 16 years.

**The 46-year-old** has been involved in fighting crime since his arrival from Phongolo in KwaZulu-Natal in 1996. Dlomo, who was unemployed, and four other community members, started their crime fighting crusade by patrolling the streets. "I found myself settling in Sebokeng in the area of Boitumelo. What struck me the most was the high level of crime in the area, especially house robberies and people being robbed on their way to work," said Dlomo. Then in 2002 the group attended a community meeting called by the station commander and his management at Sebokeng Police station to form a CPF.

The group was involved in the establishment of the first CPF in the area. Between 2008 and 2012, Dlomo was appointed the chairperson of the Sebokeng CPF. Under his leadership, the CPF was awarded the title of best patrol group by the Gauteng SAPS and the Department of Community Safety in 2009.

Dlomo says the function of a CPF is to establish and maintain a partnership between the community and the police in fighting crime. He says that in Sebokeng, the working relationship between the police and the community has been smooth.

"Our forum helps build confidence in the police and the community members are not afraid to pass information to the police."

The forum has also set up a youth desk to drive the youth away from criminal activities. On a weekly basis, the CPF goes out to the community, giving out pamphlets on crime fighting tips and meeting with street committees and patrollers.

Dlomo says it is the responsibility of every South African to join in the fight against crime, working closely with the police.

Resident Jackson Mbi says the CPF has made the community safer. "We are happy, especially with street pa-



trols at night” said Jackson Mbi.

Sebokeng Station Commander Brigadier Scheepers says he strongly believes in involving the community in the fight against crime.

“Through the CPF, the community gets to know that as the police we are there for them.

Being seen in the community and talking to people is very important. As the police we cannot fight crime alone, we need the support of the CPF.

We can show South Africa that zero crime is possible if we work together.”

Dlomo says the CPF was responsible for nine sector crime committees,

which are all functional.

He explains that when a CPF is formed, the community is separated into sector crime areas for different parts of the community. Those committees report to the CPF.

“The sector crime committees are responsible for neighbourhood watches and it’s here that community patrollers are formed. In Sebokeng, there are 680 patrollers.”

“I would encourage all South Africans to be part of ensuring that their communities are safe. It is in our hands as residents to make our country safer,” concluded Dlomo.

- *Noluthando Mkhize*





# THE COUPLE THAT BREATHED NEW LIFE INTO KEISKAMMAHOEK



Jeri du Plessis and her husband Brian left their plush jobs at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and Renown Fresh Meat respectively to start a new life in the rural town of Keiskammahoek, 40 km south of King William's Town.

**When they** arrived 15 years ago the couple slept in a caravan and were chased away from where they had parked it. "It was very difficult back then" recalls Jeri. "We moved from that other side to just across the

road. People were not as receptive as they are today," she adds.

But once they had settled, the couple spearheaded the revival of the neighbourhood by encouraging com-

munity members to be enterprising through their community development projects. The couple found the school infrastructure was dilapidated, the crèche windows broken, young people desperate for jobs, and the community hall rundown.

With help from the Department of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Jeri and Brian were instrumental in getting the community hall upgraded, the crèche painted, windows repaired and young people employed in various projects. The couple's entrepreneurial spirit is now beginning to rub off on some members of the community.

Siviwe Twyabi has started a bee-keeping project and Nominki Manetsa is hoping to start her own company.

With guidance from the Siyakholwa Development Foundation, Manetsa is producing perfume and selling to locals. She plans to start her own company that will produce hand lotions, perfumes, soaps and shampoos using essential oil obtained by crushing the leaves of rose geranium plants.

After the leaves have been crushed, the oil is mixed with aluminium sulphite to produce a perfume called rose geranium. Manetsa says she plans to sell the perfume to hotels in the Eastern Cape.

The refurbishment of the school happened as a result of the work done by the Siyakholwa Development Foundation under the leadership of the Du Plessis couple. They rallied the community to do the work themselves.

The arrival of the couple in the sleepy town signalled the beginning of good things for Twyabi, a bee-keeper who now says he would like to start his own honey production company.

His interest in bees started in 2011 when he was taught bee-keeping by an old friend, Mark Symons. "It was just a small thing back then. I did not know that you could make money out of it."

With financial help from the Department of Local Government and Traditional Affairs and the Siyakholwa Development Foundation, Twyabi bought protective gear to wear when working with the bees. Currently, the honey he produces is only sold to locals, but he has ambitions to expand the business.

Twyabi's energy and determination together with support from the Foundation and guidance from the Department could see him realising his dream of owning a jam-producing company sooner rather than later.

- *Albert Pule*

1994 - 2024



# HATS OFF FOR N CAPE TEEN'S HELMET DESIGN

Engineer Richard Noble and RAF pilot Andy Green have taken their passion for racing a step further by creating the Bloodhound Project– a global education initiative.



**The project promotes** the exciting use of technology, engineering and mathematics at schools and aims to inspire a future generation of engineers and technologists.

The Bloodhound Project has been introduced at over 5 000 schools in the United Kingdom (UK) with learners being taught the fundamentals of combining engineering with science and technology.

Fifty schools in the Northern Cape have also introduced the Bloodhound Project into their classrooms and learners were given a chance to design the helmet that Green will sport while attempting to beat the world land-speed record.

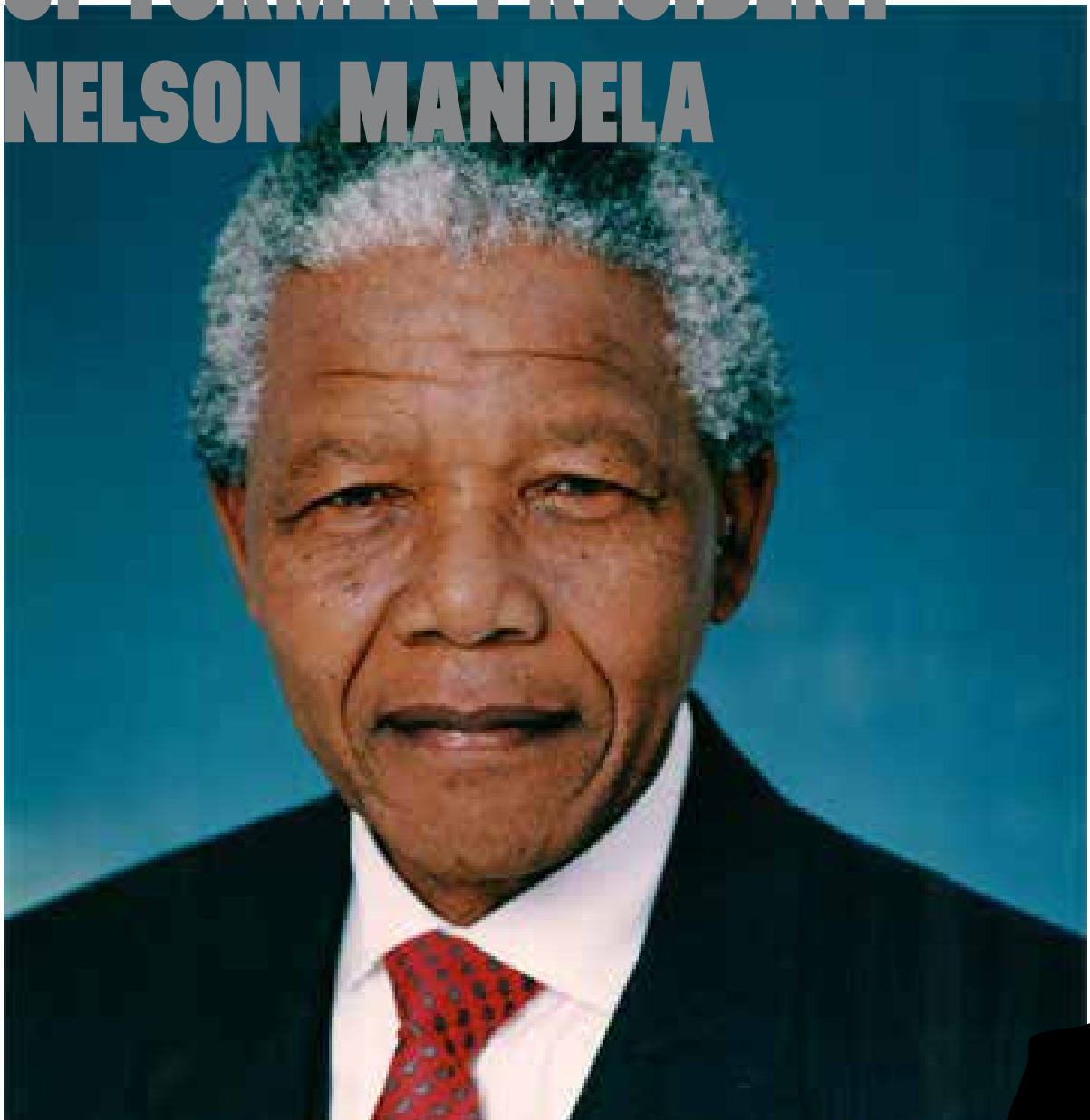
Green will need two helmets for his attempt and 17-year-old Dirk Coetzee, from Adamantia High School in Kimberley, scooped the South African winning design.

The rules for the design were simple, says Green. All learners had to do was design a colourful helmet in the Bloodhound colours - orange and blue. From more than 1 000 entries, Coetzee's bold design stood out.

"I love the bold and exciting South African theme of Dirk's design, and the big sunrise and gemsbok adding a Northern Cape element," said Green.

"It is a proudly South African design. It is perfect!" The other winning helmet came from 11-year-old Sam James from the UK.

# **ADDRESS TO THE NATION BY PRESIDENT JACOB ZUMA ON THE DEATH OF FORMER PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA**



1994 - 2024



My fellow South Africans, our beloved Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, the founding President of our democratic nation, has departed.



ANC leadership (Image: © Louise Gubb)

**He passed** on peacefully in the company of his family around 8.50pm on the 5th of December 2013.

He is now resting. He is now at peace.

Our nation has lost its greatest son. Our people have lost a father.

Although we knew that this day would come, nothing can diminish our sense of profound and enduring loss.

His tireless struggle for freedom earned him the respect of the world.

His humility, compassion, and

humanity earned him their love.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Mandela family. To them we owe a debt of gratitude.

They have sacrificed much and endured much so that our people could be free.

Our thoughts are with his wife Graca Machel, his former wife Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, with his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and the entire family.

Our thoughts are with his friends, comrades and colleagues who fought alongside Madiba over the course of a lifetime of struggle.



Our thoughts are with the South African people who today mourn the loss of the one person who, more than any other, came to embody their sense of a common nationhood.

Our thoughts are with the millions of people across the world who embraced Madiba as their own and who saw his cause as their cause.

This is the moment of our deepest sorrow.

Our nation has lost its greatest son.

Yet, what made Nelson Mandela great was precisely what made him human. We saw in him what we seek in ourselves.

And in him we saw so much of ourselves.

Fellow South Africans, Nelson Mandela brought us together and it is together that we will bid him farewell.

Our beloved Madiba will be accorded a state funeral.

I have ordered that all flags of the Republic of South Africa be lowered to half-mast from 6 December and to remain at half-mast until after the funeral.

As we gather to pay our last respects, let us conduct ourselves with the dignity and respect that Madiba personified.

Let us be mindful of his wishes and those of his family.

As we gather, wherever we are in the country and wherever we are in the world, let us recall the values for which Madiba fought.

Let us reaffirm his vision of a society in which none is exploited, oppressed or dispossessed by another.

Let us commit ourselves to strive together, sparing neither strength nor courage, to build a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa.

Let us express, each in our own way, the deep gratitude we feel for a life spent in service of the people of this country and in the cause of humanity.

This is indeed the moment of our deepest sorrow.

Yet it must also be the moment of our greatest determination.

A determination to live as Madiba has lived, to strive as Madiba has strived and to not rest until we have realised his vision of a truly united South Africa, a peaceful and prosperous Africa, and a better world.

We will always love you Madiba! May your soul rest in peace. God Bless Africa. Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika.

1994 - 2024



# CASH INJECTION FOR SA SMALL CLAIMS COURTS

Small Claims Courts around the country are set to improve thanks to an agreement between the South African Government and the Swiss Confederation.

**The agreement**, which commenced in 2007, is being implemented in two phases. In total R4,5 million was contributed for the first phase, which ran until 2011 and focused on improving the functioning and efficiency of Small Claims Courts.

Phase two ran from March 2011 to 28 February 2015, with a further contribution of R10 million.

Towards the end of the second phase, the Swiss Confederation offered to extend the agreement by ten months, ending in December 2015, with an additional contribution of R3 million.

Since the start of the project  
331 Small

Claims Courts have been established, mostly in previously disadvantaged communities, rural towns and townships.

Further, programme guidelines for Small Claims Court clerks and commissioners were printed and distributed and are now being revised and updated, along with the training of 270 clerks and 487 commissioners.

Commissioners who preside in these courts are chosen from a pool of experienced legal professionals and academics who provide their services free of charge.

When the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development Michael Masutha delivered his Budget Vote recently, he said Small Claims Courts were an important vehicle for people to access justice speedily and at no cost.

“The number of Small Claims Courts increased from 68 in 2009 to 340 in 2014/2015. We are very close to achieving our target of 384, one per magisterial district,” he said.

Small Claims Courts are used to settle minor civil disputes and claims between parties without representation by an attorney in an informal manner.

An amount not exceeding R15 000 can be claimed at the Small Claims Court. Before 2010, Small Claims Courts could only deal with cases involving small civil claims of R7 000 and below.

The jurisdiction of these courts was further increased to R15 000 as from April 2014.

Anybody can use the services of the Small Claims Court free of charge, all one has to pay is the Sheriff’s fee.

The department aims to have such courts in every magisterial district around the country.

**For more information you can contact:**

**Ms Funeka Thema on: 012-357 8236 or Ms BS Sithole on: 012-357 8258 or send a fax to: 086 500 5549**

**16th Floor, East Tower Momentum Building, Pretoria**

**To find the nearest SCC to you, visit [www.justice.gov.za/scc/scc\\_courts.htm](http://www.justice.gov.za/scc/scc_courts.htm)**

*- Noluthando Mkhize*

1994 - 2024



# TOP ACCOLADES FOR SPORTS STARS

Sprint sensation Wayde van Niekerk closed off a brilliant 2016 by winning three awards at the recent 2016 South African Sports Awards (SASA).

**The SASA** recognise and honour individuals and teams who have excelled both on and off the field from 1 September 2015 to 30 September 2016.

Van Niekerk's win at the SA-SAs comes hot on the heels of him shattering US sprint legend Michael Johnson's



400 m record at the Rio Olympics in June this year.

At the Sports Awards, he was crowned Sport Star of the Year, Sportsman of the Year and also won the People's Choice Award.

Speaking to media after the awards, van Niekerk said the journey to the top has been filled with challenges.

“There has been tough times and

good times and I'm thankful to the Lord for pushing me through and blessing me with the wisdom to realise that he has blessed me with the talent,” said van Niekerk.

Gold medallist at the Rio Olympics Caster Semenya also emerged as a winner in her category when she won the award for Sportswoman of the Year.

- *Albert Pule*

## 2016 Winners

[top] Minister Fikile Mbalula hands over Wayde van Niekerk one of his many awards. [bottom] Caster Semenya won Sportswoman of the Year. Sportsman of the Year with a Disability - Charl Du Toit

Sportswoman of the Year with a Disability - Ilse Hayes

Team of the Year - Mamelodi Sundowns

Coach of the Year - Anna Botha

Volunteer of the Year - Kim Pople

Newcomer of the Year - Ntando Mahlangu (Athletics)

Photographer of the Year - Sydney Mahlangu

SA Sports Journalist of the Year - Thabiso Sithole

Developing school team of the Year - Benny's Care Academy

Federation of the Year - Roller Sports South Africa

Steve Tshwete Lifetime Achiever Awards - Thomas Kwenaithe, Francois Pienaar, Mzimasi Mnguni

Dyan Buis and Wayde Van Niekerk were awarded the Shield of Jove.

1994 - 2024





# R100 MILLION FOR BLACK FILMMAKERS

A government initiative launched in 2014 has helped black filmmakers tackle big productions while creating more jobs in the country's growing movie industry.

**The Department** of Trade and Industry (the dti) will have spent R100 million to support emerging black filmmakers through the South Africa Emerging Black Filmmakers Incentive by the end of March 2018.

This was shared by the department's Nelly Molokoane at the recently-held Emerging Black Filmmakers Work-

shop, which took place during the annual Durban International Film Festival in KwaZulu-Natal. The annual Durban International Film Festival is one of the oldest and largest film festivals in Southern Africa. (Photo: Durban International Film Festival)

This is one of the oldest and largest film festivals in Southern Africa.



Held in July, the festival saw more than 200 screenings celebrating the best in South African, African and international cinema.

The incentive scheme is geared towards growing the South Africa film industry and exposing fresh cinematic talent.

The budgeted R100 million has supported the projects of 40 emerging filmmakers. However, Molokoane said that despite the dti's investment, producers still find it difficult to access the additional funds needed to see their productions through to the end.

### **Positive results from partnerships**

She said the department has now partnered. There is some relief ahead, however. A partnership between with the dti, the Industrial Development Corporation, National Film and Video Foundation, SABC and provincial film commissions will further assist filmmakers.

"The scale of projects has been increasing since the inception of the scheme in 2014. The department initially approved 15 applications; thereafter it increased to 40 over a period of three years. Partnership with these institutions will yield

positive results in the near future and we will see more productions being supported."

She added that workshops would be held in various provinces to assist filmmakers in accessing the available support.

The workshop at the Durban International Film Festival was hosted to assist those that needed training on the incentive scheme, its guidelines and requirement.

Rehad Desai, a beneficiary of the incentive and director of the Marikana documentary *Miners Shot Down*, said the scheme was the most important development in the South African film industry.

"We are seeing far more films being produced since the launch of the scheme and this means funding of projects happens in a short space of time and one can go into production quicker. This also means our production companies are becoming sustainable," said Desai.

1994 - 2024



# FAREWELL MAMA WINNIE



**South Africa** mourns heroine, struggle stalwart and mother-to-the-nation Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, who took her last breath on 2 April at the age of 81.

“She died after a long illness, for which she had been in and out of hospital since the start of the year. She succumbed peacefully surrounded by her family and loved ones,” said family spokesperson Victor Dlamini. President Cyril Ramaphosa and his wife, Dr Tshepo Motsepe during Winnie Madikizela-Mandela’s 80th birthday party.

President Cyril Ramaphosa said her passing has created a profound sense of loss and deep sadness.

1936 - 2018 Lala ngoxolo qhawekazi “Even at the darkest moments of our struggle for liberation, Mam’ Winnie was an abiding symbol of the desire of our people to be free.”

The President said in the midst of repression, she was a voice of defiance and resistance. In the face of exploitation, she was a champion of justice and equality.

“It was through marriage that she rose to prominence, but it was through her own contribution, her sacrifice and her unyielding determination that she gained the love and the respect of the nation.”

He encouraged South Africans to mourn the passing of the heroine of the struggle, and to reflect on her rich, remarkable and meaningful life.

“Let us draw inspiration from the struggles that she fought and the dream of a better society to which she dedicated her life. We have lost a mother, a leader and an icon.”

Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela received a Special Official Funeral at the Orlando Stadium in Soweto. True to the person that she was, the funeral was attended by thousands of diverse people.

Meanwhile, the Nelson Mandela Foundation paid their tributes to the icon and stalwart of the liberation.

“Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela’s passing is a hard blow for the foundation. She travelled a very long road together with our founder, Nelson Mandela. She was a member of a generation of leaders which survived the most brutal period of state terror in apartheid South Africa. And she was a friend of the foundation.

“All South Africans are indebted to

Mama Winnie... From the witness of her life, we knew we could stand tall; we knew also we could falter and stumble. Either condition was an affirmation of life. Her cry was our cry, and in 2018 we can say we did triumph.

“We will miss her, and our country will miss her. Hamba kahle (farewell) Mama,” said foundation chairperson Professor Njabulo Ndebele.



1994 - 2024





# MAHLANGU SHOWCASES NDEBELE HERITAGE TO THE WORLD

Despite having no formal education, iconic Ndebele artist Esther Mahlangu has gained international fame, thanks to the passion she has for her heritage.



**Dr Esther Mahlangu** (82) is the perfect embodiment of what can be achieved by embracing your heritage.

Mahlangu is known all over the world as the South African artist from the

Ndebele nation who uses her contemporary painting style to represent amaNdebele. Dr Esther Mahlangu was bestowed the Order of iKhamanga by former President Thabo Mbeki.



Her work has been featured by various local and international brands such as BMW, Honda, British Airways, Albany and Tastic rice, to mention a few. It has also been showcased in many art exhibitions across the globe.

*Vuk'uzenzele* visited her home near Mthambothini in Mpumalanga to speak to her about the importance of embracing heritage and culture.

“My heritage is part of who I am. It is important for everyone to love who they are and respect their culture. Respecting your culture can take you places and also put food on your table,” she said.

### Youth and heritage

Mahlangu said young people should take it from her that sticking to their roots and embracing their traditions and culture could be their ticket to the world.

She has proudly embraced her Ndebele culture throughout her life, in how she dresses, her hairstyle and, most importantly, how she has decorated the interior and exterior of her home with iconic Ndebele shapes and colours.

The geometric patterns painted on houses announce events like a birth, death, wedding, or when a boy goes off to the initiation school. “Even when a woman gets married, she is expected to paint her own house by herself to show her in-laws that she has been brought up well,” Mahlangu added.

Mahlangu was taught to paint by her mother and grandmother and first tackled her own patch of wall when she was 10 years old. She loved painting but had no idea that one day she would make a living out of it and even travel the world.

“I grew up seeing my mother and grandmother do the paintings at home,” she said. One day, when they took a break, little Esther snuck in and did a bit of painting of her own. She was caught and scolded but the allure was too great and she continued to sneakily add her own daubs of colour. Eventually, her grandmother allowed her to claim a spot behind the house as her own.

“They later realised that I had a passion for it and I had improved, so they finally allowed me to paint the front of the house where everyone could see. They were impressed with what I could do,” she recalled.

Back then, Mahlangu said they mixed cow dung with white soil, red soil or black soil in order to get the colours they wanted. Chicken feathers were used as brushes.

“When I got married, I was already mastering the art of painting, and my in-laws were really impressed. They could see that I was raised well,” she said.

### Mahlangu's first international trip

Years later – in the late 1980s, her colourful Middelburg home drew the attention of French tourists who

1994 - 2024



were so blown away by her work that they commissioned her to do work in France.

“They took a picture of my house. It was a long time ago. Nelson Mandela was still in prison then. The tourists went to look for me immediately and when they found me, they told me that they wanted me to go to France with them to do the painting in their country,” she recalled.

“I had to get permission from my children and started making arrangements to get a visa. About five months later, my documents were ready and they came to fetch me. It was my first flight and so I arranged to travel with one of my children. When I arrived in Paris, I was shocked to see that they had built a house exactly like mine and they just wanted me to decorate it like I had done my own in South Africa,” she shared.

She has since been in demand and toured many countries across the globe to showcase her talent and the rich Ndebele heritage. Her work has taken her to Japan, Portugal, Italy, Spain, the United States of America, Germany, Switzerland, Australia, Brazil and England.

### **World-wide recognition**

She has collected a number of accolades over the years, internationally and locally, including an honorary doctorate and an Order of Ikhamanga along with being the first woman

in the world to create artwork on the BMW 5251.

“All these awards and recognition for my work mean a lot to me as an individual and a Ndebele woman. I am really happy and it encourages me to continue inspiring others to love their culture,” she said.

“All my life, I have maintained the same hairstyle and worn my traditional regalia. This is who I am and I am proud of it. I wish young people could go back to their roots and embrace who they are so that the world can recognise them for who they are,” she said.

Mahlangu had three children but they have all passed on. However, she has passed on her knowledge to her grandchildren and has also opened the Ndebele Art School for children in her area.

“Some of my students have already travelled overseas to showcase their talents,” she said.

While Mahlangu’s work has evolved over the years, and she paints on various mediums, including canvas and ceramic, she continues to paint freehand without prior measurement or sketches and to use feathers and bundles of twigs as brushes.

- *More Matshediso*



ESTHER





# STEPS TO CURB WOMEN ABUSE

President Cyril Ramaphosa has reiterated that women abuse has no place in South Africa.



**“It should** also have no place in our homes, at places of work, churches, schools and on the streets of our townships, on the pathways of our villages and also in our cities and towns,” President Ramaphosa said.

He was speaking at the official opening of Booyens Magistrate’s Court and the signing of the Gender-Based

Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Declaration in Johannesburg recently.

The state-of-the-art Booyens Magistrate’s Court comprises 10 courts, including four district courts, Civil Court, Family Court, Children’s Court, Small Claims Court, as well as two regional courts for criminal and sexual offences.



The declaration, on the other hand, is borne out of the National GBV and Femicide Summit, held in November 2018, in an effort to find solutions to GBV and femicide.

Addressing stakeholders and members of civil society, President Ramaphosa said that the summit opened the eyes and ears, and even the hearts, of many people to the gravity and impact of GBV in the country.

“We have heard the pleas of survivors of GBV to be treated with respect by our criminal justice system. In opening this new Sexual Offences Court in Booysens, we are affirming the right of the women and girls of this country to be treated with professionalism and empathy.

“The opening of the court and the declaration against GBV and femicide are two of the measures we have put in place since the Presidential Summit convened in November last year,” President Ramaphosa said. President Cyril Ramaphosa officially

opened the Booysens Magistrate’s Court and signed the GBVF Declaration. This has been hailed as a step in the right direction in ending women and child abuse in South Africa.

As a nation, the President said South Africa is making a bold and unequivocal declaration that “we will not yield to GBV”.

“We will not allow it to steadily consume our people, to erode our dreams of a stable and peaceful society in which all have equal rights and opportunities, regardless of their race, gender, sexual orientation or the circumstances of their birth.

“In signing this declaration against GBV and femicide, we are saying as a collective, that the cancer of women abuse has no place whatsoever in our homes, communities, churches, schools, streets and our villages, towns and cities,” the President said.

The Minister of Women Bathabile Dlamini said the South African Constitution places huge emphasis on non-sexism. She said this must be aligned with programmes that fight GBV.

Minister Dlamini called for the proper training of all people working in the justice system and that they should be sensitised to respect women.

1994 - 2024





# FOOTBALL CLUB KEEPS YOUTH OFF THE STREETS



**Lion Stars FC** in Joe Slovo Park, Cape Town, has helped a handful of youngsters kick life-destroying habits.

Owner Khayaletu Dyani (49) said his club saved a youngster who was living on the streets, as well as three others who were heavily involved in drugs.

“Three players got involved with drugs and gangsters while they were playing for us but we managed to help them correct their path. In the team, we also have a player who was living on the streets and who was addicted to drugs. After he joined

our team, he cleaned up his act and is now an active church member in our community,” said Dyani. Lion Stars Football Club players have managed to stop using drugs thanks to playing for the team.

Started in 2014 by Dyani, Lion Stars FC was created specifically to help keep young people away from drugs and gangsterism.

“The parents of many children in my neighbourhood had given up on them because of drugs,” he said.

Myolisi Tapile (17), who plays for Lion Stars’ senior team, said he used

to smoke marijuana with his peers. Tapile said he quit the team for some months because drugs had taken control of him.

“I started smoking marijuana because it seemed cool. At some point, I got so heavily involved in drugs that I quit playing soccer. Fortunately, I later realised that soccer was a tool to success,” Tapile said.

He said when he returned to the soccer field, he had to work twice as hard to earn his place in the team as he was in poor health. Tapile said in his Joe Slovo community, drugs such as tik and mandrax are easily accessible and a large number of his peers are using them.

Dyani believes that in order to curb social ills, community members must play an active role in promoting positive activities, such as sport.

“We must find out what young people are interested in and get them active in those areas. It helps no one to insist that they do things that don’t interest them at all,” he said.

The club plays in the Milnerton Local Division and has Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16 teams, as well as a senior team.

- Silusapho Nyanda

**“I started smoking marijuana because it seemed cool. At some point, I got so heavily involved in drugs that I quit playing soccer. Fortunately, I later realised that soccer was a tool to success.”**

1994 - 2024



# FROM BOYS TO GOOD MEN

A Limpopo organisation is determined to help shape boys on their journey to becoming courteous, respectful and honourable men.

**Teaching young men** how to behave is crucial to ending gender-based violence (GBV).

This is the message preached by a Limpopo-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) called Malebo “A” moledi which means the care givers gratitude in Sepedi. The organisation works with communities to guide young boys raised by single parents. Director Lekgalwa Moloto believes the shaping of boys’ conduct is important as it informs their behaviour as adults.

“Single parents are busy and sometimes don’t have the time to monitor the behaviour of their children. As an organisation, we assist parents by fostering behaviour change,” Moloto said.

Sekhukhune resident Kholofelo Bokgobelo (28) said thanks to the NGO, he quit smoking marijuana



and realised he has to protect women and children from abuse. “Malebo “A” moledi taught me to not abuse women and children. They are very important in the betterment of our society,” Bokgobelo said.

He said working with the organisation inspired him to play an active role in ending GBV.

Malebo “A” moledi’s strategy is built around a 10-point plan:

Love: Boys are taught to love themselves.

Parental care: Parents are coached to show they care.

Responsibility: Young men are taught to be responsible for their own lives.

Refreshment and education: This, Moloto said, helps to constantly remind young men how to behave.

Respect others: Boys are educated to treat others, especially women, with

respect.

Language: The importance of proper language at home and in society is highlighted.

Appropriate toys: Parents are guided on the importance of appropriate toys.

Friends and relationships: The importance of choosing the right type of friends is emphasised.

Empathy: Boys are given lessons on showing empathy for others but not to condone bad behaviour.

Dialogue: Parents need to openly communicate with their children.

The organisation, which counts the provincial Department of Social Development as one of its partners, visits schools and communities to engage young people. Moloto said they also work with village elders to ensure that their teachings are passed down the generations.

- *Silusapho Nyanda*

**“Single parents are busy and sometimes don’t have the time to monitor the behaviour of their children. As an organisation, we assist parents by fostering behaviour change.”**

1994 - 2024



# YOUNG SKIER WAVES SA FLAG HIGH

An Eastern Cape teenager is showing the country that despite its hot conditions, South Africa can produce skiing champions.

**Thabo Rateleki** (17) of Barkly East in the Eastern Cape made South Africa proud when he qualified for the 2020 Winter Youth Olympic Games held in Lausanne, Switzerland, in January.

He and Hanle van der Merwe were the only two South Africans to compete in the Slalom and Giant Slalom events.

According to the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee, Rateleki was the flag-bearer at these games.

His achievements in alpine skiing competitions at national level include winning a gold medal in the Slalom discipline at the National Championships in 2018; and placing second in the Giant Slalom discipline and third in Slalom at the 2019 National Championships and National Junior Championships respectively.

These successes qualified him for the 2020 Winter Youth Olympic Games where he was the 39th person across the finish line.

Speaking to Vuk'uzenzele, he said he was excited to have finished the race at this prestigious event – which also marked the first time he had skied outside of South Africa.

Currently in Grade 10, his dream is to become a ski coach.

“I have always wanted to travel the world and to become one of South Africa’s champions. I am glad that my dreams are starting to come true,” he said.

Rateleki said his family is very supportive, explaining that his parents arranged for him to join the Ikhephu Ski Pups Junior Development Club at the Tiffindell Ski Resort in 2015. He is still a member.

He fell in love with snow as a young-





ster and was very excited to learn about Tiffindell, the only ski resort in sunny South Africa.

“I skied for the first time five years ago and I loved it. It was an awesome experience but a bit scary,” he said.

He loves sport in general and reckons

that he is also talented in soccer and tennis.

His message to young people is that they should find what they love and dedicate themselves to the pursuit of excellence.

- *More Matshediso*



# ALL-WOMAN FIREFIGHTING TEAM MAKES HISTORY

An Eastern Cape teenager is showing the country that despite its hot conditions, South Africa can produce skiing champions.

**Juliet Crew** is the end result of the All-Woman Wildland Firefighting Project, the brainchild of NCC Environmental Services.

Kylie Paul, superintendent of the team, says that she has been proud to witness the growth of the women. “In a very short period of time, the women went from shy and quiet, to proud and confident,” says Paul.

Sharne Maritz (19), a Juliet Crew firefighter, says that being part of the team has given her motivation for the future.

“In my community, we deal with a lot of gang violence, teenage pregnancy, youth unemployment and a high rate of poverty. Being part of this team has not only taken me away from my daily life, it has given me more drive for my future, she says.”

With 30 years of experience in wildfire management Dean Ferreira, the managing director of NCC Environmental Services says he has always wanted to offer women firefighters specialist training and their own quarters so that

they could build self-belief in their capabilities and shatter the glass ceiling created by male firefighters.



In partnership with Chrysalis Academy, a youth development organisation formed by the Western Cape Provincial Government, NCC opened applications for a firefighting programme for at-risk females between the ages of 18 and 25. A team of 15 candidates were selected to become part of the Juliet Crew.

Over 90 percent of crew members come from female-headed households in Philippi, Retreat, Mfuleni, Khayelitsha, Capricorn Park and Macassar, all of which have a legacy of poverty and violence.

The team recently took part in its first major operation when they helped battle a blaze in Noordhoek.

Charl Steenkamp, brand manager for NCC, says that the team performed exceptionally well.

“I witnessed them arriving on the scene, fully geared up and ready. They were immediately deployed and began operations with efficiency. This was their first time in a major operation, with helicopters flying and dumping water all around us and major burning happening not far from them.” Steenkamp says the Crew Juliet performed exceptionally and handled the pressures well, following the lead of their superintendent carefully.

### **Fire safety tips for you and your family**

A small uncontrolled fire can quickly spread and become a threat to people's lives and their property. Uncontrolled fires also occur in winter months, when there's a need to keep warm.

### **Prevention of fires**

In order to prevent fires from starting or spreading, you should,

not leave open fires unattended and should use sand to kill the fire, make sure that your home has no illegal electrical connections and that multiplugs are not overloaded, as these can overheat causing sparks and fires, tell someone who is playing carelessly with fires, matches or lighters to stop know your emergency numbers to report veldfires in your area. What to do when a fire starts inside your home?

Warn people inside the house to get out safely.

Help people to get out and stay out of harm's way.

If there is a lot of smoke, crawl out below the smoke to escape the fire.

How to put out a fire without water

A fire needs heat, oxygen and fuel to survive. Without one of these elements the fire will die.

If you don't have access to water or a fire extinguisher use sand or a wet blanket.

If the fire occurs on your kitchen stove, try to smother the fire by placing a lid on top.

Never use water to kill an electrical fire.

It's also handy to keep a bucket of clean sand ready outside your kitchen door, or if possible, a small fire extinguisher.

For more opportunities offered by NCC Environmental Services, follow their Facebook page @NCCEnviron \*To find out more about the training offered by Chrysalis Academy, call 021 712 1023.







# SPRINGBOK CAPTAIN MAKES AFRICAN HISTORY

An Eastern Cape teenager is showing the country that despite its hot conditions, South Africa can produce skiing champions.

**Springbok Women's** captain Babalwa Latsha (25) is leading the pack in women's rugby at home and across the continent. She recently made history as the first African woman to become a professional rugby player after signing with Spanish team SD Eibar Femenino.

The forward can play in both the tighthead and loosehead prop positions, as well as the Number Eight position.

Latsha says her achievement means far more to her than personal glory – she hopes it will inspire other young women who play the sport.

“Being the first African female professional rugby player is a pride for me. It's a massive achievement not only for me as an individual, but for the game of women's rugby itself in South Africa and in Africa. I hope from this we can garner momentum and have more African women rugby players turning professional and plying their trade overseas. I hope

this becomes the norm at home first,” she says.

Latsha says she hopes she will be an example to other young women and show them that with passion and hard work, anything is possible.

The move to SD Eibar Femenino, Latsha says, came after scouts from the Spanish team spotted her during a game between the two countries' national teams.

Having played soccer and participated in track and field events such as the shotput, Latsha only started playing rugby seriously at university. As a youngster, she had briefly dabbled in the game, in her home township of Khayelitsha in Cape Town, through the South African Rugby Legend's Vuka programme, which aims to promote rugby in disadvantage communities and areas where it is not being played.

She then left the game until 2014 when she began studying law at the

**“Being the first African female professional rugby player is a pride for me. It’s a massive achievement not only for me as an individual, but for the game of women’s rugby itself in South Africa.”**

University of the Western Cape. During her first year, Latsha was approached by a group of female rugby players, who asked her to join their Sevens team which was going to play in the University Sports South Africa tournament that year.

Latsha ended up playing for the university team on a full-time basis. She then went on to play for the Western Cape provincial team, which she captained at three consecutive SA Rugby Women’s Interprovincial A-Section championships – in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

In 2018, Latsha was part of the Sevens team that represented South Africa at the Rugby World Cup Sevens tournament in San Francisco in the United States of America. In 2019, she made her debut for the 15-a-side team. She was named captain of the team in the same year.

“I have captained the Springbok side for a season-and-a-half,” she says.

She advises young women aspiring to make it in the game to train hard, maintain a healthy lifestyle, have a passion for the game, believe strongly in themselves and enjoy what they do.

“As a woman who plays rugby, a male-dominated sport, you have to believe in yourself because you are most likely to be ridiculed for one reason or another. People will say you look like a man or are trying to be a man. They will say you are too muscular for a girl. You never fit into any box of society.

“However, you need to stand your ground. You need to be confident in yourself and remain undeterred,” Latsha says.

- Silusapho Nyanda

1994 - 2024





# R100 MILLION TO FIGHT GBVF

For four years, Ntomboxolo Mrubata (38) did not know that she was in an emotionally abusive relationship.



**She was involved** with a man who continuously hurled insults at her and made her feel worthless.

“The emotional abuse I was subjected to made me feel small and belittled. I felt like I was nothing and could not do anything for myself. This man

would even restrict my movement, he basically owned me. My self-confidence had reached rock bottom, I never thought that I could get out of that dark whole,” said Mrubata.

Mrubata who originates from Eden in Western Cape, eventually gained

the courage to leave the abusive relationship after attending an information session facilitated by the Bitou Women of Change NGO.

“This information session really opened my eyes. I was not aware of the other forms of abuse, especially those that did not involve physical harm. I realised that I too was being abused.” I spoke to the coordinator after the session and she invited me to get counselling and life skills training that would help me leave the relationship for good,” says Mrubata.

Mrubata received skills on how to start a business, computer skills and currently working towards obtaining a driver’s license with the assistance of the Bitou Women of Change.

“With the information I received from Bitou Women for Change, I managed to start a small business to sustain myself. I sell chips and fat cakes. This business has given me the confidence to never return to that abusive relationship I was in.”

The Bitou Women of Change NGO is a community development organisation which empowers and skills women that were in abusive relationships. The organisation offers business development skills, self-development programmes, computer skills and learner’s licence courses. In addition to this, Bitou also offers counselling for abused victims.

Funds pumped into fighting GBV

Bitou Women for Change is one of the 131 organisations that fight gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) that have received funding from the Department of Social Development (DSD).

The organisation got R300 000 funding which was administered by the National Development Agency (NDA) which is an entity of the DSD. The funds came from the R100 million donated by the Criminal Assets Recovery (CARA) Funds Account to organisations that are fighting GBVF.

Bitou Women for Change received the first R150 000 from the NDA in June and is waiting for the second payment. The organisation is going to use this money to buy more computers to ensure that more survivors of GBV receive computer skills and more women can attend the courses that the organisation offers.

Minister of Social Development Lindiwe Zulu says the CARA funding is available over a two-year period. She explains that R95 million will be used to financially support the work of the organisations, while the remaining R5 million will be used to mentor and coach emerging civil society organisations.

### **Men take a stand**

The funding from DSD will play a part in also educating men and boys about the dangers of GBVF.

Started in 2014, Masikhulumeni

1994 - 2024



Madoda is an NGO that offers shelter and support to survivors of GBVF – both male and female. It offers shelter, counselling and intervention for victims of abuse. The organisation also works with men to help curb abuse and femicide.

Masikhulumeni Madoda educates abusers on how to deal with life challenges and problems that they face without resorting to violence.

In addition to this, Masikhulumeni Madoda has awareness programmes for young men where they are taught about the challenges they will face as they grow older and the best ways to handle these problems.

Treasurer of the organisation Mfana Mavayeya says that even though they focus is on therapy, they also assist victims in reporting cases to the police and in seeking protection orders against their abusers.

“If the abuse victim says that they don’t feel safe in going back to their home, we accommodate them at our shelter while they rebuild their lives,” says Mavayeya, explaining that people who stay at the shelter receive life skills training.

In cases where the victim of a GBV decides to go back home, a social

worker from Masikhulumeni Madoda makes weekly visits to the home in order to see if there has been any progress. This also helps the organisation detect at an early stage if there is a possibility of the abuse to continue.

“Our organisation works by first offering counselling for the victim and education for the abuser. When an abused person comes to us, we offer them shelter, food and clothes first. We then counsel them and ask if they are willing to go through a counselling session with their abuser,” says Mavayeya.

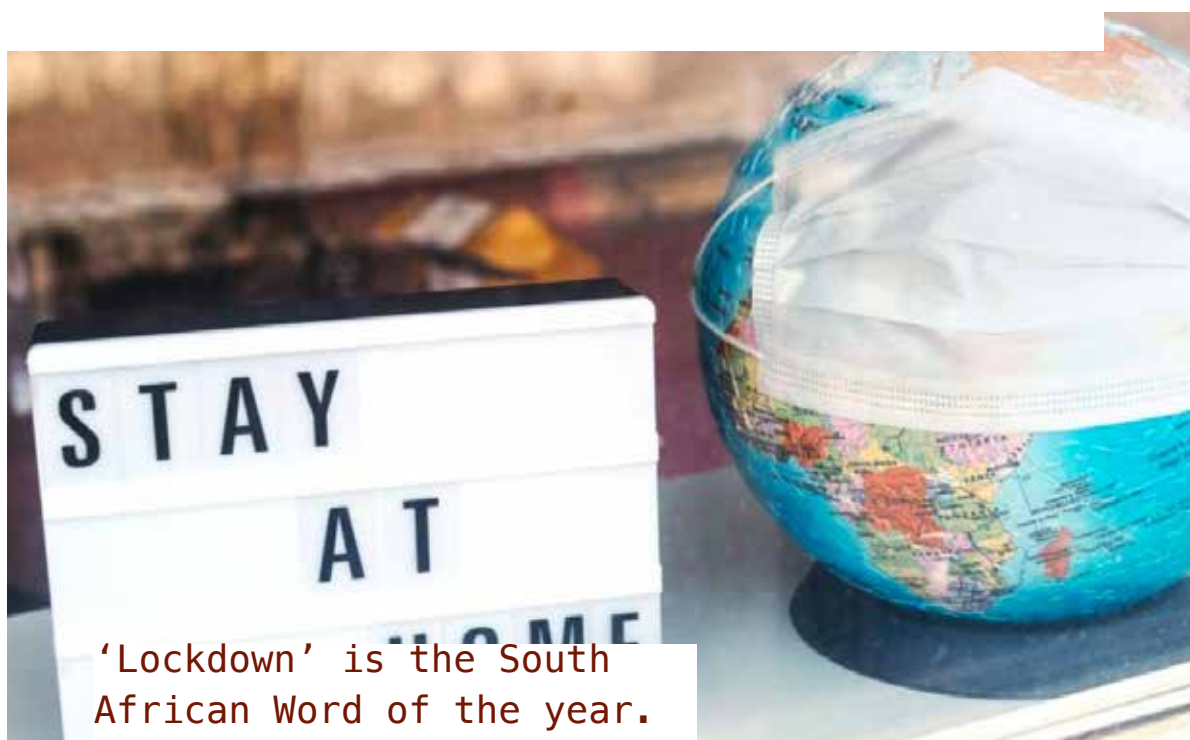
Thanks to the R150 000 funding Masikhulumeni Madoda also received from the DSD, the organisation recently upgraded from a four -to a seven-bed accommodation facility where it houses survivors.

A black and white photograph showing the back of a person with long, dark, wavy hair. The person's skin is light-colored. A large, bold, black tattoo is visible on the upper back, consisting of three lines of text. The text is written in a thick, hand-painted style. The first line reads 'Love', the second line reads 'Shouldn't', and the third line reads 'Hurt'.

**Love  
Shouldn't  
Hurt**



# 'LOCKDOWN' DECLARED SA WORD OF 2020



'Lockdown' is the South African Word of the year.

## **'Lockdown' alongside**

'COVID-19' and 'Jerusalema' were shortlisted by the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB), in association with media research company, Focal Points, as candidates for SA Word of the Year 2020.

Lockdown was declared the winner.

The South African Word of the Year

is a word, term or expression preferred to reflect the passing year in language.

PanSALB reviewed candidates for SA Word of the Year and their merits were debated choosing one that captures the philosophy, mood, or pre-occupations of this particular year.

"We can all attest to the rampage



caused by the Coronavirus. It is all that we have talked about as we continue to navigate through its unforgiving rage. Hence, in choosing this year's SA Word of the Year we have had to take the process a step further to broaden the criteria and also consider the cultural significance and influence the word has had amongst South Africans," says PanSALB Acting Chief Executive, Willie Manana, in a statement.

"The lockdown has affected various parts of our lives and continues to do so: how we conduct business, our social interactions and cultural practices," he added.

Through Focal Points, keywords were tracked for the period October 2019 to September 2020.

This media data was analysed to determine the prominence of the keywords within the media and to identify the frequency that they were used in credible print, broadcast and online media.

Furthermore, the usage of the words on platforms such as social media, everyday interactions and their cultural significance were considered for inclusion in the shortlist.

With the declaration of the National State of Disaster on 15 March 2020, PanSALB says the word 'lockdown' suddenly became a topical issue and

part of everyday vocabulary as the country went on Level 5 lockdown on 27 March 2020.

"Scores of people queued outside bottle stores and supermarkets stocking up on groceries in preparation of what was to become one of the strictest lockdowns in the world," read the statement.

In true Mzansi style, South Africans soon found creative ways to entertain themselves amidst the pandemic to adjust to the 'new normal'.

Many well-known DJs and music channels took to hosting virtual 'lockdown parties', friends and family connected virtually via digital platforms such as Zoom.

"There is no argument that the lockdown has changed the way we live and has opened up a whole new world that has made it possible for us to work in the comfort of our own homes. Reaching just under half a million mentions on print, broadcast, online and further mentions on social media and in everyday conversations - all accumulated in just over six months, we dare say the word/term 'lockdown' is a worthy winner," said PanSALB.

1994 - 2024



# NEW ZULU KING IS CONFIDENT THAT SA'S CHALLENGES WILL BE OVERCOME

**The Zulu nation** began a new era when President Cyril Ramaphosa handed over a certificate of recognition to King Misuzulu kaZwelithini in a watershed ceremony that took place in a packed Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban recently.

The occasion certified King Misuzulu as the ninth monarch of the Zulu kingdom, which was formed by King Shaka over two centuries ago. King Misuzulu ascended to the throne following the death of his father, King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu, in March 2021. Subsequently, Queen Regent Mantfombi maDlamini, who was the great wife of the late king, passed away and Misuzulu was named the preferred successor by the royal family. King



Mswati III, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister Dr Nkosazane Dlamini-Zuma, President Cyril Ramaphosa, King Misuzulu kaZwelithini and KwaZulu-Natal Premier Nomusa Dube-Ncube during the coronation.

While he was already on the throne

and was traditionally coronated in August when he performed the Ukungena Esibayeni (Entering the Kraal) ceremony, the handover certificate cemented his kingship as per the Constitution of the country.

Ministers and deputy ministers attended the ceremony, as did former presidents Jacob Zuma, Thabo Mbeki and former president of Botswana Ian Khama, former South African deputy president Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, President of the Confederation of African Football Patrice Motsepe and Princess Charlene of Monaco. Kings and queens from various African kingdoms were also among the guests.

King Mswati III, who is King Misuzulu's uncle (half-brother to his mother, Queen Mantfombi) led the delegation from Eswatini. He delivered a congratulatory message in which he appealed for stronger relations between South Africa and Eswatini.

The last ceremony of this kind was held five decades ago when the late King Goodwill Zwelithini took the throne in 1971.

The coronation marked the official endorsement of the King by the State, in line with the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act of 2019.

The Zulu King will receive a budget from the KwaZulu-Natal provincial government, allocated to the royal

household. The money is used for major cultural events and to maintain the palaces.

### Developing rural areas

President Ramaphosa committed his government to work with the King to change people's lives and transform rural areas into places of development and prosperity. He says traditional leaders are custodians of the cultures, customs and traditions that make us who we are.

King Misuzulu kaZwelithini giving President Cyril Ramaphosa a special gift during the coronation. "You are the latest in a long line of great kings, who have seen many challenges across the centuries, and today we are also faced with many difficulties. Millions of our people are unemployed and live in poverty. Substance abuse, crime and the abuse of women, children and the elderly are devastating our communities. Many of our rural areas suffer from poor services and a lack of jobs. Land reform remains a huge problem.

"As government at the local, provincial and national level, we continue to make several interventions to address all these challenges and will want to rely on you, Your Majesty, to work with us to address the problems that our people are facing on a daily basis."

As King Misuzulu took to the podium, the crowd cheered. He told his subjects and guests that he took

1994 - 2024



over the throne when the country was facing challenges such as unemployment, poverty, and trust deficits in the government, and he vowed to work with all stakeholders to overcome the challenges.

“It is my daily prayer that I will be the catalyst for development and change. Our history is incomplete without other races of Indians, English, Afrikaners, and other Nguni tribes. I am devoted to promoting peace and reconciliation as my father (King Zwelithini) had already started. I have full confidence in our government that

we will overcome the challenges if we work together,” he said.

### **Witnessing the King’s coronation**

About 45 000 people, mainly Zulu regiments (amabutho) and maidens clad in their traditional attire, took turns to salute the King in front of the stage. They spoke with pride of how privileged they were to be part of what they hoped would be a once-in-a-lifetime ceremony.

“It is an amazing feeling to be in full traditional gear, as we normally wear suits. The atmosphere is overwhelming... I’m truly proud of being a Zulu and seeing other nations coming to celebrate with us,” said Zibonele Mncwango from Pietermaritzburg. It was a cultural hub of activities during the coronation of King Misuzulu ka-Zwelithini.

Dolly Masango, Commander of Maidens, led thousands of maidens who came from various areas of KwaZulu-Natal. She said the maidens, like regiments, are special to the King as they are by his side, wherever he goes.

“We are happy that the succession process is finally over and the King can continue with programmes where we play our roles as maidens,” she said.

A pensioner, Mbhekiseni Mpaza, said he was lucky to have witnessed the coronation. “It is encouraging to see many young people being part of this; it shows that the Zulu culture will be preserved for future generations,” he said.











# YOUNG SKATEBOARDING PRODIGY TAKES THE WORLD BY STORM

Skateboarder, Boipelo Awuah (18) of Kimberley in the Northern Cape, represented South Africa at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

**The event** kicked off on 26 July and will end on 11 August in France.

Awuah was ranked 18th at the recent Women's Skateboarding Prelims event.

In 2020, Awuah debuted on the global stage at just the age of 15 during the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. At the time, her Olympic stint was cut short by an injury sustained during training. Despite the setback, Awuah remained determined, eyeing the Paris 2024 Olympics as her next major goal.

Over the past three and a half years, Awuah has travelled worldwide, competing internationally to qualify for this year's Olympics.

"All thanks to the Olympic Solidarity programme, I have been able to

attend most of the qualifying events," said Awuah.

The Olympic Solidarity aims to assist all National Olympic Committees with athlete development programmes, in particular those with the greatest need. Its mission is to help National Olympic and Paralympic Committees such as South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee, to develop and strengthen their athletes and administrators through targeted programmes.

Guiding her through this precise journey is her coach Melissa Williams who has not only trained her physically but also strengthened her mentally for the challenges that lie ahead.

"I can truly say this is the hardest I have ever worked to become a better

skateboarder and to prepare myself [for the competition], so I'm very thankful to have my coach right by my side," said Awuah.

Since 2019, she has proudly held the title of the top female African skater.

Beyond her achievements, she finds massive joy in hosting ladies' skate sessions, where she encourages more females to embrace and excel in the sport. However, her path has not been without obstacles.

"Challenges that I have faced include being treated differently and not getting certain jobs because I am female. I still battle with this but it only motivates me to keep going, progressing and challenging myself [to improve my talent]," she explained.

Awuah's talent has enabled her to tour around the globe, with Dubai and Tokyo standing out as destinations that have inspired her the most. These experiences have shown her that despite her humble beginnings in Kimberley, dreams are within reach with determination and hard work.

Her journey began at the tender age of five years, inspired by the sight of her older brother and his friends effortlessly floating on their skateboards in front of their home.

Looking ahead, Awuah envisions a bright future beyond her successful skateboarding career. Her dream is

to establish a skateboarding academy, where she can bring up young talent and prepare future Olympians.

"I plan to integrate a ministry within my academy, aiming to inspire and guide youth through their faith journey," she said.

As she continues her journey towards the Olympics and beyond, she remains a role model for young athletes everywhere, especially in South Africa and the African continent. ¥

**For more information about the Paris 2024 Olympics, visit: <https://olympics.com/en/paris-2024>**



1994 - 2024

The graphic features a background divided into three diagonal sections: a yellow section at the top left, a green section in the middle, and a red section at the bottom right. The number '30' is written in a large, white, cursive font across the green section.

30

YEARS OF  
*empowering stories*

---

# EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH

---



# KEEPING BLIND LEARNERS IN TOUCH WITH THE WORLD



Gone are the days when blind and partially sighted learners who wanted to learn about geography had to make their own map books. South Africa's first Braille atlas of maps, especially produced for blind and partially sighted learners, is now putting them in touch with the world.

For more information about the Braille atlas, call  
Mariana French on 021 658-4414

**Making their** own map books cost schools for blind and partially sighted learners a lot of money and time. They have to use special Braille paper, string and glue. In addition, such maps are usually quite small and the information very limited.

## First for South Africa

To help these schools, the Depart-

ment of Land Affairs introduced the first of its kind, a Braille atlas for blind learners this year. The atlases will open up a whole new world for partially sighted and blind people in South Africa.

“Producing this book is a first of its kind for South Africa. It shows Government’s commitment to levelling



the playing field between able and disabled persons,” said Lulu Xingwana, Minister of Land Affairs.

### Valuable tool

The atlas is a valuable educational tool for blind people who can read Braille. This is in line with our country’s Constitution, which states that people with disabilities have the right to access of information.

The books are part of the school syllabus. They will make life much easier for learners when doing homework and class assignments.

### Schools

The atlases were distributed to schools for the blind and partially blind throughout the country. They are used mainly by Grade 10, 11 and 12 learners studying Travel and Tourism and also by Grade 8 and 9 learners doing Social Sciences.

“Learners are now having great fun learning about the different provinces and cities in South Africa,” said Mokhine Boshielo, a History Teacher at the Filadelfia School for Visual and Hearing Impaired Learners.

She said they aim to get an atlas for every learner in the school, as it is difficult for learners to share the books and read the Braille together.

### Major step forward

“This atlas is a major step forward in the classroom. Hopefully our learners can soon start learning about other countries and continents with international Braille maps,” Boshielo said.

Currently, the maps are of South Africa’s provinces and regions only.

- Samona Murugan

**“Producing this book is a first of its kind for South Africa. It shows Government’s commitment to levelling the playing field between able and disabled persons.”**

1994 - 2024



# PASSIONATE ABOUT SERVING HIS COUNTRY

**“I studied medicine** because I was passionate about it and have always loved helping people.” These are not just empty words from Bongani Mahlangu. A study loan from government gave him an opportunity of a lifetime to study medicine in Cuba. He is now committed to serving the people of South Africa in the public sector, because it is the tax payers’ money that helped him to become a doctor.

Bongani Mahlangu was born on 22 July 1977 in Soweto. The family was poor and he had a hard life, but he sees nothing extraordinary about how he grew up. He said his life in Soweto shaped who he is today.

“My life was not different to any other child in Soweto. The challenges were there and I had to face them,” Mahlangu said.

## Life-long dream

He went to many different schools, because the family was always moving from one area to another. “I finally finished school in Kwa-Ndebele,” Mahlangu said.

After finishing school, he completed a certificate course in business and

office management. But he wanted to study for a degree and registered for civil engineering at the then Technikon SA. He had to work part time to pay for his studies.

In September 1999, his life-long dream came true. “I saw an advert in a newspaper. The Gauteng Department of Health advertised bursaries for disadvantaged youth to study medicine in Cuba,” he said. “I thought I would never be selected as I didn’t think I would meet the criteria.”

He applied anyway and to his surprise he was one of the few who got the bursary. “It was an opportunity of a lifetime,” he said.

## Satisfaction

Mahlangu said his stay in Cuba was interesting, but it was sometimes hard for him because he missed home a lot.

He completed his studies and returned to South Africa in 2007. He now works as an intern at Natalspruit Hospital and wants to remain in the public sector even after his internship. “I believe I owe it to the people of South Africa to serve and help



"Let us all stand together and help our country grow."  
- Bongani Mahlangu

For more information about bursaries from the  
Gauteng Department of Health, call 011 355-3000,  
or visit their website: [www.health.gpg.gov.za](http://www.health.gpg.gov.za)

them. It is after all the tax payers' money which helped me to become a doctor," he said.

### Passion

"People shouldn't do medicine for the fame and glamour of being a doctor. Medicine is for people with passion, who love helping other people," Mahlangu said.

"It is not about making money, it's the satisfaction of seeing patients' smile when they are released from their pain. Knowing that you healed

people is what makes a doctor sleep better at night."

Mahlangu says he wants to study further and become a medical engineer. He vows that even after that he will stay in the public sector to serve the people of his country.

His advice to youth is: "With all the opportunities available for youth, the sky is the limit. Let us all stand together and help our country grow."

- Carol Netshifhefhe

1994 - 2024



# N WEST MILK BANK HELPS TACKLE INFANT DEATHS

A human milk bank in the North West, the first in the country, is proving to be the difference between life and death for babies in the province.



**Since the** introduction of the milk bank at the Potchefstroom Hospital, the infant mortality rate at the hospital has decreased significantly.

“Before the Human Milk Bank Programme was launched, infant mortality at the hospital stood at 4.7 per cent in August 2012 but had dropped to zero per cent by January 2013,” said North West Health Department spokesperson Tebogo Lekgethwane.

Infants born prematurely are at a high risk of developing necrotising enterocolitis, an infection of the intestine, which is avoidable through breastfeeding, he explained.

In some instances mothers cannot breastfeed their newborns because they are too ill, have clinical problems or have passed away.

This is where the milk bank steps in, with other breastfeeding mothers donating their milk.

At the milk bank, donors are screened, while the milk is collected, processed, stored and distributed to vulnerable newborns.

Mothers are screened for HIV and other infec-



tions before they can donate their milk, Lekgethwane stressed.

The unsterilised donated milk is stored in a plastic bottle and frozen. The second step includes sterilising the milk and storing it at the bank.

“It is then taken to Neonatal Intensive Care Unit where it is fed to premature infants who have a body weight of less than 1.8kg,” he added.

Since the launch of the programme, 24 newborn babies received the donated milk at the hospital, after doctors decided that they were in need of it.

The province is in the process of establishing another milk bank at the Job Shimakane Tabane Hospital in Rustenburg.

Lekgethwane said setting up the milk

bank at the Potchefstroom Hospital cost the provincial government R185 000 and R9 900 a month was needed to maintain it. In addition to the milk bank, the department has also established 13 Maternity Waiting Homes.

A Maternity Waiting Home is a residential facility located close to a medical facility where women defined as high risk can await their delivery and be transferred to the facility shortly before delivery or earlier if there are complications.

Skilled birth attendants also cater for low risk women who live far away from health facilities to ensure safe delivery.

In 2011 Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi, along with health MECs and other stakeholders, signed the Tshwane Declaration, which promotes breastfeeding.

The declaration acknowledged that South Africa had to contend with a high infant and child mortality rate and reducing this was a priority for government.

South Africa committed itself to promoting breastfeeding and it was agreed that human milk banks would prove effective in postnatal wards and Neonatal Intensive Care Units.

- *Noluthando Mkhize*

**For more information on the milk bank contact the Potchefstroom Hospital on 018 293 4400.**

1994 - 2024





## A SHOT AT A CERVICAL CANCER-FREE LIFE

**Even though** the little girl's hands were trembling at the thought of the injection, little Nolubabalo Palesa Qhautse put on a brave face when it was her turn to get vaccinated against the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV).

Grade 4 learners from the Gonyane Primary School in Mangaung celebrate during the launch of the HPV vaccination campaign at their school, but her mother, Dimakatso Qhautse, stood vigil as Health Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi administered the HPV vaccine.

Nolubabalo, 9, was among the Grade

4 learners from the Gonyane Primary School in Mangaung, who received their first dose of the HPV vaccine from the Minister.

Nolubabalo knew that the vaccine would protect her against cervical cancer; her mother had told her so.

“She didn’t tell me in detail what cervical cancer is, but she promised the vaccine is going to protect me. The injection was and is still painful. I almost cried but I held myself back because there were so many people watching,” she said.

Qhautse, who was at the school to witness the launch of the HPV vaccine campaign, said she was relieved that her daughter would be protected from the virus, which almost killed her mother.

“My mother had cervical cancer and her womb had to be removed. Fortunately, she survived. When I heard about the campaign launch, I didn’t hesitate and signed the consent form from the school immediately. Thanks to government, our children will not experience what most women go through due to the virus,” said Qhautse.

### Women’s health

South Africa took a major step in the safeguarding of women’s health when Minister Motsoaledi rolled out the first HPV vaccine campaign, which will protect young girls from getting

cervical cancer caused by the HP-virus.

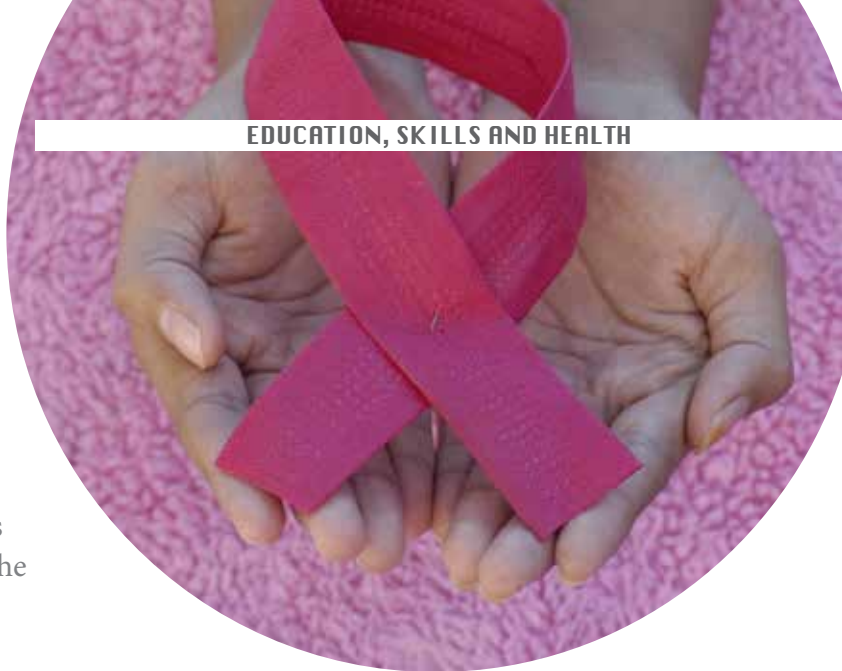
Minister Motsoaledi announced the national vaccination campaign in 2013 during his Budget Speech. An estimated 500 000 girls in 17 000 schools will be vaccinated.

During the launch, a proud Minister Motsoaledi said the country was making history and the day marked the beginning of the effective prevention of cervical cancer. He said although the vaccine is a bit pricey - each dose costs between R700 and R1 000 in the private sector - he was determined to get the vaccine for the people.

“Today, South Africa is one of the few countries on the continent to provide this vaccine to all Grade 4 learners. On this continent, we are



1994 - 2024



the first to vaccinate as many as half a million girls. The one country which provides this vaccine is Zambia and it only gives 25 000 vaccines. It's a serious disease affecting women in the world," the Minister said.

Grade 4 learners from the Gonyane Primary School in Mangaung celebrate during the launch of the HPV vaccination campaign at their school.

### Saving lives

He also noted that 6 000 women get cervical cancer every year. About 80 per cent are African women. Between 3 000 and 3 500 will die annually, even after treatment.

"Half of them are between ages 35 and 55 years," he said, urging women to get screened for cervical cancer.

The Minister also thanked parents for agreeing to vaccinate their children and assured them that health policies were based on best evidence, including the department's own experts' committee, which advises the department.

He said that although girls from the higher grades have missed out on the vaccination, the department would make sure that every learner from Grade R gets the vaccine when they reach Grade 4 to reduce the incidence of cervical cancer in the near future.

Treasury has allocated R400 million

for the campaign.

Executive Director at Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute, Professor Helen Rees, said the vaccination of girls at a young age would lower infection rates and would also reduce infection in boys.

"... If we can get the coverage in young girls up high enough, there's a benefit for young boys because as you decrease the infection [in girls], there will be less infection in boys," said Rees.

Free State Basic Education MEC Tate Makgoe said he was pleased that the programme was launched in his province. He also thanked President Zuma for making health and education a priority. "We support the programme because a world without health is useless."

Before the launch, the school governing body was contacted and parents were given consent forms to sign for their children to be vaccinated.

- Gabi Khumalo







# SIGN LANGUAGE ADDED TO THE CURRICULUM

Deaf pupils can now learn sign language at school after the Department of Basic Education (DBE) included it to the curriculum offered to them at schools.

**Both the current** National Curriculum Statement (NCS) and its Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) will now include South African Sign Language (SASL).

The subject will be rolled out in four phases – first to the foundation phase (Grades R-3), then to the intermediate phase (Grades 4-6), senior phase (Grades 7-9) and further education and training phase (Grades 10-12).

The new curriculum will follow a phased-in approach which will see all grades eventually using the curriculum by 2016.

The department describes the South African Sign Language as a visual and active language that is unlike any written or spoken language in the country. For learners to pick up the language, teachers need to be equipped to teach it.

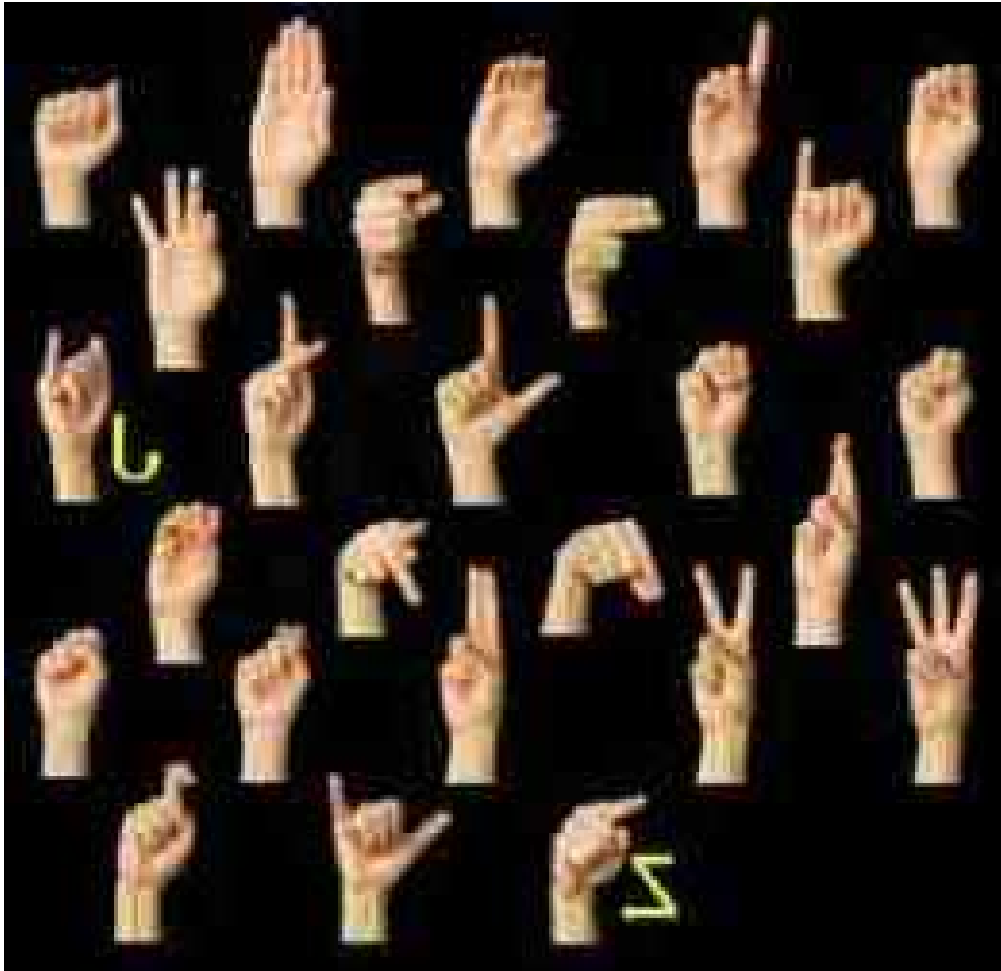
However, a survey carried out by the department last year revealed that 80 per cent of teachers in the country do not know how to sign or understand the country's sign language. Provincial departments of education trained teachers and district officials in SASL last year in preparation for the roll out.

In Gauteng there are 1 786 deaf pupils at seven specialised schools. Teachers from one of these schools – St Vincent School for the Deaf in Johannesburg – received training in SASL.

Principal Ingrid Parker said teachers received SASL Level 1 training and would continue with Levels 2 and 3 later in the year.

Teachers have been schooled in the basics of SASL but have not yet been taught how to teach SASL using the new curriculum. Training on the





usage and implementation of the new SASL CAPS curriculum will be rolled out during Level 2 and 3 training. To date the provincial education department has trained 115 teachers and officials in SASL.

Parker said that the new curriculum, rolled out from Grade R, would be easily picked up by deaf learners and gives recognition to a language that the deaf community already uses.

The principal, who herself has a hearing disability, added that she was

thrilled that deaf learners could now study two languages as required by the Language in Education Policy.

“Deaf people have been exempted from doing the second language and receive an endorsed matric which is still seen as inferior. An important step is to get SASL as a recognised university acceptance subject,” she said.

- Samona Murugan

1994 - 2024



# NEW MVEZO SCHOOL A TRIBUTE TO MADIBA

Young people from the rural community of Mvezo can now dream of becoming scientists and engineers, with a high school on their doorstep to help achieve that dream.

**The R100-million** state-of-the-art Mandela School of Science and Technology was recently opened in the Eastern Cape village of Mvezo - the birthplace of former President Nelson Mandela.

The school is a tribute to Madiba and is the only high school in the area.

“This is a realisation of Madiba’s dream. It is the legacy of Madiba and it means the children and teachers should work to preserve and continue with it,” said President Jacob Zuma, who handed over the school to the Mvezo community recently.

In 2010, former President Mandela



expressed his desire for a high school to be built in Mvezo to Peter Löscher, former Chief Executive of Siemens.

A partnership between Siemens, the Mvezo Development Trust and the Department of Basic Education realised this dream. Siemens covered all the costs associated with the construction and initial operations of the school.

The school has 25 standard classrooms and three laboratories (science, biology and agricultural), a resource centre, which has two computer laboratories, and an engineering design laboratory.

Other facilities include a library, school hall, administration building, ablution facilities, renewable energy (wind and solar), complete electrical infrastructure including an emergency standby generator, water infrastructure – borehole water supply, water pumps, tanks and water filtration systems – an intercom system and CCTV security system.

The school currently has 463 learners from Grades 8 to 10. Grade 11 will be incorporated in 2015 and by 2016, 700 learners will be enrolled from Grade 8-12.

“This school is inspired by uNko-

si Dalibhunga Rolihlahla Mandela through his emphasis on education,” said Madiba’s grandson, Nkosi Zwelivelile Mandla Mandela. He said that many children dropped out after Grade 7 because there was no high school in the area and this contributed to teenage pregnancy and other social skills.

The community of Mvezo benefited during the construction of the school with about 150 people employed by the project. People were trained in bricklaying, plastering, carpentry, plumbing and construction.

Chief Executive Officer of Siemens Sigmar Proebst said the school was a weapon for the future and hoped it would produce scientists and engineers who would contribute to the economy.

“The school is much better compared to other schools in rural areas and what I like most is that the discipline is entrenched,” said Sihle Phaliso, one of the learners of the school.

- *Ndyebo Kopo*

*\*Ndyebo Kopo works for GCIS in the Eastern Cape.*

1994 - 2024



# ECD - THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF EDUCATION

Early Childhood Development (ECD) is one of the areas that government has prioritised since 1994.



**Through the** Departments of Basic Education, Health, Social Development, and Women, Children and People with Disabilities, government ensures that young children are enrolled in Grade R or preschool, which are also known as ECD centres.

“ECD is critical for improving the results of learners in the education system,” the Twenty Year Review released by the Presidency notes.

ECD is crucial to a child’s development because it focuses on the stage when a child grows and flourishes mentally, socially and physically.

“Since 1994 there has been a significant increase in access to centre-based care ... It is estimated that over a million children under four years old are now in an ECD facility or some form of out-of-home care,” according to the review.

Enrolment in Grade R (a pre-school year at primary school) has more than doubled, increasing from 300 000 to 705 000 between 2003 and 2011, nearly reaching the level of universal access. By 2012, 87.8 per cent of learners in Grade 1 in public schools had attended Grade R.

“This is a remarkable achievement, indicative of South Africa’s investment in the foundation phase of education,” the review adds.

Government has stressed that the first one thousand days or first four years of a child’s life must be prioritised. This led to the establishment of the ECD programme, which was launched in July 2011.

One of the key elements of ECD highlighted by Social Development Minister Bathabile Dlamini recently, was the ECD subsidy of R15 per child per day. Currently, 467 000 children at 18 826 registered ECD centres are subsidised by government.

“The number of registered ECD facilities has also grown from 4 612 in the 2004 to over 21 000 by 2013,” she said.

ECD has been recognised as a powerful tool in breaking the cycle of poverty and making a real and lasting difference in children’s lives, the Minister added.

Government is committed to ensuring that every child, including those from poor backgrounds and with disabilities, has access to ECD at an early age.

While children benefit the most from ECD, the focus on it is also skilling teachers.

Bukeka Mandlantse runs Zizamele Educare, a preschool and aftercare centre in the Western Cape township of Khayelitsha. Mandlantse and her staff care for 50 children under the age of seven.

“I have always loved looking after children,” says the mother of two, who started teaching to protect the children in her community.

“I noticed there were a lot of children playing on the streets and I wanted to make sure they were protected from harm, like abuse and kidnapping.”

Mandlantse started working at Zizamele Educare in 2000 and was soon appointed principal. She then decided to register the school as an ECD facility, however faced a huge challenge. Like many other teachers in the area, she lacked a formal ECD qualification.

“I knew it was important to study but I could not afford it.”

With the help of Sikhulu Sonke, a community-based organisation aimed at improving the quality of ECD education in Khayelitsha, she completed an ECD Level 4 learnership. She is now using the knowledge she gained to run the centre and care for the children.

“I learnt how to create and fill in application letters and now 47 out of my 50 learners are subsidised by government.”

Mandlantse urged other teachers to better themselves by gaining ECD qualifications, saying it would also improve the lives of the children they teach.

- Samona Naidu

1994 - 2024





# SA READY TO DEAL WITH CORONAVIRUS

South Africa is geared to deal with Coronavirus, Health Minister Dr Zweli Mkhize, told community members in KwaZulu-Natal's Umngungundlovu District on Sunday.

**Speaking at** a community engagement session at the Pietermaritzburg City Hall, the Minister who largely spoke in isiZulu, said a collective effort as well as good basic hygiene habits are needed in order to tackle the virus.

He said while the South African healthcare system is facing challenges including the shortage of nurses, the country is capable of dealing with the virus.

“This one is an emergency. We are ready to deal with it as an emergency, so that’s what we need to make people understand,” he said.

The Minister engaged community members including religious leaders, business and civil society in an effort to allay fears, educate stakeholders and respond to questions about the virus.

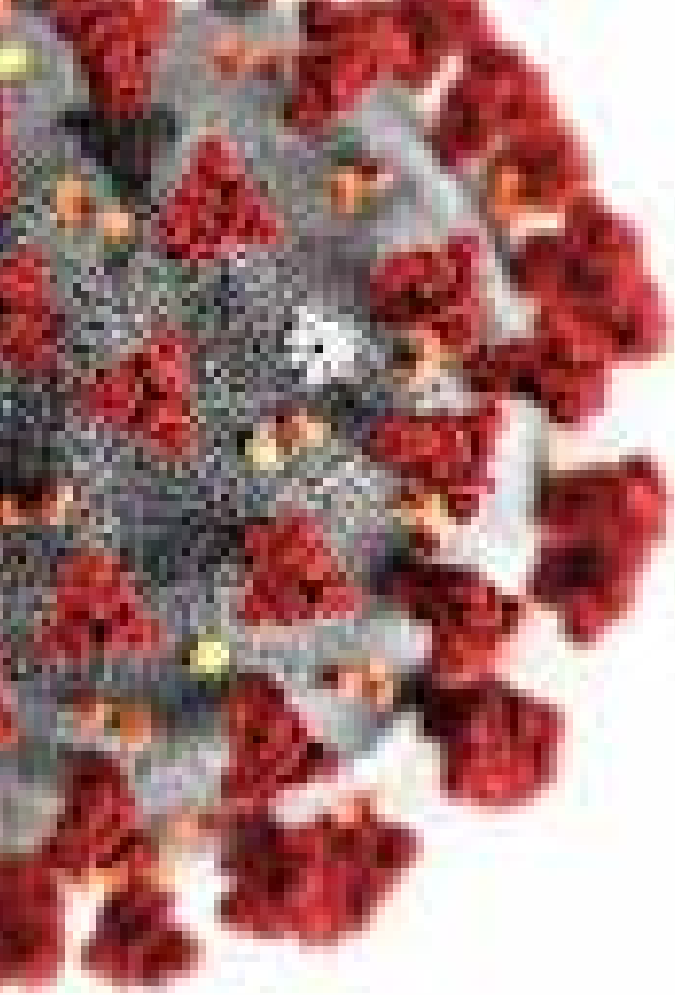
“Fighting [the] virus is not [the responsibility of] a medical team only, it’s the community [as a whole]. We have the responsibility to stop the virus from spreading, that’s the message for today,” said the Minister.

He said health professionals in the country are competent to manage the virus.

“The health professionals both in the public and the private sector are fairly competent to manage the virus. All we need is for people to always cooperate. [People] must keep their hands clean and practice good hygiene,” said the Minister.

The Department of Health has activated an emergency operations centre to deal with Coronavirus.

There is dedicated staff working



exclusively on Coronavirus. Provinces have also activated outbreak response teams.

Hospitals in all provinces have been equipped and are prepared to receive potential Coronavirus cases. These hospitals have been identified as centres for isolation and treatment.

The department announced the following hospitals as centres for isolation and treatment of people infected with Coronavirus:

Polokwane Hospital in Limpopo  
 Rob Ferreira Hospital in Mpumalanga  
 Charlotte Maxeke Hospital, Steve Biko Hospital and Tembisa Hospitals in Gauteng  
 Grey's Hospital in KwaZulu-Natal  
 Klerksdorp Hospital in the North West

Kimberly Hospital in the Northern Cape  
 Pelonomi Hospital in the Free State  
 Livingstone Hospital in the Eastern Cape  
 Tygerberg Hospital in the Western Cape  
 Repatriation of South Africans

On the issue of the repatriation of South African from Wuhan City in China, the Minister emphasised that the group is not ill.

“The group that we’re getting from Wuhan are not ill, we’ve not had a South African who had an infection from China,” told community members.

The session with community members followed an earlier confirmation of a third case of Coronavirus.

It was announced earlier today that the wife of South Africa’s first confirmed Coronavirus patient, has tested positive for the virus.

According to doctor of the confirmed first patient, the man was in a jovial and upbeat mood.

“She confirmed that this patient is responding well and is now asymptomatic. At the right time, as determined by the treating doctors, the patient will be retested to check his recovery progress,” said the Minister.

1994 - 2024



# PROTECTING SA TOGETHER

**Government** and civil society have acted swiftly to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), keeping citizens safe and assisting them during these trying times.

Regulations published on 18 March, which came into immediate effect, restricted bars and shebeens from selling alcohol after 6pm from Mondays to Saturdays and 1pm on Sundays and public holidays. The same applies to liquor stores.

While gatherings are limited to 100 people, places that sell alcohol for on-premises consumption can only host 50 people at a time.

In addition, visits to child and youth care centres, old-age centres and shelters, prisons and substance abuse treatment centres are suspended.

All public pools have been closed and all beaches are closed for swimming.

People must get permission at their closest police station to conduct a funeral or wedding as gatherings of over 100 people are banned.

Another measure that will assist South Africans is the cutting of the interest rate by one percent, to 5.25

percent, which will help citizens in debt save money.

Health Minister Zweli Mkhize says government is preparing quarantine sites and training healthcare workers.

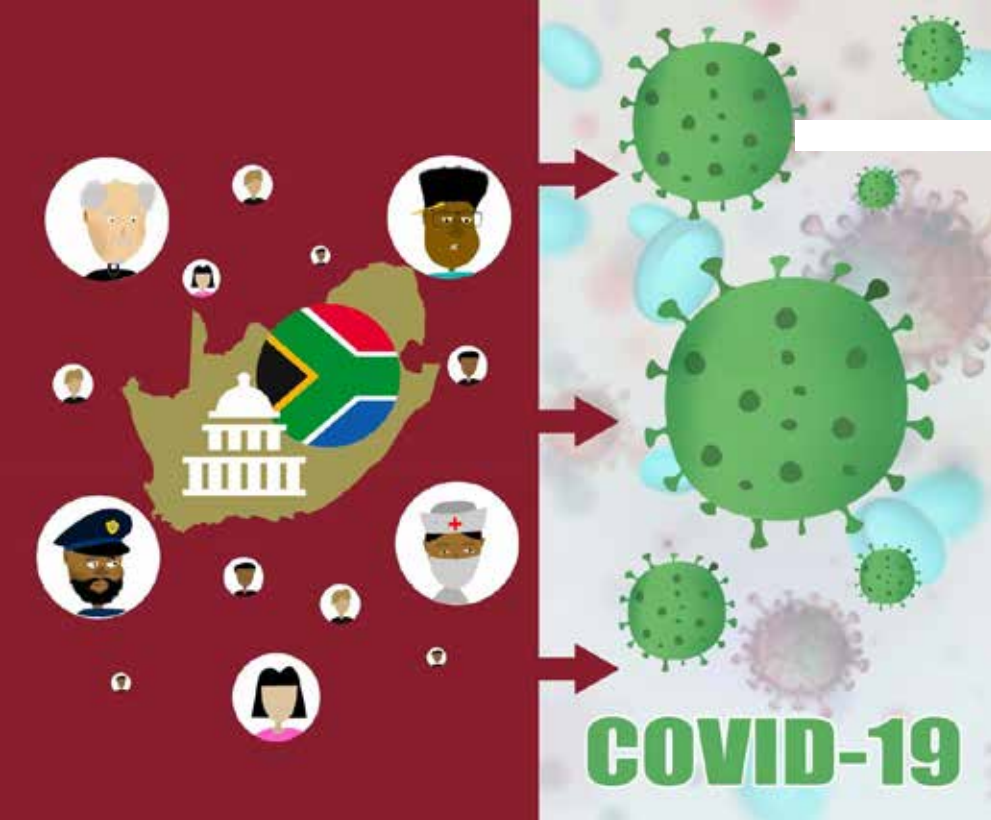
## **Payment of social grants**

Social Development Minister Lindiwe Zulu says all social development, National Development Agency offices and South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) pay points will remain operational.

SASSA has asked beneficiaries not to collect their grants on the first day of payment, due to high pedestrian traffic at shopping malls and other outlets, and has assured beneficiaries that once money has been paid into their accounts, it can be accessed on any day of the month.

In terms of managing numbers at cash pay points, the organisation together with The South African Post Office will ensure that the number of clients being serviced at a time does not exceed the national set number of 100 people.

Priority will be given to the elderly, frail, people with disabilities, mothers with young children, as well as pregnant women.



All staff dealing directly with clients will be supplied with all the necessary protective kits to ensure that their health is safeguarded.

The department has also suspended all Integrated Community Registration Outreach Programmes and home, clinic and hospital visits by SASSA officials. Clients are advised not to report to local offices for simple enquiries, but to call SASSA and the South African Post Office on their toll-free customer care numbers or visit their social media channels. For more information, call 0800 601 011.

### **Price hikes banned**

With many people panic buying over the past few days, shelves in many retailers were emptied of non-perishable foods and other essential items like toilet paper and hand sanitiser, and some shops put their prices up on these items.

Trade and Industry Minister Ebra-

him Patel announced regulations to curb this and has banned excessive price increases on basic food and consumer items and medical and hygiene supplies, among others.

### **Education**

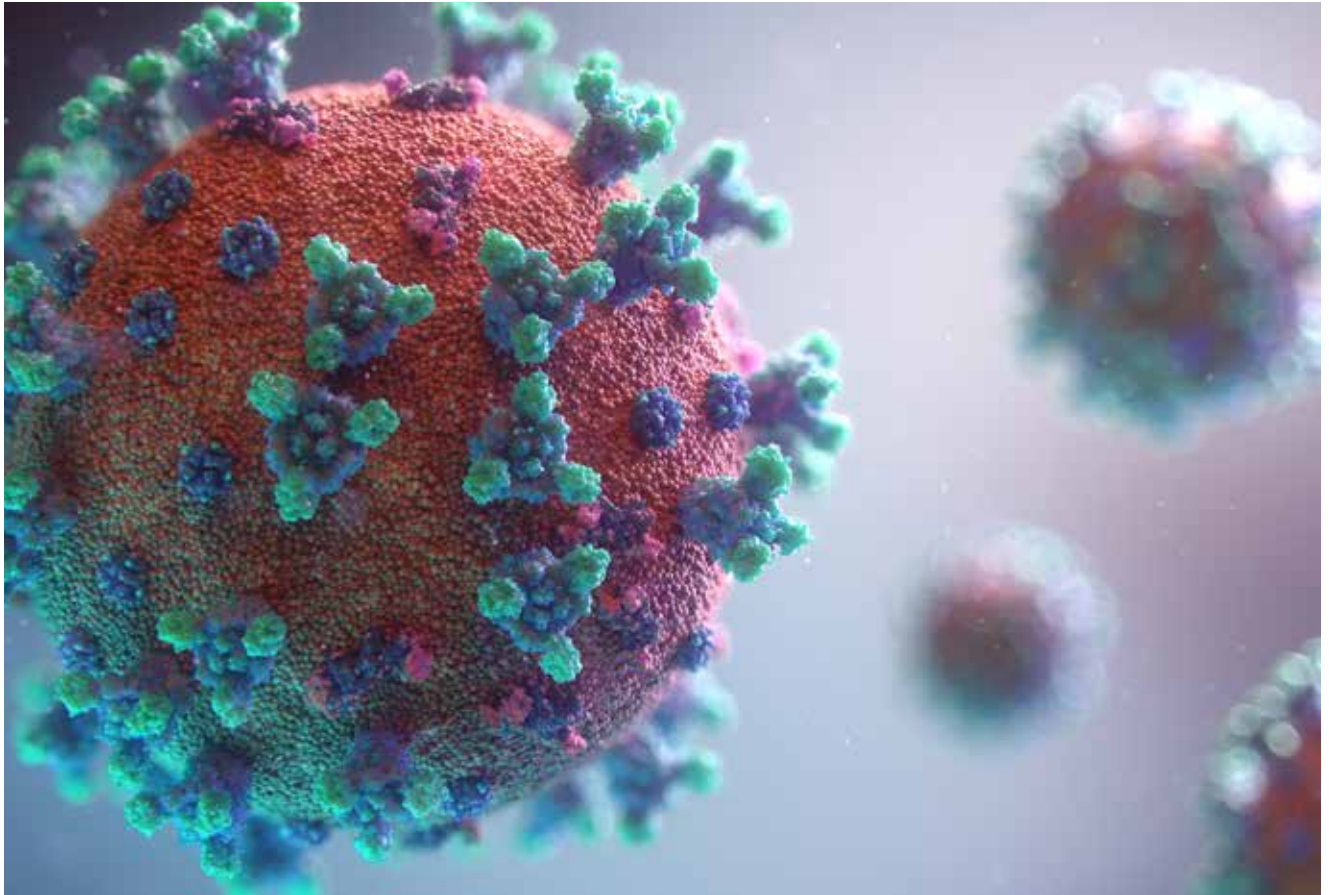
Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga said that schools will re-open on 14 April. If the dates change, government will communicate accordingly. Early Childhood Development Centres and creches are also closed.

“To compensate for lost days, the June holidays will be cut short by a week. Once opened, schools will be encouraged to extend tuition hours,” she says.

Minister of Higher Education Blade Nzimande announced that all post-school institutions are closed for early recess until 15 April.

### **Churches**

A number of faith communities have



cancelled or suspended large communal services, and either restructured to allow for smaller services or called on people to worship at home instead.

The Methodist Church had cancelled Good Friday and Easter Sunday services, the Muslim Judicial Council has cancelled Friday prayer and the Zion Christian Church has cancelled the annual Moria pilgrimage.

### **Travel and transport**

South Africa has closed two-thirds of its land borders and two seaports, while immigration remains open at all airports. Foreigners from high-risk countries are not allowed into South Africa, while those from me-

dium-risk countries face extended health screenings.

The Department of Transport has engaged taxi and bus industry leadership to generate awareness around COVID-19 and random testing will be implemented in the public transport environment, particularly commuter rail.

The Cross Border Road Transport Agency and Border and Health authorities will screen truck drivers at all inland borders that continue to operate.

The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Naledi Pandor, says all non-essential travel



to other countries should also be cancelled or postponed and all South African citizens returning from high-risk countries will be subjected to testing and self-isolation or quarantine.

“Increased health screening measures at ports of entry for international destinations, which may include entry requirements, border closures, flight suspensions and quarantines, can be expected,” she says.

All international travellers, including South African citizens, entering South Africa will be required to complete and submit the prescribed health form and hand it to health officials and immigration officers upon arrival. All travellers will be subjected to medical screening for COVID-19 upon entering South Africa and if required, can be isolated or quarantined for a minimum period of 14 days.

All travellers who have entered South Africa from high-risk countries since 15 February 2020 are required to present themselves for testing.

### Research funding

The Department of Science and Innovation is engaging stakeholders to mobilise funding and reprioritise research

strategies. It has already redirected R4 million from other projects.

The Department of Employment and Labour will, for now, keep its labour centres open. The Crisis Management Team will meet every day to assess the situation and put measures in place to promote health and safety of staff and its clients.

The queues at labour centres will be managed to adhere to the 100 people rule.

### COVID-19 hotlines

Two additional hotline numbers have been added to respond to enquiries, one for doctors and one for the public.

- The public can contact 0800 029 999 or 0800 111 132, 24-hours a day.
- You can also WhatsApp the word ‘hi’ to the Department of Health at 0600 123 456 and follow the prompts.
- For more information, South Africans can access government’s coronavirus website for free at [www.sacoronavirus.co.za](http://www.sacoronavirus.co.za).

- More Matshediso





# STAY AT HOME, SAVE SOUTH AFRICA!

South Africa is geared to deal with Coronavirus, Health Minister Dr Zweli Mkhize, told community members in KwaZulu-Natal's Umngungundlovu District on Sunday.



**South Africa** has not been spared, with its infection rate growing.

Government initially imposed restrictions to enforce social distancing but as the infections spread, a na-

tional lockdown was announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa and came into effect on 26 March.

He highlighted that never before in the history of South Africa's democracy has the country been confronted

with such a severe situation.

The President said the nationwide lockdown was a necessary move to contain the spread of COVID-19 and 'flatten the curve' in South Africa.

As a result, people are expected to stay home and only venture out if they absolutely have to, which means jogging and dog walking are not allowed during the 21-day lockdown. People must also buy their essentials from their closest retailer or spaza shop and should plan their trips to ensure they get home as quickly as possible and don't have to go out again too soon.

"This is a decisive measure to save millions of South Africans from infection and save the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. While this measure will have a considerable impact on people's livelihoods, on the life of our society and on our economy, the human cost of delaying this action would be far, far greater," said the President.

The nationwide lockdown is being accompanied by a public health management programme which will significantly increase screening, testing, contact tracing and medical management.

Screening, testing and tracing programme

President Ramaphosa recently made another announcement that govern-

ment will be rolling out a screening, testing and tracing and medical management programme on a huge scale.

"Around 10 000 field workers will be visiting homes in villages, towns and cities to screen residents for COVID-19 symptoms. People with symptoms will be referred to local clinics or mobile clinics for testing.

"People who are infected with coronavirus, but who have no or moderate symptoms will remain in isolation at home or at a facility provided by government and those with severe symptoms will be transferred to hospitals," he added.

Using a mobile technology, an extensive tracing system will be rapidly deployed to trace those who have been in contact with confirmed coronavirus cases and to monitor the geographical location of new cases in real time.

It's simple - stay at home!

The South African National Defence Force is on a mission to help save South Africa from Coronavirus. Police Minister Bheki Cele firmly told South Africans to stay at home and avoid being on the streets unnecessarily. He said they should only leave their homes to provide or seek essential services, which are listed in the COVID-19 Disaster Management Regulations.

People who don't obey the conditions



of the lockdown could find themselves on the wrong side of the law, he warned.

The exempted conditions in which non-essential workers are allowed to leave their homes include seeking medical care, buying food, medicine and other supplies or collecting social grants.

The regulations were released by Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, who explained that the Disaster Management Act prohibits people from moving alcohol from one place to another. “What you have at home, you consume there at home, not next door,” the minister explained.

Areas closed to the public include religious, cultural, sporting, entertainment, educational, organisational and similar premises. This includes cinemas, parks, beaches, swimming pools, nightclubs, shops that don’t sell essential goods – such as clothing stores, casinos, markets and food stalls.

Game reserves, lodges and guest-houses also have to keep their doors closed, except those who already had international tourists booked in when the shutdown was announced. In these cases, the guests are to be kept at their lodgings under the conditions of the national lockdown.

Minister Cele warned that on-consumption premises at which alcohol is sold – including shebeens, shisanyamas and taverns – may not operate. In fact, in the hours after the lockdown was implemented, people who ignored the restrictions and were out drinking were arrested.

Should the lockdown laws be broken, perpetrators face six months in jail or fines, or both. To ensure that the lockdown is effectively implemented, the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) was deployed to support the South African Police Service.

Defence Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula said the lockdown is not meant to punish citizens but rather to contain and minimise the spread of the virus.

The military is assisting in road-blocks and foot patrols to enforce lockdown curfews. They are also involved in border control activities and are supporting health authorities.

Temporary shelters that meet the necessary hygiene standards have been created for homeless people.

### **Screening is essential in this fight**

President Cyril Ramaphosa has informed South Africans that government will be rolling out a screening,



testing and tracing and medical management programme which will see field workers visiting your communities to screen people for Coronavirus symptoms. This is why screening is important;

Screening is a way for health workers to find out if you may have COVID-19 or not. The health worker will ask you questions and scan your forehead to take your temperature. The health worker will ask if you:  
Have travelled to a high-risk country in the last 14 days.

Have had contact with anyone with confirmed COVID-19 in the last 14 days.

Have symptoms such as fever, cough and difficulty in breathing.

If you have travelled to a high-risk country or have had contact with someone with COVID-19 you must self-quarantine.

This means that you should stay

at home for 14 days and monitor yourself for symptoms such as a dry cough, fever and difficulty breathing. Stay away from older people and people with a compromised immune system or underlying condition such as high blood pressure or diabetes.

Community Health Care Workers will refer persons suspected of having Coronavirus to the nearest community health centre, clinic or hospital. Tests will only be conducted at health care facilities and mobile testing sites. Not everyone will be tested, health workers will use a formula by looking at how serious your symptoms are and what high risk factors you have.

Testing includes collecting a biological sample from a patient such as a nasal swab or a blood sample, which is then tested by a laboratory for the virus or its antibodies.

- Dale Hes





# OUR HEROES ON THE COVID-19 FRONTLINE

South Africa is geared to deal with Coronavirus, Health Minister Dr Zweli Mkhize, told community members in KwaZulu-Natal's Umngungundlovu District on Sunday.

**Ncube works** as a communicable disease control and outbreak response co-ordinator for the Tshwane health district with the Gauteng Department of Health. This means that she is at the very heart of the country's efforts to control the epidemic.

"We make sure that all the right systems are in place to respond to the virus, that health workers are correctly trained and that we are on the ground doing testing of patients and tracing of contacts," says Ncube.

## Long hours on the frontlines

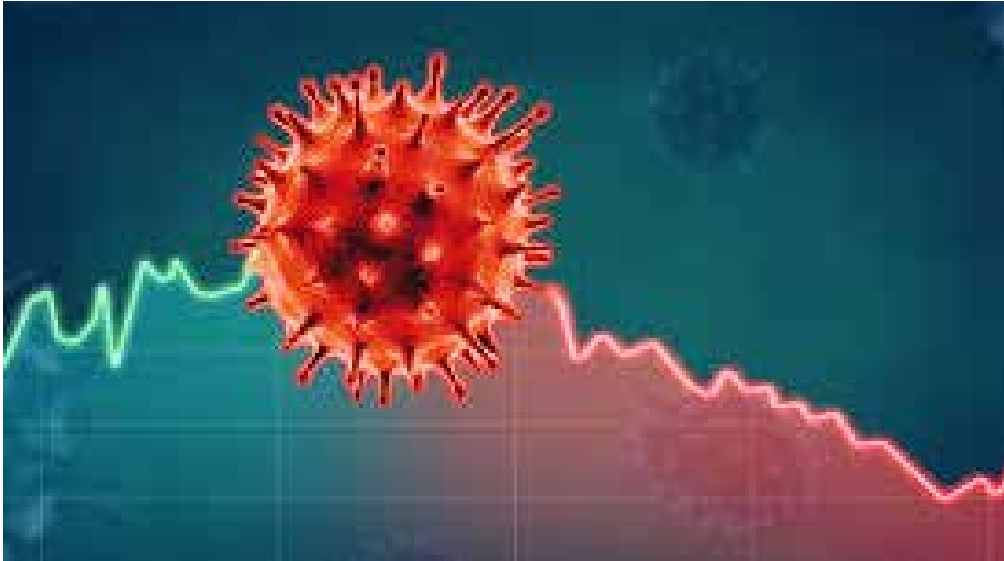
Ncube has been working long hours, up to six days a week.

"It has been very draining but fulfilling at the same time. It is rewarding to be able to help in curbing the increase of infections. It has also been very heart-warming to see the co-ordinated response from all sectors of healthcare and government, from emergency medical staff, to ward councillors and the outbreak response teams."

She says that although the arrival of COVID-19 has been scary, she and her colleagues were prepared for it.

"Even when the virus first emerged in China, we were receiving training on how to handle it if it arrived here. So before the first cases came, we knew what to do and the processes to be followed. We had all the necessary





protective equipment, training and information.

“COVID-19 has really taken me back to the basics of infection prevention and control prevention. It is the things that we speak about all the time, such as washing of hands, proper cough etiquette and social distancing. Now the rest of South Africa has been alerted to the importance of these basics.”

She says that seeing patients recover from the virus has been the best part of her job.

### **The importance of sticking to lockdown regulations**

Around the world, social distancing (staying away from other people) has been recognised as one of the best ways to prevent the spread of the virus. It helps with lessening the strain on the healthcare system and prevents hospitals from being over-

crowded with patients.

Ncube says that she was delighted that President Cyril Ramaphosa took such early action to prevent the virus from spreading.

“The enforcing of the lockdown at such an early stage was a brilliant move by the President. It is exactly what we need to prevent the spread of new infections.”

She says that although some communities may find social distancing difficult, everyone needs to try and play their part.

“Staying at home is really the best way to prevent the spread. I encourage everyone to follow the lockdown regulations and to try social distancing, wash your hands and cough into your elbow or a tissue.”

- Dale Hes



# CLINICS TO SERVE PEOPLE BETTER

Clinics in the country will open on time and will not close until the last patient has been helped – even if it is beyond operating hours. They will ensure patients are treated with dignity.

**This is what** South Africans can expect as government implements the second phase of Operation Phakisa called Operation Phakisa 2: Ideal Clinic Realisation and Maintenance.

Through Operation Phakisa 2, the public health sector seeks to improve the quality of health care provided at 3 500 primary health care (PHC) facilities, which consist of government clinics and community health centres.

Operation Phakisa is modelled around the Big Fast Results methodology that was first applied by the government of Malaysia. The operation addressed their national key priority areas such as poverty, crime and unemployment.

It involves setting up clear targets and following up with an ongoing monitoring process, which makes the results



public. Through this initiative, the Malaysian government registered impressive results within a short period. Launching the second phase in Pretoria recently, President Jacob Zuma said the implementation of the second phase would change the way clinics operated.

“It will be a clinic that opens on time in the morning, according to its set operating hours, and which does not close until the last patient has been assisted, even if this is beyond the normal closing hours.”

The President said the National Development Plan that was being implemented through programmes such as Operation Phakisa provided the vision of an ideal health care system.

The NDP talks about “a health system that works for everyone, produces positive health outcomes and is not out of reach”.

According to the President, this goal will only be achieved through a well-functioning health system anchored on PHC principles.

“This philosophy therefore continues to influence and guide our country as we prepare for the realisation of universal health coverage for all the people of South Africa, through the implementation of National Health Insurance,” said President Zuma.

He added that the attitude of staff would also change for the better. “It will be staffed by healthcare providers who treat people with dignity and observe the Batho Pele principles of Access, Consultation, Courtesy, Information, Service Standards, Openness and Transparency, Redress and Value for Money.”

Over 100 senior managers from all three spheres of government with their counterparts from the private sector, organised labour, academia, civil society and public entities participated in the Operation Phakisa laboratory to devise ways and means of making the ideal clinic concept a reality.

“They were supported in this process by officials from the Performance Management and Development Unit in Malaysia, where we learned this big fast results delivery model,” explained President Zuma.

The work of Operation Phakisa: Ideal Clinic Initiative was organised into eight work streams focusing on the different building blocks of an ideal clinic capable of delivering good quality health services.

The areas are service delivery, wait-

ing times, human resources, infrastructure, financial management, supply chain management, scaling up and sustainability and institutional arrangements.

Ten clinics have been identified as ideal clinics and one of them is KT Motubatse Clinic in Soshanguve, north of Pretoria.

KT Motubatse Clinic is a PHC facility consisting of various departments such as dentistry, antiretroviral and tuberculosis treatment, rehabilitation and wellness.

Patients using the facility say they are satisfied with the service. Thirty-year-old Paulinah Matjia from Soshanguve says the service at the clinic is world-class.

“I’ve never seen people being turned away because there was no medicine and the staff is friendly,” she says. The clinic serves over 80 000 people.

Matjia’s friend Sisi Mabandla also expressed satisfaction with the service from the clinic. “Even people from other sections of Soshanguve come here. It means this clinic is doing something right,” she said.

The launch of the second phase of Operation Phakisa comes after government launched the first phase in Durban. The first phase focused on unlocking the economic potential of South Africa’s oceans.

- Albert Pule

1994 - 2024



# A STATE-OF-THE-ART COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE FOR DANNHAUSER



**KZN Premier** Senzo Mchunu and KZN Health MEC Sibongiseni Dhlomo recently opened the 39-bed Dannhauser Community Health Centre.

The facility, which was celebrated with much fanfare by the community, will serve 103 389 people, 90 per cent of whom do not have medical aid. It will also serve as a referral facility for 10 of the municipality's clinics, including the Thandanani, Nellies, Durnacol and Sukumani clinics.

Residents of Dannhauser no longer need to travel 30 km to Newcastle Provincial Hospital or 40 km to Ma-

dadeni Hospital to access healthcare.

Community member Philemon Mofokeng said he had to spend R90 to go to Newcastle Hospital but now he can go to the clinic and come back early for only R6.

"This facility, provided to us by our government, is going to help us a lot and we are very thankful for it," he said.

The facility offers the same services as a district hospital, including consulting rooms, tuberculosis (TB) management, dentistry, X-rays, maternity care, a pharmacy, emergency medical service base, a mortuary and



single-room residence for nurses.

“This impressive community health-care centre is well deserved by the people who are now liberated and have the dignity which was not afforded to them before” said Premier Mchunu.

He added that the delivery of the centre complements the good work he had witnessed earlier that day when he visited the new expanded Voluntary Counselling and Testing Clinic at Newcastle Provincial Hospital.

Community health worker Sibongile Msimango said they are very happy to have this in the area: “Patients had to travel long distances to Madadeni hospital and many of our people came back without getting any help because the hospital is full,” she said.

This facility started operating from a small room near the Paediatric Outpatient Department and was run by one professional nurse and two HIV counsellors. With the increasing number of clients being tested and remaining in care, additional staff were assigned and space became a challenge.

The new facility now offers various services, including HIV counselling and testing (HCT), antiretroviral (ARV) initiation, TB and nutrition management and a pharmacy.

Speaking at the facility, the Premier

said “women and children are really receiving quality healthcare, especially with the availability of a highly qualified and committed paediatrician who even goes out to assist all of the Amajuba Health District’s facilities.”

The Premier urged the residents of Amajuba District to make good use of the facilities provided for them and expressed disappointment about the low number of people who are going for screening and testing for HIV in the district.

#### **HIV counselling and testing (HCT)**

##### **When you go for HCT you will:**

- **be counselled, and informed on the nature of HIV&AIDS, sexually transmitted infections (STI), and TB**
- **be encouraged to adopt a healthy lifestyle to prevent development of other non-infectious diseases**
- **be tested for HIV and screened for TB and other non-communicable diseases**
- **learn how to prevent HIV/AIDS and TB-related deaths**
- **help prevent new HIV and TB infections**
- **help break the stigma attached to HIV and AIDS and TB.**

(Source: <https://www.gov.za/about-government/government-programmes/hiv-counselin...>)

- *Thandeka Ngobese*

1994 - 2024



# FUNZA LUSHAKA: PROMOTING TEACHING IN SA



By the time Tshediso Mohlala, 25, left high school, he knew that his calling was to be a teacher.

**And thanks** to the Funza Lushaka bursary programme, Mohlala was able to make his dream a reality.

He is one of thousands of students who have benefited from the bursary programme.

The Funza Lushaka bursary programme is a multi-year programme that promotes the recruitment of people to study teaching with the ultimate goal of encouraging teaching in public schools as a profession among people under the age of 30.

“When I got to the University of Johannesburg I realised that teaching was the only course that was suitable for me and one I knew I would enjoy doing.”

Mohlala is a Mathematics and Physical Science teacher at Naledi High School in Soweto. He graduated in March this year and obtained a Bachelor’s degree in Education.

“Last year when I was doing my third year I applied for the bursary scheme. I was lucky to be selected. The scheme covered tuition, as well as books and I also received a monthly stipend of R4 000.

He adds that he loves being in the classroom and finds it particularly exciting when his students perform experiments.

Mohlala said the country needs more teachers especially in Mathematics and Science.

“I think the department is doing a wonderful thing by giving South Africans who, like me, love teaching to get an education and advance the country.

It’s important to invest in other young people. I do not see myself leaving the classroom. I am very happy being a teacher.”

Strengthening the teaching profession  
For 2015/16, the Department of Basic Education has allocated over R900 million towards the bursary scheme.

Since the programme’s start in 2007 over 70 000 bursaries have been awarded. There are currently 13 500 bursars.

Although the bursary programme cannot



fund all new student teacher candidates, it does fund 25 per cent of new student teachers registered at the country's 24 universities.

Bursars will be required to teach at a public school for the same number of years that they received bursary funding.

**How to apply for a Funza Lushaka bursary**  
The Funza Lushaka bursary programme is open to all students who wish to complete a full teaching qualification.

### **Who can apply?**

The programme funds students who want to specialise in education priorities such as the foundation phase namely Grades R to 3, specialising in indigenous African languages, as well as the intermediate and senior phase, which covers Grades 4 to 6 and Grades 7 to 9 respectively, majoring in Mathematics, Natural Science and Technology.

It also includes the Further Education and Training (FET) phase, Grade 10 to 12 majoring in Accounting, Economics, Geography, Mathematics, Agricultural Sciences, Life Science, Physical Science and more.

The bursary is awarded on merit and on condition of exceptional performance, an exemption, endorsement or an admission to Bachelor degree studies pass at Grade 12 level.

For students wanting to specialise in the foundation phase, a pass in Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy at Grade 12 level is required along with a pass in a home language.

Applicants are also expected to have attained

a standard grade pass of at least 60 per cent or higher grade pass of at least 50 per cent in matric in the two priority subjects in which they want to specialise.

According to the Department of Education, meeting these criteria does not mean automatic acceptance for the bursary.

The number of bursaries available is limited, and only the best students will be selected.

### **Where to apply**

The applicant must fulfil the Funza Lushaka bursary requirements as well as those for admission to university.

Individuals can only apply for the bursary once they have been accepted to the university of their choice and have been given a valid student number. The student number is needed in order to complete the Funza Lushaka application form online. After the form has been completed, two copies should be printed out: one for the candidate to keep as proof and the other to be submitted to the university.

The application will only be considered once the university has received the document.

It is expected that applications for the bursary will be accepted from October 2015 and close in January 2016.

To apply and for further information visit:  
[www.funzalushaka.doe.gov.za](http://www.funzalushaka.doe.gov.za)

For further information contact the Basic Education Hotline on 0800 202 933.

- *Noluthando Mkhize*

1994 - 2024



# NEW SCHOOL FOR MPUMALANGA COMMUNITY



The Makause Combined School, situated in Phola in Mpumalanga, has brought hope to the community by ensuring access to education.

**The R74 million** state-of-the-art school became a reality due to a partnership between the Department of Basic Education and mining company Glencore.

The school was part of a major relocation project in which Glencore relocated 120 families from rural Tweefontein to Phola, as part of its Tweefontein Optimisation Project.

The project represents a R8 billion investment by Glencore, with 780 full-

time employees, that produces eight million tonnes of saleable coal per year. During construction, the project created over 2 600 jobs and a number of business opportunities for local entrepreneurs through local procurement.

The project also includes a housing development, completed at an additional cost of R70 million, that will accommodate around 120 relocated families.

## **Restoring hope**

The school, which is situated in the

middle of the housing development, caters for pre-primary, primary and secondary grades. It has 32 classrooms, science laboratories, home economics facility, wood and metal workshops, library, computer centre and a hall that accommodates 1 200 pupils.

Amos Shali Mahlangu has been the principal of Makause for 32 years and has seen it evolve over the years.

“Prior to being relocated, we were situated in Tweefontien which was a farming and mining community. This meant that children needed to travel over 40 kilometres to get to school, using transport provided by the Department of Basic Education.”

Since the building of the school and the housing development children now walk less than one kilometre to get to school.

“One of the main problems at the old school was absenteeism and parents did not attend school meetings due to the distance they had to travel. Since the relocation, there is a decline in absenteeism and more parents are attending meetings,” said Mahlangu.

Phillip Maimela, chairperson of the school governing body, has two children that are learners at the school. He said he was happy with the new facility and that his children received proper education.

Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga, who attended the opening

of the school, said it would go a long way towards changing the lives of these learners.

“An investment in education of this magnitude demonstrates the commitment of Glencore to the future of the country. It is only when we come together as government, business, civil society and ordinary citizens that we can truly break the barriers of inequality.

“For children to excel, they need a conducive and inspiring environment and this school will be a beacon of hope for the entire community,” said Minister Motshekga.

She said she was confident that the school would produce the innovators needed to take South Africa to the next level and fuel economic development.

Glencore SA Coal CEO, Clinton Ephron, said: “We are proud to handover this school to the Department of Basic Education. The Makause School is a demonstration of our commitment to South Africa and the local communities where we operate.”

“A good education helps to provide a strong foundation for children to achieve their potential,” he added.

- *Noluthando Mkhize*

1994 - 2024





# EPWP EMPOWERS WOMEN IN KZN



More than 40 000 women in KwaZulu-Natal are now able to provide for their families through Zibambele Road Maintenance Programme thanks to the Department of Public Work in association with KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport.

**Zibambele** is a poverty alleviation programme for previously disadvantaged individuals under the

Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) of the Department of Public Works.

The programme was introduced with the aim of creating meaningful and sustainable job opportunities while at the same time maintaining low volume roads in the rural areas.

Zibambele participants come from four regions in which the KZN Department of Transport operates namely, Empangeni, Ladysmith, Pietermaritzburg and Durban. The participants' duties include cleaning

of road surface, clearing of drains and channels as well as clearing and cleaning of verges. Zibambele contractors carry out low-intensity road maintenance activities on the part-time basis on defined sections of the road network.

Department of Transport Senior Development Manager Thandeka Mbonambi told Vuk'uzenzele that the programme participants, who come from the most needy households, were nominated by their community. She said all of the contractors were trained on road maintenance and safety.

“Contractors’ safety comes first. Since the programme started in 1999 none of them have been injured on duty or hit by a vehicle while working because they are trained in safety,” she said.

Zibambele contractors receive ministerial determined wage of R75.10 a day and work for eight days in each month.

One of the EPWP participants Rose Nyathikazi, 48, said through Zibambele she has been able to educate her two children up to matric level.

“We appeal to our government to increase the number of days we work

so that the money will increase,” she said.

Another beneficiary of the programme, Senzeni Mhlongo, 52, said she used to struggle before she became part of the programme.

“I am a widow and have a responsibility as a mother to provide basic needs to my family. Before this job I could not sustain my family. At least I am now able to take care of my family,” she said.

Public Works Deputy Minister Jeremy Cronin, who visited the Zibambele Road Maintenance workers in Inanda recently, said it was encouraging to see the project growing from strength to strength.

“The Zibambele Road Maintenance Programme offers the most sustainable work opportunities which play a vital role in alleviating poverty and creating social cohesion. The Department of Public Works is committed to the continued implementation of the programme,” Deputy Minister said.

1994 - 2024



# R7 MILLION WELLNESS CENTRE FOR STANDERTON

Waiting up to six hours to see a doctor or collect medication is a thing of the past for patients visiting the Standerton Hospital in Mpumalanga.





**This comes after** the provincial Department of Health, in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and healthcare solutions company BroadReach, built a wellness centre worth R7 million. “Things have really improved. Patients used to wait for about six hours to see the doctor or collect their medication at the pharmacy. Currently, patients wait only an hour or less,” said Wellness Centre Operations Manager Elsabe Nienaber.

The Wellness Centre is situated inside the Standerton Hospital. In the past, patients would visit the hospital’s out-patient section for assistance. “The outpatient section was extremely overloaded with patients and as health workers we tried our best to provide the service, but the demand was just too high. “With the opening of the Wellness Centre we have a doctor dedicated to us who sees patients and prescribes medicines. We also have a pharmacy dedicated to the Wellness Centre, where

patients can collect their medication after consultation with the doctor,” said Nienaber.

The Wellness Centre provides primary healthcare services, such as HIV testing, family planning, immunisation for children and more. The centre also administers antiretrovirals to HIV positive patients and supplies medication to those with tuberculosis, diabetes and hypertension. Between 130 and 150 people visit the centre daily for medical treatment and to learn how to live a health life.

The centre consists of a patient waiting area, with seating for up to 80 patients; administration and patient record area; four consulting rooms; doctor’s consulting rooms, with a separate sputum collection point for improved infection control and a boardroom.

**For more information on the services offered at the Wellness Centre call: 017 719 9604**

1994 - 2024



# MANXILI GETS STATE-OF-THE-ART CLINIC

The new R20 million state-of-the-art Manxili Clinic in Nguthu, KwaZulu-Natal, will bring much-needed relief to the 13 000-strong rural community.

**Previously,** community members had to wait for a mobile clinic to visit the area once a month or travel nearly 10km to Mangeni Clinic, mostly on foot, to access health care services. The mobile clinic would travel from the mother hospital, Charles Johnson Memorial Hospital, which is situated some 62km away.

Community member Maqili Buthelezi said if he missed the mobile clinic date, he had to spend R54 to collect his medication from Charles Johnson Memorial Hospital.

“This new clinic provided to us by our government is going to help us a lot and we are very grateful for it,” he said.

Residents in KwaZulu-Natal are able to access health services from 72 provincial hospitals, 25 nursing colleges and 18 community health centres.

The Manxili Clinic, which was officially opened by President Jacob

Zuma recently, complies with government’s Operation Phakisa model of being an “Ideal Clinic”, which demands adherence to service excellence in accordance with national health core standards.

The opening was also attended by the Deputy Minister of Health Dr Joe Phaahla, KZN MEC for Health Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, members of the KZN Health Portfolio Committee, and representatives of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and Aids (UNAIDS), Mayors, Councillors and Amakhosi.

The clinic will enhance government’s efforts to fight the burden of disease, which includes the spread of HIV and Aids, TB infections and mother and child mortality and morbidity in uMzinyathi District.

Deputy Minister Phaahla said at the opening that the department is acting on President Zuma’s instruction to follow the mandate of the National



Development Plan, which says that for South Africa to develop, rural areas must be developed alongside urban ones.

“The goals of the National Health Insurance plan will not be met if we do not ensure that our rural health services are improved, and are of good quality,” said Deputy Minister Phaahla.

Healthcare in the province varies from the most basic primary health care, to provincial hospitals. These facilities don’t only provide health service, but the nursing colleges in the province also mean that the public health system can be given a boost as new nurses qualify.

The building of Manxili Clinic is the result of a partnership between the

Department of Health, the Tobeka Madiba-Zuma Foundation and the community.

A total of R20 million was spent on the construction of Manxili Clinic. The Department of Health’s own contribution for the clinic and residences amounted to R 16 203 474. 41, while furniture and equipment for the entire project cost R 1 624 219. 87. The Tobeka Madiba-Zuma Foundation contributed over R2 million.

Deputy Minister Phaahla also pledged to ensure that the clinic upholds the national health core standards, which demand adherence to cleanliness, infection control, reducing long queues, availability of medicines and other essentials, security and safety of staff and patients, as well as a positive attitude of staff.

Since Manxili Clinic started operating, 72 100 male condoms have been distributed and 107 patients have received reproductive health services.

Manxili Clinic provides health services such as antenatal care to pregnant mothers, cervical cancer and TB screenings, HIV testing and counselling.

**Health facilities in KwaZulu-Natal**  
**72 provincial hospitals**  
**25 nursing colleges**  
**18 community health centres**

- Thandeka Ngobese





# NEW AMBULANCES FOR EFFICIENT HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Faster and more efficient access to health facilities is now a reality for communities in Limpopo following the handover of ambulances to hospitals in the province.

**Premier** Stanley Mathabatha and the MEC of Health Dr Phophi Ramathuba recently handed over 60 brand new ambulances, four forensic vehicles and a fully equipped laundry to Sekororo Hospital.

The Department of Health recently

acquired 100 new ambulances. The arrival of the new fleet will ease the burden of the shortage of emergency medical services (EMS) vehicles, as a result of the existing aging fleet.

The new vehicles aim to ensure that the province eventually meets the national EMS norms regarding a



response time of 15 minutes in urban areas and 40 minutes in rural areas.

Limpopo is largely rural and the ambulances are expected to ease the challenges faced by people from far-flung areas.

“The province made an assurance during the departmental budget speech earlier this year to prioritise the procurement of ambulances so that the people of Limpopo benefit from these services and their quality of health is improved,” said Premier Mathabatha.

“This is the first batch of ambulances acquired and the rest will be delivered later, as committed in the 2015/16 departmental budget vote.”

“The arrival of these ambulances will certainly have a positive impact in the lives of the people of Limpopo and lessen the challenges experienced by communities regarding

emergency medical services.”

The ambulances will be shared among all five provincial districts.

Some of the new ambulances will be converted into obstetric ambulances to ensure that women in labour reach health facilities in time to deliver their baby safely.

The special obstetric ambulances differ from other ambulances in that they meet the specific demands of a pregnant mother and carry equipment needed in case a mother gives birth in transit.

Having such ambulances in health facilities came about after Health Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi launched the Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa in 2012.

At the time he recommended, among other things, the procurement of obstetric ambulances, which will help to reduce maternal mortality and achieve universal access to reproductive health.

- *Noluthando Mkhize*



# STATE-OF-THE ART SCHOOL FOR EC

The Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI) has not only delivered a state-of-the-art primary school in Berlin, but it also created 38 jobs to community members of Berlin in the Eastern Cape.



**The ASIDI** programme is an R8.2 billion programme that aims to eradicate schools built from inappropriate material and provide basic services such as water, sanitation and electricity to those schools that never had any.

Nkosinathi Primary School was opened by the Department of Basic Education (DBE) as part of ASIDI.

The school was built for just under R10 million and caters for 379 learners, 89 of whom are in Grade R.

The school was upgraded with an administration block, three new classrooms, a Grade R centre, nutrition centre, media centre, science lab and a multipurpose centre.

The multi-media purpose centre, which serves as both a library and a computer centre, will also be made available for public use.

To date the ASIDI programme has completed 129 schools across the country, with the majority of new schools in the Eastern Cape.

Nkosinathi Primary School was the 61st school handed over in the Eastern Cape.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, the DBE's ASIDI Project Manager Mtobeli Dintsi said: "The DBE has made improving and upgrading of schools in the Eastern Cape a priority."

He also added that he was happy to have

been part of a team that was making a difference in the community of Berlin and creating a positive attitude for learners towards their education.

“The increase of learners in the school is what motivated the DBE to make a difference, expand and invest in the learners of the school,” adds Dintsi.

Chairperson of the School’s Governing Body Zandile Mnweba said that the school was established in 1994 because there was a need for a primary school in Berlin.

Addressing the learners and parents, Executive Mayor for the Buffalo City Municipality Alfred Mtsi said: “I am impressed with the facilities provided at the school.”

He added that 50 per cent of the national budget goes towards education.

“Government prioritises education as education seeks to not only enrich the mind but have the ability to change any situation,” said Mayor Mtsi.

An excited Nosive Mchenge whose daughter is in Grade 1 said: “I am so excited to have my daughter attend this school because the facilities as well as the dedication of the teachers in this school are of a very high standard.”

She also added that her daughter is

being given a great foundation and looks forward to attending school.

Hlumela Tshakatshe, a Grade 7 learner, said that she loves reading and can’t wait to use the new library to read as many books as she can.

She also added that she wants to be a doctor one day and that her teachers at Nkosinathi Primary School are patient and dedicated in helping her achieve her dreams.

As part of the ASIDI programme, the community of Mt Frere also in the Eastern Cape, were the proud recipients of a new state-of-the-art school with the handover of Nqantosi Senior Primary School.

The school’s new modern facilities will ensure that the 250 learners attending the school have access to quality learning and teaching.

The construction of the school provided a boost to the local community also creating 521 jobs over 18 month period.

*\*Vuyolwethu Hole works at the Buffalo City Municipality and Ryan Hoffman works at the Department of Basic Education.*

*- Vuyolwethu Hole and Ryan Hoffman*

1994 - 2024





# FIRST BLACK FEMALE ONCOLOGIST FOR KZN

A young KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) doctor has made history. Dr Sithembile Ngidi (31), the daughter of a nurse and a farmer from Gamalakhe in Port Shepstone, made the province proud when she graduated from the Colleges of Medicine South Africa as the province's first-ever black female oncologist.

**An oncologist** is a doctor who specialises in treating people with cancer.

Dr Ngidi, who now works at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital, completed her studies through a bursary that she received from the KZN Department of Health.

A self-confessed bookworm and nerd, Dr Ngidi, who got four distinctions in matric, credits the KZN Department of Health for her success.

"I had academic colours in high school. I applied for a bursary with the KZN Department of Health. That was a huge relief as I got sponsored to fulfill my dreams.

"I'm a specialist today because I got a helping hand from the department. I believe that people need to know that



these opportunities do exist,” said Dr Ngidi.

After completing matric, she studied medicine at the University of Kwa-Zulu-Natal’s Nelson Mandela School of Medicine from 2002 until 2006.

She then completed her two-year internship, followed by one year of community service. She then worked as a medical officer at the ARV clinic at the KwaMashu Polyclinic in 2010. She obtained a medical officer post in oncology later that year. In 2012, she got a registrar post at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital in radiation oncology.

The mother of two believes that healthy lifestyles and regular health screenings help to lessen the impact of non-communicable diseases such as cancer.

“It concerns me that too many people tend to come too late to get a health check-up. Some are embarrassed to seek healthcare due to stigma. So what we always preach is that if you feel a lump, don’t waste any time, get it checked.”

She also attributes her success to nothing less than sheer hard work and having a plan and sticking to it.

“It’s always good to know from the word go what you want in your life. My parents taught me that you can accomplish any goal, so long as you put your mind to it. I thought to

myself, there’s no black female oncologist in KZN. That’s where I want to be,” she said.

Dr Ngidi has her sights set on completing her Masters in Radiation Oncology next year. She hopes her life story will inspire others who might want to follow in her footsteps.

Her advice to the youth is not to be afraid and to work hard to achieve their dreams.

“Nothing comes easy. You need to be prepared to work for it. If you want to be a doctor, study hard, and pick the right subjects. You must have goals and dreams. For me, that’s the essence of life,” she said.

KZN MEC for Health, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, congratulated Dr Ngidi on her achievement.

“Educating a girl child is such an investment for the country but for Dr Ngidi, it is even more special. She is the first female oncologist in the province and second in the country.

“Our province will be placed in a unique position with this achievement. As the Department of Health and KZN government, we are proud of her achievements and we would do anything to support and to see her dream achieved.”

- *Thandeka Ngobese*

1994 - 2024



# ACCESS TO ARTS MADE EASY

The Department of Health is one step closer to ensuring universal access to Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART).

**The Department** of Health is one step closer to ensuring universal access to Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART).

The department announced that from this month it will offer the test-and-treat service to all HIV-positive patients in line with the World Health Organisation's (WHO) guidelines.

In May this year, Minister Aaron Motsoaledi announced during his budget speech that from 1 September 2016 South Africa would implement the new WHO guidelines.

The new guidelines state that people who are currently eligible to start treatment at CD4 <500 can now

be treated, regardless of their CD4 levels.

Over the years the Department of Health has made sure that HIV-positive pregnant women, children under five years as well as HIV and TB co-infected patients receive ART regardless of their CD4 count. The department's new treatment plan will contribute to the National Development Plan's goal of increasing life expectancy to at least 70 years by 2030. The new policy means people diagnosed with HIV can also live long and healthy lives once they are on ARV medication.

"The National Department of Health is aware that this announcement will result in more HIV-positive people accessing ART services, which may lead to congestion and increased waiting times at health facilities."

To ease the burden the department has initiated a process of dispensing and distributing medicine in a that is convenient to patients.



**World Health  
Organization**





# 300 NEW NURSES, THANKS TO STIMULUS PACKAGE

Nompumelelo Majola recently had to deal with the sorrow of burying her 65-year-old mother who had succumbed to a long illness.

**On the day** of the funeral, she received a phone call from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health telling her that her application to work as an Enrolled Nursing Assistant had been successful.

“I could not believe it,” she said. She had spent the past 13 years struggling to find permanent employment. Jubilations! Nurses celebrate the good news of their employment, thanks to President Cyril Ramaphosa’s stimulus package.

Majola who originates from Mbumbulu, now works at the Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital in Umlazi in Durban.

“I’d like to thank President Cryil



Ramaphosa and MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo for making our dreams come true,” she said.

The employment of the nurses was part of the stimulus package, which





was announced by President Ramaphosa. It aims to boost the public health sector through the creation of more than 5 300 jobs throughout the country.

The provincial department is also finalising the appointment of porters, general orderlies, pharmacy assistants and artisans.

KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, comforts new nurse Nompumelelo Majola, whose mother recently passed away. Another newly appointed nurse Gugu Mdlalose, from KwaMashu, who has been placed at Wentworth Hospital, said: “This was going to be my 14th year of not working since qualifying as a nurse. I am extremely grateful to Bab’ Ramaphosa and the entire health team,” she said, fighting back tears.

MEC Dhlomo expressed his heartfelt gratitude to President Ramaphosa for the stimulus package, saying that its beneficiaries will be the vast majority of the population who rely on the State for their health needs – particularly those in far-flung areas.

“Today, there are 300 families who have breadwinners. These nurses have brought tears of joy.” Dr Dhlomo said the nurses have been sitting at home for over 14 years. “These are the nurses who are at the bottom of the ladder of the nursing profession, but they mean so much to our people.”

“We hope by injecting 300 new nurses into the system, we’re going to bring meaning in terms of quality of service to our people.”



# **NSFAS KEEPS CIBI'S DREAM ALIVE**

**Free higher** education and training for students from poor and working-class families is becoming a reality in South Africa that has left many a youngster sighing with relief.

This time last year Azile Cibi thought his university days were over because he could not afford to pay his tuition fees. A delighted Azile Cibi is pleased to continue with his studies thanks to NSFAS.

He owed Rhodes University over R39 000 from the 2017 academic year and could not afford to pay the additional R42 000 needed to continue his fine arts and history degree.

But his hope was restored when his application to the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) was successful, and now he is a third-year student with a bright future.

He told Vuk'uzenzele that NSFAS's financial aid came at a time when he was on the verge of giving up.

"The funding has changed my life. It has given me a chance to work towards my dream," said Cibi, who hails from Makhanda in the Eastern Cape.

Cibi's mother is single and works as a street vendor.

"I have to study and work part-time so that I can help support our fam-

ily," he said, adding that he intends obtaining his PhD and becoming a lecturer.

"As soon as I get a job, I would like to pay back what is due to NSFAS so that other students can get aid."

He has welcomed the introduction of fully subsidised free higher education and training for poor and working-class South African undergraduate students. This extended aid started in 2018 and impacted students in their first year of study at public universities and technical and vocational education and training colleges.

"I believe that the only way to build a strong nation is to educate its people," he said.

In 2018, government expanded the financial aid scheme to students from families with a gross annual income of less than R350 000. This is being phased in for first-time entry students over a five-year period.

More students in higher education institutions

In 2018, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced in his State of the Nation Address that there were almost a million students enrolled in higher education - up from just over 500 000 in 1994.

1994 - 2024



# NEW PILL SET TO STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV

The Department of Health has introduced a new and more effective medication which is set to have a far-reaching impact on the fight against HIV.

**A simple,** more affordable and effective HIV medication was recently launched in South Africa by Minister of Health Zweli Mkhize and will be rolled-out across the country.

The new medication, known as TLD, is a three-in-one, fixed-dose combination that includes dolutegravir, lamivudine and tenofovir. It works by suppressing the viral load, which is the number of HIV particles in a person's bloodstream.


According to the Department of Health, the medication has fewer side effects for people living with HIV. TLD can be used by anyone, regard-

less of their age, gender, race, CD4 cell count and clinical stage. The pill is small and easy-to-swallow.

"It is the best medicine that is used anywhere in the world and we are very pleased to be able to provide it to our patients. The new medication has fewer side effects, is more tolerable and decreases the viral load more rapidly," said Mkhize at the launch, held in the Ugu district on KwaZulu-Natal's south coast, which has one of the highest HIV infection rates in South Africa.

Ugu has attained the United Nations AIDS-set 90-90-90 target, which





specifies that by 2020, 90 percent of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status; 90 percent of people diagnosed with HIV infection will be on treatment and 90 percent of people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression.

“This is a huge achievement in a district and province with the highest rate of HIV in the country,” Mkhize said.

The pill’s known side effects include nausea, insomnia or occasional dizziness, but these are mild and manageable.

When children become mothers

Another health concern highlighted by the Minister at the launch was teenage pregnancies. “We have too many unwanted and unintended pregnancies in our country as well as too many teenage pregnancies.”

He said in the Ugu district alone, 66 girls between the ages of 10 and 14 and 2 436 between the ages of 15 and 19 gave birth in 2018.

“We need to attend to this urgently as children should be children and not parents,” he said.





# TEEN INVENTS DUST-FREE CHALK

A primary school science experiment has earned a young girl national recognition and may herald some good news both for teachers and the environment.

**A Grade Seven** pupil of HP Ngwenya Public Primary School in Chesterville, Durban, has chalked up a win for teachers.

The young teen has created a chalk that emits minimal dust and is environmentally friendly. HP Ngwenya Public Primary School pupil Maluta Gcabashe has invented a new chalk that emits less dust.

Maluta Gcabashe (13) hit upon the idea after noticing how her teachers were often covered in chalk dust. “Most teachers get their hands dirty



when they write on the board. Chalk dust is also not healthy to breathe in,” said Gcabashe.

She set about researching chalk production, reading scientific articles and watching videos she found on-line. “I learned the techniques online with my mentor but then applied my



own additions to the concept,” she said.

Gcabashe has already created two chalks using Maizena, popularly known as corn flour, and eggshells.

Her first chalk was Maizena-based and was moulded in a toilet paper

inner that she had made narrower. The second used eggshells, Maizena and water. “I took the eggs’ inner membrane and then grounded it. I grounded it until it was a fine powder, before mixing it with Maizena,” she said.

Both mixtures were then left to set for 24 hours.

The invention got the nod from teachers at a neighbouring high school. “I took my chalk to teachers at Bonela Secondary School and asked them to try it out and they wrote recommendations saying they would use the chalk,” Gcabashe explained.

She was also recognised at the Eskom Expo International Science Fair, where she was awarded the Best Development Project prize.

“The chalk needs to be produced locally using recycled and natural material. I hope it will become accepted by teachers as an alternative to both standard chalk and the kind of chalk one can buy that is dustless,” said Gcabashe.

1994 - 2024



# A STUTTER NEEDN'T BE A STUMBLING BLOCK

Too many people battle with stuttering without knowing that therapy can improve their speech.



**A speech-language** pathologist at Moses Kotane Hospital in the North West, Gaopalelwe Mogatusi, defines stuttering as a fluency disorder that results in an interruption in the flow of speech.

The disorder is characterised by the repetition of sounds, blocks (no sound is produced), interjections (extra words, such as 'um') and prolongations (stretching out a sound for a long time).

Mogatusi said if stuttering impedes your daily activities, such as the ability to communicate or speak with people at work or school, then it is considered a disability.

Adults are harder to treat, she says, so the disorder is best addressed in childhood.

According to Mogatusi, stuttering causes anxiety in most individuals. People who stutter might have low self-esteem or low-confidence in speaking publicly or in large groups.

For instance, children who stutter are usually withdrawn in classrooms and avoid speaking. "This causes feelings of embarrassment and shame." Parents usually realise that their children stutter from the age of two because that's when most children start to use language.

"This type of stutter is called normal non-fluency and children can outgrow it. "However, when a child aged between four and six stutters and it lasts for more than six months, it is recommended that a speech-language pathologist or speech

therapist be consulted,” says Mogatusi.

### **What causes stuttering?**

Stuttering can be acquired or hereditary. Acquired stuttering is caused by brain trauma or brain injury to the part of the brain that controls speech, whereas hereditary stuttering is passed down from parents or grandparents.

### **Where to go for therapy**

Mogatusi said both private and public healthcare professionals can provide treatment to people who stutter. Treatment involves speech modification strategies which focus on changing the timing, tension and production of speech.

### **Whether a stutter can be reduced completely depends on:**

the severity of the stutter  
how early therapy is started  
how committed an individual is to therapy.

“In my profession, I have seen people who have overcome their stutter and managed it really well.”

She says the good news is that government hospitals now have specialised services such as speech therapy, available to the public for free.

People seeking therapy must visit their local clinic where a doctor or nurse will write a referral letter to a hospital. The patient must then present the letter to a hospital where a speech therapist is based. The speech therapist will conduct a fluency assessment to determine the severity of the stutter, which will guide treatment goals for the individual.

### **Tips for parents**

Mogatusi encouraged parents to acknowledge when their children stutter and provide emotional support to minimise the likelihood of them developing negative reactions.

“If a child is younger than four and a parent notices signs of stuttering, they should not correct the non-fluency as it might be a normal non-fluency. Correcting the child might draw the child’s attention to non-fluency and aggravate it into disfluency,” she explained.

Teachers should learn more about stuttering and help reduce the stigma attached to it.

### **Tips for teachers to support children who stutter:**

Address bullying and teasing; classmates should be educated about stuttering and how to treat a person who stutters.

Practice oral presentations with the student before class presentations, to boost the student’s confidence.

Do not rush lessons because time pressure makes it harder to talk smoothly.

Do not react negatively when the student stutters in class by, for example, getting irritated, annoyed or punishing the student for not speaking properly.

Do not speak on behalf of the child or interrupt him/her when they are speaking.

Always advise parents of students who stutter to see a speech therapist.

Did you know

You can find out from your nearest clinic which hospital in your area has a speech therapist and ask for a referral letter in order to receive therapy.



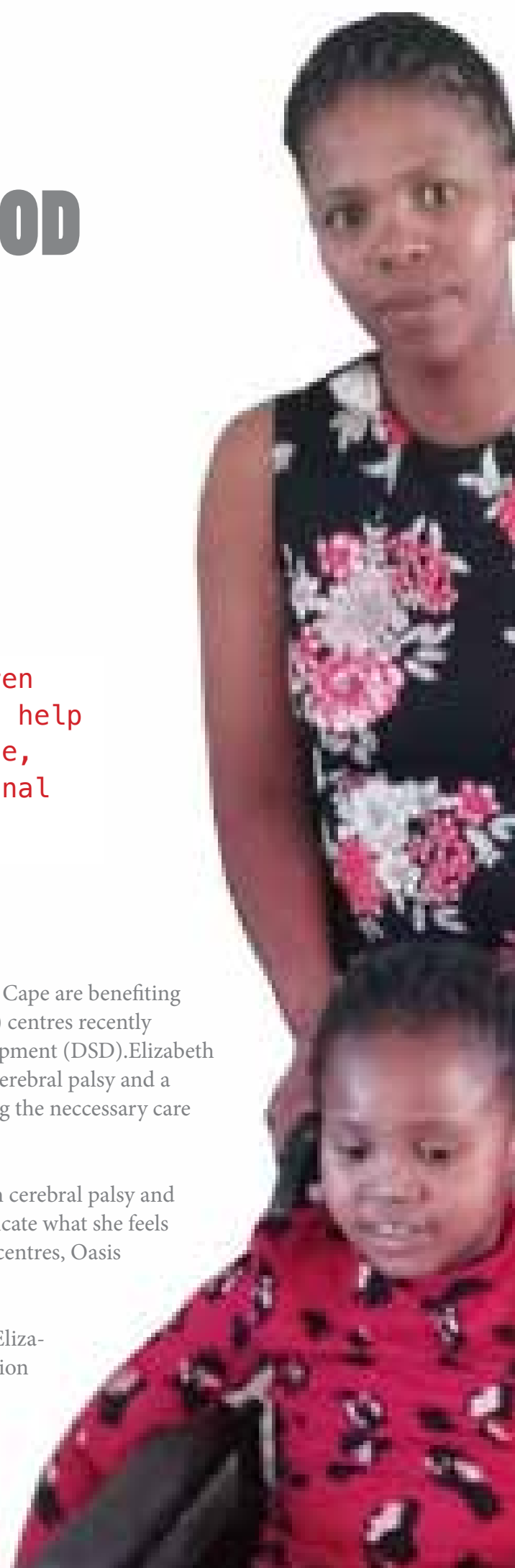
# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IMPROVES IN UPINGTON

The brains of preschool children grow at an incredible rate and help lay the foundations of language, thinking and social and emotional development.


**Children from** Upington in the Northern Cape are benefiting from 10 early childhood development (ECDs) centres recently launched by the Department of Social Development (DSD). Elizabeth Bacela with her daughter Lithemba who has cerebral palsy and a speech impairment. Lithemba is now receiving the necessary care from the newly opened ECDs in Upington.

Five-year-old Lithemba Bacela, who lives with cerebral palsy and has a speech impairment, is better able to indicate what she feels and needs, thanks to her time at one of these centres, Oasis Skills Development Centre's ECD unit.

Lithemba lives in Paballelo with her mother, Elizabeth Bacela, who says her child's communication





A woman wearing a black dress with large pink and white floral patterns is partially visible on the left side of the page.

skills have improved since she started at the centre last year. Elizabeth said the stimulation area has been particularly beneficial.

“Lithemba can now indicate when she is thirsty, hungry or has wet herself.”

The Oasis ECD centre is one of 10 that received new buildings from the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) as part of the commission’s Legacy Project. This countrywide initiative is aligned with the National Development Plan’s commitment to improving education, innovation and training, and ensuring that all children have at least two years of preschool education.

The centre accommodates children who live with a variety of conditions, including autism, down syndrome, cerebral palsy and foetal alcohol syndrome. Each of the four classes at the ECD centre has 10 to 15 pupils, says Acting Chairperson of Oasis Skills Development Centre Marina Johannesen.

The department contributes a subsidy of R20 per child, which covers children between the ages of two and seven and those who are 18 years of age and above.

In 2015, the DSD donated a stimulation centre, computer lab and a bus to transport pupils to and from school.

“Once a week, therapists from the local hospital come to the centre to assess and treat the children,” says Johannesen. The new building, donated recently is an additional blessing for the centre. Speaking at the launch, Social Development Deputy Minister Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu called on the public to include children living with disabilities in dialogues about issues that affect them.

- Silusapho Nyanda

1994 - 2024



# SASSA ROLLS OUT SOCIAL RELIEF OF DISTRESS GRANTS

Applying for the special R350 coronavirus relief grant will be easy and paperless.

**The Department** of Social Development has relooked at and strengthened the criteria and payment methods for the COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress Grant.

Qualifying applicants of the new grant will receive R350 per month from May to October 2020. Minister of Social Development Lindiwe Zulu says the department will not tolerate any form of corruption related to the COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress Grant.

The applicant should be a South African citizen, permanent resident or refugee registered on the Home Affairs system and living within the borders of the Republic of South Africa.

Department of Social Development Minister Lindiwe Zulu says the full-scale implementation of the

new grant is currently under way, following the successful pilot test of a contactless application system.

“We have set up a dedicated WhatsApp line, after having tested the concept through the Department of Health’s WhatsApp platform,” she says.

According to the department, 15 000 applications were loaded onto the system during the test phase and all qualifying applications were due to be paid by 15 May.

Minister Zulu says the department will remain vigilant and not tolerate any form of fraud and corruption.

“We have thus built in strong cyber security and monitoring mechanisms in this regard. All instances of suspected fraud or corruption will be investigated thoroughly,” she says. Appropriate action will be taken if misconduct is established.

## How to apply

The special COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress Grant will be implemented in terms of the existing avenue provided for by the Social Relief for Distress channel, which is administered in accordance with the provisions of the Social Assistance Act, 2004.

## In order to meet the qualifying criteria, applicants must:

- be above the age of 18

- be unemployed
- not be receiving any income
- not be receiving a social grant
- not be receiving any unemployment insurance benefit
- not qualify to receive unemployment insurance benefits
- not be receiving a stipend from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme; and
- not be resident in a government-funded or subsidised institution.

The department says applications may only be submitted electronically and prospective applicants should not visit the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) offices to apply.

Applications can be submitted through one of the following channels:

WhatsApp line: 082 0468 553  
 USSD or SMS Line \*134\*7737#  
 Email address: [srd@sassa.gov.za](mailto:srd@sassa.gov.za)  
 Call centre: 0800 6010 11

Website: [srd.sassa.gov.za](http://srd.sassa.gov.za).

The department needs applicants to provide the following compulsory information:

Identity number/Department of Home Affairs permit number  
 Name and surname as captured on the ID (and initials)  
 Gender and disability  
 Banking details - bank name and account number  
 Contact details - cellphone number  
 Proof of residential address.



**“Beneficiaries and applicants should never give their PIN number or the CVV number on the back of their banking card to anyone – not even SASSA.”**

“We are mindful that we may have some challenges as we roll out this grant and we appeal to members of the public to exercise patience as we embark upon this journey,” the Minister says.

The department does not require any applicant to scan supporting documents, such as ID, proof of address or bank statements.

Applicants are cautioned not to provide their banking details to anyone to avoid scams. SASSA will only ask for information once the application has been approved. Beneficiaries and applicants should never give their PIN number or the CVV number on the back of their banking card to anyone – not even SASSA.”

“Once applications are approved, SASSA will request confirmation of bank accounts through a secure site – this will also be done electronically. Applicants have the right to request

confirmation that a request is from SASSA in order to protect themselves.”

Payments will be deposited directly into an approved applicant’s bank account, if they have one. Applicants without bank accounts may also apply for the grant. Their money will be paid via a money transfer.

The department says the SMS line was developed to assist applicants who do not have smart phones.

Volunteers and community development workers will be deployed to assist those who have no access to technology.

SASSA reserves the right to validate the information provided by applicants with other public and private databases to prevent misrepresentation and potential fraud. Applicants will be required to agree to this before their application is processed.







# HALALA! PROF TSHIFULARO HALALA!

A South African ear, nose and throat specialist has made world history by successfully operating on his patient's middle ear to restore hearing.

**A ground-breaking**, world-first middle ear operation was recently performed by Professor Mashudu Tshifularo (55) at Pretoria's Steve Biko Academic Hospital.

Using 3D printing technology, Prof Tshifularo and his team printed and replaced the middle ear's three bones in an operation that took three hours.

"The desire to make a difference has always been in my heart. I have

been working on this project for the past 10 years. I started to get excited two years ago and went to the lab to work. The 3D technology is very exciting and has really changed the way we do things,” he said.

Prof Tshifularo told Vuk’uzenzele that even though he faced some challenges during his research there was no turning back. “I would sleep thinking about it and wake up thinking about it. And, when I was busy, the ideas came and I would think ‘Wow, this is it’. Then I would go back to the lab and try,” he said.

He did not fear that the operation would go wrong, due to his extensive training. Prof Tshifularo and his team removed the patient’s three middle ear bones, which were broken in a car accident, and replaced them with the new bones, which are less than one centimetre each and made from titanium.

“The ear has the outer ear, middle ear and inner ear. The middle ear is made up of the membrane and three tiny bones. When you clean the ear you feel the membrane and when you touch it, it’s very sensitive. It’s like a speaker because it amplifies sound from outside.

“The three bones in the middle ear

are the hammer, anvil and stirrup. Ligaments and muscles keep them in place. They sit in an empty space. They hang,” he said.

The medical breakthrough will enable those born without middle ear bones to have them built and fitted into their ear.

Prof Tshifularo left high-paying private sector jobs in favour of public service. The father of four said he stays in the public sector to train young doctors and to improve his research.

“I am encouraged and wondering what is next, but I am more determined to go back to the lab and do more research because I know academically there are a lot of questions that we need to answer.”

With a love for imparting knowledge, Prof Tshifularo is passionate about growing young talent.

“I want to train our young doctors and I want the impact not to be my own, but for the country and the continent,” said Prof Tshifularo, who hopes that his achievement will plant the seeds of motivation in young doctors.

- *Silusapho Nyanda*

1994 - 2024



# WHY AND WHEN TO USE PREP



The antiretroviral medication (ARV) oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) has been welcomed across the world as one of the major HIV prevention interventions in the fight against AIDS.


**It was rolled** out to select clinics in South Africa by the National Department of Health in 2016, to help prevent high-risk HIV-negative people from contracting the disease. When taken consistently, PrEP has been shown to reduce the risk of HIV infection in people who are at high risk by up to 92 percent.

According to Pholosong Hospital's medical manager Dr Nthabiseng Makgana, PrEP provides an additional prevention option for those working in a high-risk environment, like sex workers, or those with a

partner who is HIV-positive.

PrEP is a tablet that must be taken daily if it's going to significantly reduce a person's chance of getting HIV. The pill (brand name Truvada) contains two medicines (tenofovir and emtricitabine) that are used in combination with other medicines to treat HIV. When someone is exposed to HIV, these medicines can stop the virus from establishing a permanent infection.

"Patients need to be HIV-negative to qualify for PrEP and it must be



demonstrated that they are at an increased risk of contracting the virus. The benefits of taking PrEP must outweigh the risk associated with the side effects of the drug. A potential candidate for PrEP also first has to undergo baseline tests, conducted by a medical clinician, prior to commencing treatment,” said Dr Makgana.

“Some clinics are already offering PrEP to high-risk individuals. They can consult their local clinic to find out about their PrEP programme,” she added.

#### Why PrEP is being used

“There was an increase in new HIV infection rates in women aged between 18 and 25, an increase in new infection rates amongst sex workers, and the dilemma of partners wanting to bear children when one is HIV-positive,” Dr Makgana said.

PrEP is also used to prevent HIV

transmission from mother to child, prevent early neonatal deaths and the death of children under five-years-old. “It has shown a drastic decline in intrapartum and post-partum transmission to babies. But there are no reliable studies in South Africa about PrEP’s use by adults,” she added.

#### Common side effects

There are common side effects of taking ARVs, especially in the first month of therapy. Dr Makgana said these include fatigue, headaches and abdominal complaints.

“It is very important to be evaluated by a practitioner before starting treatment. When there is demonstrable evidence of increased HIV risk, the benefits outweigh the risk,” she said.

For more information about PrEP, contact your closest primary health-care clinic, HIV centre or the national AIDS helpline at 0800 012 322.

1994 - 2024



# SA TO ROLL OUT VACCINE CERTIFICATES

President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced that the Department of Health will soon roll out a vaccine certificate as proof that residents have been vaccinated against the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).



**Addressing** the nation recently, the President said the digital pass system could be used to show vaccination status to facilitate travel, access to establishments, gatherings and other forms of activity.

“Our approach is informed by World Health Organisation guidelines and is in line with international best practice. Streamlining and standardising proof of vaccination will also go a long way towards getting a number of international travel restrictions both from and into our country eased,” he explained.

The President also announced that the country would move from Ad-

justed Alert Level 2 to Adjusted Alert Level 1 after it exited the COVID-19 third wave.

“Getting vaccinated is not only about protecting yourself and those around you; it is also about preventing new and more dangerous variants from emerging.

The virus can spread and mutate in unvaccinated populations,” President Ramaphosa said.

However, he urged South Africans to continue to adhere to the basic precautions to limit the spread of the virus, even if they have vaccinated.





### Economic recovery

President Ramaphosa said the country's priority is economic recovery to make room for job creation and help businesses hard hit by the pandemic get back on their feet.

"The only way that we can do this is if more South Africans choose to get vaccinated, more quickly.

"If the majority of our population is vaccinated, we can declare South Africa to be a safe destination and welcome tourists back over the summer season."

He added that the only way for the country to resume sporting events and concerts, lift restrictions on restaurants and bars, and facilitate the safe return

to workplaces, shops and public spaces.

"If we can reach our vaccination targets by the end of this year, we can avoid further restrictions and kick our economic recovery into high gear," he stressed.

### Alert Level 1

The President said the current trends in the progression of the pandemic mean that a number of the restrictions in place can be eased, as per the recommendations of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on COVID-19.

### The following measures will apply as part of adjusted Alert Level 1:

- The hours of the curfew have changed, from 12 midnight to 4am.
- Non-essential establishments like restaurants, bars and fitness centres are closing by 11 pm to allow their employees and patrons to travel home before the start of the curfew.
- The maximum number of people permitted to gather indoors has increased from 250 to 750, and the maximum number of people permitted to gather outdoors has increased from 500 to 2 000.
- Where the venue is too small to accommodate these numbers with appropriate social distancing, then no more than 50% of the capacity of the venue may be used. This includes religious services, political events and social gatherings, as well as restaurants, bars, taverns and similar places.



- The maximum number of people permitted at a funeral has moved from 50 to 100. Night vigils, after-funeral gatherings and ‘after-tears’ gatherings are not allowed.
- The sale of alcohol – for both off-site and on-site consumption – has been permitted, according to normal licence provisions. However, no alcohol may be sold after 11 pm.
- The wearing of masks in public places is still mandatory, and failure to wear a mask when required remains a criminal offence.

### **Saving lives**

As of 4 October 2021, over 18 million vaccine doses have been administered since the beginning of the vaccine rollout in May 2021.

This also means that from May 2021, there is a total of about 8.6 million people who are fully vaccinated. This is also more than one-fifth of the adult population.

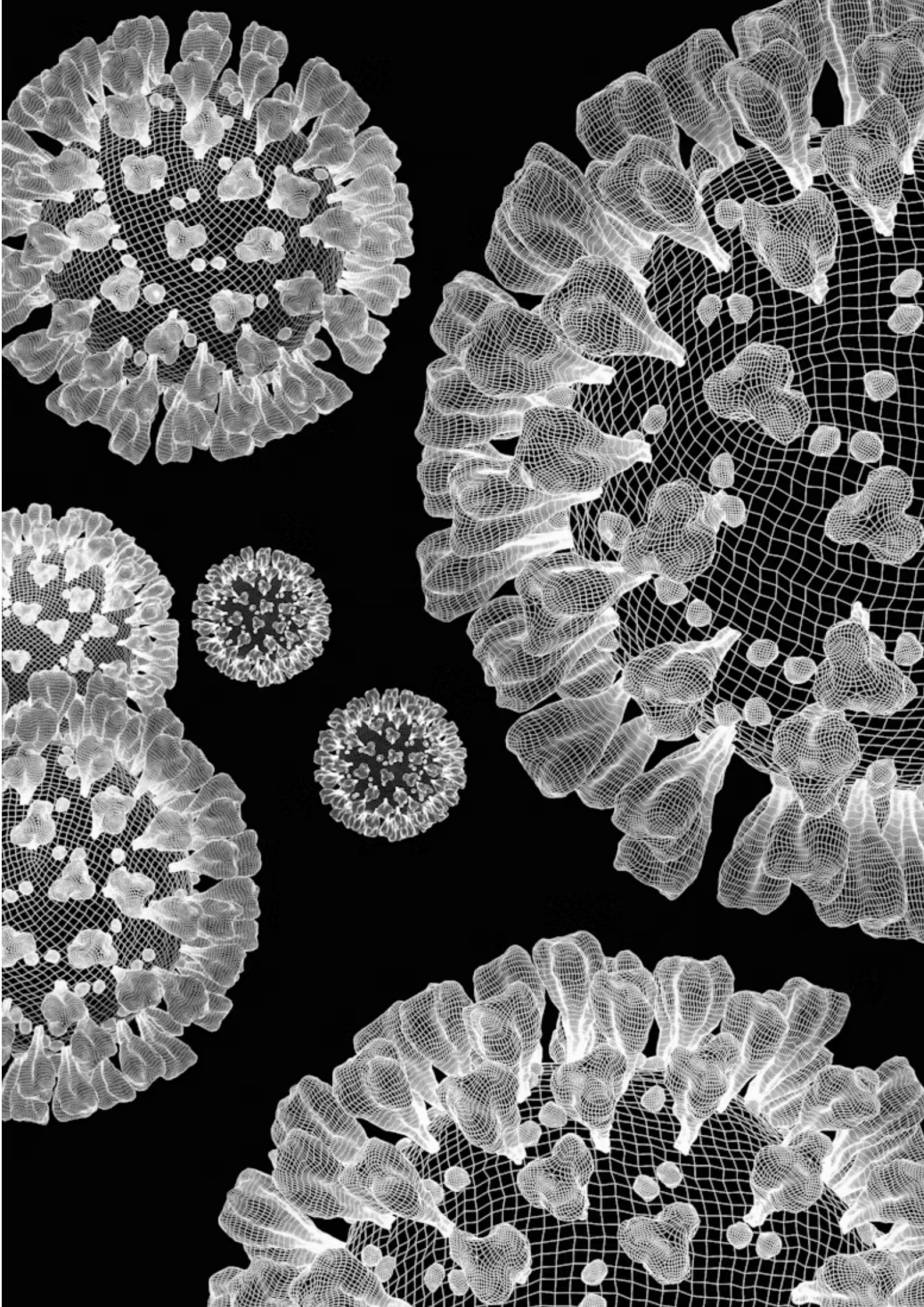
The President said the numbers give confidence and hope especially since government has set a target of vaccinating 70% of the adult population in South Africa by the end of the year.

“If we reach this target, the Department of Health estimates that we could save up to 20 000 lives.

“That represents 20 000 people – mothers, fathers, sons and daughters – whose death can be prevented if the majority of us choose to get vaccinated,” the President said.

He emphasised that to reach the national goal, South Africa needs to administer an additional 16 million vaccine doses this year, which amounts to around 250 000 first dose vaccinations every single work-day of every week until mid-December.

**“Getting vaccinated is not only about protecting yourself and those around you; it is also about preventing new and more dangerous variants from emerging.”**







# SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST VETERINARY NURSES GRADUATE

President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced that the Department of Health will soon roll out a vaccine certificate as proof that residents have been vaccinated against the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

**Being one** of the country's first veterinary nurse graduates is a dream come true for Randburg resident Phumelela Mthimkhulu (21), who has been passionate about animals since she was a child.

Mthimkhulu recently graduated from the University of Pretoria (UP), the only veterinary training facility in SA, with a Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing degree.

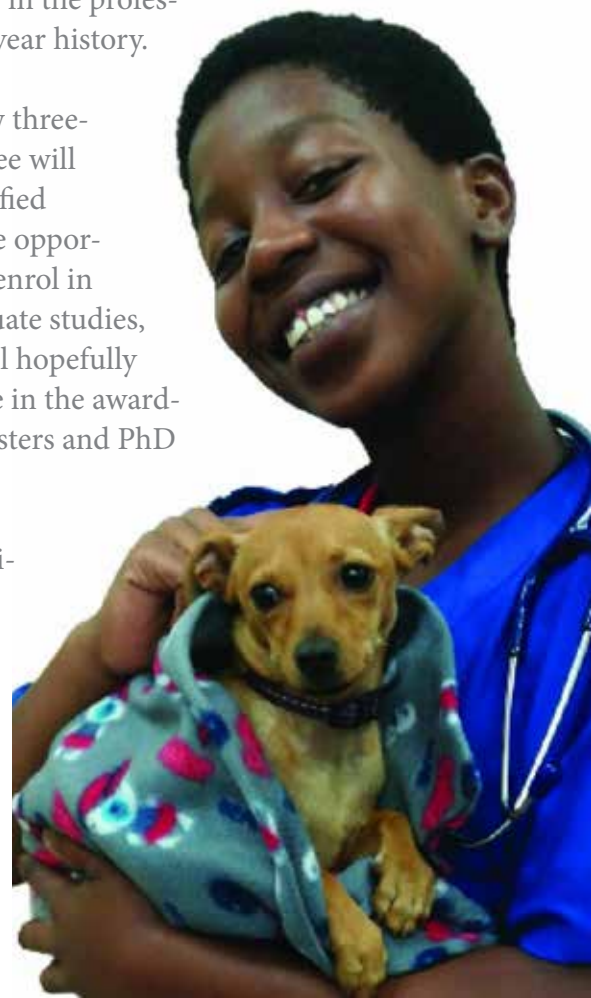
"It's crazy to wrap my head around. To know that I was part of the first class to do the bachelor's degree, which has been years in the making, is an honour.

"I'm grateful for the opportunities and doors that will open for us nurses to further our studies and specialise within our profession, which was hard to do in the past," she says. Phumelela Mthimkhulu is one of the country's first veterinary nurse graduates.

Tamarin Fisher, the President of the Veterinary Nurses Association of South Africa, says this is the biggest milestone in the profession's 42-year history.

"The new three-year degree will give qualified nurses the opportunity to enrol in postgraduate studies, which will hopefully culminate in the awarding of masters and PhD degrees."

Veterinarians treat animals' injuries and



illnesses, similar to how a doctor provides health treatment for people. Veterinary nurses are essential in vets' professional teams, says Mthimkhulu.

"Some of the vital skills a nurse has to display are patient care, client communication, assisting veterinarians with procedures, and anything that will help the veterinary hospital to function at its best.

"It's one of the most rewarding professions. If you want to be a veterinary nurse, don't allow fear or a lack of knowledge to deter you from trying it out and enjoying it because it will change your life for the better," says Mthimkhulu.

### **Bursaries to address skills shortage**

Due to a severe skills shortage in the sector, Mthimkhulu didn't battle to find a job.

"I was lucky enough to secure a job at Fourways Veterinary Hospital during my final year. I started working there about a month after my final exams and I've been enjoying every moment of it," she says.

The Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HWSETA) is committed to addressing the extreme skills shortage in the veterinary sector and ensuring transformation.

It recently launched a Veterinary Science Career Guidance Campaign, in partnership with the Department of Higher Education and Training, and

**"I'm grateful for the opportunities and doors that will open for us nurses to further our studies and specialise within our profession."**

will be visiting rural schools to encourage learners to consider veterinary services as a career path.

It also announced 60 bursaries to address the critical shortage of veterinarians and para-veterinarians in South Africa's rural areas.

"The bursaries are specifically aimed at learners in rural areas as they can take their knowledge back to their homesteads," says Dr Nomfundo Mnisi, the Chairperson of the HWSETA.

The Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Buti Manamela, welcomed the bursaries.

1994 - 2024





The UP's Faculty of Veterinary Science will assist the HWSETA in its marketing, bursary funding and recruitment campaigns.

"We will also assist the HWSETA in administering the bursaries, which were allocated for first-year veterinary science students from the designated groups," says Chris van Blerk, the Head of Communications and Media at UP's Faculty of Veterinary Science.

He says youth hoping to follow in Mthimkhulu's footsteps and register for a first bachelor's degree at UP need to have completed their National Senior Certificate (NSC), or equivalent qualification, and meet minimum requirements.

"For the Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing degree, they need a minimum Admission Point Score of 28 and an NSC with English Home Language or English First Additional Language, mathematics, and physical sciences or life sciences," he adds.

For more information about the sector, youth can contact private veterinary practices or speak to Compulsory Community Service (CCS) veterinarians which are part of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) around the country.

"The CCS programme aims to provide accessible and affordable veterinary services to under-served

and poor resourced areas within South Africa. As such, vets in the programme will always serve as good information resources," says Van Blerk.

### How to apply

To apply for one of the new bursaries, prospective students must strictly apply for the UP's Bachelor of Veterinary Science and Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing (both selection courses) on the UP's online system at [www.up.ac.za/online-application](http://www.up.ac.za/online-application). Applicants should not apply directly to the HWSETA

The closing date for applications is 30 June.

For more information about careers in veterinary science within UP, visit [www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-veterinary-science](http://www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-veterinary-science).

For more information about other bursaries available in the sector, visit [www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-veterinary-science/article/33926/bursaries-for-...](http://www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-veterinary-science/article/33926/bursaries-for-...)

"I'm grateful for the opportunities and doors that will open for us nurses to further our studies and specialise within our profession, which was hard to do in the past."





# NSFAS ENABLES YOUNGSTERS TO CHANGE THEIR LIVES



Bongumenzi Mvelase is on the right path to realise his childhood dream of becoming a top advocate after receiving funding assistance. The 22-year-old third-year law student from the North-West University (NWU) is a beneficiary of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS).

**Mvelase who** is from Utrecht in KwaZulu-Natal, lost both his parents at a young age and was raised by his grandparents. Sadly, they also passed away when he was in Grade 10, which forced him to relocate to Gauteng where he completed his matric while living with other family members.

However, Mvelase says he remained committed to his childhood dream and studied hard to achieve the minimum requirement to be admitted to the university. As per the NWU entry requirements for a Bachelor of Laws, Mvelase obtained level 5 (60–69%) in English and Isizulu and level 3 (40–49%) in mathematics. His admission point score, which is an

average of all subjects – excluding life orientation – was 32.

Mvelase says his consistently good performance in matric and support from his family and teachers inspired him to hold onto his dream of becoming a lawyer and he began to look for funding opportunities.

He learnt about the NSFAS at a career day and applied in his final year at high school. He says that he found the process easy and did not battle when he arrived at the university in his first year.

The NSFAS provided him with a full bursary that covered tuition and study fees, accommodation, book

allowance and a monthly allowance of R1 500 for food. He says being an NSFAS beneficiary was a relief to him because he could focus on his studies and not have to worry about money.

He uses part of his allowance to travel back home to KwaZulu-Natal during the school holidays.

While he realises that he has a long journey ahead of him before he is admitted as an advocate, he is grateful for the journey he has travelled so far.

“There were moments where I was not sure what I would do after matric because you need money to go to university, so I’m glad that the NSFAS has brought me this far, even though there is still a long way to go,” he says.

Responding to his career choice, Mvelase says he learnt from an early age that legal costs were not affordable for ordinary people and he hopes to help others once he establishes himself in the legal fraternity. He aspires to be a human rights lawyer to make an impact in his community, particularly on issues about land reform, which he says are still unresolved in his village.

He says being in university has been a life-changing experience for him. He has met inspiring people who are in a position to help him achieve his goals.

“I have taken part in many programmes that helped me understand the career I have chosen. I get to meet people who are excelling in the field; it

is an exciting experience,” he says.

#### Support for students

Bongumenzi Mvelase Mvelase encourages prospective students who cannot afford study fees to apply to the NSFAS to realise their dreams.

He cautions, however, that it is challenging for students – particularly those from underprivileged families who have not travelled much – because they are miles from home. He is concerned about fellow beneficiaries who end up dropping out because of their poor academic performance. Students who are feeling overwhelmed, he says, must use the university’s facilities for mental and psychological support.

He says one of the NSFAS conditions for students keeping their bursary until graduation is that they perform well academically.

“The NSFAS brought hope to many of us from disadvantaged backgrounds. I would encourage everyone out there, particularly those coming from rural areas, to submit their application on time and improve their pass rates so they can pursue the careers of their choice.

“We must also understand that while it all sounds good and free, someone is paying for us through tax. We must not abuse the opportunities,” he says.

- Owen Mngadi

1994 - 2024



# I AM TINTSWALO



**Catherine Khoza's** life spiralled into disarray after her mother died on the day she passed her matric about 20 years ago.

She dusted herself off and got back on her feet after a 10 year "blackout".

"I forgot about my matric and about furthering my education. I started taking care of my son and siblings after having a blackout when my mother died," she told Vukuzenzele in a recent interview.



Today, Khoza holds a Bachelor's Degree in Education and teaches at a school in the North West.

"After 10 years I had a challenge with my children. If you don't have a qualification, children take it as if it is not wrong to not go to school or have a qualification. So I decided to go back to school just to motivate them. Catherine

In 2012, aged 30, Khoza enrolled for a Level 4 certificate at the Reikantse Community Learning Centre (CLC).

"I took this route because I thought my mind had gone blank, I was too scared to go to a mainstream learning institution. I did my ABET level 4 to refresh my mind so I'll be able to keep up with the learning demands.

The CLC is part of the Department of Higher Education and Training's (DHET) community education training programme.

"After passing my level 4, I gained confidence that I could get a degree. My educators thought I was good at mathematics and urged me to volunteer at the centre. I volunteered at the Reikantse centre for about three months," she said.

Impressed by her educator skills, her

colleagues at the centre urged her to pursue a qualification in teaching.

Spurred on, in 2014 she enrolled for a Bachelor's Degree in Education at the University of South Africa. She completed the degree in 2019.

"It was very difficult to get the degree because I didn't have an income to fund my studies. I started by taking only two modules at a time and funded those using my children's social grant," she said.

Her journey only gained momentum when the DHET offered her an employment contract as a CLC level 4 lecturer.

Upon obtaining her degree, Khoza worked at various schools in the North West and Gauteng on a temporary basis before being offered full-time employment at Mahobotle Primary School.

- Sihle Manda

1994 - 2024

The graphic features a background with three diagonal color bands: a yellow band at the top left, a dark blue band in the middle, and a red band at the bottom right. The number '30' is written in a large, white, cursive script across the blue band.

30

YEARS OF  
*empowering stories*

---

CONSOLIDATING THE  
SOCIAL WAGE THROUGH  
RELIABLE AND QUALITY  
BASIC SERVICES

---



# BRIGHTENING UP LIVES WITH ELECTRICITY



Phalane with some of her staff

For more information, call the  
Umsobomvu Youth Fund: 08600 96884

**It is unusual** to find a woman doing a dangerous job like maintaining electricity wires. But for Mabu Asnath Phalane, this kind of work is her income and pride.

Brightening up lives with electricity Phalane, a 31-year old mother of two, is the proud owner of an electrical company in Newcastle, northern KwaZulu-Natal.

What she enjoys most about her job is brightening up people's lives by bringing electricity to rural areas where communities had to make do without it in the past.

## Main task

Phalane's company, called Phindulo Trading, builds high-voltage power lines and provides other electricity-related services for Eskom. These include maintaining power lines and sub-stations, as well as installing transformers.

Their main task is to install electricity in various parts of northern KwaZulu-Natal and in Mpumalanga. They start with the basic things needed to connect households to the electrical grid. This includes digging holes, planting poles and putting in lines and transformers.

## Farming

At first, electricity was not Phalane's area of interest. She wanted to be a farmer. She studied agriculture and graduated with a diploma in animal production. But growing up in a rural area without electricity sparked her interest to follow a career in electricity.

Having first-hand experience of not having electricity at home, Phalane is aware of the difficulties these communities face. "You have to collect firewood in the veld. At night you cannot study properly because you have to use a candle," she said.

“My brother is an electrical engineer and I became interested in what he was doing, so I decided to enroll for an electrical course.”

### Bringing joy

“When you know people had been working on a farm for almost 20 years without electricity, and you see their joy when you bring it to them, you feel that you are making a difference in their lives,” Phalane said.

She started her business using her own savings to buy a second-hand truck, equipment and protective clothing. After struggling to make ends meet for three years, Phalane applied for funding from the Umsobomvu Youth Fund.

“With the money I got from the fund, I could buy brand new equipment and a new eight-ton truck. Now everything is running smoothly and I manage to complete my jobs on time.”

### Job creation

an industry dominated by men, Phalane said. But knowledge of the work has helped her earn the respect of her male employees. She employs 18 permanent staff who are qualified to work with electricity.

Her plans for the future include growing her company so that it can create more jobs in the electrical industry, especially for young women.

- Mbulelo Baloyi



Mabu Phalane at work

1994 - 2024





# DANNHAUSER BRIGHTENS UP RESIDENTS' LIVES



Philani Motha, a father of five, has lived all his life in Doringkop village, in KwaZulu-Natal, without electricity.

**Even though** life was tough, Motha always had faith that one day he would be able to turn on a switch and light up his home.

That faith finally paid off recently when Motha's home was among the more than 1 250 households, which fall under the Dannhauser Municipality, that received electricity.

ality, that received electricity.

"Life was very difficult and expensive for my family. For as long as I can remember I had to go to the bush to find firewood for my wife to cook supper. In winter we would start a fire inside our rondavel to keep us warm at night." Motha says his wife used to wake up at the crack of dawn to start a fire.

"She had to wake up at 4am everyday to prepare warm water for the children to bath before going to school. Sometimes they would have a cold breakfast if there was no time to start

a fire,” Motha adds.

His eldest daughter, who is now 24, did not have the luxury of studying in an electrified room and had to study by candlelight throughout the schooling career.

Motha jokes that she drove all the way from the big city of Pretoria to confirm for herself that there was electricity in the area she grew up in.

He explains that the expenses that came with not having electricity affected his subsistence farmer’s budget severely.

“At a later stage we decided to buy generators to help with power in the household. It cost R60 to fill five litres in the generator, which lasted for four hours. It was a luxury for us to listen to the radio or watch television,” Motha says.

A bubbly Motha adds that after living his whole life without electricity, he is happy that lifestyle is behind him.

“I sit on the couch and listen to the radio during the day while watching my crops and cattle grazing in the fields.”

The Dannhauser Municipality is on a mission to ensure that more of its residents can enjoy the same experience as Motha.

It has finalised plans and processes to deliver electricity to every household by March 2014. Recently, KwaZulu-Natal Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs MEC Nomusa Dube announced that the remaining 1 000 homes without electricity would receive it within a year, ensuring the municipality achieved 100 per cent electrification.

According to Veli Mdlalose, compliance and public participation officer in the office of the municipal manager, the municipality has spent R31 million on the Electrification of Households Programme since it started in 2010.

Mdlalose attributes the success of the project to a good working relationship between the different parties, which include Eskom, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs KZN and the Department of Energy.

The municipality conducted a door-to-door data-collecting programme to find out how many households needed electricity and with the help of these figures was able to structure the programme and start the process.

**For more information contact  
the Dannhauser Municipality  
on 034 621 2666.**

1994 - 2024



# CLEAN WATER FOR MBIZANA RESIDENTS



**Currently,** they rely on the river and temporarily installed taps and sometimes go a week without water.

All these struggles for clean water will be a thing of the past thanks to the construction of the Ludeke Dam.

“We want water badly in this area. We are struggling to get water. We fetch it from the river and share it with cattle. We are very grateful that we will soon get clean water through the Ludeke Dam,” said Faku.

Ludeke Dam, the second biggest dam in the former Transkei region after Mthatha Dam, is part of the Greater Mbizana Regional Bulk Water Supply Scheme and has a storage capacity of

14.5 million cubic metres of water.

The project includes the construction of Nomlacu Water Treatment Works at a cost of R70 million, where water flows from a pump station at the Ludeke Dam through a 13km of steel pipe to the water treatment works.

The water treatment works is designed to eventually supply 20 mega litres of water per day but currently has a capacity of 10 mega litres (10 million litres) water per day. The plant will ensure that the community gets clean and healthy water.

Another element of the project is a bulk pipe line and the building of reservoirs at a cost of R110 million.

The bulk pipe line will supply water from Nomlacu Water Treatment Works to strategically situated bulk reservoirs areas across Mbizana, which in turn will distribute treated water to the Greater Mbizana area.

### Job opportunities

The project has also created job opportunities for local communities.

The Ludeke Dam has created 190 jobs, the pump station has employed about 70 people, Nomlacu Water Treatment Works 70 people and 150 were employed to work on the pipelines. Also, 32 people have been trained as plumbers and five as treatment works operators.

About R6.5 million was spent locally to pro- The newly constructed Ludeke Dam in the Eastern Cape is part of the Greater Mbizana Regional Bulk Water Supply Scheme, which will

supply clean drinking water to about 270 000 people.

cure diesel, accommodation, security services, portable toilets and local contractors. “The project has assisted me a great deal. I am now the bread winner at home. I was not employed before,” said Ntombifuthi Cagi, of ward 27, in Mbizana.

She started working at the project in March 2012 as a cleaner.

Once completed, the project is expected to supply safe drinking water to about 270 000 people.

- Ndyebo Kopo

\* Ndyebo Kopo works for Government Communication and Information System in the Eastern Cape

“The Ludeke Dam has created 190 jobs, the pump station has employed about 70 people.”

1994 - 2024



# GOVERNMENT DECLARES WAR ON WATER LEAKS

Cynthia Ncapayi of Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape, was shocked when her water bill showed that she owed more than R70 000. Ncapayi is a single mother who earns less than R200 000 a year. She knew that her two children could not have raked in a bill that high considering that she doesn't even own a geyser, shower or a bath tub.



**Upon investigation,** it was discovered that Ncapayi was a victim of water leaks that have become a problem in many South African townships. Many of her neighbours have reported huge water bills in recent months and these were linked to leaking water pipes and broken taps.

Every year, South Africa loses about R7 billion due to water leaks and such losses cost the country. This is water that could be used by millions of households who do not have access to basic services such as water and sanitation.

But a new water saving programme approved by Cabinet is expected to save the country millions of litres of water that go to wastage. President Jacob Zuma launched the War on Leaks programme in Port Elizabeth recently and this will see 15 000 artisans, water agents and plumbers fixing leaking taps and pipes in their respective communities as part of promoting water conservation.

The programme is expected to run over a five-year period and 15 000 unemployed youth will be trained within three disciplines, namely water agents, artisans and plumbers. This is to ensure that South Africa's Water and Sanitation Sector will be equipped with a competent number of skills and capacity to minimise water losses in the country.

Water and Sanitation Minister Nomvula Mokonyane has already appointed Rand Water to implement the War on Leaks project.



“In his State of the Nation Address, the President raised concern about the annual more than R7 billion worth of water that the country loses due to aged infrastructure to a leaking tap. We also have unaccounted water that can’t be quantified. He then called on the department to come with interventions,” Minister Mokonyane said.

“The War on Leaks Programme will not only save us water but will provide thousands of young South Africans with sustainable job opportunities in the form of artisans, plumbers and water brigades that will work within municipalities that have been identified,” she said.

The training will be done in phases with phase one expected to recruit about 3 000 young people followed by 5 000 during phase two learners and 7 000 learners will be trained during phase three in 2017/18 financial year.

Speaking in Port Elizabeth, where the programme was officially launched, President Zuma said the water brigades will do repairs, retrofitting and replacements. They will be placed in municipalities across the country.

“Our key message to you is that we must save water. Water is not unlimited. If we do not look after it, we will lose it. We all see water leaking all over the streets and in our homes through dripping taps and pipes.

“These losses also occur in various forms such as underground infrastructure, faulty and poorly maintained equipment and ageing infrastructure,” the President said.

Municipalities are also already working on big projects of refurbishing the infrastruc-

ture especially the leaking pipes. The War on Leaks project will boost what the Department of Water and Sanitation as well as municipalities are busy with, to rebuild the broken pipes and other infrastructure, he said.

Government has set aside about R680 million in the current financial year.

Minister Mokonyane said 27 district municipalities in the country were in a dire state in terms of water capacity.

“Working together with the water boards, we will train youngsters, give them accreditation through SETAs and they will be attached to our different water boards, that will help us with capacity,” she said.

She added that many young people will also be placed in district municipalities where interventions are needed.

Nelson Mandela Bay Mayor Danny Jordan said the Nelson Mandela Metro, which includes Port Elizabeth, Uitenhage and Despatch municipalities, was a water scarce region.

“We have a very serious challenge, it is for this reason that we took a decision to invest more to secure water as a key resource for this metro. We are very happy that the President is here to launch this war,” Jordan said.

“In our area as a metro, we must address the question of water leaks. The many high bills people have for water are not as result of their use of water but the inability of the municipality to tackle water leaks,” he said.



# AGANANG COMMUNITIES GET ACCESS TO WATER



Over a 1 000 households in three different villages in the Aganang Local Municipality will benefit from the newly launched water projects.

**In its continuous** effort to increase access to water and improve the quality of lives of people, Capricorn District Municipality (CDM), handed over water projects to communities in Mashashane, Matlala and Maraba in Aganang Municipality recently.

Executive Mayor Gilbert Kganyago handed over the water projects to Kgomoschool, Naledi, Phofu, Bergsicht and Lepotlako.

“I hope the projects will go a long way in further expanding the water reticulation network and reduce the backlog of water supply in this area,”

said Mayor Kganyago.

The handover comes four months after Kganyago made a commitment in his State of the District Address that the CDM “continues to intervene in areas where water shortages are severe” as it strives to reduce the water supply backlogs in more villages.

Water services backlog in Aganang currently stands at 22 per cent and the area has long been serviced through various regional water schemes which is not sufficient.

In Kgomoschool the construction of elevated steel tanks and a pipeline

### Be water smart:

South Africa is a water scarce country and it is up to all of us to save every drop. Here are a few tips to help you save water:

Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it such as watering a plant or garden, or for cleaning.

Make sure your home is leak free. Many homes have hidden water leaks. If the toilet handle frequently sticks in the flush position letting water run constantly, replace or adjust it.

Store drinking water in the refrigerator. Don't let the tap run while you are waiting for cool water to flow.

Do not use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator or use the defrost setting on your microwave.

When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink or basin with soapy water.

Quickly rinse under a slow-moving stream from the faucet

If you have a well at home, check your pump periodically.

Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects and other similar waste in the trash rather than the toilet.

Why safe water?

South Africa is a water-scarce country.

Unless we reduce our water use, water restrictions will be introduced.

Whose responsibility is to conserve water?

Everybody uses water and it is everybody's responsibility to use water wisely, sparingly and to save it wherever possible.

How can I play my part?

You can play a part by being aware of your impact on water consumption and your responsibility to save it and by telling others about it.

You can save water at home, at work, at school and anywhere you use water.

Use the many tips to save water and try to find other ways to save it.

Source: [nelsonmandelabay.gov.za](http://nelsonmandelabay.gov.za)

now benefits 463 households and the project in Phofu 304 households through yard connections and communal taps.

In Naledi, the project benefits 400 households through yard connections reticulated from an elevated steel tank.

Maria Matsaung of Naledi village

said she was relieved that finally her village got water.

"This hopefully ends years of travelling long distances to fetch water," she said.

*\*Moffat Senyatsi works for the Capricorn District Municipality.*



# 600 HOUSEHOLDS GET ELECTRICITY

The life of Nonjabulo Khumalo (36) and her six siblings will never be the same after her home was connected to the electricity grid for the first time. Khumalo, who lives in Nhlazatshe in Ulundi, north of KwaZulu-Natal, was one of 600 households to receive electricity.



**According** to Khumalo, the installation of electricity has changed her life and saved her family a lot of money, which was previously spent on paraffin and candles for lights and cooking.

“My siblings are now able to study at night and whenever they are given homework that requires them to watch certain programmes on television, they are now able to do this. This was not possible in the past,” said an excited Khumalo.

According to KwaZulu-Natal Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs MEC Nomusa Dube-Ncube, the purpose of the project was to provide household electricity to the community of Nhlazatshe Ward 13.

MEC Dube-Ncube said the ongoing effort to connect rural communities to the national electricity grid is a key priority for the government, as access to electricity is pivotal for communities that are now enjoying the rewards of a democratic government.

“We are really excited about the transformation we are seeing in our communities, as more and more people are getting connected to the grid. This area of Ulundi has an electricity backlog of just over 8 000 and we are glad to see that this project has alleviated much of the backlog,” said MEC Dube-Ncube.

It cost government R12 million for the

project to be implemented.

“Rural communities should always be prioritised and we are glad to see Eskom working with us to electrify households that are still waiting to be connected to the grid for the first time,” said MEC Dube-Ncube.

The municipal electrification programme was part of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) initiative and all projects are required to employ local labour to develop skills locally.

The Nhlazatshe Electrification Programme created at least 20 local jobs.

MEC Dube-Ncube said that part of her department’s mandate is to support municipalities in the implementation of infrastructure programmes, such as water, sanitation and energy. These mandates are aimed at achieving universal access to all services to improve the quality of life of the people in the province of KwaZulu-Natal.

The MEC also donated various electric appliances and groceries to some families.

She held an interactive session with community members during her visit, to resolve some electricity grievances and other social challenges.

- *Noluthando Mkhize*

1994 - 2024





# WATER INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES FOR LEPHALALE

In an effort to ensure that residents have access to consistent and quality water supply, the Lephalale Local Municipality (LLM) is upgrading its water infrastructure by replacing the old asbestos pipes.

**The upgrade** of the asbestos pipes is being done in line with the municipality's goal of delivering comprehensive water services to communities and to curb water losses through burst pipes and leaks in the area.

The upgrade is expected to benefit over 150 000 people within the municipality.

This is in line with government's efforts to save water. Recently, Minister of Water and Sanitation Nomvula Mokonyane said the country loses R7 billion per year as a result of water leaks.

To help minimise the impact, her department will spend R3 billion training 15 000 young people to become artisans, plumbers, and water agents to fix leaking taps and pipes in their respective communities as part

of promoting water conservation.

The programme is expected to run over a five-year period to ensure that South Africa's water and sanitation sector is equipped with a competent number of skills and capacity to minimise water losses in the country.

Executive Mayor of LLM Jack Maeko said the infrastructure was important for meeting the needs of the municipality's growing population.

"This project is extremely important as it deals with the basic needs of our people. Existing water supply systems should be refurbished and/or upgraded in a manner that serves the growing populations of Onverwacht, Lephalale town, Marapong and rural communities."

He added that upgrading the infra-

structure would also play a positive role in the growth of Lephalale town on a long- and short-term basis.

“The present water supply systems and the capacity of virtually all infrastructure’s needs to be increased to at least double the present capacity in many instances to provide for growth in the short- and long-term,” he said.

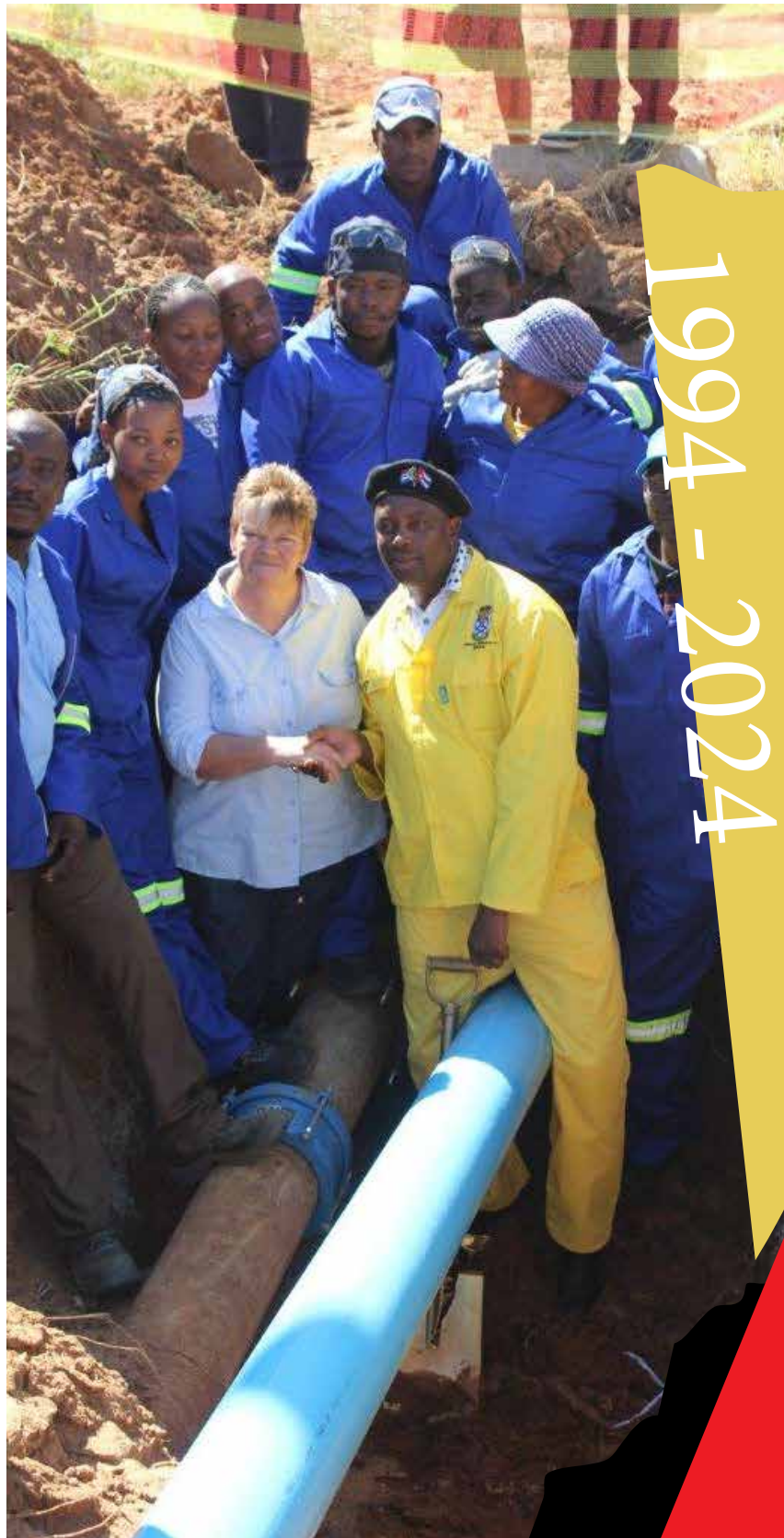
The upgrade is being done in partnership with the Department of Water and Sanitation and in phases over a five-month period that started in April and is expected to end in September 2016.

The project is valued at just over R10 million. The municipality contributed R3 million and the Department of Water and Sanitation will contribute R7 million to the project.

The implementation of the project will enable LLM to curb water losses from the existing 119 km of AC pipes in Lephalale that include a 60 km section that needs immediate attention.

The existing pipes range from 100mm to 300mm in diameter at an approximate depth of 1m to 2m below the ground.

**Lephalale residents are encouraged to report water problems to the Municipality on 014 763 2193 or 082 770 0085**





# JERICOHO RESIDENTS GET WATER

The Department of Water and Sanitation has unveiled a water project that will improve access to water in Jericho, North West.



**The R15 million** Jericho Rural Water Supply Project has contributed to socio-economic upliftment and

has increased the security of water supply to the communities of Jericho in Madibeng Local Municipality.



“We can’t compromise services to our people. Water is life and sanitation is dignity.”

The project involves the laying of pipelines, reticulation, testing and drilling of boreholes, establishing the yield of boreholes, as well as connecting the feeder lines to the existing network and the main reservoir.

Speaking during the unveiling ceremony, Minister Nomvula Mokonyane and North West Premier Supra Mahumapelo handed over Water-on-Wheels equipment to indigent people. Each wheel can store 100 kilolitres of water.

The Minister urged community members to play their part in protecting government infrastructure that is meant to improve people’s lives.

“We can’t compromise services to our people. Water is life and sanitation is dignity. We must deal with people who steal water valves and water pumps because what they are doing is sabotage,” said Minister Mokonyane.

- Gabi Khumalo

1994 - 2024



# UIF REACHES OUT TO DOMESTIC AND FARM WORKERS

The Department of Employment and Labour has begun efforts to reach domestic workers and farm labourers to enable them to benefit from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) relief scheme.



**The scheme** is part of a basket of government-wide services aimed at ensuring that the worst effects of the coronavirus pandemic are mitigated. The department's relief fund has

already paid out billions of rands to workers who may not have received a salary as a result of the lockdown.

In a statement, Employment and



Labour Minister Thulas Nxesi said: “Society is judged by how it tries to take care of the most vulnerable in its midst. This is why government in general, and the Department of Employment and Labour in particular, are doing everything in their power to shield the most vulnerable from the worst of the pandemic.

Since the lockdown was announced, the department, through the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF), has handed out almost R11 billion in benefits to workers through employers.

“We have appealed to employers, especially those who employ domestic workers and farm labourers, to apply on their behalf so that they are not left wanting.

“We sincerely hope that employers, especially in these two sectors, heed our call. We have also enlisted the help of a private company which is helping us trace these workers through their cell phones so that they are aware of the benefit and either get the employers to claim on their behalf or reach out to the UIF themselves,” said the Minister.

Private company, Interfile, has offered to run the SMS service to these sectors at no cost to the UIF. The de-

partment is working on the database it has, to try and reach these workers.

According to Department records, at least 91 406 domestic workers are on the database - however, only 2 968 have their cell numbers listed and only 25 518 have emails.

“We appeal to employers of domestic workers, those who may have difficulties paying them, to ensure that they access these services as soon as possible. The disbursements from UIF could also act as a top-up for reduced salaries and these are necessary for our mothers and sisters as they really need the break,” said Minister Nxesi.

**For more information log on to [www.labour.gov.za](http://www.labour.gov.za) or call the UIF on the toll-free number 0800 030 007.**

1994 - 2024



# BRIDGE SET TO CONNECT RURAL E CAPE COMMUNITIES

The lives of villagers from Mvezo and Lundondolo in the Eastern Cape will never be the same, once the Nkosi Dalibhungu Mandela Legacy Bridge is completed.



**When finished,** the bridge will connect the village of Mvezo - the birthplace of former President Nelson Mandela - in the King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality to the Lundondolo village on the other side of the Mbhashe River.

It will also link up to the new 10 kilometre tarred road that will connect Mvezo with the N2, reducing the

distance between this area and East London, Mthatha and Idutywa by more than 50 kilometres.

When the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, Gugile Nkwinti, visited the area in April to monitor the progress of the bridge, he was happy to find that it was on the verge of completion.

Built by local contractors, the 140-metre long bridge is situated on the Mbhashe River of the Mbhashe Local Municipality in the former Transkei.

Minister Nkwinti initiated the project in 2010, to improve the lives of the people of Mvezo and Lundondolo, who had to travel several hours to get to town in Idutywa.

The historical village of Mvezo will now act as a catalyst for economic activities and improve access to services including electricity, water, flush toilets, roads, entertainment, sport centres, shopping centres, schools and agricultural production.

The entire project has cost more than R120 million. The bridge is scheduled to be completed before the end of the year.

Minister Nkwinti said that the construction of the bridge had created more than 130 employment opportunities. The project has opened doors for more projects by government to uplift these communities.

Prince Mandla Mandela and Prince Xolilizwe Sigcau accompanied the Minister during the visit. Prince Mandela acknowledged the

progress that had been made by the community in gaining skills and accessing employment opportunities.

He added that if the water resource in the area was used effectively, agricultural projects could be a useful means to improve the lives of people.

*-Tabita Ngqunge*

*\*Tabita Ngqunge works for GCIS in the Eastern Cape.*

DID YOU KNOW?

Vuk'uzenzele  
prints  
in braille.

1994 - 2024



# LAND BENEFICIARIES PLEDGE TO USE LAND PROFITABLY

In an effort to address the legacy of the notorious 1913 Native Land Act, government has redistributed 7.950 million hectares and settled 77 334 lodged claims since 1994.

**The latest** beneficiaries of the land claims process are the Barolong Boo Mariba Traditional Council who received six farms from North West Premier Thandi Modise recently.

The council says it will profitably use the six farms it received as compensation for the land that was taken from them through the notorious 1913 Natives' Land Act.

The farms, valued at R60 million, were handed over to the commu-

nity by North West Premier Thandi Modise at Dalyspan Farm near Mabule in Ratlou Local Municipality.

Speaking on behalf of the traditional council, Kgosi Kopano Lekoko said he was thankful to the government for negotiating for the land on their behalf.

"We are thankful to the ANC-led government that the land was being returned without bloodshed. There are many farms in the land that we have claimed. So far, only six farms have been returned.

"We owe it to the government to demonstrate that we will use it profitably to feed our people, the country and the international market. The work on the farm begins as soon as this celebration ends," said Kgosi Lekoko.

Community member Olebogeng More, 62, said it had been a long wait and the handover showed that patience is a virtue. "We are going to safeguard the land of our forefathers. Our cattle will no longer starve. We are back on course after many years of oppression and land dispossession. Our dignity will be restored."

Tshenolo Tlhogi, 63, said: "We will now be able to sleep. To us, the land is an important asset but it is also more than just a commodity, it's about our identity."

Kobus Odendaal, 77, who bought the Dalyspan farm seven years ago

from another farmer, said he and his wife Susan were very happy for the community, although they will always miss the good life they had at the farm. “It was a very good farm, very productive.”

Modise urged the traditional council to use the land fruitfully and preserve it for future generations.

“Never ... again must this country experience some of the things that many of us are still reeling from. Hold on to the land we return to you today. Don’t allow people to steal it. We must preserve our land for our children.”

Modise, also toured the farms to inspect facilities. She said her administration is looking at various models to make life easy for farming communities and people in rural areas in general.

She said in addition to availing training opportunities through the Kgora Training Centre, which seeks to equip subsistence and aspirant farmers with farming skills, she planned to lead a delegation to Thailand, where they will investigate, among others, solar opportunities to make it easy for people in far-flung areas to have cheaper electricity.

- Nthambeleni Gabara

**“We owe it to the government to demonstrate that we will use it profitably to feed our people, the country and the international market. The work on the farm begins as soon as this celebration ends.”**

1994 - 2024





# WORKERS RESTORE FARM INTO LAND OF MILK AND HONEY

**Catherine Chiloane has moved from being a landless farmworker to being a part of land barons.**

**In 1997**, Chiloane, along with 247 other workers at Coromandel farm, faced a threat of losing her job and her home as the farm collapsed.

Coromandel Farm administrative manager Sipho Ngwenyama takes stock of the farm's livestock with the help of fellow farm workers turned owners. The farm's future looked bleak as milk and maize prices dropped and cash flow dried up. "I was really scared we would lose everything," Chiloane recalls. "Thank God it didn't end up that way."

The iconic 5 800 hectare estate farm which lies in the foothills between Lydenburg and Dullstroom in Mpumalanga, belonged to the late industrialist Sydney Press who assembled the estate from 24 smaller farms in the 1970s.

The Coromandel Estate includes an operational mixed agriculture business and boasts waterfalls, a 300 hectare fully stocked game reserve, stone built stables, 24 mangers' residences, two employee villages, a school, self-catering tourist accommodation, fly

fishing, horse riding and an airstrip. The estate also houses a modern dairy with a total herd of 350 prime Holstein cows, 750 hectares of irrigated lands growing maize and beans, 30 hectares of orchards bearing peaches, nectarines and berries together with a packing facility and 1 240 hectares of dry agricultural lands and 1400 hectares grazing and feedlot facilities.

After the farm went into liquidation in 2000, workers on the farm formed a collective to buy it. The workers secured a R11.5 million grant from the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration and the Land Bank loaned them an additional R11 million. They offered the Press family R15.65-million for the land and fi assets. Administrative Manager Sipho Ngwenyama, says they used the rest of the money to buy movable assets and dairy cows and for maintenance.

In 2002, the workers, trading as the Coromandel Farmers Trust, fi took ownership of the farm. With help from the Eskom Development Foundation, the workers restored



the farm, making it viable again.

The aim was to secure employment and accommodation for people born and bred in Lydenburg who had worked and lived on the farm for more than 40 years.

But the cooler and milking parlour grew increasingly old, guzzled electricity and did not function at optimal levels, making conditions difficult for workers. The milk would go sour and this had an adverse effect on the dairy's profits.

After hearing of the Eskom Development Foundation's call for applications to assist various projects, Coromandel management approached Eskom's provincial office asking for help to renovate the dairy. The Foundation heeded Coromandel's call for help and granted the funding, which was used to renovate the dairy's floors, paving, painting and ceiling in the cooling room. Workers also bought an 18 point milking parlour and an additional 4000 litre computerised cooling tank and used the rest of the money for maintenance of the Dairy facilities.

"With the old cooler and milking parlour, the dairy had difficulty producing enough milk to sustain us but we now make about

14 litres of milk per cow, per day," says Ngwenyama. He adds that the dairy looks much more professional than before and the morale and productivity of staff is at an all-time high. "The more people are employed, the more the levels of poverty drop," he says.

In 2011, the farm won the Agricultural Category of the Small Business Competition hosted by Eskom the Development Foundation.

According to Foundation chief executive officer Haylene Liberty, "The Foundation's grant to Coromandel dairy farm indicates how strategic assistance has helped a fledgling agri-business expand its productivity output and create new jobs and developing the community at large."

Chiloane, the mother of three who had been a casual worker, was reinstated full-time when the collective took over the farm. "I can look after my children now and for this I am very grateful.

"We never dreamed of owning this farm. Now we aren't just ordinary people staying here. It belongs to us."

- Samona Murugan

1994 - 2024



# A CASH-LESS SYSTEM FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS

Social grant beneficiaries can now use their new SASSA MasterCard to buy groceries and pay bills, with, just one swipe. It's that easy.

## Eighty-four-year-old

Nthabiseng Tshabalala from Orlando East receives an old age grant and loves her new South African Social Security Agency (Sassa) MasterCard because it allows her to shop without needing to have cash with her. "It is so convenient," she says.

Tshabalala is one of 10 million recip-

ients of the new smart cards, thanks to Sassa and MasterCard. Having a card means that social grant recipients no longer have to wait for hours on end every month to receive their grant payments in cash.

The new cash-less system aims not only to improve the lives of the poor, but also to stop fraud and corruption,





which is a huge problem in the payout of social grants. The rollout began in March last year when Sassa called on all beneficiaries to reregister on the system and have their biometric details captured. These details include fingerprints, voice and other personal information that are unique to you.

In just under a year, Sassa re-registered just under 22 million beneficiaries. Because one card holder can receive multiple grants for beneficiaries in the same family, only 10 million people received the new card. “In many cases we have a grandmother receiving a grant for older persons, a foster care grant or

a child support grant. This new system puts all the payments on one card, eliminating duplication and ensuring that only those who qualify receive the grants,” says Sassa chief executive officer Virginia Petersen.

Beneficiaries can use the smart card at any store that accepts MasterCard. This makes it easier for you to shop or pay bills. Soon it will be possible for cardholders to get discounts on various things, including Rea Vaya bus tickets.

All beneficiaries who have not re-registered despite the many extensions provided by Sassa, will be cut-off from the system. Those who can prove they do indeed qualify for a grant will need to reapply for a grant from scratch. If you have lost your personal identification number (PIN) codes, simply go to your nearest Sassa office, be identified on the biometric system and have your PIN code changed.

1994 - 2024



# CORNUBIA BRINGS RELIEF TO SHACK DWELLERS

Former shack dweller Simangele Mhlongo no longer has to worry about her home being washed away by floods or destroyed by fire.

**For the first** time in her life Mhlongo has decent house that she can call home thanks to the Cornubia Human Settlement Project.

The eThekweni Municipality in KwaZulu- Natal recently handed over homes to 154 families as part of the housing project.

Situated in Mount Edgecombe, north of Durban, the project is worth R25 billion and is set to house people from different parts of eThekweni, while adopting the human settlements approach of integrating people from all walks of life and building an environment with allows easy access to facilities.

The mixed-use project also includes an industrial area and retail services, schools, clinics and other public services.

The first batch of homes, allocated as part of Phase 1A of the project, cost R102 million. Mhlongo, who lived in an informal settlement at Phola

Park, Phoenix, was one of those who received a home during this phase.

“The challenges that I faced at the informal settlement have been left behind and my life has completely transformed. I will not have to deal with flooding if it rains or the burning down of houses. Here, I have all the basic services like electricity and water in my new home with proper ablution facilities,” she said.

Mhlongo’s new home consists of two bedrooms, a lounge, a kitchen and ablution facilities - a far cry from the usual one-bedroom RDP starter homes.

With an industrial area under construction near the housing project, Mhlongo hopes for better employment opportunities.

eThekweni Municipality Mayor James Nxumalo said the municipality would ensure that homes were allocated to the right people.





“We want the new owners to treat these housing units as their homes, not as an informal settlement. We will ensure that the right people are allocated houses and monitor compliance. Thereafter, no one is allowed to sublet or sell the housing unit, as it belongs to the government,” he stressed.

Various informal settlements including Blackburn, Stonebridge, Ridgeview and 13th Street in Clermont as well as transit camps, will be relocated as part of the first phase of the housing project.

Ridgeview informal settlement will be completely demolished and closed off, as all residents will be moved to Cornubia.

Construction of the next phase - 1B, which is expected to result in 2 186 housing units at a cost of about R560 million, is expected to start soon.

*\* Slindile Maluleka works for the eThekweni Municipality.*

Since 1994 South Africa has seen a tremendous growth in the provision of homes.

Over the years government invested more than R100 billion to provide housing opportunities, ensuring that 12 million people now have a place to call home.

About 5 677 614 formal homes have been built over the past 20 years.

The number of people living in formal housing increased from 64 per cent in 1996 to 77.7 per cent in 2011.

The proportion of households living in informal dwellings decreased from 16.2 per cent in 1996 to 13.6 per cent in 2011.

*- Slindile Maluleka\**

1994 - 2024



# LAND CLAIMS BECOME A REALITY FOR KZN COMMUNITY

A sense of elation filled the air at the Sthembile Town Hall in Glencoe, KwaZulu-Natal, as it was packed to capacity with eager recipients of the land claim.

**During the** 1960's, the people of Glencoe were forcibly moved from their place of residence to neighbouring townships by the then apartheid regime.

The land claim of the community of Glencoe was gazetted in April 1994 with the first approval in 2007 and 2011 respectively.

Phase 1 in 2007, verified 320 tenants with the total monetary value of R11 688 960.00 and



Phase 2 verified 133 former Glencoe Land owners with a total monetary compensation of R13 839 528.00.

Member of Executive Council (MEC) Cyril Xaba advised the beneficiaries of the Glencoe land claim to preserve the land for future generations and to invest the compensation in land for agricultural activities as this will not only guarantee food security but financial freedom as well.

MEC Xaba said the hand over is an indication that government works for the people and will do all in its power to reverse the legacy of apartheid.

“The government is also committed to non-racialism and reconciliation and to repair the damage caused by Legislation such as the Group Areas Act, which isolated communities in racial zones.”

He handed over a cheque amounting to R50 300 964.00 to 522 households with 1 300 beneficiaries.

“Today is a happy occasion as the current democratic government has made good on its promise and is giving out financial compensation of over R50 million to 522 land claimants here in Glencoe. While this is a joyful event, I cannot help feeling a sense of sadness at all that has been lost over the years.

“For me the biggest loss, not just to you as a community, but to South Africa as whole, is how these forced removals caused a breakdown in good race relations.”

He added that the provincial government is committed to helping people who are victims of being disposed from their land.

This shows that the current South African democratic government is committed to ensure that there is redress for families of land disposessions.

*\*Lelethu Manentsa works for the KZN  
Department of Agriculture & Rural  
Development*

1994 - 2024



# MINISTER ZWANE HANDS OVER HOUSES

**The houses** are part of Exxaro's Grootegeluk coal mine's Social and Labour Plan (SLP) commitment.

An SLP is a prerequisite for the granting of a mining or production right under the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA).

The R590 million Lephalale Housing Project consists of units that are available to rent and to buy, creating a sustainable town.

The Lephalale Housing Project consists of units that are available to rent and to buy, creating a sustainable town.

"The Mining Charter requires companies to facilitate home ownership options for mine employees. I wish to congratulate this mine for selling 608 company-owned houses and 113 plots of land to employees and the pub-

lic," said Minister Zwane during the official handover of the completed houses.

The housing project is in line with revitalising distressed mining communities.

President Jacob Zuma appointed an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) shortly after the Marikana tragedy in which over 44 people lost their lives during labour unrest at the Lonmin Mine in the North West in 2012.

The IMC is tasked with overseeing the process of ensuring that mining towns are transformed and uplifted, and that there's improvement in the living and working conditions of mine workers.

The Lephalale Housing Project began in 2009 and more than 160 houses were built along with 579 flats.



“The conversion of hostels into single room units is indeed welcomed. I am also pleased that the houses will not only benefit mine employees but also community members, so that we begin to create more integrated communities,” said Minister Zwane.

### **Lephalale Housing Project:**

The total cost of the project was R590 million. 160 houses built. 579 flat units built.

Better living conditions for miners  
Mine worker Petros Thako (63) said it was a dream come true for him to be able to live with his wife on the mine.

“I have been working for Exxaro for 30 years. Before we moved into the new units we were staying in hostels. The difference with living in the new apartments is that there is privacy and I can live with my wife.

“In the old hostel I used to share a small one room space with another person,” said Thako.

Thako, who originates from Mokopane, pays R425 per month to rent a bachelor unit.

He also receives housing subsidy from the mine. Enoch Sepoloane, also working at the mine, opted to buy a three-bedroom home from the mine, which he shares with his wife and six children.

Sepoloane also agrees with Thako that, as a miner, he did not think he would be able to live with his whole family on the mine.

“Whenever I experience any difficulty at work I am happy that at the end of the day I get to go home to my family.”

Johan Wepener General Manager for Exxaro said the company was receiving very positive feedback from the workers.

“Most workers are coming to us and saying the new housing units are a massive upscale to what they had before.”

“We will try and continue to build habitable accommodation for mine workers.

More houses on the cards  
Exxaro has also unveiled the Extension 86 housing project, also in Lephalale.

Wepener said most of the groundwork to start the construction of the houses has been done.

“Four types of houses will be built and the sizes will range from 45 square metres to 120 square metres, based on affordability, because we are targeting the lower end income workers.”

He said local contractors will be used to build the houses to create jobs in the area.

“About 80 per cent of resources used during the project will be from the local community.

“The first phase of the development will consist of 50 units that will be built and sold to the people. As interest grows we will increase the number of units on an annual basis.”

This section phase of the housing project is expected to be completed in 2019.

- *Noluthando Mkhize*

1994 - 2024





# DISTRICT SIX REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT UNDERWAY

The third phase of the District Six redevelopment project – where about 108 flats and houses are being built – is currently underway.

**Minister** of Rural Development and Land Reform Gugile Nkwinti visited the project recently to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the declaration of District Six as a white area.

About 60 000 people were forcibly removed under the apartheid government's Group Areas Act from the iconic inner-city suburb and dumped in single-race ghettos far from town.

Five decades later, thousands of Cape-tonians are still fighting for restitution.

Minister Nkwinti said government had prioritised their land claims, but he noted that it had proven to be complex to settle claims.

Some of the difficulties include tracing some claimants, while some claimants who originally opted for financial compensation changed their minds, or the descendants battled to agree among themselves.

A total of 2 670 District Six restitution claims were submitted to government by the closing date of the initial lodgement process at the end of 1998.

Of these claimants 1 439 opted for financial compensation which saw them receiving R39.7 million in total and 1 126 claimants opted to return to the area.

The first phase of rebuilding was completed in 2004, with 24 homes handed over to elderly residents.

A second phase of 115 homes was delivered in 2012.

The new restitution claims lodgement window opened in July 2014, closing in June 2019. By December 2015, 1300 new claims had been submitted.

- Bathandwa Mbola





# FARM OWNER EMPOWERS WORKERS

Sabeth Gamede spent more than 50 years of her life living in a mud house. During rainy seasons, the 54-year-old had to deal with a leaking roof and a flooded house.

**Today Gamede** and her family sleep peacefully in their new six-bedroom brick-and-mortar house, which has electricity, proper windows and doorframes all built as a result of the profits she is making from farming.

Her life changed after her employer Dr Colin Forbes' decision to donate 10 per cent of his 5 600 hectare land to his farm workers to use for farming and use their profits to take care of their families and build decent homes.

With the help of Forbes, Gamede and 59 other farm workers from Amsterdam, Mpumalanga, established a cooperative called Mhlosheni. Sixty families are involved in cattle farming and growing maize, soya beans



and potatoes as well as cultivating gum and wattle plantations.

Forbes, a physician by profession and also a farmer, mentors his employees, passing on knowledge about different aspects of farming to help turn them into commercial farmers. According to Gamede, the help they've been receiving from Forbes has empowered them.

"Our relationship with him is very good because he is always willing to help us. There's not many farmers who are willing to do what he is doing for us," she said.



Gamede added that Forbes often calls in agricultural experts to improve their skills, and gives them advice on running a farm. Since the handover of the land in 2011, Gamede and other farm workers have each earned about R8 000 in profits at the end of each harvest.

Forbes said he is happy with the progress made by the farm workers and their positive response to the mentoring.

“They have responded well and I’m hopeful that some of them will get into commercial farming one day.”

He added that with his approach to mentoring, the workers are guaranteed three major things - surety, on-site mentoring and free use of all equipment on the farm.

Forbes said he is willing to donate 10 per cent of his 5 600 hectares permanently provided that government buys it from him.

“All the money that will be made from selling that portion, I will invest back in the workers and build them proper houses,” he added.

- Albert Pule

1994 - 2024





# NEW HOUSES BRING DIGNITY



Whenever rain clouds gathered over the Marikana sky during the rainy season, Katiso Emmanuel Makhabane would get anxious. Makhabane and his neighbours would wonder if their shacks would survive the downpours.



“**One day** it rained so much that my shack was flooded and all my things got wet. There was water all over the place. It was bad,” he said. The new houses in Marikana West will not only restore dignity but will

also bring development to the area.

Those days are over for Makhabane thanks to a partnership between the Department of Human Settlements and Lonmin Plc.



Through the partnership, Makhabane is now the proud owner of a newly-built four-room house in Marikana West, just outside Rustenburg. He has access to running water, electricity and feels safe.

For over 13 years, Makhabane lived in a shack in an informal settlement called Marasmus in the North West, without electricity, proper sanitation and decent shelter.

“That place is not good for anyone. There are no proper roads, no electricity, no water and we did not feel safe.”

The four-room house is made up of a kitchen, dining room, two bedrooms and a bathroom.

A few metres away from Makhabane’s house, another former resident of Marasmus, Senzelinceba Grigana enjoys a chat with his new neighbour.

Grigana (44) has also gone from an informal settlement dweller to being a homeowner. He said he feels like a normal human being again.

“At times, I felt like I was not a normal person staying in that shack; that place is not good for people to live in,” said Grigana.

“Moving from that place to this place

has made a difference in my life. I feel safe and I can sleep peacefully knowing that I won’t be attacked by thugs at night,” he said with a smile on his face.

## DECENT HOMES

The 50-hectare piece of land was donated by Lonmin Plc in October 2013 and will have 2 600 mixed development units.

The units are spread among the four housing programmes, namely Breaking New Ground (BNG), Community Residential Units (CRUs), Social Housing and Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme.

The first phase of construction is expected to produce 292 BNG units and 252 CRUs.

The new CRUs are expected to be allocated to other residents of Marikana, including 33-year-old Lesego Molemane who is currently staying in a rented backroom with her husband and daughter, and is one of the people who will soon be allocated new houses.

“I’m looking forward to staying in my own place and not paying rent. I can’t wait to move into my new home,” she said.

- Albert Pule

1994 - 2024



# LAND RESTITUTION BENEFITS 1 200 HOUSEHOLDS

A community of 1 200 families is profiting from two farms they received in 2008, through government's land redistribution programme.

**Secretary of** the Selwane Communal Property Association Harry Malatji said they have both a citrus and nature reserve on their farm.

The 4 010-hectare nature reserve known as Selwane Nature Reserve started official operations in 2019 and offers eco-tourism, game drives and training for hunting.

Visitors to the nature reserve get to see impalas, giraffes and waterbucks, among other animals. The Selwane Nature Reserve is creating jobs for land claimants.

Malatji said the Selwane Nature Reserve works and shares the profits with its joint venture partner Siabix

Pty Ltd. He said that after a rocky road, the nature reserve is now starting to be financially viable.

Siabix's Managing Director Neil Fourie said the company is respon-





sible for the day-to-day running of the Selwane Nature Reserve.

He said they have been doing development work on the land.

“The opening of the nature reserve saw locals being skilled hospitality, construction and general farm work,” said Malatji.

Twenty-three people are permanently employed at the nature reserve – 11 young women, 10 young men and two people living with disabilities.

Malatji said the reserve has been badly affected by poachers, but a partnership with the police and other strategic partners is addressing the problem.

Waterbok farm

Malatji also gave an overview of the Waterbok farm which is the second business that is being run on the farm.

Malatji said Waterbok employs 35

people permanently and during harvest locally-owned businesses are employed to do additional work.

The farm grows and sells oranges, lemons, cucumber, baby marrow and potatoes.

The citrus farming is done on 250 hectares, while 150 hectares is used for vegetable farming.

The fruits and vegetables are sold to markets in Johannesburg, local retail stores and small businesses in the area.

Malatji added that last year the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform gave the Selwane Community Property Association an injection of R22 million to further develop the farm.

“The money given to us by the department has allowed us to renovate the nature reserve which will allow us to attract more tourists.”

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform has spent more than R147 million in grants funding, from which a sizeable number of restitution projects have benefited in the current financial year.

- Silusapho Nyanda

1994 - 2024

The graphic features a background with three diagonal color bands: a yellow band at the top left, a dark blue band in the middle, and a red band at the bottom right. The number '30' is written in a large, white, cursive script across the blue band.

30

YEARS OF  
*empowering stories*

---

A CAPABLE, ETHICAL  
AND DEVELOPMENTAL  
STATE

---





# SOUTH AFRICA HAS A GOOD STORY TO TELL

As a country we have scored many successes. South Africa is a much better place to live in now than it was before 1994.” – President Jacob Zuma, State of the Nation Address (SoNA) 2014.

**When President** Zuma delivered his 2014 SoNA, he used the opportunity to reflect on government’s achievements since 2009. He also took stock of how far the country has come since the dawn of democracy in 1994.

He told a positive story of the many lives that have changed as a result of increased access to basic services, health, education and work opportunities. However, President Zuma also made it clear that the work of government continues as many others wait to be taken out of their different situations.

Though government’s work is not done, South Africa is a much better place than what it was in 1994.



Government has made strides in ensuring South Africans enjoy a decent life. The National Development Plan, which is South Africa’s socio-economic blueprint and a major achievement for the current administration, provides some suggestions on creating an environment that can change people’s lives for the better. Government and the people of South Africa should be proud.

## Quick fact

Government’s Expanded Public Works Programme and the Community Work Programme have created three million work opportunities over the past five years. Such programmes continue to be an effective cushion for the poor and the youth. South Africans obtain an income and skills from the Public Works programme, which they use to find formal employment.

## Improving healthcare

Photo caption: South Africa's health care system has been transformed since 1994 and now reaches more South Africans than ever before. South Africa's public health sector has, since 1994, been transformed into an integrated, comprehensive national service, driven by the need to address historical inequities and provide essential healthcare to disadvantaged people. Achievements include: • Over the past five years, 300 new health facilities have been built, including 160 new clinics.

Ten new hospitals have been built or refurbished in Ladybrand, Germiston, Mamelodi, Natalspruit, eThekweni, Zola, Bojanala, Vryburg District, Swartruggens, Khayelitsha and Mitchell's Plain.

The HIV and AIDS turnaround is one of the biggest achievements of this administration and South Africa is used as a model country by the United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS.



Mother-to-child transmission of HIV has declined sharply and the number of people who are receiving anti-retroviral (ARV) treatment has increased from one million to 2.4 million people in 2013.

More than 20 million South Africans have been tested for HIV since the launch of the HIV Counselling and Testing campaign in 2011.

The target for the next administration is to ensure that at least 4.6 million people are enrolled in the ARV programme.

Government will enter a new phase in the implementation of the National Health Insurance programme, which will extend quality healthcare to the poor.

Health

Patients receiving ARVs increased from 47 500 in 2004 to more than 1.7 million in 2011, while the number of people dying annually from AIDS decreased from 300 000 in 2010 to 270 000 in 2011.

**Improving the quality of education**  
Over the past 20 years, government has implemented major policy reforms to address past inequalities in education, transform the education system and respond to the need to increase the skills and life chances of all South Africans.

## Achievements in basic education

The number of children attending Grade R has more than doubled from about 300 000 to more than 700 000

1994 - 2024



between 2003 and 2011. Eight million school children receive healthy food from government. The matric pass rate has gone up from around 61 per cent in 2009 to 78 per cent last year and the bachelor passes improve each year. The South African Sign Language curriculum will be offered in schools from 2015 to promote inclusivity and diversity.

The number of literate adults through the Kha Ri Gude programme has increased from 2.2 million in 2008 to three million people. Government has also been investing in teacher training and is re-opening teacher training colleges to meet the demand.

370 new schools have been delivered, replacing mud schools and other unsuitable structures around the country to produce a decent learning environment.

### **Achievements in higher education and training**

Student enrolment at universities increased by 12 per cent while Further Education and Training college enrolments have increased by 90 per cent.

Government has increased the budget of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme to R9 billion to meet the rising demand.

Two brand new universities, Sol Plaatje in the Northern Cape and the University of Mpumalanga have been established. Government will also build 12 new FET colleges in Lim-

popo, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape.

The launch of the National Education Collaboration Framework last year was an important development for the country.

Rural development and land reform For the past 20 years government committed itself to ensuring that the country develops sustainable rural communities through a major focus on agrarian reform, improving rural household food security and rural services, and creating employment in rural areas.

The agricultural support programme, The first 88 smallholder farmers in this programme supplied the United Nations World Food Programme with 268 tons of maize and beans to send to Lesotho in January 2014. Government will continue to promote the fisheries sector as well, which contributes an estimated R6 billion to the economy and provides 27 000 jobs.

### **Growing the economy**

- On average, the economy has grown at 3.2 per cent a year from 1994 to 2012, despite the global recession, which claimed a million jobs. National wealth, measured in terms of GDP, has grown to more than R3.5 trillion.
- During the course of 2013, the rand depreciated by 17.6 per cent against the US dollar. This poses a significant risk to inflation and will also make the infrastructure programme more expensive. However,



export companies, particularly in the manufacturing sector, should take advantage of the weaker rand and the stronger global recovery.

- Government, business and labour should work together to grow the economy at rates above 5 per cent to create the jobs needed. Fortunately this collaboration is already taking place at NEDLAC.
- It will soon take just under 300 days to start a mine in South Africa. This is part of government's efforts to make it easier to do business in the country.

### Creating decent jobs

Photo caption: President Jacob Zuma delivers the State of the Nation Address in Parliament. There are currently 15 million people with jobs in the country, the highest ever in history and according to Statistics South Africa, over 650 000 jobs were created in 2013.

However, youth unemployment in

South Africa remains a major concern. To address this, a number of measures are being taken, including the following:

The Employment Tax Incentive Act, 2013 (Act 26 of 2013), which encourages employers to hire younger workers.

Regulations will be passed to ensure that this does not adversely affect unsubsidised or older workers.

Further measures are contained in the National Youth Accord signed in Soweto in April 2012.

Cabinet has set a target of six million work opportunities from 2014 to 2019, targeting the youth.

Building South Africa

Government adopted the National Infrastructure Plan in 2012 that intends to transform the country's economy, create jobs and strengthen the delivery of basic services. The plan also supports the integration of African economies. Since the adoption of the plan, government has invested R1 trillion in public infrastructure. Many of the projects



## DID YOU KNOW?

To improve the water supply, two large new dams were completed, De Hoop in Limpopo and Spring Grove in KwaZulu-Natal, while phase two of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project is to be launched soon.

are completed or are nearing completion.

### **Justice and constitutional development**

The Chief Justice has been established as a separate institution from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development to further enhance its independence.

Progress is being made in the transformation of the judiciary to reflect the race and gender demographics of the country.

Black judges (African, Indian and Coloured) now make up 61 per cent of all judges. However, there is an under-representation of women on the bench, which remains of concern. Of the judicial establishment of 239 judges, only 76 are women.

The challenge is to transform the legal profession broadly in order to

nourish the pool from which female judges can be appointed. The finalization of the Legal Practice Bill will assist to broaden the pool from which potential judicial officers can be selected.

**Fighting crime and corruption**

The overall crime rate has decreased by 21 per cent since 2002 and work is on-going to make communities safer. One of the key focus areas is to eradicate violence against women and children. To respond to this challenge, measures that have been introduced include the re-opening of the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences units as well as the Sexual Offences Courts.

Law enforcement agencies are working hard tackle rhino poaching.

Government has reached agreements with China, Vietnam, Kenya, Mozambique and other Southern



African Development Community (SADC) countries to work together to stop this crime.

Fighting corruption within the Public Service is producing results. Since the launch of the National Anti-Corruption Hotline by the Public Service Commission, over 13 000 cases of corruption and maladministration have been referred to government departments for further handling and investigation.

Government has recovered more than R320 million from perpetrators through the National Anti-Corruption Hotline.

Photo caption: President Jacob Zuma delivers the State of the Nation Address in Parliament. Progress with land reform

Since 1994, nearly 5 000 farms, comprising 4,2 million hectares, have been transferred to black people, benefiting over 200 000 families. 80 000 land claims totalling 3.4 million hectares have been settled and 1.8 million people have benefited.

### Hotline

The hotline's other successes include: 1 542 officials were dismissed from the Public Service.

140 officials were fined three months' salary.

20 officials were demoted.

355 officials were given final written warnings.

204 officials were prosecuted.

To prevent corruption in the supply chain system, government has decided to establish a Central Tender Board to adjudicate tenders in all

spheres of government. This body will work with the chief procurement officer whose main function will be to check on pricing and adherence to procedures as well as fairness.

The Special Investigating Unit is investigating maladministration or alleged corruption in a number of government departments and state entities, through 40 proclamations signed by the President during this administration. The public will be informed of the outcome of the investigations.

In the first six months of last year, the Asset Forfeiture Unit paid a total of R149 million into the Criminal Assets Recovery Account and to victims of crime. This is 170 per cent above its target of R55 million and is higher than it has ever achieved in a full year.

Last year, the competition authorities investigated large-scale price fixing in the construction industry and fined guilty companies R1.4 billion.

### Access to basic services

South Africa has made significant strides in rolling out basic service delivery and improving the lives of many.

Over the past 20 years, there has been a remarkable increase in access to services such as water, sanitation and electricity. Government has started an intensive programme

to eliminate the bucket system as part of restoring the dignity of South Africans. Phase one of the pro-

1994 - 2024



programme will eradicate buckets in formalised townships of the Free State, Eastern Cape and Northern Cape. Phase two will eradicate buckets in informal settlements in all provinces.

### **Building decent homes**

About three million housing units and more than 855 000 serviced sites were delivered since 1994. Nearly 500 informal settlements have been replaced with quality housing and basic services over the past five years.

### **Creating a better world**

Photo caption: Major improvements have been made to South Africa's roads, ports and rail infrastructure over the past 20 years. South Africa has worked hard to strengthen support for the African Union, SADC and all continental bodies whose purpose is to achieve peace and security.

South Africa has also prioritised the promotion of regional eco-

nomie integration, infrastructure development, intra-African trade and sustainable development in the continent. This year the country also submitted its third country report to the AU African Peer Review Mechanism, which was well received.

South Africa also continues to support peace-making and conflict resolution, and progress is being made in negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan.

Following requests from Sri Lanka and South Sudan for assistance in bringing about peace and reconciliation, Cyril Ramaphosa has been appointed as South Africa's Special Envoy to the two countries.

South Africa will continue to strengthen relations with Europe, North America, Latin America, Asia and countries in the South.

Participation in international mul-



tilateral forums such as the G20 has been beneficial for the country. Joining the Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC) group in December 2010 counts as among the key achievements of the fourth administration.

South Africa will also continue to serve diligently in the United Nations to promote strong international governance and will continue promoting the reform of the UN Security Council and global financial institutions.

### **Fast facts about South African transport**

Close to 1 500km new roads or lanes have been built.

R120 billion – the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa's spending on new trains in the next 10 years.

R300 billion – Transnet's budget for transport infrastructure.

The Gautrain project is now fully functional and carries over 1.2 million passengers a month.

700km – the pipeline from Durban

to Gauteng moving four billion cubic litres of fuels a year.

### **Renewable energy**

Photo caption: The Medupi Power Station in Limpopo will be the fourth largest coal-powered station in the world. Construction is continuing at the new power stations, Medupi in Limpopo, Kusile in Mpumalanga and Ingula near Ladysmith, employing more than 30 000 workers.

Government continues to explore other sources of energy, in line with the Integrated Resource Plan for Energy.

The development of petroleum, especially shale gas will be a game-changer for the Karoo region and the South African economy. Having evaluated the risks and opportunities, the final regulations will be released soon and will be followed by the processing and granting of licences.

1994 - 2024



# DIGITAL MIGRATION A NEW ERA FOR SA

Cabinet has approved the commencement of the dual-illumination period for the digital broadcasting signal in South Africa on 1 February 2016.

**This will see** both the digital and the analogue signal being broadcast in South Africa until most South

Africans have been reached and have access to set-top boxes.

Towards the end of last year, the registration process for qualifying households to receive government's first digital set-top-box started in the Northern Cape. Communications Minister Faith Muthambi oversaw the installation of the first government subsidised STB at the house of senior citizen Marie Slinger.



A delighted Gogo Slinger said: “For many years, I could access three television channels but the problem was that the television picture quality was very poor even if we tried to move the aerial around.

“I’m really grateful that I became one of the South Africans chosen to receive the government subsidised decoders... Now the digital era has brought more channels with crystal clear pictures. We thank our government for prioritising us so that we become the first South Africans to enjoy the benefits of this project.”

At the time the minister urged deserving community members to visit their nearest post office to register for a free STB. Over 2 400 households in the area have registered to receive STBs in line with government’s commitment to provide five million indigent home owners, who own TV sets, with free decoders.

Minister Faith Muthambi (centre) hands over a set-top box to a resident in the Northern Cape as Premier Sylvia Lucas (right) looks on.

Since the implementation of digital broadcasting, Minister Muthambi signed bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries such as Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Swaziland to mitigate cross border radio frequency interference.

“Since my appointment to this port-

folio, I have not only been engaging with the broadcasting sector, but with various other key stakeholders who have a role to play in broadcasting.

Another resident who received a free STB is Florida Cloete of Kakamas said she has not been watching television for many years because of the poor signal.

“Now that digital migration is upon us, I’m able to watch sport, news, health and Parliamentary channels and also access 19 SABC radio stations,” she said.

The Minister said digital migration will also open opportunities.

“Government has made it a criteria that set-top-boxes for Broadcasting Digital Migration be locally manufactured. It will create jobs in manufacturing, installation and maintenance; and in call centres which would support the STBs.

“There will also be broadcasting content development opportunities for the country and the global community, and open up new business and job creation opportunities in the area of content development and television production which local businesses can pursue.”

- *Nthambeleni Gabara and Amukelani Chauke*

1994 - 2024





# GOVT LAUNCHES ONLINE ID APPLICATION

The Department of Home Affairs has made it more convenient for people to apply for smart card IDs and passports.

**People living** in Gauteng and Cape Town no longer have to queue to apply for their documents but can now apply online and collect them from their banks at a specified date.

The department has partnered with the country's four major banks namely: Absa, FNB, Standard Bank and Nedbank, to make the concept of e-Home Affairs a reality.

The system aims to reduce long queues at the 140 offices throughout the country and make the department's services more readily accessible.

Home Affairs Minister Malusi Gigaba said South Africa is the first country to implement such a system.

**E-Home Affairs**  
e-Home Affairs allows people who are aged 30 to 35 years old to apply for their smart ID's and passports, upload supporting documents and pay for their applications online. They can also make an appointment with their selected banks to have their photos taken and fingerprints verified.

Shortly thereafter, an SMS will be sent to the applicant stating when they can collect their documents. The cost for the smart card ID is R140 and R400 for a passport.

More than 4 000 people have registered through the portal so far.

Speaking during the launch of the system, President Jacob Zuma said he was pleased with the improved security measures Home Affairs was putting in place. He said the introduction of the smart ID card in 2013 to replace the current green barcoded ID book was a milestone.

"We are happy indeed that the banks have teamed up with the Department of Home Affairs. This department is central to the lives of our people and all others residing in our country," he said.

President Zuma called on the private sector to support the department as much as possible.

**Getting more banks involved**  
Meanwhile Minister Gigaba said his department will get other banks to come on board.



“We are trying to expand our footprint and make it convenient for people to apply for their documents.

“The entire process is paperless and digitised and there is no human intervention along the line.

“You can trust that when your smart ID card is issued to you, the only time a human being has touched it is when it is being transported by an envelope from where the card was printed to the office where you are going to collect it,” said Minister Gigaba.

#### Improving services

Home Affairs Director-General Mkhusele Apleni said the system also aims to improve professionalism within the department.

“Corruption was rife and the identities of people were stolen and constantly under threat.

“Our department was associated with long queues and endless hours spent waiting for services and this forced us to move with the times and fall in line with the tech savvy trends of the world.

“The beauty of the system is that citizens who choose this facility do not have to queue in offices, meaning Home Affairs offices would then be freed up to attend speedily to other clients who can’t make use of the system,” said Apleni.

Roodepoort, west of Johannesburg, resident Lungile Maseko told Vuk’uzenzele she was happy about the new system.

“I’m glad that government is always finding ways to improve service delivery.

“Although I can’t use the portal owing to the fact that I don’t qualify because of my age, I must admit the system is great. It will certainly eradicate corruption and people will no longer have to take time off work to sort out an ID or passport,” said Maseko.

The Department is confident that the programme will eventually be rolled out throughout the country and will result in people also going to these facilities to obtain birth and death certificates.

#### **Bank branches already on the system** **ABSA**

ABSA Lifestyle Centre, Centurion.  
ABSA Towers North, Johannesburg.  
ABSA Ghandi Square, Johannesburg.  
FNB

FNB Menlyn, Pretoria.  
FNB Merchant Place, Rivonia, Johannesburg.  
FNB, Lifestyle Centre, Centurion  
STANDARD BANK

Standard Bank, Killarney, Rosebank.  
Standard Bank, Canal Walk, Cape Town.  
NEDBANK

Nedbank, Rivonia, Johannesburg.  
Nedbank, Lakeview, Roodepoort.

- Nonkululeko Mathebula

1994 - 2024

The graphic features a background divided into three diagonal sections: a yellow top-left section, a green middle section, and a red bottom-right section. The number '30' is written in a large, white, cursive font across the green section.

30

YEARS OF  
*empowering stories*

---

# A GOVERNMENT THAT CARES

---



# GOVERNMENT HEEDS EERSTERUST'S CALL

Government is serious about hitting the ground running when it comes to helping communities that reach out for help and the Eersterust community, east of Pretoria, is no exception.

**President Jacob Zuma** recently held an Imbizo with the community to show government's commitment to the fight against drug and substance abuse and promote youth development in Eersterust and surrounding areas.

The Presidential Imbizo gave the President first-hand knowledge and an understanding of the challenges faced by the community.

A number of challenges face the community, from drug and substance abuse and drug syndicates operating in the area to low income levels and high crime and unemployment, all of which have a negative impact on the youth and those searching for a better life.

According to community representatives, the drug abuse problem is affecting 15 000 youth – mostly school learners who end up dropping out of school.

President Zuma said police have been running operations aimed at arresting drug runners, the kingpins behind

them, and other criminal elements operating in the community.

“About 69 crime intelligence operations have been conducted so far in the area and have led to the arrest of 55 alleged drug dealers. Police are further working with community based anti-crime organisations and security cluster partners in conducting awareness campaigns against drugs and crime in general in the area...”

The President added that the City of Tshwane had registered 1 024 poor families from the community who were receiving free basic services, and during the road show held in July, the City also helped 187 families in need of help.

“The City also donated recently R100 000 to two Early Childhood Development Centres in the community,” said President Zuma.

Before the Presidential Imbizo, a number of ministers visited the area to work with the communities to find





solutions to the challenges they are facing.

Social Development Minister Bathabile Dlamini addressed residents during the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking where a number of young people admitted to smoking “nyaope” - a mixture of crystal meth, heroin and marijuana.

Minister Dlamini said the department would help the youngsters and take them to the best drug and substance abuse rehabilitation centres in the country, but urged them to commit to going back to their communities as better people.

Eersterust Local Drug Action Committee Chairperson, Desiree Fischer, said the committee had developed a programme of action to help save the lives of vulnerable individuals.

### **Education is the key**

Minister in The Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Jeff Radebe, also visited the area recently and encouraged learners to work hard

at school, despite the challenges they face.

“Education will give you the opportunity to be better than your parents, so your responsibility is to persevere so that you can become better citizens and the leaders of tomorrow,” he said.

The Minister visited Eersterust Secondary School and Prosperitas High School to listen to and understand the challenges that learners and educators face. He appealed to learners to not focus on their negative surroundings, but to rather concentrate on the positive side of life.

“Let your dreams of a brighter future inspire you. You need to aspire to be someone in life. You must aspire to become teachers, nurses, doctors, scientists, astrologists etc. The sky is the limit in South Africa,” he said.

Minister Radebe also encouraged learners to aspire to be entrepreneurs so they could own their own business and plough back investment into their own community.



Deputy Minister in The Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation as well as Youth Development, Buti Manamela, visited Nantes Primary School in Eersterust to encourage learners to focus on their education and to look after their environment.

He visited the school to plant a vegetable garden and fruit trees and encouraged pupils to stay in school and to look after their environment, starting with their new vegetable garden and trees. The produce from the vegetable garden and the fruit trees will help supplement the school's feeding scheme, which provides a meal to around 400 children daily.

The Deputy Minister stressed that the youth are at the centre of building a better South Africa.

Looking ahead, government has engaged with the police, the youth and other stakeholders in the area to address the community's concerns and to come up with solutions.

"We are making progress and the President will ensure that we deepen this fight and hand the community back to the people of Eersterust," said Deputy Minister Manamela.

New youth office for Eersterust  
The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) will open an office in Eersterust before the end of No-

vember this year, to provide information to young people about education, career choices, employment and economic opportunities.

The NYDA, working with the City of Tshwane and the province, plans to implement a Youth Build Infrastructure Development Programme in Eersterust, where 100 young people from the community will build 100 houses to address the housing shortage. They will be trained in house building, plumbing and carpentry.

City of Tshwane Mayor Kgosientsho Ramokgopa said the municipality had also allocated R300 million for youth cooperatives and he encouraged young people in the area to start their own cooperatives to fight unemployment.

In addition, R15 million has been set aside for top performing matric learners who produce good results but cannot afford tertiary institution fees.

The City of Tshwane will also work with the community to build communal sports facilities, a move that will inspire the youth to stay off the streets.

- *More Matshediso*





# 32M DROUGHT RELIEF



Government has pledged R32 million to help farmers affected by drought. The Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) has made available soft loans as emergency funding towards working capital, infrastructure and a small portion for carry-over debt for the commercial sector.

**A soft loan** is a loan with a below-market rate of interest. Giving an update on the status of drought relief support to the agricultural sector, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Senzeni Zokwana said the funding had already been approved.

“The IDC will consider financial assistance to its existing clients that apply for drought relief support while for non-IDC clients lending

will not be made available directly to the end-beneficiary but rather through National Credit Act-compliant intermediaries like Land Bank and AgriBusiness,” Minister Zokwana explained. The Minister said that the loan agreement would be entered into by the IDC and the relevant intermediary.

“These intermediaries will have to apply to the IDC on a case-by-case basis and a due diligence will be applicable.”

Minister Zokwana said the department had given provinces 20 per cent - or R226 million in total - of the Letsema grant, initially aimed at boosting food security but which was not going to be used in the immediate future because of the ongoing drought.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Senzeni Zokwana has announced funding that will bring relief to farmers affected by the drought.

Provinces that have applied for and received approval include KwaZulu-Natal, Free State, North West, Limpopo, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape. The Eastern Cape has applied, while Western Cape has not yet reprioritised, the Minister said.

In Limpopo, an additional amount of R51 million has been set aside, with R20 million going towards the procurement of fodder to assist smallholder and subsistence farmers, while R31 million will be spent on water for livestock.

The Free State has allocated R10.692 million and R29 million from its Equitable Share and Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme budget to assist subsistence, smallholder and commercial farmers.

The Gauteng province has to date spent money on animal feed, water infrastructure, phosphate licks and de-silting of earth dams.

Funding has also been approved in the Northern Cape and has already assisted 257 farmers and helped in the distribution of 2 500 tons of fodder during October and November.

The North West has made available R25 million for drought relief. As at 18 January, 2016, 57 010 bags had

been distributed and 10 228 farmers had received assistance.

An amount of R114 million was allocated in Mpumalanga for procurement of input supply for livestock, water harvesting, aggressive de-worming of livestock and borehole drilling, amongst others.

Meanwhile, Minister Zokwana met with MECs responsible for agriculture to take stock of the current drought and discuss the ongoing relief support provided to affected farmers and livestock owners.

Rural Development and Land Reform Minister Gugile Nkwinti also joined the meeting, which allowed principals to engage on plans and solutions they can employ from now on.

Minister Zokwana acknowledged that there was a clear picture of the negative impact of drought on crop production, livestock, agro-processing and agriculture infrastructure, as well as food security in all affected provinces.

He highlighted that the department's priority was developing and implementing a climate change adaptation plan and programmes for the sector.

"We will give more support to Climate Smart Agriculture in terms of conservation agriculture," he said.

- Priscilla Khumalo

1994 - 2024





# LIFE ESIDIMENI VICTIMS' FAMILIES AWARDED R1.2M

Government has been ordered to pay victims of the Gauteng mental health care tragedy a total of R1.2 million each by no later than 19 June 2018.

**Life Esidimeni** arbitrator and retired Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke made the order as he read out a condensed version of his 100 page judgment on March 19.

Justice Moseneke said the marathon project was inhumane and stripped victims of their dignity.

“Every element of the marathon project trampled on the dignity of the mental health care users in every way. The users were stripped of their dignity in life and death,” said the arbitrator.

A total of R1 million is to be paid to the victims for constitutional damages for the violation of their human rights.

In addition, R200 000 is to be paid by government, R20 000 for funeral expenses and R180 000 for the shock and trauma endured by the families.

Justice Moseneke also ordered that a remembrance monument be erected at a public place to remind future generations of the importance of the case and of the plight of mental healthcare users.

He donated his arbitration fees to designated law schools and said he did so to allow future lawyers to carry out the work of standing up for those who can not defend themselves.

The award comes after the arbitration hearing saw families, senior government officials from the health department, members of the executive council of the province and non-profit organisations give testimony into the marathon project.

In a shocking move, in 2016 the former Health MEC Qedani Mahlangu, who was fingered as the leader of the project, ordered that mental healthcare users who were based at



the Life Esidimeni healthcare facility be moved to cut costs.

The contract between the mental health care facility, Life Esidimeni and the Health Department, had been in place for over 30 years.

It was brought to a halt under the direction of the former MEC who instructed former Head of Department Barney Selebano, Head of Mental Health, Makgabo Manamela and Chief Director of Planning Levy Mosenogi, to scrap the contract.

Termination of the contract resulted in the deaths of over 140 patients from septicaemia, hypothermia and, in some instances, starvations.

The arbitrator however wholly rejected Mahlangu's reasons for the move based on the contradictory testimony by Finance MEC Barabara Creecy who said the Health Department was given the lion's share of the provincial budget year on year.

"Ms Mahlangu's reasons for the move of the patients were irratio-

nal, unlawful and unconstitutional. The move was a serious breach in healthcare user protocol," said Justice Moseneke.

This saw a mass move and transfer of patients who were ferried to unlicensed and ill-equipped NGOs.

"Patients were transported in bak-kies, some with their limbs tied, this was cruel, inhumane and deeply degrading. The mental healthcare users were moved without proper identification and medical records and were set up for death," said Justice Moseneke.

Harrowing accounts of the lack of care at the NGOs were given by Justice Moseneke who painted a grim picture of the state of affairs of these facilities.

"One of the first patients to die was Ms Deborah Phetla. Her post-mortem revealed that she had brown paper and plastic bags in her stomach which she ate," he said.

Justice Moseneke said his office supplied the South African Police Service with a full record of the proceedings but denied the request that he order the SAPS to investigate. He said they should do their job as mandated by the Constitution.

Sadly, 44 patients who were part of the marathon project are still unaccounted for and remain as missing persons.



# JAIL TIME FOR CORRUPT PUBLIC SERVANT

Government calls on South Africans to report  
all fraudulent and corrupt activities.

**Patrick Masoka** has been sentenced for 10 years imprisonment for  
stealing a farm and livestock belonging to the Shabalala clan in Ladysmith  
KwaZulu-Natal.

His sentence was recently handed down by the Pietermaritzburg Regional Court.

Prior to being jailed Mosaka was a civil servant employed as a project manager within KwaZulu-Natal Department of Rural Development and Land Reform.

The Special Investigation Unit's (SIU) forensic investigators found that Masoka, who worked on settling land claims, had operated criminally.

SIU head Advocate Andy Mothibi said citizens trust public servants to execute their duties with distinction so that quality service delivery flows to communities swiftly.

"Communities in need of government services suffer when some public servants double up as criminals during the course of their employment in government departments," he said.

Mothibi said the SIU is going to strike heavily on government officials found stealing government resources.

He welcomed the conviction and the sentencing of Masoka.

"This sentence should and will definitely serve as a serious deterrent to would be thieves in the public service."

"Dubious public servants, state-

owned entities officials and the private sector officials who think devising devious schemes to defraud government and the society is the right thing to do must know that there will be no place to hide when the SIU investigate them."

Let's fight corruption together

A number of hotlines and helplines have been created by government to ensure the public can report corruption without revealing their identity.

If the information helps in the positive investigation of a criminal case, a reward may be paid. Call the Crime Stop number on 08600 10 111.

Anonymous tip-offs on criminal activities can also be sent to Crime Line. You can send an SMS containing information to 32211 at a cost of R1 per SMS.

In addition to the above numbers, you can also call government's National Anti-Corruption Hotline to report corrupt activities you are aware of without giving your name. The number is 0800 701 701.

What are you doing to fight against corruption in your community or your place of work? Share your comments with us on: email: [vukuzenzele@gcis.gov.za](mailto:vukuzenzele@gcis.gov.za) or on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

1994 - 2024



# AFRICA'S QUEEN OF THE SKIES

Major Mandisa Nomcebo Mfeka has been reaching for the skies since the age of five, when she watched her first airshow.

**Today,** she is Africa's first female fighter jet pilot, flying for the South African Air Force (SAAF) during the nation's most prestigious events, including the recent inauguration of President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Born in Ntuzuma, KwaZulu-Natal, Major Mfeka became fascinated with aviation when her mother first took her to an airshow at the Virginia Airport in Durban. At that stage, she had no idea that she would one day take to the skies herself.

When she was 16, however, her life changed forever. Major Mfeka has taken Africa by storm and is breaking the chains of gender stereotypes.

"I was researching careers in maths and science and saw a SAAF advert, outlining the requirements to be a pilot or navigator. I realised that I could potentially have a career in aviation and was so excited that I

couldn't sleep," said Major Mfeka, who is now 29 years old.

Straight after graduating from high school, she joined the air force in 2008 as an airman. She officially achieved her SAAF wings in 2011, and progressed quickly through the ranks to become a qualified pilot and then captain. Today, she holds the esteemed rank of major and flies the British-made Hawk Mk120 from the Airforce Base Makhado in Limpopo.

## **Flying above gender and race barriers**

Major Mfeka is humble about the incredible achievement of being the first female black African fighter jet pilot.

"I know I am representing a lot of people, but I have achieved this







the funeral of former President Nelson Mandela.

She also fondly remembers being part of a flying formation for Freedom Day in Port Elizabeth, which was led by one of her idols.

“The lead plane was flown by Colonel Musa Mbhokota, who was the SAAF’s first black fighter jet pilot. He is somebody I look up to very much and I draw such inspiration from him, so it was an honour flying in formation with him.”

Mfeka’s biggest dream is to become the commander of a Gripen jet, the SAAF’s premier fighter jet.

“When I see myself flying that jet, I get extremely excited. I would be so honoured if I could reach that milestone – it would be a dream come true.”

because this is the direction I wanted to go. At the SAAF, I have been surrounded by people who are professionals, people who are ambitious and want to be the best, so I wanted to embody that and be an expert in my career,” she said.

Major Mfeka added that she hasn’t felt intimidated by the male-dominated nature of the field.

“I just had to be more assertive and grow a thicker skin emotionally,” she said, adding that she sometimes outperformed the men in training or on the academic front.

### **Soaring higher**

Major Mfeka has flown jets at some of South Africa’s most prestigious events. A few years after getting her wings, she was tasked with flying at

### **Message for Youth Month**

Major Mfeka said that the youth should never let their circumstances stand in the way of becoming a success.

“Your dreams and passions are an indication of what you can achieve and what you can become. Your potential is not determined by your background. Some people from very impoverished areas have achieved really great things; they did not let their circumstances dictate to them what their life was going to be like.”

1994 - 2024



“A lot of people here don’t work. A lot of people in this district are poor and rely on social grants. If it were not for social grants, a lot of people would be hungry. That’s the profile we saw,” he said.

This was among some of the issues the District Development Model seeks to address. “It is to make sure that says there is one plan for one district with a set budget. National government will know how much is needed, for example, in Waterberg,” said the President.

With the model already being piloted in the OR Tambo District, eThekweni Metro and now the Waterberg District, government will in time assess the programme before rolling it out to the rest of the country.

The District Development Model has been approved by government structures, including Cabinet, to integrate service delivery that will be more practical, achievable, implementable, measurable and clearly aligned to the key priorities of government.

The model seeks to change the face of rural and urban landscapes by ensuring complementarity between urban and rural development, with a deliberate emphasis on local economic development. It is about putting local government at the centre of the country’s growth and development.

President Ramaphosa said it was encouraging that the model had received support from all sectors of society,

including traditional and business leaders.

In meetings with traditional leaders and businesses in the area, the President said, made it apparent that the water shortages was what required the most urgent attention.

The stakeholders also said they wanted a clinic, a university and to see services and development brought closer to them.

“This can only be done if we work together as business, government [and] traditional leaders. Waterberg has great potential. We can focus on mining, yes, but we must also focus on agriculture and tourism,” he said.

“Waterberg is one of the most scenic areas in the country and we want to take advantage of that.”

He added: “Every project will be known by the people so that we can all be held accountable. There will be monitoring... those who do not perform, those who want to steal, will be shown the door. We must implement. It’s a model that says: ‘we must work.’”

The President was hopeful that this approach would lead to a reduction in service delivery protests.

“They won’t happen if people know government’s plans so there won’t be a need to vandalise infrastructure.”





# GOVERNMENT MOVES AGAINST CORRUPTION

President Cyril Ramaphosa's promise to the nation to root out corruption relating to Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) relief fund spending is being put solidly into action, with various investigations underway and the suspension of numerous government officials.

**The President** established an anti-corruption centre, bringing together nine state law enforcement institutions, including the Special Investigating Unit (SIU), to investigate allegations of corruption in areas such as the distribution of food parcels, Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF), social relief grants and the buying of medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE).

The President is determined that every instance of corruption will be thoroughly investigated, that those responsible for wrongdoing will be prosecuted and that all money should be recovered.

To ensure this, he signed a proclamation with the SIU to investigate any unlawful or improper conduct in the procurement of any goods, works and services during or related to the national state of disaster in any state institution.

The President also asked Auditor General (AG) Kimi Makwetu to audit the key COVID-19 initiatives introduced by government and the management of funds made available for them.

Makwetu recently released his first audit report into the findings, which focussed on R147.4 billion of the total R500 billion relief package, which was allocated through the June 2020 supplementary budget.

The AG's report identified gaps, risks and inadequate controls and verification processes in the UIF Temporary Employee/Employer Relief Scheme (TERS),

which was established to provide relief to employees who were retrenched or unable to work due to the lockdown.

These include illegal payments to people who were already receiving a government grant, students who were already receiving government funding, public servants, inmates, deceased people and children. The AG's office is now investigating these payments.

Makwetu said that information was not captured correctly into the UIF system and manual claims increased the risk of invalid or manipulated claim information. This was also the case in the payment of the R350 relief funds which, said the AG, was paid to people it should not have been paid to.

There is also evidence of overpayments, underpayments and high claims. "I take these breaches very seriously," said Minister of Employment and Labour Thulas Nxesi.

### **UIF officials suspended**

Minister Nxesi said that the AG's report indicated serious risks and violations. "In light of this, and because this occurred on his watch... I suspended the UIF Commissioner [Teboho Maruping]."

UIF senior management, including the chief financial officer, chief operating officer and head of supply chain have also been suspended.

"These moves allow for the SIU to conclude its forensic investigation. This is





not the end of the matter,” says Nxesi.

A complete audit of all UIF TERS benefit payments will start in September.

“I assure you that I will not rest until every payment is accounted for and every wrong-doer made to account,” the Minister said.

He added that National Treasury will send resources to the UIF, to urgently implement the AG’s recommendations and solutions for the gaps and risks. National Treasury is also assisting to identify service providers to conduct a forensic investigation into the overall workings of the UIF.

“We will also be looking into the workings of the Compensation Fund,” Minister Nxesi confirmed.

He explained that 38 court cases have been opened and charges have been laid. Some of these cases are already in court and the perpetrators are in jail, the Minister said.

The AG will send a list of other possible fraud cases to the anti-corruption centre to be investigated.

### **PPE spending too high**

Mkwetu said that audits into PPE spending are in different stages of completion, but show that orders placed by some health departments were for items priced more than dou-

ble or even five times more.

“Similar instances were identified in the procurement of PPE in the education sector, where the national and provincial departments are not procuring PPE at market-related prices,” Makwetu said.

Although emergency procurement processes were allowed for buying PPE, not all supply chain management requirements were relaxed.

“Teams are still busy auditing the procurement processes, but are identifying matters such as suppliers not having valid tax clearance certificates, quotation and competitive bidding processes not being correctly applied, inadequate or inaccurate specifications and evaluation criteria and the incorrect application thereof, conflicts of interest, and the awarding of a contract in the health sector to a supplier with no previous history of supplying or delivering PPE,” Makwetu said.





# REPORT CORRUPTION VIA THE ANTI-CORRUPTION HOTLINE

If you suspect corruption, fraud, theft or other wrongdoing in the public service, you are urged to report it.



**Curbing corruption** in the public service remains a government priority and the National Anti-Corruption Hotline makes it easy for members of the public to report suspected acts of corruption.

The hotline was launched by the Public Service Commission (PSC) in 2004 and since then, more than 100 000 calls reporting allegations of corruption and maladministration have been received. These calls by whistle-blowers have resulted in 24 035 cases of corruption, fraud and other crimes being investigated, says Public Service Commissioner Michael Seloane, who oversees all

the work done by the commission.

Between 2020 and 2021, 337 cases were reported via the hotline. Thirty-five of these involve appointment and procurement irregularities that are being investigated by the PSC. The remaining cases were referred to other government departments or law enforcement agencies for investigation.

The Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) housing, tender and social grant irregularities are among the most common allegations made.

“During the lockdown we received a lot of tip-offs through email. We also have an automatic message recording system for those who wish to call our hotline after hours,” Seloane says.

He adds that since the lowering of lockdown levels, there has been a steady increase in the reporting of social grant-related fraud, especially Social Relief of Distress grants. To strengthen efforts to curb corruption, the State has capacitated law enforcement



agencies with skilled personnel, and established the Fusion Centre.

The centre is a grouping of law enforcement agencies that share information and resources in the fight against fraud and corruption in the procurement of COVID-related goods and services.

### **What happens after a tip-off is made?**

Seloane says when a case is reported via the hotline, early resolution officers check that all the relevant information is provided. This includes the details of who did what, when the alleged act took place, and why.

He says if wrongdoing is found – be it procurement and appointment irregularities, bribery, RDP housing related corruption, social grant fraud, illegal migration, assault, theft or fraud – the PSC either recommends remedial action to the relevant department or refers the case to the Hawks, SAPS or Anti-Corruption Task Team for further investigation.

### **Cases the PSC refers to departments for investigation, include:**

Public servants doing extra work for money without consent of the departments

Undeclared conflicts of interests, and Unethical behaviour.

Seloane says the PSC gives government departments 60 days to investigate and close a case. He says the

department then informs the PSC of its findings. “If we are happy with the steps taken by the department, we will close the case, but if we are not satisfied, we revert back to them.”

### **Anonymity guaranteed**

When a whistle-blower does not want his/her identity revealed, the PSC hotline officer takes down only their contact details. This is important because if extra information is needed, the PSC must be able to contact them.

Whistle-blowers who report cases to the PSC hotline are assured protection if they want to remain anonymous, says Seloane. He explains that early resolution officers have been trained to ensure that a whistle-blower’s identity remains protected.

Seloane says South Africans must report corruption because it steals from the poor and stops development, which prevents the country from moving forward.

### **National Anti-Corruption Hotline:**

0800 701 701 Whistle-blowers may also send tip-offs via email ([integrity@publicservicecorruptionhotline.org.za](mailto:integrity@publicservicecorruptionhotline.org.za)) or fax (0800 204 965).

[publicservicecorruptionhotline.org.za](http://publicservicecorruptionhotline.org.za) or fax (0800 204 965).

- Silusapho Nyanda



# SOUTH AFRICA'S GNU LEADERSHIP



**The new** Deputy President, Ministers and Deputy Ministers of the seventh administration were recently sworn into office in Cape Town.

The cohort took their oath of office or solemn affirmation in a ceremony officiated by Chief Justice Raymond Zondo.

President Cyril Ramaphosa and Deputy President Paul Mashatile watched on and congratulated the new Ministers and Deputy Ministers that the President appointed in terms of the powers vested in him by the Constitution.

Addressing members of the media following the swearing-in ceremony, President Ramaphosa said the ceremony was a historic moment.

“It has been a very difficult and complicated process. It’s now come to an end and to a start. It’s a fresh start for all of us in South Africa. Today was a historic moment in constituting the Executive of our country in the form of Ministers and Deputy Ministers, who have all collectively been assuring me... that they are going to work and they are going to make South Africans proud.”

He added that the Ministries of



Electricity and Energy will be merged. “There will be a separate Ministry of Mineral and Petroleum Resources. The Ministry of Agriculture will be separated from the Ministry of Land Reform and Rural Development.

“The Ministry of Higher Education will be separated from the ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. The ministry of Justice and Constitutional Development will be separated from the ministry of Correctional Services.

“There will no longer be a Ministry of Public Enterprises. The coordination of the relevant public enterprises will be located in the Presidency during the process of implementing a new shareholder model,” the President said.

### **The new Executive is as follows:**

- The Minister of Agriculture is John Steenhuisen.
- The Deputy Minister of Agriculture is Rosemary Nokuzola Capa.
- The Minister of Land Reform and Rural Development is Mzwanele Nyhontso.
- The Deputy Minister of Land Reform and Rural Development is Chupu Stanley Mathabatha.
- The Minister of Basic Education is Siviwe Gwarube.
- The Deputy Minister of Basic Education is Reginah Mhaule.
- The Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies is Solly Malatsi.
- The Deputy Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies is Mondli Gungubele.
- The Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs is Velenkosini Hlabisa.
- The Deputy Ministers of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs are Dickson Masemola and Zolile Burns Ncamashe.
- The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans is Angie Motshekga.
- The Deputy Ministers of Defence and Military Veterans are Bantu Holomisa and Richard Mkhungo.
- The Minister of Electricity and Energy is Kgosientsho Ramokgopa.
- The Deputy Minister of Electricity and Energy is Samantha Graham.
- The Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation is Blade Nzimande.
- The Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation is Nomalungelo Gina.
- The Minister of Employment and Labour is Nomakhosazana Meth.
- The Deputy Ministers of Employment and Labour are Jomo Sibiya and Phumzile Mgcina.



- The Minister of Finance is Enoch Godongwana.
- The Deputy Ministers of Finance are David Maseko and Ashor Sarupen.
- The Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is Dion George.
- The Deputy Ministers of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment are Narend Singh and Bernice Swarts.
- The Minister of Health is Aaron Motsoaledi.
- The Deputy Minister of Health is Joe Phaahla.
- The Minister of Higher Education is Nobuhle Nkabane.
- The Deputy Ministers of Higher Education are Buti Manamela and Mimmy Gondwe.
- The Minister of Home Affairs is Leon Schreiber.
- The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs is Njabulo Nzuza.
- The Minister of Human Settlements is Mmamoloko Kubayi.
- The Deputy Minister of Human Settlements is Tandi Mahambehlala.
- The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation is Ronald Lamola.
- The Deputy Ministers of International Relations and Cooperation are Alvin Botes and Tandi Moraka.
- The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development is Thembi Nkadimeng.
- The Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development is Andries Nel.
- The Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources is Gwede Mantashe.
- The Deputy Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources is Judith Nemaadzinga-Tshabalala.
- The Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation is Maropene Ramokgopa.
- The Deputy Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation is Seiso Mohai.
- The Minister of Police is Senzo Mchunu.
- The Deputy Ministers of Police are Polly Boshieo and Cassel Mathale.
- The Minister in the Presidency is Khumbudzo Ntshavheni.
- The Deputy Ministers in the Presidency are Nonceba Mhlauli and Kenneth Morolong.
- The Minister of Public Service and Administration is Mzamo Buthelezi.
- The Deputy Minister of Public Service and Administration is Pinky Kekana.
- The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure is Dean Macpherson.

- The Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure is Sihle Zikalala.
- The Minister of Small Business Development is Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams.
- The Deputy Minister of Small Business Development is Jane Sithole.
- The Minister of Social Development is Sisisi Tolashe.
- The Deputy Minister of Social Development is Ganief Hendricks.
- The Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture is Gayton McKenzie.
- The Deputy Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture is Peace Mabe.
- The Minister of Tourism is Patricia De Lille.
- The Deputy Minister of Tourism is Maggie Sotyu.
- The Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition is Parks Tau.
- The Deputy Ministers of Trade, Industry and Competition are Zuko Godlimpi and Andrew Whitfield.
- The Minister of Transport is Barbara Creecy.
- The Deputy Minister of Transport is Mkhuleko Hlengwa.
- The Minister of Water and Sanitation is Pemmy Majodina.
- The Deputy Ministers of Water and Sanitation are David Mahlobo and Isaac Seithloho.
- The Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities is Sindisiwe Chikunga.
- The Deputy Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities is Mmapaseka Steve Letsike.
- The Minister of Correctional Services is Pieter Groenewald.
- The Deputy Minister of Correctional Services is Lindiwe Ntshalintshali.

1994 - 2024

# 30 YEARS OF *empowering stories*

**Tel:** 012 473 0353

**Email:** [vukuzenzele@gcis.gov.za](mailto:vukuzenzele@gcis.gov.za)

**Address:** Private Bag X745, Pretoria, 0001

**Acting Head of Editorial and  
Production**

Sandile Nene

[sandilen@gcis.gov.za](mailto:sandilen@gcis.gov.za)

**Editor-in-Chief**

Zanele Mngadi | [Zanelemngadi@gcis.gov.za](mailto:Zanelemngadi@gcis.gov.za)

**Managing Editor**

Tshepo Nkosi | [Tshepon@gcis.gov.za](mailto:Tshepon@gcis.gov.za)

**News Editor:** Noluthando Motswai

**Writers:** More Matshediso | Sihle Manda

**Marketing and Advertising**

Nkateko Mkhathsha

**Graphic Designer:** Tendai Gonese

**Production Assistant**

Jauhara Khan

Health • Rural Development • Employment • Safety & Security • Education

## Vuk'uzenzele 30th Anniversary

### Charcoal innovators transform wattle into wealth



**By Zanele Mngadi**  
The wattle industry in South Africa is a thriving one, with many small-scale producers and processors. One of the most innovative producers is a woman from the Eastern Cape who has turned wattle into a profitable business.

She has developed a unique process for producing charcoal from wattle, which is a fast-growing tree species. Her charcoal is of high quality and is sold at a premium price. She has also started a small business selling wattle products, including wattle bark and wattle leaves.

Cont. on page 2



**Subscribe  
to the  
Vuk'uzenzele  
mailing list**

