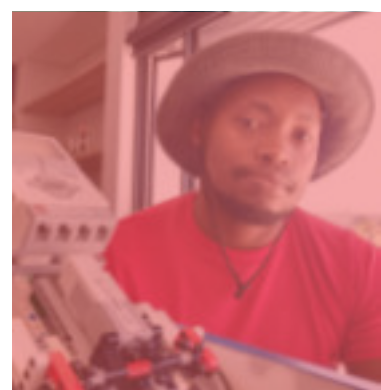
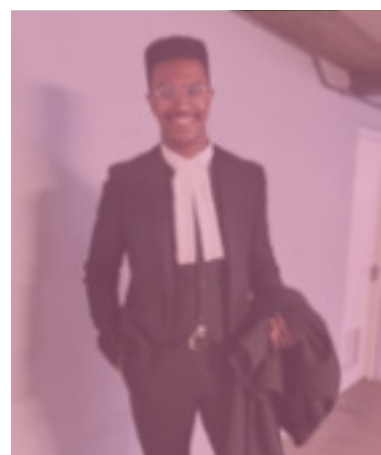
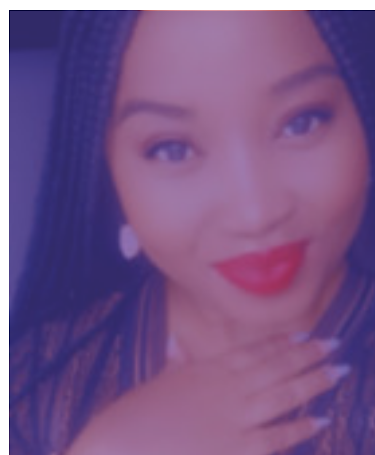
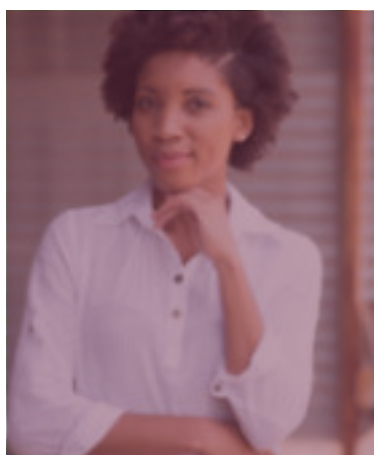
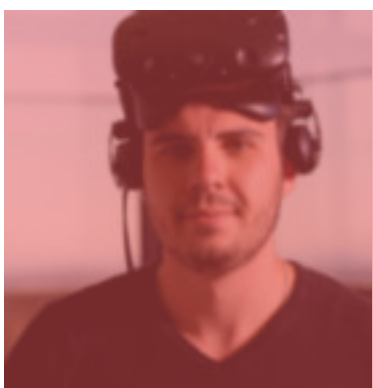
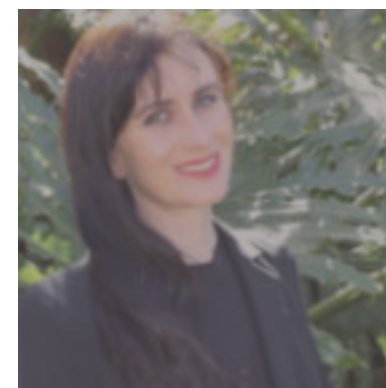
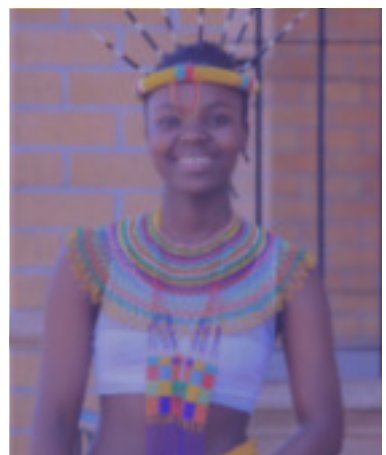
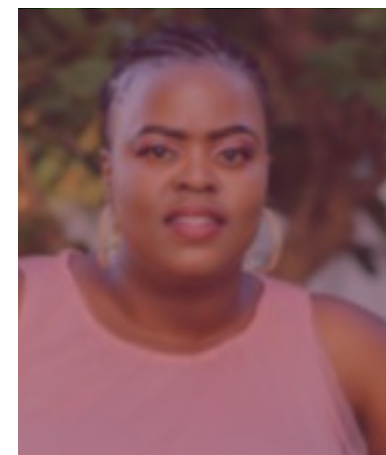
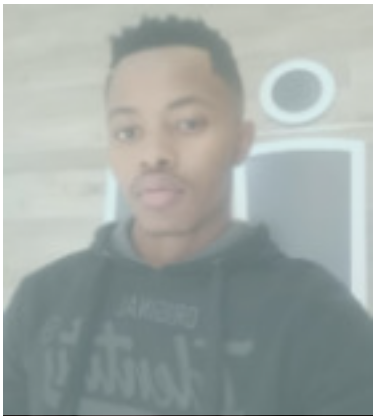
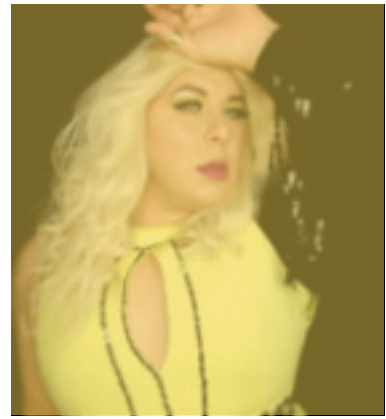
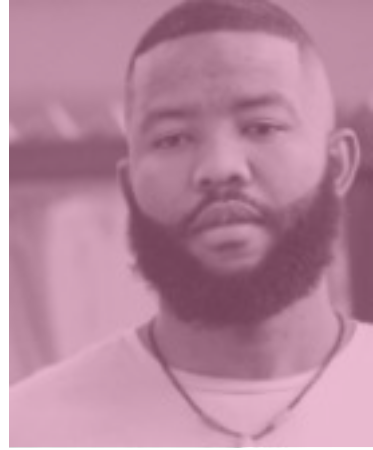
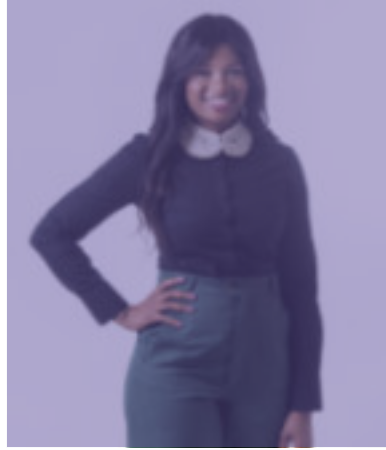
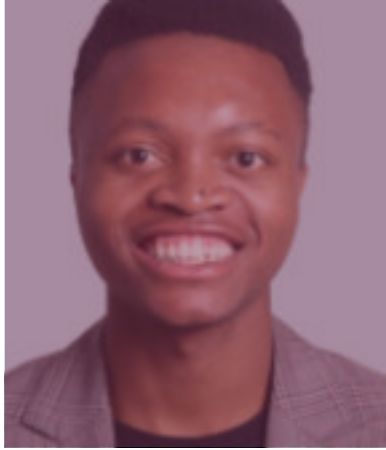
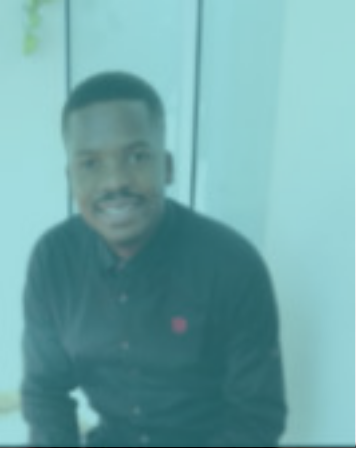


# Inside Education



100 South African Shining Stars 2022





## FOREWORD



**We can think of no better way to round off this year than to celebrate our 100 South African SHINING STARS.**

**These are young people who are nominated by their peers and organisations, recognising them for selflessly giving their time and talent to make their communities, and in turn our country, a better place to live.**

**This year's 100 finalists were drawn from a pool of over 800 entries, which serves to remind us of the depth and talent of our country.**

Selected from various economic and social sectors, these are young people who, in our view, epitomise passion, energy, and a sense of endeavour in challenging times. They have the resilience needed to move South Africa forward.

What makes their achievements even more remarkable, is that they toil in the face of rising crime levels, unemployment, poverty, and most importantly, unequal opportunities in education.

The social ills that young South Africans face every day, should be something of the past considering that it has been two decades since South Africa's first democratic elections.

These Shining Stars are farmers and innovators, entrepreneurs and lawyers, social activists and environmental warriors. They help others get access to justice, healthcare and social services, they also contribute to job creation through the various projects they run, and they also develop artists and sports achievers in our communities.

The young ambassadors, in areas of interest as diverse as the environment and robotics, are helping to shape South Africa to be a global player and leader in these fields.

Some have, through efforts such as running food gardens, community education, and philanthropy projects, directly assisted in alleviating the harsh effects of various socio-economic challenges in their communities.

As South Africa grapples with lifting its economy from the ravages of COVID-19 and sets its sites on a job creation growth path, it is important to remind ourselves that the government offers leadership and sets the tone for the policies to be followed to navigate the path towards renewed prosperity, but other social players and agents have to deliver the change that is required.

The private sector needs to contribute to the job creation numbers required to reduce unemployment.

Civil society has to ensure that there is a social safety net and that justice is available, especially to those who do not have the income to afford it.

It is small businesses, many of which are run by those celebrated here, that will create employment on the scale that is required to make a dent in unemployment, especially among the youth.

We hope you are as inspired by the efforts of our young people as we were when we put this special edition together.

They deserve our support and encouragement, whether it's volunteering your time, financial donations, expertise to help a local NGO, or spreading the word to amplify the work they do, as we are doing.

- **Matuma Letsoalo**

POWERED BY;



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section  
**01**  
Arts &  
culture

# section 01 Arts & culture



Simphiwe Khetse | North West  
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Simphiwe Khetse is the Founder & Creative Director of SKLove Creations. She discovered her talent for art while in high school at Platinum Village, Rustenburg, when she was commissioned to paint a mural and never looked back.

*"I used art as a therapeutic tool to be able to understand the daily struggles the youth go through and actually provide solutions," Khetse says. She says art "needs to be constructive and be impactful and most importantly be for the betterment of humanity as a collective".*

In 2015, Khetse took a leap of faith and resigned from her job as a project planner in the mining industry to pursue art. *"The mining industry played a very crucial role in the path that I followed,"* she says. *"Not only did I learn the art of a lucrative, self-sustaining business model, I understood a lot of different things through the people that I worked with and met."*

Khetse worked from home due to COVID-19. *"This helped me be more creative and produce more artworks,"* she says. She also used this time to tutor youngsters and assist them to obtain bursaries and training opportunities, and help them with mental health awareness.



Jane Mpholo |Free State  
janempholo@gmail.com

Jane Mpholo is an accomplished thespian who uses her craft to educate and entertain.

She holds a Drama and Theatre Arts Degree from the University of the Free State and has recently graduated from the BASA Cultural Producers Program.

Passionate about inclusive education, she tours to schools to educate learners through her shows.

Her autobiographical production Psalm69 (Global Leadership Summit 2018) has given voices to thousands of audiences.

Mpholo specializes as a professional actor, playwright, producer, dramaturge, performance arts coach, speaker, mentor and facilitator.

Her highlights include receiving multiple international awards for her short film "Cleanse" and being a three times Kyknet Fiesta Nominated Artist.

Mpholo has recently been appointed as the Audience Development Specialist at PACOFS.

Her latest digital work, Sehlabelo, has been nominated for the Fak'ugesi Digital Innovation Creativity Awards.



# Arts & culture



Naledi Mfoloe |North West  
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At the age of 23, Naledi Mfoloe has become a hero in her village of Tweelaagte in North West. She is the founder of Young People Creative Forum, an NPO that provides community-based arts services to children in the province and nationwide.

Mfoloe realised there was a lack of arts education in the country and was motivated to step-up and create programmes for children to attend after school.

*"Our main objective is to reignite hope, uplift their self-confidence and make a difference in their lives. This project benefits children in the community and gives them a sense of belonging and purpose,"* said Mfoloe.

She believes the benefit of an arts education is its ability to keep children off the streets, where they could easily fall prey to social ills due to a lack of healthy recreational activities.

Masindi Netshakhuma | Limpopo  
netshakhumamasindi@gmail.com

Masindi 'Princess' Netshakhuma is a writer, an award-winning cultural practitioner and a filmmaker.

Netshakhuma completed her Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Limpopo in 2021.

From her childhood, Netshakhuma has been highly active in writings.

She became part of Lampstand book club in 2017 and released her first English poetry book titled 'Vision & legacy' in 2018.

After that year she co-authored many books, including 'Tshanduko' with Nndanduleni Jeffrey Manthakha.

In 2019, her poem titled "Lushie" became one of the winning poems in the Avbob Poetry Competition.

She again got shortlisted in the National Library of South Africa Young Voices Poetry Slam Top 30. Masindi is not only a poetry writer, she is art itself.

In 2020 she ventured into film and got awarded for the development of her first film by National Film and Video Foundation.

She got shortlisted for the Gauteng Film Commission's Women's month training programme in partnership with City Varsity and attended Women in Film Masterclass Series.

Netshakhuma developed an early interest in international relations and In February 2020 she got selected as one of 32 students from International Global Network to be a mentee in the Kelas Daring IELTS NTT 2020.

Earlier 2021, Netshakhuma implemented a project 'Woman, My Breed' to help publishing stories about Gender Based Violence for young women, which got supported by National Arts and Culture.

In 2020, Netshakhuma was featured by The French Institute of South Africa and Impepho Press in the anthology "History and imagining realities" that was later translated into French and English.

Netshakhuma founded an SME in 2021 and won in the Kenya- South Africa Chamber of business top 20 SMEs where she had the privilege of exhibiting her business when both presidents of South Africa and Kenya conducted a walk about the event.



Koketso Mthimunye | Mpumalanga  
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Your most important gear is your eye, heart, and soul. That is what Keletso Mthimunye aims for with his artwork after he uncovered his talent.

*"I do traditional patterns and customize garments and shoes. A lot of people in my community love cultural and stylish items; I saw it as an opportunity to showcase my work,"* shared the Kwa-Ndebele born artist.

Mthimunye said his artistic work also benefits the community as he teaches them to hone their skills outside academia through art recreations. He said that he was motivated by the idea to take young people off the streets.

*"Majority of the youth end up being caught up in the wrong things in the streets and my services are here to make sure they are off the streets,"* he added.

Mthimunye mentioned that COVID-19 had positively and negatively affected his work. It gave him more time to work on his portraits and landscapes although he was forced to halt his teaching sessions with the youth in his community.

Albert Zitha | Gauteng  
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Honours Degree student from Wits University, Albert Zitha, established Sir Alba Management and Arts organisation, in an effort to train and develop the youth through artistry.

*"Sir Alba Management and Arts has been in existence since 2008, after seeing a need for extramural activities for young people,"* says Zitha. The organisation so far has trained and developed more than 200 children in the performing arts. They have also sent some of their participants to national festivities such as the; South African Championships and they qualified to compete in Los Angeles (USA).

*"I wanted my community to have access to excellent and professional services and build what my community can relate to when I started this,"* said Zitha.

COVID-19 had halted many of their programmes such as theatre shows and campaigns, which meant only a few participants could be trained at a time, although their tutoring services increased during this time.



# Arts & culture



Sivuyile Dyaso | Eastern Cape  
sivudyaso@gmail.com

Sivuyile Dyaso, a self-taught programme manager based in the rural outskirts of East London called Ncerha, strives to launch academic excellence awards for learners from grade 10 to 12 in his community.

*"The tributes are called Funda Mntanam Academic Awards, and I founded it alongside Local President Pty Ltd company,"* said Dyaso.

Dyaso revealed that the motive behind his hard work was to bring strength and recognition as well as commend rural excellence.

*"We want to encourage students to take their schoolwork more serious, work extra hard; we hope the awards will be a huge motivation to them."*

"However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was quite difficult to make things happen as we were struggling to get sponsorships from companies and individuals who were well connected when it comes to such events," shared Dyaso.

# Artists & Stars



Mapula Modiba | Limpopo  
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Mapula Modiba is one of the founders of Botho Digital Television, an online television service aimed at viewers across Limpopo.

Through the platform, Modiba and her partners create opportunities for young talent in the province's rural areas to have their skills and abilities showcased before audiences they otherwise would not have reached.

This is done through the production of video content which is disseminated through Facebook and WhatsApp for Botho Digital Television's subscribers.

***"We had to do something about this. Our work requires us to hire a lot of artists. Their talent is recognised through Botho TV and that makes us proud as a community to see our own people excelling,"*** Modiba said.

Coming from a rural area herself, Modiba said she was aware of the impact of feeling left behind, especially as the world gravitated towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and is motivated to bring more opportunities to young people like herself.

section

02

Business &  
entrepreneurship



section

# 02 Business & entrepreneurship



Mbali Bhengu | KwaZulu-Natal  
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Mbali Bhengu is the owner of Mind Switch, an entrepreneurial incubator support organisation that assists young people on their entrepreneurial journeys.

*"A lot of the programmes I do are more empowerment-based specifically for township, rural and urban citizens,"* Bhengu says.

Before starting her organisation Bhengu worked in the corporate sector, but later found that her calling was to be an educator. *"I love empowering people. When I coach others it is also from the practical experience that I have,"* she said.

In a true testament to her natural knack for entrepreneurship, the COVID-19 pandemic had forced Bhengu to diversify her portfolio by starting a cleaning company, which currently employs 13 people.



**Mpho Mohaswa |Gauteng**  
mmohaswa@preciousandpearl.co.za

Mpho Mohaswa is one half of Precious and Pearl, a company that aims to preserve the tradition of brewing non-alcoholic ginger beer, known in many South African communities as 'Ghemere'.

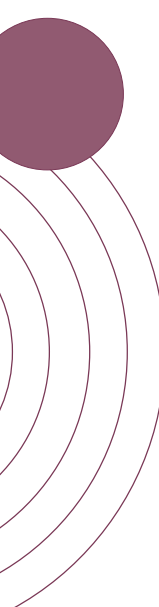
Serving mainly different parts of Tshwane and Soweto, Precious and Pearl creates a source of income for unemployed individuals, by enlisting them as resellers of the product.

*"We give people convenience by manufacturing Ghemere in a concentrated and ready-to-drink form. People buy from us at a discount and sell for profit,"* Mohaswa says.

While most businesses have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Mohaswa says her company had seen steady support due to the health benefits of the main ginger ingredient.

*"During COVID-19, ginger was expensive and we encouraged our customers to use our ginger drink and mix it with honey and lemon, to boost their immune system,"* she says.

This increase in interest has encouraged Mohaswa and her business partner to look into ways of enhancing the drink and diversifying its uses.



**Sthembele Njobo |Gauteng**  
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A media and ICT professional, Sthembele Njobo has made it his duty to uplift the youth in his community through the use of audio-visual media.

Njobo works closely with township-based small businesses, providing training on how to effectively use various marketing methods to increase their visibility and awareness within the township economy.

The 32-year-old is also part of an incubation programme with The Innovation Hub, which seeks to introduce mobile television as a means to market township businesses.

*"We will be putting screens in the taxis for marketing purposes as people don't have access to market their products,"* Njobo said of the project.

*"I love the work that I do because it allows me to capture moments that the future generation can tap into. We are building a digital library for the future."*

**Lebogang Nyandeni** | Gauteng  
nyandenilebohng@gmail.com

Lebogang Nyandeni is the founder of Start-Up Entrepreneurship Academy, which offers enterprise development workshops to young people in Evaton who wish to start their own businesses.

*"I help write business plans and register their companies. The aim is to help them transfer their ideas into tangible enterprises that drive and contribute towards the township economy for better social value,"* says Nyandeni.

The academy, which was started three years ago, has impacted the lives of over 500 young people across Evaton and other areas in the Vaal region.

*"I have always wanted to transfer something positive to other young people. I believe in leaving a mark in people's lives and also being solution oriented,"* Nyandeni says.



**Elvis Seroka** | Limpopo  
900Elvis@gmail.com

Children with special needs are at the heart of Elvis Seroka's work. He is the founder of Marettlagadi Welfare Centre, a care facility that has been operating for the past five years in Ngwanamatlang, Limpopo. Seroka's centre provides a safe space for children with disabilities to learn and become involved in various activities. The facility currently cares for 14 children.

*"My little sister, Kgotlelelo, was born with a disability and I have been taking care of her ever since. There are many people who have special needs children but they do not know where to take them when they have to go to work,"* Seroka said.

*"I work with two professional teachers who come monthly to give children activities. We relieve families who have special needs children in their homes to allow them to continue with their daily lives,"* he added.

Seroka said operating an NGO was difficult without funding but his organisation has managed to do so successfully.







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**Sibusiso Jele | KwaZulu Natal**  
 sbusisojele57@gmail.com

As provincial secretary of Youth In Business South Africa (YIBSA) in KwaZulu-Natal, Sibusiso Jele works towards creating more entrepreneurs.

*"We partner with both public and private sectors to administer programmes that will assist entrepreneurs with access to capital, mentorship, coaching as well as education and other forms of support."*

Over the last 6 years YIBSA has helped over 3000 businesses benefit from their existing partnerships with various entities.

"As a young entrepreneur, I took it upon myself to start implementing change. With the current youth unemployment rate of 74,4% the only practical solution is to start educating young people that entrepreneurship can be a career. Innovation is the only solution we need in our country."

When COVID-19 hit, YIBSA had to change their entrepreneurship course from physical classes to online.

*"It was a blessing in disguise because we had high logistical costs to run the course throughout six months."*



**Malebo Matlala | Gauteng**  
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Working with her hands is a talent Malebo Matlala has used to empower others. The fashion designer is teaching young women and men how to sew for free in the district of Ga-Sekhukhune, Limpopo.

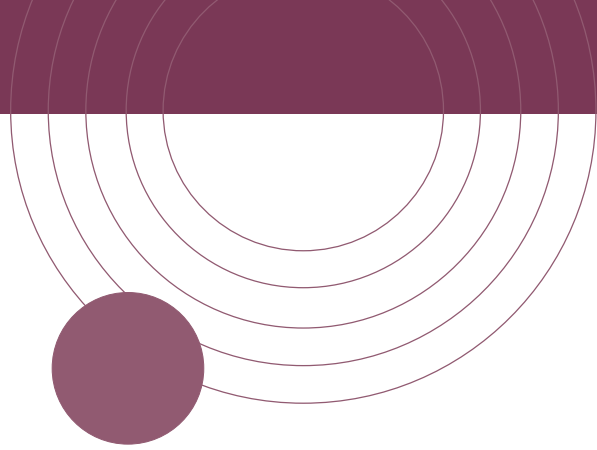
Some of her 10 students come from abusive backgrounds and Matlala has made it her mission to help them seek help from social workers.

On weekends she trains children on how to stay healthy and keeps them busy. The pandemic has stopped the children from coming in their numbers.

"My fashion brand is called Mokatani because I am a hard worker. I am someone who wants to make things happen, especially in my community. I am inspiring people through my hard work and helping where I can."

The 32-year-old's events, sewing and decorations business, Pebetse Sewing and Event Services, has also halted because of the pandemic but she continues to teach those who want to learn.





Vutomi Banda | Limpopo  
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Vutomi Banda is the founder of Vutomi Technology and Enterprises, an ICT company based in Tzaneen, Limpopo.

The company provides a number of ICT services including the supply, installation and maintenance of printing devices. Through her company, Banda also provides cellphone repair services, an endeavour, which currently sees her employing 15 people.

This project, she said, would be ***“bringing much-needed skills and training to the community in order to build our economy”***.

Committed to the development of young people, Banda also runs a non-profit organisation called Lesedi La Bacha – a space she uses to offer life coaching services.

The NPO was established as a result of Banda’s own life challenges that resulted in her falling into depression. The subsequent help she received motivated her to impart the same teachings to others.



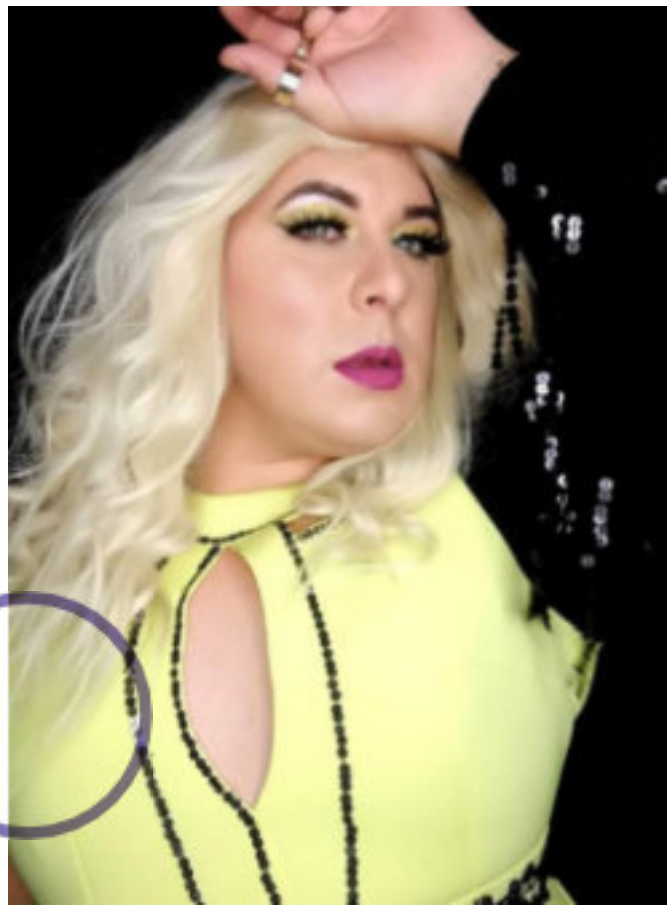
section

03

Civil society &  
youth



# section 03 Civil society & youth



Shenay O'Brien | Gauteng  
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Shenay O'Brien is a dynamic and versatile performer who has dedicated her life to enhancing education around LGBTQIA+ matters in South Africa.

She is the creator and producer of the Feather Award winning online web series, We're Queer my Dear (WQMD). This is a series put together by a panel of proudly queer individuals to discuss weekly topics from a South African point of view. These topics included amongst others: religion, bullying, fitting in, being transgender in SA, HIV awareness, mental health awareness, LGBTQIA+ representation in the media, Gender-Based Violence & hate crimes and coming out in school, to name a few.

She has also partnered with the UN and the Library Associations of SA (LIASA) to read to children in Soweto, to encourage the youth, which she believes is fundamental to the process of breaking down gender and generational stereotypes and showing young people the importance of remaining true to themselves.



Lesedi Senamele | Gauteng  
Matlala.senamele@gmail.com

Lesedi Senamele Matlala is a research educationist and youth advocate, who has been involved in providing leadership through different student activities since he enrolled at the University of Johannesburg. He believes that, if given the opportunity to be in the driver seat, communities can better define the development they want to see and take the lead towards achieving it.

Lesedi has initiated a number of local and national organisations that work with communities on socio-economic development and education rights initiatives across South Africa. He has also partnered with well-known organisations such as JET Education Services, to learn more about humanitarian work.

*"Since the early phases of this pandemic I have been involved in researching and developing educational projects together with the world's best academics, evaluators, educational activists and leaders in human rights protection."*

Siphilangenkosi Dlamini | Free State  
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Siphilangenkosi Dlamini's passion for youth empowerment and student food security started when the COVID-19 lockdown came into effect in 2020.

Many students at the University of the Free State found themselves in distress as they had no means to return home or to buy food. Some had returned home, but were facing the same food insecurity challenges.

Dlamini is the project coordinator for the UFS Rovers #HelpAStudent initiative which collects food parcels for needy students. While he had been collecting food parcels on a smaller scale before the pandemic, the onset of COVID-19 meant more people could not afford to buy healthy nutritious food and therefore needed urgent food relief. This Shining Star also serves as the secretary and youth advisor of the Southern Africa Scout Youth Forum, which represents millions of youth from National Scouts Organisations in the Southern African Development Community (SADC).



Jayson George | Western Cape  
Jaysongorge22@gmail.com

Jayson George is a young professional attorney from Mitchells Plain. He is passionate about youth empowerment and civil society development. He is the founder of Aspiration Inspiration and Developing Inspired Youth (DIY).

Aspiration is a platform established to share the stories of people from the Cape Flats who have succeeded against all odds.

**"The aim is to inspire young people to dream big, pursue their dreams and hear from someone relatable who has done it before, despite their circumstances. The platform was founded during the hard lockdown in 2020,"** he said.

The organisation visits high schools, where speakers share practical tips for success and motivation.

*"I also assist as mentor and tutor at a study group called AK Snapshots in my community where we tutor and mentor Grade 4-12 pupils,"* George said.

*"The pandemic is here and it is real. We have to live with it. However, we must not and cannot lose hope."*



Anthony Martin Andrews | KwaZulu-Natal  
19886853@sun.ac.za

Anthony Martin Andrews is pursuing a Masters of Laws at Stellenbosch University and is passionate about issues of social justice and economic freedom. During his tenure as Speaker of Student Parliament, Anthony was selected by the Global Diplomatic Forum as the South African delegate for the 18th Annual Young Diplomat's Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

This year, Anthony negotiated for the provision of 100 stationery packs, sponsored by Van Schaik Bookstore, to support students affected by the financial strain caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Anthony currently serves as a member of Stellenbosch University's Campus, Residence Life and Culture Review.





**Pasika Patrick Nyangiwe | EasternCape**

PasikaPatrick Nyangiwe, born in Ngqeleni in the Eastern Cape, holds bachelor's degree in Public Administration and is a social activist who has been involved in volunteer work since 2014.

Nyangiwe is the founder of the Back to Basics Foundation, which seeks to provide education and career guidance to young people. This Shining Star is also involved in career exhibition programmes aimed at equipping learners with knowledge about the importance of education and the wide range of career choices available to them.

In addition to this, Nyangiwe donates uniforms to schools, sanitary towels to disadvantaged young girls and makes an impact in orphanages through social visits and the donation of groceries and other necessities.



**Amber Julius | Western Cape**  
[Amberjulius16@gmail.com](mailto:Amberjulius16@gmail.com)

At the start of the COVID-19 lockdown, Amber Julius Amber Julius is a founding member of the Sisterhood Movement and the coordinator of the Youth Bank, a project encouraged by the Social Change Assistance Trust, known as SCAT.

Sisterhood was founded in September 2016 in Elsenburg near Stellenbosch by teen girls for young women from disadvantaged communities.

It is a rural, female-led, youth organisation that is a branch of the bigger organisation, Ubuntu Rural Women and Youth Movement, which is an intergenerational women's movement that seeks to bring various initiatives together to strengthen women's impact.

Sisterhood serves to empower and uplift our girls and young women in communities to collectively expand their life chances and improve the quality of their lives.

The purpose of the youth bank project is to empower marginalised communities, specifically targeting the youth.

The Sisterhood Movement has recently participated in a women's event, in collaboration with the Dutch and Irish Embassy and Dirco.

"I was a panelist discussing peace and security for girls and young women. I completed the Quaker United Nations Summer School fellowship, focusing on Human Rights and Refugees, Peace and Disarmament, Human Impacts of Climate Change, and Sustainable, and Just Economic Systems," says Julius.

"Our vision is to continue to grow, to broaden the scope and reach of our organisation to go from strength to strength. I believe that we aren't the future, we are the present, because what we do today, impacts tomorrow."



Belinda Sikwane | Limpopo  
Patricia.sikwane@hotmail.co.za

Belinda Sikwane from Lebowakgomo Zone F in Limpopo regards herself as a community builder. Sikwane has managed to help at least 6 impoverished families secure homes of their own.

*"I had a taste of living on the street after my mom passed on, because of circumstances that I found at home in her absence. On the streets, I met different people who are living there for various reasons and I said to myself: If I could get a chance to give someone a taste of the warmth that comes from being in a home, I will do so,"* she said.

*"I sleep better when the projects are complete and families start a new life in a better looking house or home,"* she added.

COVID-19 had given Sikwane a chance to meet more needy families, however, it was not easy helping them as she used to.

*"I was usually sponsored by private individuals who had their own businesses and during COVID-19, many businesses were affected and that was a problem,"* Sikwane said.



Raymond Matlala | Gauteng  
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Raymond Matlala is the founder of the South African BRICS Youth Association (SABYA) - a youth-led non-profit organisation registered with the department of social development. The organisation seeks to maximize youth participation in Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) and other international engagements such as the G20, Euro-BRICS, United Nations, African Union and international youth forums.

In 2019, Matlala forged a collaboration with international youth organisations to bring the World Youth Summit to South Africa.

Matlala is motivated by being involved in the international sphere, particularly around youth diplomacy. For the past 8 years he has personally funded any operating costs SABYA had, to be proactive in the absence of external funding.



# Civilsociety &

# youth



**Thato Mphuthi | Gauteng**  
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Thato Mphuthi is the founder of Enabled Enlightenment - a non-partisan organisation established in 2020 in response to the increasing prevalence of discrimination against persons with disabilities in South Africa.

The organisation aims to expand its objectives and hopes to become the biggest disability rights movement on the continent and Diaspora.

*“During the hard lockdown regulations, in efforts to keeping children in the community safe, I started a literacy programme to keep children off the streets and working towards helping them improve their literacy skills whilst also sensitising them on disability issues through disability education and play,”* Mphuthi said.

This Shining Star says what motivates her is the ability to change the limiting beliefs people have about living with disabilities, by demonstrating through her own life that success is possible.

*“The most fulfilling part is having people share that they now see disability differently and they therefore start advocating and championing disability issues in their spaces,”* said Mphuthi.

section

# 04

Education



# section 04 Education



Mphele Yelane | Limpopo  
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Mphele Yelane is an economist and the founder of the Ezamazwe Education Centre for Innovation in Tzaneen, Limpopo.

As an economic analyst, Yelane worked for 12 years analysing and providing well-researched solutions on how the government can solve poverty, unemployment and illiteracy rate in South Africa.

She later became despondent with the government's approach to work and decided to launch a learning centre in her rural community in Limpopo.

*"The illiteracy rate in Limpopo is shockingly bad, and as an economist I knew that local economic development must be proactively employed in my business venture,"* said Yelane.

*"My Centre not only offers assistance to the township learners and rural communities but it also provides access to the services and a reasonable rate,"* she added.

Asked what motivated her to start the learning centre, Yelane said she produced reams and reams of research copy for the government on how to fix the economy but there was a lack of implementation.

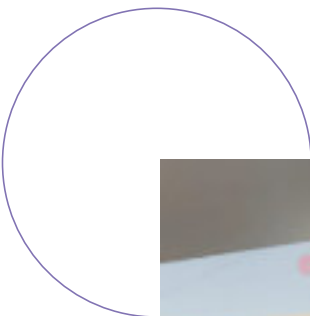
*"I then decided I can be a force for change and do something that will impact the state of our education in the township,"* she said.



Lucy Pearl Khofi | Gauteng  
lucykhofi.n@gmail.com

Lucy Pearl Khofi is an award-winning South African activist, medical anthropologist, a Ph.D. Candidate in Public Health & Medical Anthropology at the University of the Witwatersrand and the founder of Women's Health Ekklesia NPO.

Women's Health Ekklesia NPO tackles the reproductive realities and advocates for justice - while uplifting, empowering, and educating individuals. Khofi is passionate about education and uplifting others. She advocates for access to equal education through Imfundo Enhle Education Trust, which she founded in the year 2020.



Mandisa Makhathini | Kwa-Zulu Natal  
Mandisalesa@gmail.com

Mandisa Makhathini saw an opportunity to become a beacon of hope to her community when she launched Smart Guys of SA, to uplift and empower young people in Kwa-Zulu Natal. "We provide skills to matriculants and give unemployed graduates a platform to realise their full potential," says Makhathini.

The non-profit organisation has since become the community's shoulder to lean on as they always get assistance with their needs. "I finished my matric at a tender age, I had the privilege to go to university and found a job thereafter. I saw the need for empowerment of youth in my area and decided to give it to them," Makhathini said.

*"The pandemic had affected our finances, but we were able to carry on with our work,"* said Makhathini, adding that they managed to assist about 2000 people during COVID-19 and implemented classes on WhatsApp for Grade R-12.

*"It gives me so much pleasure to help students and seeing them achieve to the level they want, it also motivates me to keep on doing more and more,"* she said.





Thandekile Gloria Mngadi | KwaZulu-Natal  
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Thandekile Gloria Mngadi is a language coach and the founder of GTNAQM (Pty)Ltd Language Services Company.

After the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, many children from disadvantaged communities struggled with their school work due to the absence of technological tools such as Zoom, Skype and online learning. Mngadi's company started an initiative called Ingosi Yabantwana to assist learners from previously disadvantaged communities with their studies.

The programme is chiefly focused on teaching children how to read and write. **"Ingosi Yabantwana is aimed at improving academic excellence among learners who were struggling with access to education during the lockdown,"** says Mngadi.

*"We are also offering classes in Maths, Natural Sciences, Accounting, and Geological studies. During the lockdowns, learners were able to catch up with their studies through WhatsApp because it was cheaper and easy to use."*

Bongolwethu Harmans | Eastern Cape  
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The turning point in Bongolwethu Harmans' life was when he lost both parents.

He then decided to start a non-profit organisation in his township to help young matriculants to apply to universities, tutored them in Maths and Science and assisted them choose relevant career paths.

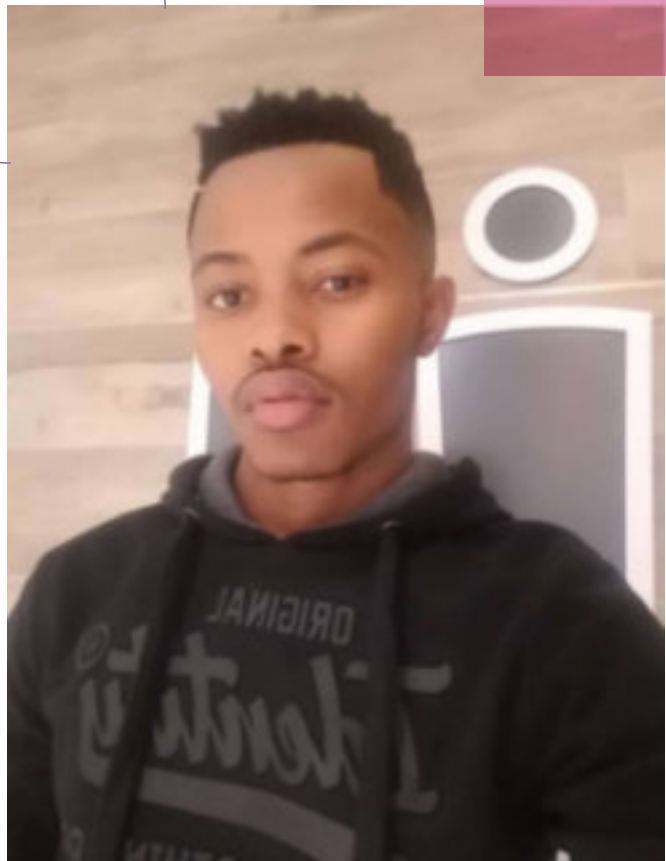
**"I lost my parents when I was 11 years old .I had a choice to choose between doing crime and education but I decided to choose education because I really wanted to be something and be able to provide for my younger sister,"** says Harmans.

**"I just want to motivate kids out there to believe in themselves irregardless of the circumstance that they are in and to always make a right choice."**

He also started Harmans Admin, which is a company that help students to find accommodation in Joburg for free.

The company has already helped more than 400 students so far coming from different provinces.

In 2017, he also started tutoring high school learners on weekends. Between 2018 and 2019 he raised R50 000 to buy uniforms for kids back in the Eastern Cape who don't have uniforms.





Lungile Maile | Gauteng  
info@numathsapp.com

In an effort to cater for the socio-economic needs of parents in townships, Lungile Maile with the help of her colleagues developed Nubian Smarts, an App intended to improve the understanding of mathematics for primary school pupils.

*"The work we do makes it easier for teachers to help their learners in class. Our users have displayed over 60% improvement in mathematics,"* says Maile.

She said through Nubian Smarts, they aim to bring quality education to both townships and rural areas and give learners a chance to excel in mathematics.

*"I have always been a solution seeker and believe mathematics is linked to problem-solving,"* Maile added.

Maile also noted that COVID had made things difficult for learners as they did not have access to online learning.

*"We decided to update the App and created educational videos for our students to watch at home,"* said Maile.



Samuel Mankge | Mpumalanga  
tbrilliantprintersmedia@gmail.com

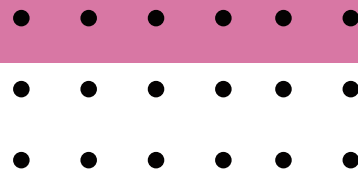
Samuel Mankge dedicated his time to offer media and tutorial services to young people in his community. His media services include photography, graphic design and events manager planning, he also offers tutorial classes to assist learners with homework and assignments.

*"I started offering these services after I realised that many people in my community were struggling in terms of access to media,"* says Mankge.

The pass rate in schools according to Mankge is drastically dropping which urged him to step in and offer tutorial classes.

He said COVID-19 had affected both his media and tutorial classes as he was unable to meet with his learners due to the lockdown restrictions.





Lesego Finger | Gauteng  
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Lesego Finger is the founder and chief technical officer of the South African Application Development Company (SAADC). Finger created Matric Live, an application that helps learners cope with the pressures of Grade 12, by allowing them to access learning materials across 15 subjects.

*"It is an alternative way of learning for pupils. During the COVID-19 lockdown, some learners had a hard time when it came to studying because most of them shared textbooks at school,"* Finger said.

The app allowed learners to study at their own pace and improve their grades. Finger believes learning should be made easy and that, through Matric Live, learners are able to study at their own pace.

*"For us, the lockdown period was actually a blessing in disguise as the numbers of learners and downloads massively increased to over a half a million,"* Finger said.

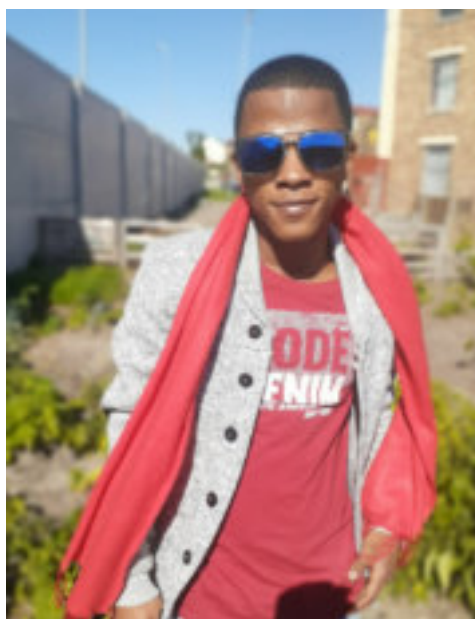
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**05**  
Environment





section

# 05 Environment

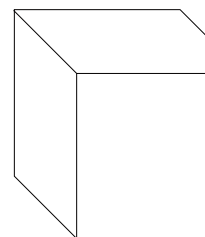


Geronimo de Klerk | Western Cape  
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Geronimo de Klerk is the founder and Project Manager for Future for Life on the Cape Flats.

*"I started the organisation with the hope of feeding the youth and communities with valuable education around food and food security," says De Klerk. "We do realise that not all communities have access to food. Many of our communities are facing unemployment, that is why we educate communities to grow healthy food and sustain themselves as well as to generate an income for themselves,"* he added.

De Klerk says he is driven by the goal of helping to improve food security within his community. He says the community now faces the challenge of having to mitigate the impact that COVID-19 has had, which has been said to be accompanied by the hunger pandemic. He is optimistic that the skills that the community has gained will stand them in good stead through this period.



Lusanda Baai | Western Cape  
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Lusanda Baai is a youth activist who advocates for climate justice through policymaking. She volunteers at the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) under the Youth@SAIIA wing with other young people from all over South Africa.

The group is currently working on a policy document called the South African Youth Climate Action Plan (SAYCAP) Framework. The plan was published in October 2021 and was to be presented to the COP26 in Glasgow Scotland in November 2021.

Baai has been part of most of the SAIIA annual youth programmes since she got involved in 2017 while in matric. These include the Model United Nations, provincial legislature and international conference debates, which she now facilitates and adjudicates.

*"All this serves as a call for our economic leaders to take climate injustice as seriously as they took the COVID-19 pandemic because climate change is a crisis,"* she says, noting that South Africans also have to take individual action to fight climate change.



Mbali Nwoko |Gauteng  
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The future of farming is young, black and female. This is according to Mbali Nwoko, the Chief Farming Officer at Green Terraces, a farming operation located in Bapsfontein, Ekurhuleni. Nwoko started the company in 2016 after being introduced to farming by a friend and researching the sector out of interest.

She started by growing Swiss chard. She then grew her farming area to about 8 hectares in a 14 hectare area and diversified to green peppers, baby marrows, green beans and other green crops. She now farms using techniques such as hydroponics, Green Terraces supplies major retailers and food producers.

Nwoko studied at the Gordon Institute for Business Science among others and mentors aspiring farmers, but repeatedly warns that farming is not for the faint-hearted. She is now recognised as a multi-award winning farmer, entrepreneur, a speaker, agri-blogger and podcaster.



Hope Dhlamini |Soweto, Gauteng  
tshepisoabeya@gmail.com

Hope Dhlamini runs an NGO called P.U.N.C.H, which was founded partly as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID P.U.N.C.H supplies food grown in vegetable gardens as well as clothes and blankets for the homeless, who had to move to shelters at the onset of the COVID-19 lockdown. Dhlamini is a public relations and communications student at the University of Johannesburg and uses her skills to run campaigns such as #DonationFrenzy, which was used to raise funds to help buy clothes and blankets for poor and vulnerable families.

She also runs Seed for Life, a vegetable garden project run from Ditawana Primary school in Orlando. Dhlamini says she is trying to address three of the United Nations goals on sustainable development: eradicating poverty, eradicating hunger and addressing health and wellbeing.

Laiken Ragaval | Eastern Cape  
laikenragaval@gmail.com

Laiken Ragaval is the owner of Direct Solar Solutions. She holds a Diploma in Financial Accounting and a Certificate in Small Business Management. The business was established in March 2019, after spotting a gap in the energy supply market.

***“Our country currently faces an energy crisis and there is a great demand for alternate solutions. Renewable energy and energy solutions are so important for our economy and for the environment,”*** says Ragaval of her decision to focus on providing solar energy solutions.

She says her fully trained staff is drawn mostly from her community, where the business has grown through local support and referrals and is about to branch into digital advertising.

Ragaval believes in empowering the youth, starting with her own staff, and regularly hosts training and education days.

Ragaval says COVID-19 had actually led to an increase in demand for her services, as people looked to improve their homes, where they spent more time, and save on energy costs.



Kgomotso Irvin Itumeleng | Northern Cape  
comfortkhiba.kii@gmail.com

Kgomotso Itumeleng can accurately be described as a social entrepreneur and community builder. He offers basic computer training, runs a back-yard vegetable garden that supplies produce to local hawkers, serves on his local Tribal Council and is the founder of the Maphiniki Youth Development Organisation.

The Youth Organisation was started in 2014 by bringing together 80 young people to engage in a range of cultural activities, from arts and culture to extra classes as well as the back-yard vegetable gardening initiative.

***“The local hawkers benefit from this service because of the low prices we offer them,”*** says Itumeleng. His computer training centre also grew out of the organisation.

COVID-19 was bittersweet for him as it forced him to temporarily suspend the computer facility. On the other hand, the vegetable garden had thrived, driven by the general demand for food as an essential, as well as the increased demand. For crops such as green peppers. Itumeleng says he would like to see the youth of Maphiniki take on the world in various fields.



Letticia Mahlatji | Wateberg, Limpopo  
mahlatji.ml@gmail.com

Letticia Mahlatji combines her twin passions of radio and nature conservation in order to empower her community. A Masters graduate in Zoology from the University of Limpopo, she hosts a daily environmental programme on community radio station Waterberg Wave FM.

*"I like to educate communities on the importance of striking a balance between conservation and poverty alleviation,"* she says. She finds radio to be a highly effective medium to disseminate information on sustainability, including messages against poaching, which is highly prevalent in the Vaalwater area she broadcasts to.

In 2013 she was selected as one of the Groen Sebenza Jobs project participants that placed 800 young people into the biodiversity economy in South Africa. The Waterberg Biosphere Reserve hosted and mentored her to fulfil various roles including the organising of environmental events and tours, the eradication of alien plants, and running environmental awareness programmes in schools.

*"The COVID-19 pandemic had caused a global crisis, the travel and gathering restrictions affected our work negatively as we could not take learners on environmental education outings like we used to,"* Says Mahlatji in reference to tours to the Makapans Heritage Site, Mokopane Museum and Lapalala Wilderness School.

Mathata Hermans Ntshana | Limpopo  
mathatahermans111@gmail.com

Mathata Hermans Ntshana is the President of Alma Youth Sports Development and a board member of the Alma Youth Environmental Conservation Programme.

Based at the Modimolle-Mookgopong Local Municipality, in Limpopo, Ntshana helps to run environmental, health education and environmental awareness campaigns conducted in his community. *"Environmental campaigns and awareness equip young people with knowledge about nature and the importance of conserving it,"* says Ntshana.

Ntshana says he became involved in nature conservation projects after seeing the effects of animal extinction and loss of biodiversity. His passion is youth development or *"the desire to equip young people with knowledge in order to prepare them for leadership"*, as he describes it.

He notes that although COVID-19 had put an abrupt halt to many projects, it was merely the latest in a series of challenges faced by environmentalists, and conservationists needed to find ways to be safe while outdoors to continue their work of protecting the environment.



SAVED  
WAVE  
FM

ENVIRONMENTAL

**Bandile Ngidi |Gauteng**  
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Bandile Ngidi regards herself as a climate activist and social entrepreneur. She is the founder of Hlomuka Entomological Services. The company recycles food waste obtained from restaurants, supermarkets, municipalities, prisons and hospitals and converts it into high protein animal feed and biofertilizer using Black Soldier Flies, a fly species that is nature's most effective recycler of waste.

*"By doing this, we divert food waste from landfills where the waste is usually a breeding ground for disease-carrying vectors that usually affect the communities near landfills. This significantly minimises the health implications of food waste on communities,"* says Ngidi. She notes that the technology they use reduces greenhouse gas emissions, which helps in the fight against climate change. *"This method of managing food waste is therefore environmentally friendly and sustainable,"* she says.

Ngidi says studying entomology not only exposed her to the importance of insects in the ecosystem, but also taught her about the importance of fighting climate change. She now produces a healthy feed for farmers while creating employment.

She notes that COVID-19 had reduced demand for her product, but also taught her the importance of adapting to changing circumstances.



**Lehlohonolo "Hlox Da Rebel" Mabaso |Free State**  
hloxwrites@gmail.com

Lehlohonolo Mabaso is a creative writer, poet, arts entrepreneur and community development activist whose message to South Africa's youth – faced with high unemployment, unrest and the effects of the pandemic – is that **"we are the ones we have been waiting for, no one is coming to save us but ourselves. We have to confront the challenges in front of us and we will succeed,"** he says.

Mabaso runs several development projects in his hometown of QwaQwa in the Free State, including Qwakanda, which turns illegal dumping sites into vegetable gardens. The youth in his community are also running a project to turn the abandoned, derelict Phuthaditjhaba Community Hall into a theatre.

Mabaso is set to publish his anthology of poems, Akimbo, in October this year. He will also be releasing a single track as part of a movement that is aimed at grooming boys into authentic men of integrity.

Mabaso has performed at the Macufe Festival, probably the biggest stage in his home province alongside internationally renowned poets. His company, Sicknatcha, was established in 2011.



# ENVIRONME



**Nhlakanipho Mngadi | KwaZulu-Natal**  
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Nhlakanipho is Cofounder and Coordinator of an Environmental NPC called Waste For Change. He has shown leadership skills in taking action and tackling climate change crisis. During lockdown, Nhlakanipho initiated weekly clean-ups around the community whereby he gathered a team of young people and every week identified illegal dumping sites and cleaned them up and turned them into community gardens. These gardens fed members of my community during COVID-19.

The waste that was collected was taken to his back yard to be separated and classified and the recyclables sold to generate revenue to pay the youngsters who helped him collect the waste. Nhlakanipho is a true leader, a motivator and role model.



**Anna Gratia Nomfundo Mkhaba | KwaZulu-Natal**  
mfundomkhaba@gmail.com

Waste for Change is a project that has transformed the township of Malundi, near Roseneath, Umkomaas, about 60km from Durban.

The project supplements the existing waste collection services from the municipality and recycles a significant amount of waste that would otherwise go to landfills and illegal dumping sites. Waste for Change has created a revenue stream from at least 30 people who recycle, and a few others who participate on an ad hoc basis.

Mkhaba is a teacher by profession. In 2019, she was nominated as one of 15 participants for activist training at the Centre for Environmental Rights. *"This is where I realised and took upon my calling as an environmental activist,"* she says. The training led her to set up Waste for Change.

Mkhaba says the biggest challenge presented by COVID-19 was that waste was still being generated during lockdown and would end up in landfills or illegal dumping sites. Waste for Change then reconfigured its waste collection methods to be fully COVID-19 compliant, including the full sanitisation of waste collection points.

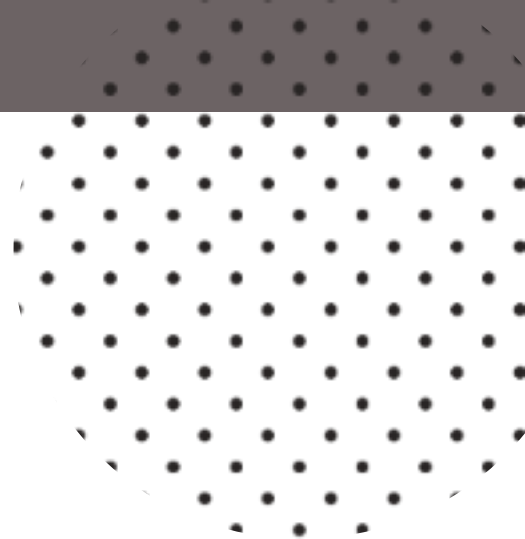


section

06

Health

# section 06 Health



Rofhiwa Rasivhetsele |Gauteng  
drrasithebrand@gmail.com

A medical doctor by profession Rofhiwa Rasivhetsele heads up the mental health subcommittee of the Young Women's Project of the ANC Women's League. She is also an ambassador of the Charlotte Manye-Maxeke Institute.

The 31-year-old strives to create sustainable communities by addressing the issues that hinder progress. Her interest lies primarily in public health with a keen interest in mental health.

The mental health subcommittee programmes are run to challenge the stigma around mental illness and humanise mental healthcare services. Rasivhetsele's work within mental health has from the genesis had a clear mandate and flows into other disciplines she finds herself in.

She focuses on a holistic approach involving clinicians, cultural practitioners and various religious bodies to integrate them into the mental health awareness programme.



Caroline Pule | WesternCape  
Cpule.star@gmail.com

Caroline Pule is a biomedical scientist who is passionate about global health, medical research, and ensuring that people have a disease-free nation. She attained her PhD in Molecular Biology, from the University of Stellenbosch.

Coming from a TB biology background, she explores how surgery can be used together with primary treatment modalities to combat drug-resistant TB.

As a developing global leader, Pule occupies leadership positions in multiple organisations focused on TB eradication, academia, women in science, technology, engineering and maths leadership and development.

*"I'm a devout believer and knew from a young age that I wanted to live a purposeful life, give back to the community, and help others. My career in medical sciences was born from a desire to help people, and a passion to save lives," she said.*



HEALTH



Karabo Seema | Gauteng  
Seemakarabo198@gmail.com

The 23-year-old Karabo Seema is a professional nurse engaged in a community service programme at Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital. Her work involves and impacts the lives of people in the community.

Using social media as a tool, she makes discussions around sexual and reproductive health more accessible and relatable to young people.

She also runs a non-profit organisation, Sisters for Change, which conducts community outreach work and raises public awareness regarding a number of health issues.

As a young nurse, Seema says the many personalities she encounters daily are one of the biggest challenges of her work. But she believes a career in the health field is her calling and she has therefore developed the emotional intelligence to work with diverse groups of people.

Seema was at the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic and continues to change the lives of patients daily.



Prudence Zanele Buthelezi | Mpumalanga  
Pbuthelezi@nhcpa.org.za

Prudence Buthelezi is a sessional doctor by profession, who completed her MBChB degree in 2014 and opened a private practice in 2017.

In 2015 Buthelezi established an association called the National Health Care Professionals Association (NHCPA), which is the first association in South Africa to put all health professionals under one roof and take medical aid providers to court over issues including alleged racism.

Her efforts gained traction across South Africa, leading to a Section 59 investigation by the Council for Medical Schemes (CMC).

The NHCPA also concerns itself with finding employment for unemployed health professionals in the public sector.

Keaton Harris | Western Cape  
keatonharris777@gmail.com

After being rejected 16 times for medical school, Keaton Harris' tenacious spirit carried him to where he is today - holding a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree and a full-time fifth-year medical student.

The 27-year-old is a med-tech entrepreneur who has a passion for breaking healthcare barriers between patients and medical staff, and aims to ensure increased access to healthcare services.

To do so, Harris co-founded InforMED global, an offline mobile healthcare translation application that breaks the language barriers experienced between health care professionals and patients.

Like many medical professionals and trainees, Harris was at the frontlines during COVID-19, volunteering his time and knowledge at the peak of the pandemic.

*"COVID-19 had definitely impacted the way that we prioritise and provide healthcare to the members of South Africa. As a frontline worker, we were at the service of the country, no matter how tired we were. Yes, +there are many times where we find ourselves putting our patients first before the meal we haven't had in 14 hours,"*  
Harris said.



HEALTHY

Boitumelo Maila |Mpumalanga  
mailabtml@gmail.com

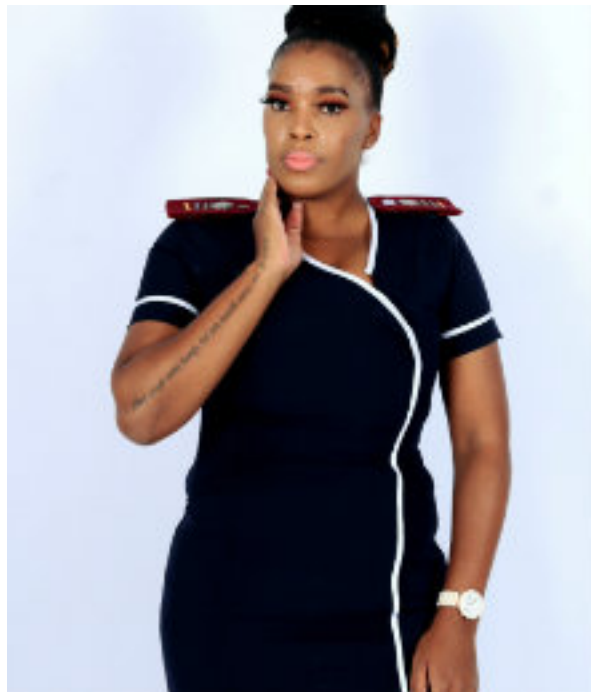
After a difficult upbringing, where she had to eat food from bins to get by, Boitumelo Maila was motivated to help other people to not experience what she went through.

Maila is the founder and executive director of a non-profit organisation called First Lady Foundation and is a qualified Registered Comprehensive Nurse, specialising in Psychiatry, Midwifery, Community and General Nursing.

She also collects and donates clothes, shoes, toiletries, cosmetics and sanitary towels to the needy.

*"Our job is so fulfilling when the people you help make you realise that no matter how little you think you are doing for people, the people you help see it as a great thing. You are impacting so many lives,"* Maila said.

*"You go to bed knowing that people will not sleep hungry. People know where to go should they need someone to talk to, and our youth won't miss school because of lacking basic toiletries. Some of these things give you peace in your life,"* she added.



Sivuyile Monwabisi Nkabi |Gauteng  
sivuyile.nkabi@gmail.com

Being passionate about helping people from a young age, Sivuyile Monwabisi Nkabi was automatically drawn to the healthcare industry. The 33-year-old is the founder of RenalMed services, a company that provides dialysis services in townships.

Nkabi said dialysis practices in townships make treatment and quality care more accessible to patients who used to travel long distances.

*"Bringing these clinics to them meant that they could still go on with their lives and take care of their families. It is fulfilling to know that you have made someone's life a little easier. We have made quality healthcare possible in these communities,"* he said.

Nkabi said he still faced the challenge of convincing some patients to routinely receive their treatment at his clinics, due to the perception they had about the poor state of healthcare services in townships.



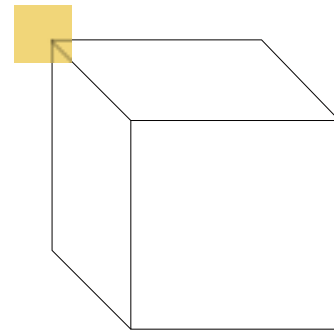
section

07

Justice &  
law

Justice & law

# section 07 Justice & law



Lerato Phasha | Gauteng  
phashrs@gmail.com

Lerato Phasha is an advocate of the High Court of South Africa and in-house counsel at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies (WITS).

A multifaceted trailblazer, activist and cause lawyer, she currently sits on the board of the MARKZURI Group.

*"I practise public interest law and my passion is to assist the impoverished and marginalised youth, particularly women. I also do mining law and assist affected mining communities such as those in Marikana,"* says Phasha.

*"Apart from practising as in-house counsel for the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at Wits, I do research submissions to Parliament and challenge certain legislation and upcoming bills."*

In addition to this, Phasha also trains attorneys and candidate attorneys, and mentors law students as they navigate complex legal challenges.



**Ilza Le Minnie | Western Cape**  
[ilza@leminnieattorneys.co.za](mailto:ilza@leminnieattorneys.co.za)

Ilza Le Minnie is a law professional dedicated to helping the community access justice and ensuring their voices are heard.

She first worked at Legal Aid South Africa and later started her own firm, Le Minnie Attorneys Inc, to further her reach and to employ local individuals who are also passionate assisting the community have access to justice and resources available in law to the community.

She has also founded The Le Minnie Foundation to reach at-risk youths and divert them from a life of crime and ensure they stay in school.

Le Minnie is a councillor for the local Swartland Municipality and the West Coast district municipality where she chairs one of the committees and is able to ensure the community members are properly served by their community.



**Monica Supra | Gauteng**  
[monica@mediationacademy.co.za](mailto:monica@mediationacademy.co.za)

Monica Supra is the co-founder of Mediation Academy - an online training centre for family law mediators based in Alberton, Ekurhuleni, Gauteng.

The academy developed a math-free Maintenance Calculator in order to help anyone, with or without maths skills, to calculate fair child Maintenance payments in the best interest of the child as well as both parents.

Supra believes the Maintenance Calculator makes a difference in the lives of many families, while making the calculations easier for mediators, attorneys and court staff.

*"We are constantly working on new innovations to make life easier for people in the industry, as well as parties involved in divorce, especially children,"* says Supra, who studied law and IT.

*"Anyone can use the calculator app. You don't need to be maths literate to use it. It does everything for you. We are currently training over 1 000 students about the maintenance calculator."*

**Ndumiso Dlakavu | Western Cape**  
ndumiso@dlakavuattorneys.co.za

Five years ago, 28-year-old law graduate Ndumiso Dlakavu started his own law firm, Dlakavu Attorneys. They represent the poor, mostly young people and the elderly from previously disadvantaged communities embroiled in various legal challenges affecting them on a regular basis.

Dlakavu Attorneys offers free consultations and legal advice to the indigent and poorest members of Khayelitsha Township and other surrounding areas in Cape Town, granting them access to legal services.

*"I am an attorney who is a sole proprietor. I believe in justice. For me it's a lifetime commitment that I intend to serve. In the past five years we have been rendering free consultations to the people of Khayelitsha in ensuring access to justice,"* said Dlakavu.

*"I have been able to train law graduates, two of them have, upon concluding their articles of clerkship, opened their practices in Mfuleni and Khayelitsha. We currently have two legal graduates who are undergoing training with us,"* he added.



**Mnotho Ngcobo | Kwazulu-Natal**  
mnothongcobo@gmail.com

Mnotho holds an LLB degree and is in the Master in Law programme at the University of the Western Cape, and is concurrently doing a second Master in Law at the University of Missouri in the USA.

He started his own legal practice MT Ngcobo & Associates, and provides legal service to the rural community of Eshowe. Their focus is to assist women who have been unfairly treated, be it at home or work, including divorces in customary law.

*"I also graduated with a 4.0 GPA in the Master's from the USA which is something huge as a 4.0 = 98% average and is summa cum laude,"* sad Ngcobo.

Ngcobo opened the law firm at the age of 23.

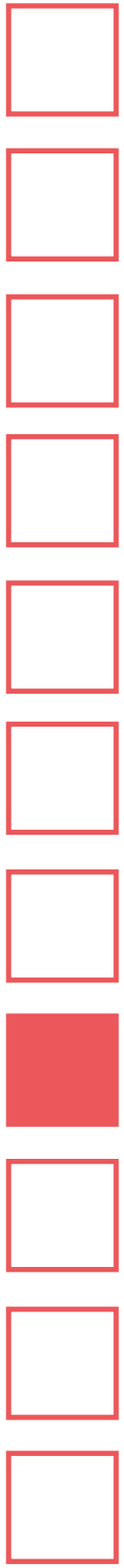
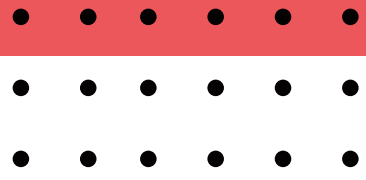
A photograph of a large wooden sculpture of a hand holding a tree branch. The hand is carved from light-colored wood and is positioned as if grasping a thick, dark tree trunk. The sculpture is mounted on a wooden post decorated with a purple and white zigzag pattern. The background shows a paved area with scattered leaves, a grassy area, and a white van. A red vertical bar is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing white text.

section

08

Philanthropy





# section 08 Philanthropy

### Kabeer Gaffoor | Western Cape

Kabeer Gaffoor is the founder of Gaffoor Charity, an organisation that focuses on the development of orphaned children across the Western Cape.

Gaffoor Charity hosts birthday parties, braais, fun days, educational activities and more at Children's homes across the Western Cape.

The main focus of this charity is to spend quality time with orphaned and abandoned children to show them that they are not alone in this world. "We want to be there for them when they need mentors and advice," Gaffoor said.

The COVID-19 pandemic, however, had a widespread effect on the reach of the programmes.

*"The team and volunteers couldn't freely spend the time with the children due to lockdown regulations and safety precautions. This made some children feel neglected and we truly miss seeing them and having fun days," he said.*





**John Oscar Kubeka | Free State**  
**Jokubeka@yahoo.com**

John Oscar Kubeka, is the founder of the Operation Siyanikela Project, which has donated more than 600 blankets and distributed food parcels to more than 1000 people.

***"I have a soup kitchen project that is helping more than 500 people from poor families and since its inception, more people go to bed with something to eat,"*** Kubeka said.

He currently distributes groceries to more than 50 families in the Free State and Mpumalanga. In future he plans to expand to the SADC region.

JOK, as he is popularly known, runs numerous other projects, including a shoe collection campaign and a project building houses for needy community members.



**Gosego Parkie | Free State**  
[oscargosego@gmail.com](mailto:oscargosego@gmail.com)

As a volunteer in his community of Botshabelo, Gosego Parkie has been working with children from child-headed households for a period of three years, providing a number of services to help them survive.

*"We were able to identify a need in the neighbourhood with the help of the community. The number of children in child-headed households we assisted was 25 in total,"* Parkie said.

One of Parkie's initiatives is an agricultural project where these children are taught how to plant and grow their own crops to increase their food security.

To raise funds for the vegetable gardens, Parkie and his team wash sneakers at a set fee for locals within the community.

*"The next phase would be to equip them with entrepreneurial abilities, such as knowing how to sell and how much to sell for. Finally, to support them in developing business strategies or proposals, as well as forming working relationships with local supermarkets,"* Parkie said.



**Lethabo Marwale Kupa | Gauteng**  
[lethabomarwale@gmail.com](mailto:lethabomarwale@gmail.com)

After realising that a number of young girls in his community were skipping school due to a lack of sanitary pads, Lethabo Marwale Kupa from Tshwane initiated the Keep a Girl Child in School project.

Kupa started off the project by requesting various people to send e-mails on behalf of girls who could not afford menstrual pads and other sanitary products.

He then approached PrincessD, a local manufacturer of menstrual cups, and offered to purchase menstrual cups for the needy girls using his university living allowance. His act of goodwill was met with a generous offer by Princess D CEO, Shamila Ramjawan. *"I saw a matter of urgency that needs to be addressed and she gave me a discount and helped me get more sponsors for the menstrual cups,"* Kupa said.

This has enabled the duo to help more girls in different parts of South Africa who needed sanitary products.

**Salaminah Mpho Mofokeng | Gauteng**  
[mphos.mofokeng@gmail.com](mailto:mphos.mofokeng@gmail.com)  
[life4ufoundation@workmail.co.za](mailto:life4ufoundation@workmail.co.za)

High rates of youth unemployment and poverty in her community of Thembisa in Ekurhuleni motivated Salaminah Mpho Mofokeng to co-found the Life 4 U Foundation. This non-profit organisation develops and uplifts the lives of its communities that have little resources.

"As the chairperson and co-founder of Life 4 U Foundation, my primary task is to ensure the sustainability and the effective operation of the organisation by ensuring that no one in my community and its surrounding area sleeps without food," Mofokeng said.

The Life 4 U Foundation runs awareness programmes every year, where it hosts various community campaigns including substance abuse awareness, child protection week, international widows' day and Human-Rights Day celebrations.

Her feeding scheme feeds 20 000 needy children annually and also supports 1 300 impoverished widows and orphans around South Africa with well-packed food parcels and clothes.

Mofokeng's organisation also offers accredited computer and cashier training to unemployed youth, to increase their chances of employment.



**Farani Tshishonga | Limpopo**  
[vhotshishonga@gmail.com](mailto:vhotshishonga@gmail.com)

In 2019, 25-year-old Farani Tshishonga from Limpopo decided to turn his homestead into an entertainment centre after observing from a young age that Mauluma Village near Makhado gets too hot in Summer.

Named after his late mother, El-Shongi entertainment centre has since become a hotspot for local artists, businesspeople and the community as a whole.

***"My village is too hot, especially in summer, and there is no safe and affordable place for kids and youth to be entertained. I decided to turn my home into an entertainment centre with pools and cinema equipment to entertain the kids and the youth,"*** he said.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted Tshishonga's business and forced it to be temporarily shut down until the situation improved.

***"El-Shongi had, during the pandemic turned into a fast-food outlet, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. I am in high spirits that we will recover, we will come back bigger and stronger,"*** he said.



**Mathabiso Moloi-Chamane |Gauteng**  
[matha.moloi@gmail.com](mailto:matha.moloi@gmail.com)

Mathabiso Moloi-Chamane, from Tshwane in Gauteng, founded Women Navigating the Future Network (WNFN) – a non-profit organisation to empower and inspire women and girls to be agents of change in boardrooms and in their communities.

*“Through women navigating the future, I have created an effective networking platform where women meet with coaches, business partners and ideal employers. They are also presented with opportunities to showcase their businesses or services,”* she said.

Through the organisation, Moloi-Chamane has created strategic partnerships with NPOs in rural areas such as Emfundweni in KwaZulu-Natal, to develop them into resource centres that assist communities with knowledge. This is done through the hosting of career days for students, skills or entrepreneurship days as well as gender-based violence and disability awareness talks. Moloi-Chamane says these programmes assist to bridge information or knowledge gaps that are experienced by these communities.



**Tatum Deo Pearce |Free State**  
[depearcet@gmail.com](mailto:depearcet@gmail.com)

The 32-year-old Tatum Deo Pearce from Mqohaka in the Free State is the founder of the Kelly Cares Foundation, which has several campaigns running namely: Dignity, Princess, Cover My Books and Cov Feed With Care.

With the Dignity campaign, she has adopted 1 000 disadvantaged girls, giving them a one-year supply of toiletries as well as menstrual hygiene education.

The Princess campaign asks teachers to select well-performing girls from disadvantaged backgrounds to pamper them for their matric farewell, as well as register them for bursaries.

Through the Cover My Books campaign, Deo Pearce sets up stations in rural areas, farms and townships, covering books for children and supplying them with uniforms and stationery. She has covered 50 000 books since she began this initiative.

She also started the Cov Feed With Care campaign in March 2020 where she feeds more than 500 people daily.

*“I live for charity and to make sure kids get opportunities we never had, and a good education,”* Deo Pearce said.



**Sizwe Joshua Mahlangu | Gauteng**  
[mahlangujoshua398@gmail.com](mailto:mahlangujoshua398@gmail.com)

Through the Dennilton Educational Movement (DEM) which was formed in 2017, Sizwe Joshua Mahlangu from Dennilton, in Limpopo Province, under the Ellias Motsoaledi local municipality, has managed to help young people from his community to access higher education opportunities.

*"I have managed to help grade 12 learners with higher education applications for free. Each and every year since 2017, I coordinate a back-to-school campaign, which prepares learners for the academic year ahead,"* Mahlangu said.

Currently, Mahlangu leads a team that is in engagement with the Department of Basic Education regarding a programme lobbying for one social worker and /or psychologist per school. This programme aims to reduce mental health challenges amongst young people, which are becoming a growing concern.

*"I am also leading a team that is in negotiation with the Department of Higher Education and Training with regards to historical debts of students and withholding of academic records of students by institutions,"* Mahlangu said.

**Mathule Onius Moganedi | Limpopo**  
[mathule30@gmail.com](mailto:mathule30@gmail.com)

Entrepreneur, activist and community developer Mathule Onius Moganedi from Makhuduthamaga in Limpopo, runs a non-profit organisation called Sekhukhune Economic Forum, which is primarily a marketplace that aims to develop rural communities.

Along with other local entrepreneurs, Moganedi hosts events to empower rural communities with regards to economic and social development.

*"We have so many graduates from our district but we did not know one another. So, we chose to come together so that we can empower and market one another,"* Moganedi said.

In 2017, Moganedi established a successful running club for elders in his community that received donations in the form of equipment from the University of Pretoria.

*"Everyone loved the initiative. We also went to various schools where we introduced different sporting activities, including indigenous games such as kgathi and morabaraba,"* he said.



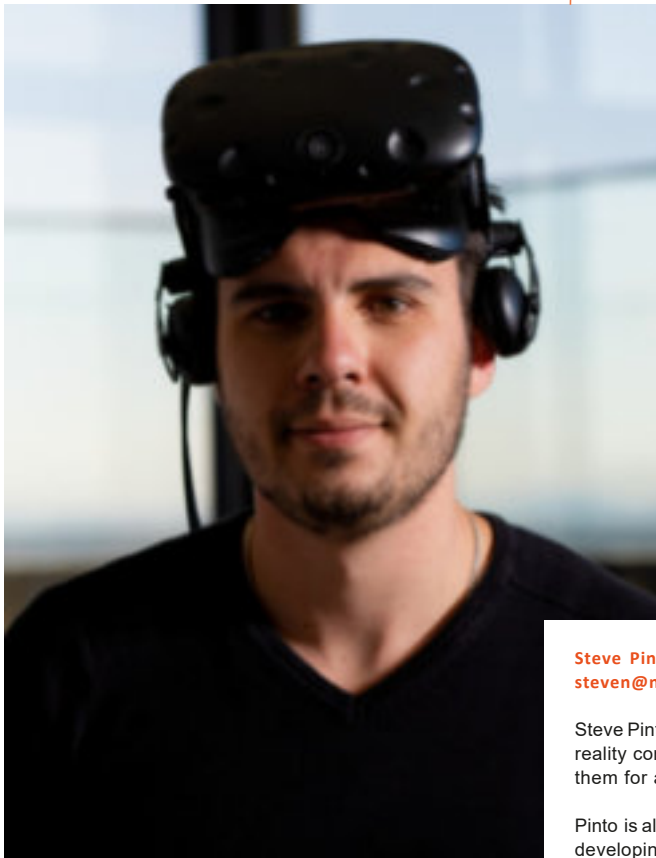
section

09

Science &  
technology



# section 09 Science & technology



**Steve Pinto | Gauteng**  
[steven@newreality.co.za](mailto:steven@newreality.co.za)

Steve Pinto is the CEO of New Reality, a virtual and augmented reality company that provides training to the working class to prepare them for a digital world.

Pinto is also CEO of a robotics start-up called CTRLRobotics, which is developing a platform to make robotic automation easy and simple for all types of businesses in all types of industries.

Pinto says the COVID-19 pandemic forced a lot of people to ask how technology could help solve their problems and, as such, businesses are now less apprehensive about funding new projects and taking more risks with tech.

Because of this, Pinto's business grew during the pandemic as more companies sought virtual reality training solutions to provide staff with remote working tools, including ways to become more social and build teams while working from home.



**Lucas Mohaswa | Gauteng**  
[lucas@reslocate.net](mailto:lucas@reslocate.net)

The 35-year-old Lucas Mohaswa is an accomplished civil engineer and serial entrepreneur who is the founder of Reslocate, an interactive web-based application that connects students with prospective landlords.

Through the app, students are able to find and select the safest and most suitable off-campus accommodation across South Africa.

Mohaswa, who self-funded the development of the application, says COVID-19 and the periodic closure of universities had given him the opportunity to refine his offering for students.

In addition to Reslocate, Mohaswa also creates employment opportunities for youth through the Area Agent Programme.

This initiative employs students enrolled in institutions of higher learning to vet properties that are loaded on the Reslocate app before they are approved, to reduce the risk of students being exposed to unsafe and illegitimate property owners.



**Pearl Sekwati | Limpopo**  
[Sekwatic@gmail.com](mailto:Sekwatic@gmail.com)

Pearl Sekwati from Swale village in Limpopo is the founder of STEAM Ambassador's Club, which teaches local children science, coding, robotics and offers other educational activities.

The club serves as an after school care facility, where children are assisted with schoolwork on a daily basis and then taught how to code, engineer robots and do science experiments.

Sekwati's club was established in 2018 and currently organises a chess and coding competition for schools in Polokwane and the surrounding rural areas.

As a mother of three, Sekwati says she was inspired by her children who like sharing their own knowledge with their peers. She is the author of the self-published book, Coding With Kganya.



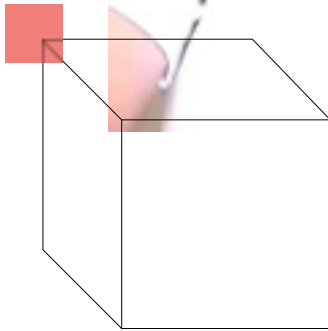
**Keabecoe Moiloa | Gauteng**  
[keabecoemoiloa@hotmail.com](mailto:keabecoemoiloa@hotmail.com)

Keabecoe Moiloa is the founder and manager of Keabecoe Moiloa Foundation and chairperson of the Sharpeville Local Business Forum.

The 34-year-old is passionate about equipping locals in her community with the necessary skills to thrive in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. One of her projects was the implementation of a Digital Marketing system for women in business in and around the Sedibeng District. Her main focus is to equip disadvantaged women with knowledge about the Fourth Industrial Revolution. One of her current endeavours involves the introduction of coding and robotics to people in disadvantage communities.

Passionate about uplifting the youth, this Shining Star also works closely with school learners to teach them about menstrual hygiene and to collect sanitary pads for needy pupils.

She said the most fulfilling part about her work, was seeing young people dreaming big and actively working towards achieving those dreams.



# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

**Eric Hodana | Western Cape**  
[s.e.hodana@gmail.com](mailto:s.e.hodana@gmail.com)

Eric Hodana is a robotics coach who started a robotics club as a way of getting children off the streets and future-proofing them for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

He teaches the children at his club how to build and programme robots to perform specific tasks. Hodana has won several competitions over the past year both at a regional level and national level.

The most fulfilling part of his job, he says, is the gratitude expressed by learners who have been introduced to robotics, as well as the world of opportunities their skills exposes them to.

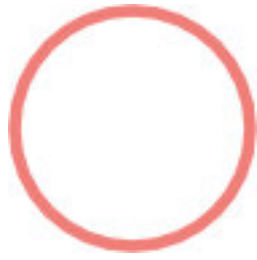
Hodana hopes to secure more funding, and to expand the reach of his service to more children in the Western Cape.

On November 14, Hodana will be going to Germany with his team from Sinenjongo high school, in Cape Town.

The team was placed 1st in the Robo Sports category of the World Robotic Olympiad national competition, which took place on September 17 2022 in Johannesburg.

They will be part of a group which will represent South Africa in Dortmund, Germany from the 17 -19 November 2022.





# Science & technology

**Aphiwe Hotele | Eastern Cape**  
[aphiwe2012@gmail.com](mailto:aphiwe2012@gmail.com)

Aphiwe Hotele, 30 aims to use technology to improve education, decrease unemployment and ensure the safety of women.

She is the founder of Enlighten Edu, a platform for learners to better their performance in Maths and Science at school, for talented tutors to find work, and to lighten the admin burden for tutoring companies.

Hotele initiated #BreakingTheStereotype, a movement that aims to reduce the attrition of females studying science and engineering in institutions of higher learning.

She also founded GroomingGrads, an end-to-end market place for graduates, allowing them to showcase their skills and talents while simultaneously giving business owners access to groomed graduates.

Hotele works as a Senior Commercialization Specialist for the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO), where she leads various projects for the development and commercialisation of innovative products.

She leads SARAO's enterprise development program in the Northern Cape.

"Science is exciting. It is broad and allows you to innovate and solve pressing societal issues. There is always room to explore, grow and change," Hotele said.



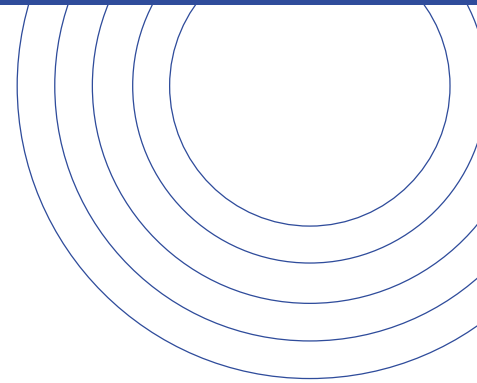
A close-up photograph of a soccer player's leg in a white sock and red cleat about to kick a soccer ball on a field. The ball is white with black and orange patterns. The background is a blurred soccer field with a goal net.

section

# 10

Sports &  
recreation

# section 10 Sports & recreation



Frank Steyn | Western Cape

Frank Steyn is the General Manager of the Run4schools Sports foundation, which is based at four primary schools in Mitchells Plain, Cape Town.

Run4schools offers after-school sporting activities with the aim of motivating youngsters who are regularly exposed to crime and gang activity in their area and encourages them to adopt a healthy, positive lifestyle.

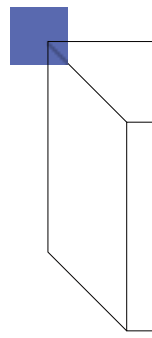
Steyn started working at the Run4Schools organisation as a volunteer in 2007, simply giving back his time to the primary school he had attended, and grew with the Run4Schools organization from there.

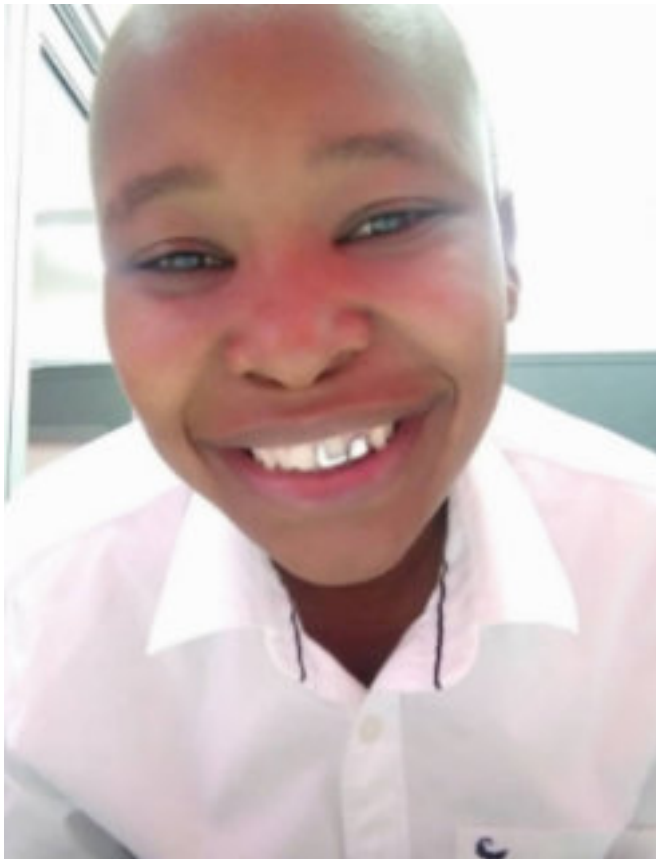
***“The most fulfilling part about this work for me is to wake up, get ready for work and know that I am going to make a difference in someone’s life,”*** he said of his work.

Steyn says while COVID-19 prevented him from delivering his services due to school closures and the suspension of sports, it had forced him to become innovative and led him to explore options such as creating fitness videos to share with learners while they were out of school.

***“COVID also made us realise we can’t take anything for granted and that we need to appreciate what we have,”*** said Steyn

Steyn is also a ultra- marathon runner and does the 56km Two Oceans Ultra Marathon on school shoes to raise funds for children that can’t afford a good pair of school shoes.





#### Mbali Mkhize | KwaZulu-Natal

Mbali Mkhize has chosen to use her qualifications, a Diploma in Sports Management and Postgraduate Diploma in Education, to empower her community in Umlazi, eThekweni and start the Future Stars Development Academy. She is the chairperson and head coach for the U11 and U13 development soccer teams and the assistant coach of the Umlazi Arsenal Womens teams.

The academy coaches boys and girls in various sporting codes and assists them with their school work. Mkhize opened the academy to fill a void caused by a lack of facilities, and to help produce disciplined teenagers by offering them a distraction from social ills such as drugs and alcohol abuse.

Mkhize was not disheartened by the fact that COVID-19 had prevented them from attending league matches and tournaments, and kept her charges motivated through regular, although limited, training.

*"Passion is what drives me, love is what keeps me going, and knowledge is power,"* says Mkhize of her work.

#### Itumeleng Kenneth Mohanoe | Gauteng itumeleng.mohanoe@gmail.com coachitu@coachituacademy.com

Itumeleng Kenneth Mohanoe, affectionately known as Coach Itu, believes in the philosophy that no child will be left behind and, in that regard, creates opportunities for learners through debating. He is the vice-president of the Gauteng Debating League (GDL), SA's largest debating league that has reached close to 10 000 high school learners.

Mohanoe, who hails from Johannesburg, runs two organisations, namely the Pan-African Schools' Debating Council (PASDC) and Coach Itu Academy (CIA).

*"Both organisations are aimed at teaching debating and critical thinking as a school sport while addressing the following skills: critical thinking, creative thinking, communication and character-building,"* Mohanoe said.

According to Mohanoe, these debating projects are aimed at improving the status of public speaking and debating in schools while at the same time addressing social ills through the topics that are covered.





**Lonwabo Marele | Western Cape**  
[warriormarele@gmail.com](mailto:warriormarele@gmail.com)

With over six years of experience as a sport journalist, Lonwabo Marele from Cape Town tells stories of how young men and women use sport as a catalyst to feed their families and empower their communities.

While many in the sporting fraternity found themselves frustrated with COVID-19 and the limitations it placed on recreational activities, Marele saw an opportunity to take sporting digital.

*“It was actually quite interesting as we saw the increase in eSports. For quite some time our people thought that eSports was just for people with money, but in actual fact, it is for everyone,”* Marele said. *“So, during the pandemic, we were able to innovate and still find ways to tell our people stories of hope,”* he added.

These innovative ways of telling sporting stories included covering the legends of yesteryear and telling stories of how sports clubs assist communities and families facing socio-economic challenges.



**Keorapetse James Mashimo | North West**  
[keorapetsemashimo@gmail.com](mailto:keorapetsemashimo@gmail.com)

Keorapetse James Mashimo from Mahikeng in the North West is an administrator in the Mahikeng Local Sports Confederation, a position he acquired after having been recruited by North West University (NWU) head coach Onalenna Tsae.

Initially, he was given the role of team manager and subsequently elected as the chairman of the NWU Boxing Club.

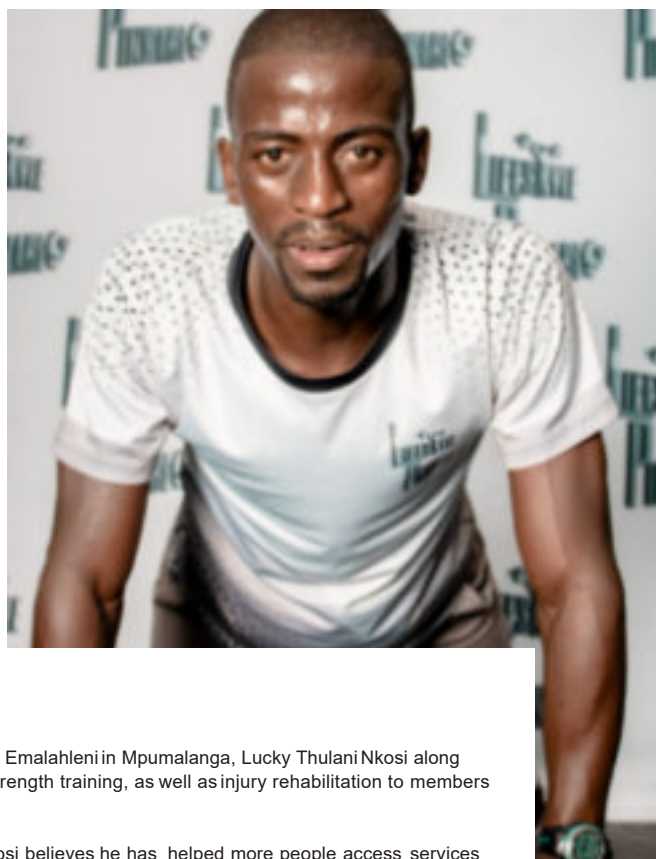
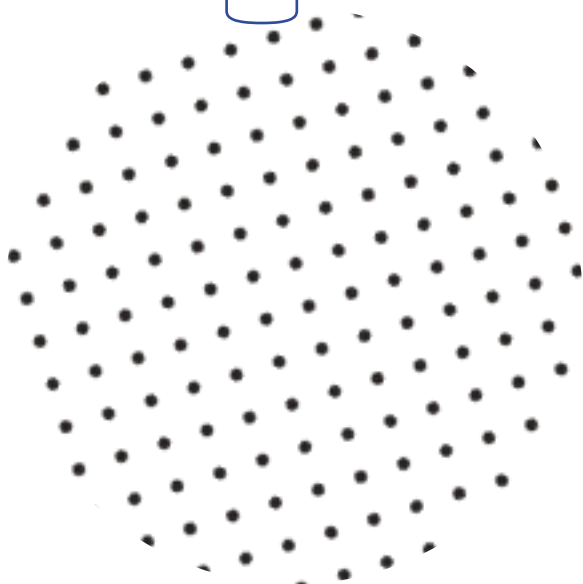
*“Sport helps the society by taking kids off the streets. As we all know that an idle mind is the devil workshop, we keep the young ones busy and help them build careers in sport. Sport is a factor that combats societal ills such as crime, drug and alcohol abuse and teenage pregnancy,”* he said.

He says personal development at various levels was another benefit of sport.

*“We train and develop coaches, facilitators, umpires, referees, adjudicators and trainers through programmes called capacity building,”* he said.

In 2019, Mashimo scooped up the University Sport South Africa Boxing and NWU Best Official of the year awards.

# Sports &



Lucky Thulani Nkosi | Mpumalanga  
luckythulani@yahoo.com

Under the Lifestyle Pinnacle physical fitness centre located in Emalaheni in Mpumalanga, Lucky Thulani Nkosi along with other physical trainers, offers aerobics, functional and strength training, as well as injury rehabilitation to members of the community.

By bringing rehabilitation services closer to communities, Nkosi believes he has helped more people access services that will allow them to function as normally as possible and continue with their day-to-day activities after physical injury.

*"We also offer active sessions for people of old age (pensioners) to ensure a prolonged life,"* Nkosisaid.

*"Our community benefits greatly from our services because generally, people are living unhealthy and sedentary lives and we are aware of the implications that this has on people,"* he added.

All of this, Nkosi says, was geared towards ensuring that community members begin to live healthier lives, thus helping them to curb many life-threatening conditions such as obesity and diabetes, to mention a few.

# RECREATION



section

# 11

Transport &  
tourism



# section 11 Transport & tourism



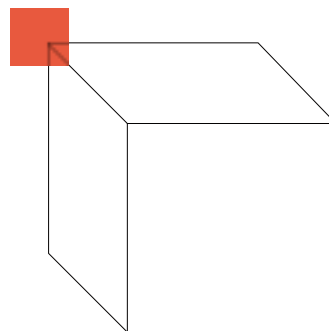
## Tommy Mathebula | Mpumalanga

E-hailing services such as Uber and Bolt can expect new competition from Eagle Eye Cab, a start-up taxi service established by Tommy Mathebula, who is its CEO and hails from Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga.

*“We aim to offer safe, reliable and affordable transport solutions to a wide range of customers, from health care and essential workers, to students and senior citizens,”* says Mathebula.

Mathebula struck upon the idea of establishing an e-hailing service while studying veterinary sciences at Saratov State Agrarian University, Saratov, Russia, courtesy of the Mpumalanga government. He partnered with a software company to develop the app.

The Eagle Eye Cab app has been fully developed and is available for download. It offers flexibility for both driver (who will mostly be private owners) and customer, with tracking capability, a flexible payment option and built-in trip updates.





**Esha Mansingh |Gauteng**  
esha@imperiallogistics.com

A corporate powerhouse and a dynamic woman who has shattered the glass ceiling for others. That is how best to describe Esha Mansingh, the Executive Vice President for Corporate Affairs and Investor Relations at JSE-listed Imperial Logistics, the company's only and youngest female member. Mansingh is also a TV presenter, has a PhD in Humanitarianism, is a women empowerment change agent, motivational speaker, multi-award winner, business leader and former Miss India Gauteng 2006.

In her daily role at Imperial, she is unapologetic about her desire to use the position to empower women. *"For me, making sure women have a seat at the table – a prominent one – is very important. Therefore my role at Imperial, as a board member of the Motus Imperial Trust and Unjani Clinics, allows me to use these platforms as a space for women to advance,"* she says. The Unjani Clinics train businesswomen and nursing sisters in rural areas.

Mansingh also oversees the company's corporate social investment initiatives across Africa, aimed at developing communities, women and promoting road safety, primary healthcare and education.



**Dominic Naidoo |KwaZulu-Natal**  
dominic@travelbugtours.co.za

Dominic Naidoo is a qualified tour guide and director of Travel Bug Tours, a Durban-based tour operator offering bespoke, private and group tours specialising in history, art, architecture, traditions, heritage and religion of the diverse groups of people who call Durban home.

Naidoo is also the director of Fearless Entrepreneur, an SMME Business Coach and Graphic Design start-up which assists both informal and formal small, medium and micro enterprises with business and domain registration, basic contracts of employment, basic budgeting and financial management as well as graphic design services.

Fearless Entrepreneur was established as a result of the first COVID-19 lockdown in May 2020 which prevented any form of recreational travel, leading to the temporary closure of Travel Bug Tours.

*"Seeing small businesses grow because of my marketing designs or coaching advice gives me a huge sense of pride in what I do,"* says Naidoo.

After assisting a friend establish her home-baking business, she convinced Naidoo to start assisting other people to improve their small businesses for a small fee. That set the foundation for what Fearless Entrepreneur was to grow into.

Naidoo was selected by the Department of Tourism to study Mandarin and was subsequently offered an opportunity to study the language in China. He was also granted the opportunity to develop an application upon which tourists can directly search and book tour guide services locally instead of using a foreign-owned intermediary.



section

# 12

Politics &  
Governance



section

# 12 Politics & Governance



Michael Shackleton | Gauteng

By the age of 31, Michael Shackleton had been a public representative in every sphere of government in South Africa.

Shackleton, 35, has been a City Councillor in Tshwane, a Member of the National Assembly and a Member of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature.

He holds LLB & LLM degrees and is a practising attorney. He is the In-house Legal Counsel for ActionSA. He has been the Deputy Chairperson of the DA in Gauteng North.

In 2019, he was named as one of the 100 Young Mandelas and was recently named as Best Area Director in Toastmasters Southern Africa, which consists of 12 countries.

He is a Senator within Junior Chamber International (JCI) South Africa, an international organisation of young professionals of which Bill Clinton and Kofi Annan are alumni.

A Senator is the highest honorary rank in JCI globally.

He is a Distinguished Toastmaster, which is also the highest educational level in Toastmasters worldwide.

In 2017, JCI in conjunction with Brand SA, named him as one of the Top Four Outstanding Young Persons in South Africa.



**Mxolisi Makhubu | Gauteng**  
[Mxo.makhubu@gmail.com](mailto:Mxo.makhubu@gmail.com)

Mxolisi Makhubu was instrumental in the formation of the African Transformation Movement (ATM). The party advocates for the improvement of the material conditions of the people, especially for the minority groups affected by socio-economic conditions in South Africa, ranging from gender-based violence to sexuality-based killings in South Africa. Makhubu is also active in the LLGBTQIA+ community.

He also founded a movement which assisted with the placement of displaced LLGBTQIA+ members, orphans, women, and other vulnerable groups through many means that he crafted via his tenure at the African Transformation Movement, which resulted in, among others:

- Donation of food parcels to poverty-stricken communities in various rural villages and townships across all nine provinces of South Africa, during Covid-19 Lockdown.
- Working very closely with multitudes of traditional leaders and religious leaders giving the necessary support where required.
- Building a fully furnished house for a poor household in ward 22 at eNtunjeni village, Bizana (Eastern Cape).
- Building a Fully furnished house in Ward 24 at Sirhasheni village in Bizana (Eastern Cape).

**Luchulumanco Nanto | Western Cape**  
[luchulumancoihleqabaka@gmail.com](mailto:luchulumancoihleqabaka@gmail.com)

Luchulumanco was the youngest Branch Secretary of the African National Congress in the Dullah Omar Region when he was elected at the age of 23. This is a position he held since 2017.

He is also part of the Constituency Management Committee for the Atlantic and Cape Town Central ANC Constituency and Branch Elections Task Team Coordinator.

He is a former SRC Treasurer General of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), Cape Town Campus and is the Country Director for the Global Youth Network.

He works for the community and has led several community engagement and development programmes. He is completing his Master Degree in Management Accounting at CPUT.



**Sandile Mnikathi | KwaZulu Natal**  
mnikathis3@gmail.com

Sandile is the youngest councillor in the uMngeni municipality and is also the Democratic Alliance uMngeni Caucus Chairperson. He is the youngest member of the DA KZN Provincial Executive Committee as well as the Provincial Management Committee, which deals with the day to day running of the DA in Kwa-Zulu Natal Provincial Executive Committee as well as the Provincial Management Committee, which decides the day-to-day running of the DA in KZN.

Sandile is a PhD candidate at the University of KwaZulu Natal and serves on the board of the Midlands Community College and volunteers at various non-governmental organisations in the Midlands and is the founder and chairperson of the Sandile Mnikathi Sports Foundation.



**Bianca Mocke | Limpopo**  
mockeb@gmail.com

Bianca has an eye for detail and a deep love for her country. She is currently a local government councillor who never shies away from doing what is best for her community.

Bianca makes time to ensure that she speaks to, assists and helps people to know how they can contribute to their local government so that their government works for them.

She launched a dignity project in 2018 that seeks to keep girls in school by providing them with reusable sanitary towels that have a lifespan of five years.

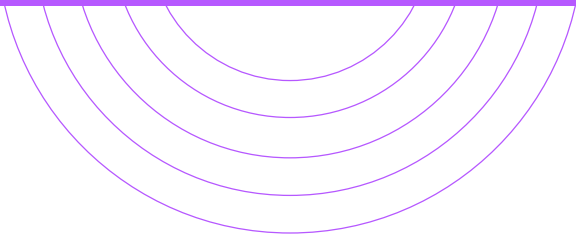
She advocates for education and keeping skills in South Africa. She always encourages young people to ensure they educate themselves to ensure that they can live the lives they value. Bianca believes that government is ultimately responsible for creating environments in which citizens can thrive and made it her goal to serve in all spheres of government to play her part in making this a reality. She believes that knowledge is power and continuously seeks programmes in which she can empower her.

She graduated from the Programme for Young Politicians in Africa (2018), Young Leaders programme (2019), the Apolitical Academy programme (2020) and was recently chosen as a 2021 Young African Leaders Initiative programme participant.

In 2020, she was chosen as one of the 100 young ambassadors of the year and during lockdown she ensured that she continuously assisted her community with their rights and responsibilities during the state of disaster.



# Politics & Governance



**Sinethemba Matiwane | Gauteng**  
[rsmatiwane@gmail.com](mailto:rsmatiwane@gmail.com)

Sinethemba works in politics and government as a ward councillor and fought relentlessly for the New Bridge informal settlement to be served with water and sanitation. Sinethemba also helped displaced foreigners to get food and accommodations during xenophobic attacks and provided those who needed it with food parcels during COVID-19 lockdowns.



**Thato Mabe | Free State**  
[thatomaxwell@gmail.com](mailto:thatomaxwell@gmail.com)

Thato Mabe is a politician, policy maker, human rights activist and writer.

He worked as a Parliamentary Monitoring Fellow in Research and Policy at the oldest LGBTQIA+ organisation in South Africa, Triangle Project.

Mabe also founded an organisation called I Am Still Me ZA which focuses on advocating for the rights and well-being of LGBTQIA+ persons in South Africa.

He was named African Union Youth Leader of the year in 2019.

Mabe was also chosen for the Mandela Washington Fellowship for the year 2022 and went on to study Public Management at Howard University in Washington DC.

He went on to be awarded the 2022 UNESCO Nelson Mandela International Freedom Award by The United States Senate.

Mabe is also currently a fellow at Futurelect, an apolitical academy which was previously known as Apolitical Academy Southern Africa. Futurelect is an organisation by former DA Leader, Lindiwe Mazibuko which trains future young political leaders.

His work focuses on legislation and policymaking to address issues about LGBTQIA+ rights, political participation, gender-based violence and the fight against poverty.



# Politics & Governance



**Thokozile Nhlumayo | Gauteng**  
[thokozilnhlumayo@yahoo.com](mailto:thokozilnhlumayo@yahoo.com)

Thokozile Nhlumayo is a brilliant young politician and internationally recognised social justice advocate who has contributed significantly to shaping South Africa and the continent's political and leadership landscape.

Thokozile currently holds office as Executive Secretary of the International Youth Parliament, an institution that represents the voice of young people in over 40 countries in Africa and over 15 countries outside of the continent. The International Youth Parliament advocates for the meaningful inclusion of young people in political, leadership, and decision-making roles in Africa and globally, it further equips and empowers young people with leadership skills to assist them in running for political office in their respective countries.

Since her term of office, the International Youth Parliament has been recognised and selected by the African Union in the top 75 institutions that have positively contributed to Africa's leadership and political development.

During her tenure, Thokozile also introduced the LGBTQIA+ Political Leaders' Programme in different communities in South Africa that focuses on empowering young political leaders within the LGBTQIA+ community and that also educates political parties about inclusion. Through this programme, several young LGBTQIA+ leaders were appointed into political office both locally and nationally.

Additionally, through her leadership, as part of equipping young people with leadership skills; she also initiated a leadership programme for high-school learners where she teaches them leadership and public speaking skills so that they become better future leaders.

Thokozile also holds office as the Deputy Country Director of the African Youth Union Commission in South Africa. Her passion for social justice also saw her being appointed as Secretary-General of the Youth Against Slavery Movement, an organization in New York City in USA, with regional hubs in Africa and Asia that advocates against modern-day slavery.

Thokozile has been selected into the Mandela Washington Fellowship 2020/2021, a flagship programme of the U.S Government's Young African Leaders Initiative that was founded by President Barack Obama in recognition of young people who are accomplished leaders and have established records of positive impact in their communities and countries.

In five to 10 years, Thokozile wants to build a Political Leadership Academy in South Africa that will offer new, innovative and unconventional curriculum content to aspiring leaders, an academy that will produce new-age politicians who will apply critical thinking and be result orientated, leaders and politicians who will be passionate about improving their communities. She aims to see this academy producing the next presidents, ministers, and decision-makers in South Africa and the continent.



section

# 13

The  
Chairman's  
choice

section

# 13 The Chairman's choice



**Bonang Matheba | North West**

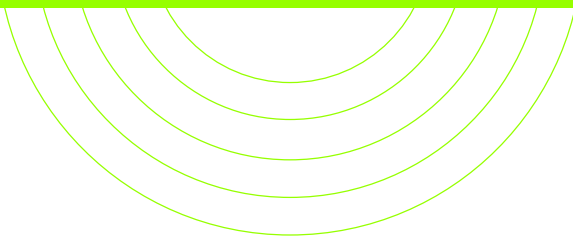
Bonang Matheba is an award-winning media personality, well-known businesswoman, Global Citizen Ambassador and one of the biggest celebrities in Africa.

Matheba, who hails from Mafikeng in North West, is also a popular presenter, radio personality, producer, model and philanthropist.

She recently launched a luxurious beverage brand, The House of BNG, with the unveiling of her Brut, Brut Rosé and Méthode Cap Classique (MCC) sparkling wines, becoming the first black woman to be a member of the Cap Classique Producers Association with her MCCs.

Matheba's public career began when she broke into television at the tender age of 15, her first big break was on SABC 1's popular music show "Live AMP". She co-hosted this show from 2007 to 2012.

She has also worked on "Afternoon Express", "Clash of the Choirs SA", and "Presenter Search on 3". Our own "Queen B" also had a successful radio career on YFM and Metro FM, winning several awards, including the "Best Inspiration and Influence" award at the Global Social Awards in Prague, Czech Republic, in 2019.



**Thembi Kgatlana | Gauteng**

Banyana Banyana star Thembi Kgatlana is a high-profile South African soccer player and recently signed with US side Racing Louisville, moving from Spanish outfit Atletico Madrid.

Kgatlana has received many accolades, including being shortlisted for the Confederation of African Football (CAF) Women's Player of the Year Award, the most prestigious award for women footballers in Africa. She was also chosen as the University Sport South Africa Woman Player of the Tournament for two consecutive years and was named COSAFA Women's Cup Player of the tournament last year.

She recently launched the Thembi Kgatlana Football Tournament to empower the youth in her hometown of Mhlabeng in Randfontein, outside Johannesburg. The proceeds from the launch were used to buy soccer balls and sanitary pads that were donated to schools, and blankets that were given to old age homes.



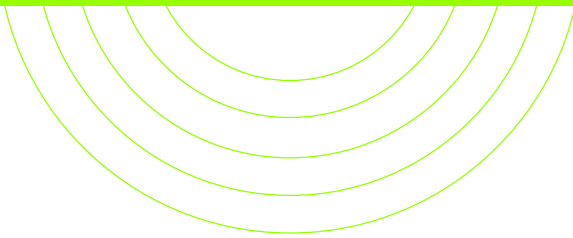
**Nonceba Mhlauli**

Born to a political family in Upington, ANC Youth League Convener Nonceba Mhlauli is a rising star in the governing party, tipped as one of the future leaders of the ANC Youth League.

Mhlauli (33), who believes she can revive the youth league, is a journalism and politics PhD scholar who has been calling for youth representation in the party's top leadership, saying at least 40% of those elected to the national executive committee should be young people. She is also leading calls for pro-youth policies to be reflected in the party's resolutions.

Mhlauli is the former spokesperson to the late Jackson Mthembu, Minister in the Presidency, she served as head of communications and spokesperson of the ANC Parliamentary Caucus (2017-2019) and was the ANC media liaison officer from 2016 to 2018). She also worked in parliament as the ANC caucus spokesperson. She now serves on the council of TVET colleges and currently works as a spokesperson to the Minister in The Presidency.





**Thuso Mbedu | Kwazulu Natal**

Actress Thuso Mbedu was thrust into international stardom after she played the lead role of Cora Randall on "The Underground Railroad", a series about slavery in the American South.

Mbedu's performance earned her several international awards which include, TV Breakout Star at the Hollywood Critics Association TV Awards, Outstanding Performance in a New Series at the Gotham Independent Film Awards, and the most recent award, and Best Female Performance in a new Scripted Series at the 37th Film Independent Spirit Awards in Santa Monica, California.

The rising film star made her big-screen debut in Gina Prince-Bythewood's historical drama The Woman King, opposite Viola Davis.

Mbedu was born in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal in 1991, and after graduating from high school, she enrolled at the University of Witwatersrand where she studied Performing Arts Management. She graduated with honours before launching her film career and moving to New York. GQ South Africa named her the Woman of the Year for 2021.



**Makhadzi | Limpopo**

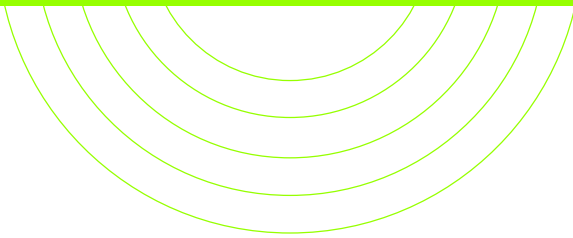
Makhadzi is arguably one of the most accomplished and popular entertainers in South Africa, singing, writing and dancing her way to success. In 2010 she joined the Makirikiri Music group as a dancer. She dropped her debut album in 2012 and has so far released six albums.

But she first entered the music scene by doing wedding songs, collaborating with Bolobedu dance music pioneers Master KG (Tshikwama), King Monada (Ngaka) and DJ Call Me (Matorokisi) for collaborations.

The first song to get her noticed locally before Matorokisi was released in 2019, was Tashanda Vhuya in 2017. It was after another big collaboration with DJ Tira, that Riya Venda sealed her stardom.

Makhadzi was born Ndivhudzannyi Ralivhona on 30 June 1996 in Ha-Mashamba, Tshivhangani, Limpopo. She finished Grade 12 at Mukula Integrated School and completed a Public Relations qualification. She is currently a drama student.

Makhadzi has sold millions of albums around the world and has held performances in France, Mozambique, Botswana, and Zimbabwe.

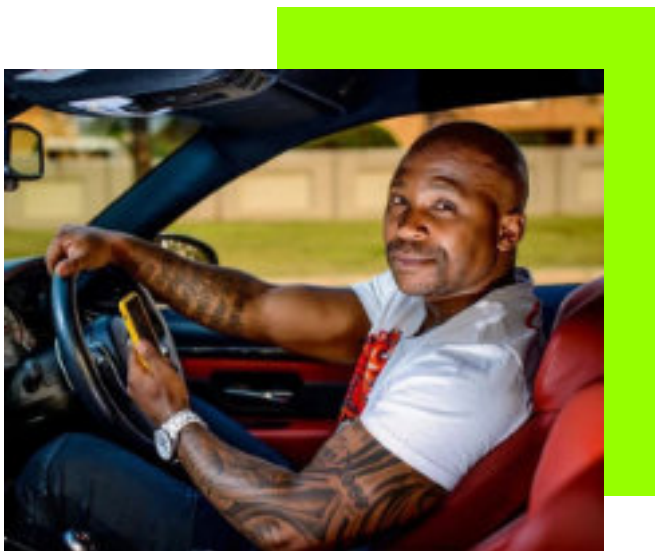


**Karabo Mohale | Limpopol**

Karabo Mohale, born and raised in Ga-Matipane Village, Limpopo, is the new Deputy Chairperson of the National Youth Development Agency Board, and is passionate about the socio-economic development of the youth. She hopes to empower young people through skills development, employment, work experience and other opportunities.

With more than 60% of the youth unemployed in South Africa, Mohale is mobilising young people to become small business owners and create jobs for themselves. She enrolled for a National Diploma in Marketing in 2010 at the Tshwane University of Technology and was deployed to be the 2012/2013 treasurer of the Local Representative Student Council (LRSC) at the Pretoria Campus.

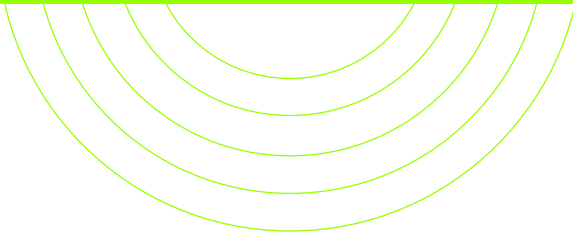
While serving her term as treasurer, she enrolled for a BTech in Marketing. She is currently pursuing a Masters in Entrepreneurship while working at Standard Bank as a Data Analyst learner. She is also a TUT Council member representing the Convocation of the University.



**NaakMusiQ | Gauteng**

NaakMusiQ, born Anga Makubalo, is a talented actor, musician, boxer, and model. As an actor, NaakMusiQ has appeared in several popular films and television shows, including Generations and Isidingo.

As a musician, he has released several hit songs with his first album released in 2015 titled Born to Entertain. Makubalo was born on 28 May 1987 in New Brighton, Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape, before moving to Gauteng where he attended Edenvale High School and developed his skills by participating in talent shows. NaakMusiQ signed up with Talent International, and in 2009 enrolled at Damelin to study contemporary music. Earlier this year, NaakMusiQ faced and beat fellow South African rapper Cassper Nyovest in the boxing ring. The match was watched by millions in South Africa and across the world.



**Chris Pappas | Kwazulu Natal**

Chris Pappas became an overnight sensation when he was selected as the youngest and first DA mayor of uMngeni Municipality during the 2021 Local Municipal Elections. The municipality was previously run by the ANC.

Pappas, who is fluent in isiZulu, grew up in the farming community of Mooi River and later Howick, and attended Hilton College. While his involvement in politics officially began at university, Pappas claims that he first became conscious of "differences" in high school. He has been the party's deputy provincial leader since 2021 and has also served as a member of the eThekweni City Council (2016-2019).

Pappas passionately campaigned to address corruption, improve service delivery, and boost economic growth in the municipality

"Our first goal is to stabilise the deteriorating state of municipal finances. This must happen through rigorous cost-cutting and reprioritisation. We cannot be building stadiums when there are no roads to drive on and our streetlights are not working," said Pappas during his inauguration.



**Lukhona Mnguni | Kwazulu Natal**

Lukhona Mnguni is a researcher, academic and political analyst making history as a hard-hitting current affairs show host focusing on politics and topical issues. He is working at eNCA as a current affairs anchor and as a new host on Power Perspective on Power FM 98.7.

Mnguni holds a Bachelor's in Community and Development Studies, and an Honours in Conflict Transformation and Peace Studies from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

He holds an MSc in Africa and international development from the University of Edinburgh and is currently a PhD intern researcher at the Maurice Webb Race Relations Unit at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.





### Tebogo Ditshego

Businessman Tebogo Ditshego describes himself as "a kid from a South African township who beat the odds, conquered great obstacles and grew up to receive a certificate issued by the Government of the United States of America, signed by President Barack Obama".

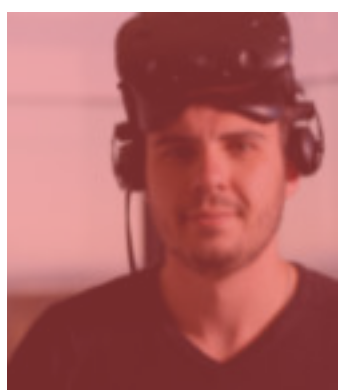
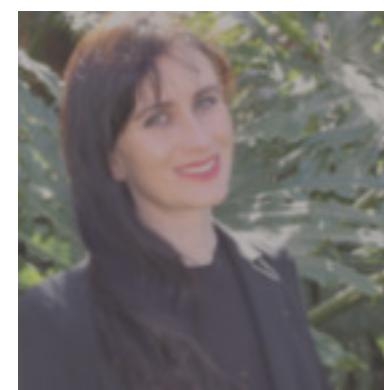
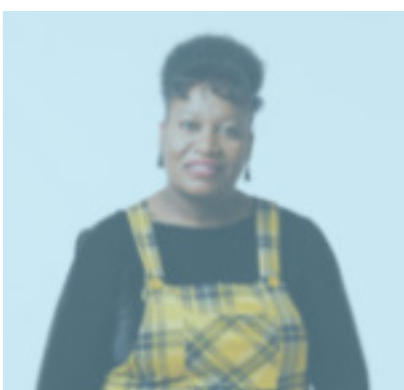
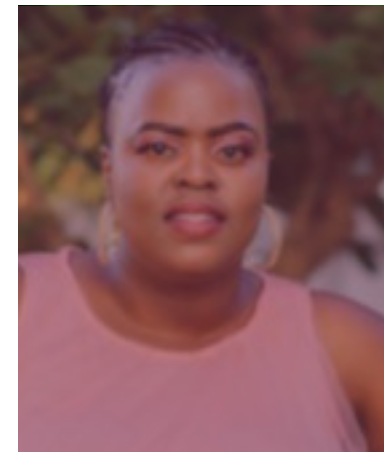
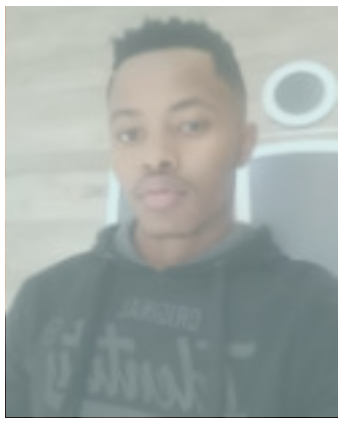
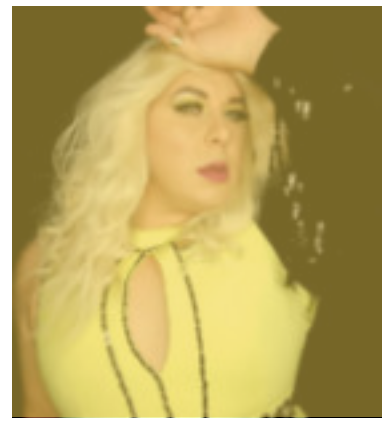
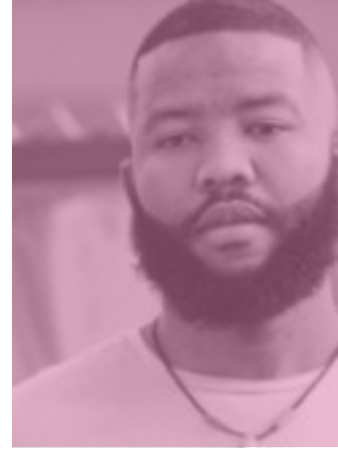
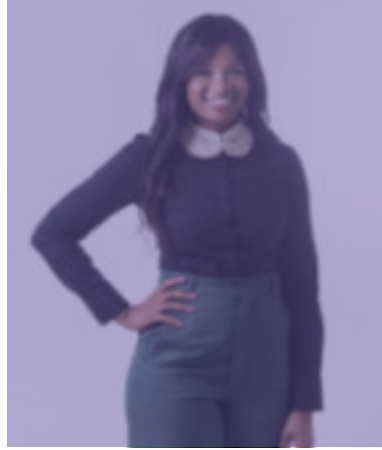
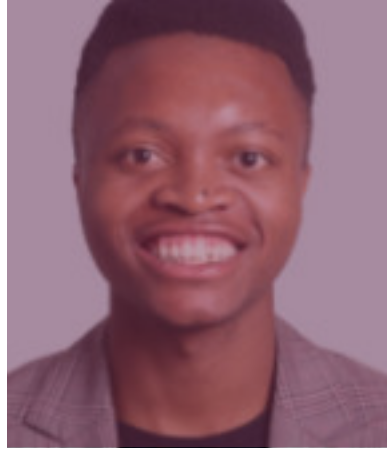
Ditshego is the group CEO of Ditshego Investment Group and Ditshego Media, chairman of the South African Reading Foundation, and a judge in season four of SABC 1's show One Day Leader.

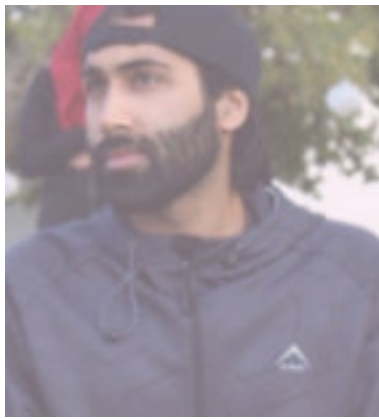
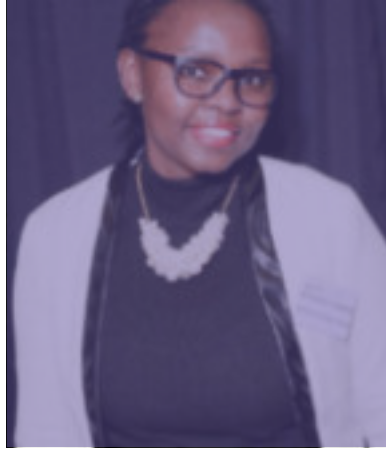
The latest feather in his cap is his appointment as President of the Public Relations Institute of Southern Africa (PRISA).

Earlier this year, Ditshego was appointed by Mondli Gungubele, Minister in the Presidency, to serve as a councillor in the Marketing, Advertising and Communication South Africa (MAC SA) Charter Council, which is tasked with developing sector codes and promoting, monitoring and reporting on the transformation of the sector in line with the provisions of the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act.

He is currently studying for a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at GIBS Business School.







The 100 Shining Stars brought to you by Inside Education

