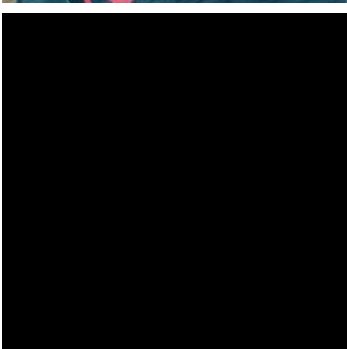
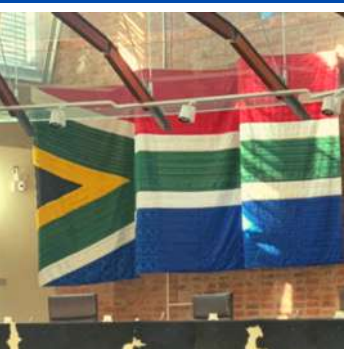
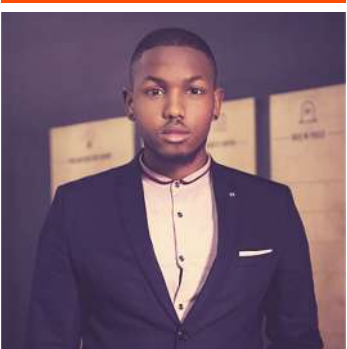
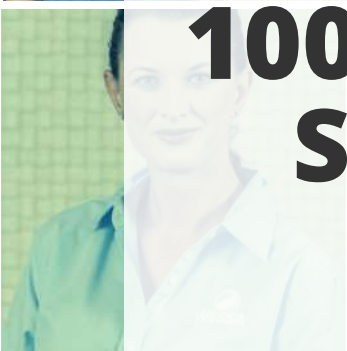


2020 ISSUE



100 SOUTH AFRICAN SHINING STARS





Foreword

In July our country and the entire world celebrated the International Mandela Month by doing small acts of kindness for those who are less fortunate, in honour of struggle icon and former president Nelson Mandela.

Today, we launch yet another special bumper edition of our annual 100 South African Shining Stars e-book to recognise our young ambassadors, who are walking in the giant steps of Madiba by going the extra mile to make a positive change in their respective communities across the country.

Now more than ever before, as the country tries to navigate its way out of the worst economic crisis since the great depression because of COVID-19, we need energetic young people like the 100 SA Shining Stars we are honouring today, to move South Africa forward. They will shape the debates on the kind of economic direction the country needs to create sustainable jobs for millions of poor people post the lockdown.

The COVID-19 crisis has deepened the hardship experienced by many in the country, particularly young people, who are already considered to be the most vulnerable within the South African labour market. So far, three million people have lost their jobs over the lockdown period, according to the National Income Dynamics Study –Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey, which looks at the economic impact of the pandemic and the countrywide lockdown.

With the country thrown deep into junk status by rating agencies, the National Treasury projecting a contraction of 7,2% and the government's ever increasing debt, which is expected to exceed 100% of gross domestic product by 2024-25, the country is in desperate need of fresh ideas to turn around the declining economic conditions.

Like the youthful generation of Nelson Mandela did during the liberation struggle in the early 1960s and 1970s, young people like the 100 Shining Stars we are celebrating today must take it upon themselves to be in the forefront of the debates to shape the direction of the economic reforms proposed by President Cyril Ramaphosa in one of his lockdown addresses. Young people like you, 2020's 100 Shining Stars, must see to it that small business development is at the centre of the economic reforms President Ramaphosa is talking about.

Thus far, Government has only paid lip service to the issue of small business, which has the potential to create more jobs and reduce the high level of unemployment in the country. It is young people like you – 2020's 100 South African Shining Stars we are honouring today, that must ensure change in approach towards small business development in this country. As the great Madiba once said, it is now in your hands

Matuma Letsoalo

Inside Education Managing Director, and
K&K Media Group Executive Chairman



A note from the

Editor

For many of us, the dawn of a new decade marked a period of hope and restoration. None of us could have anticipated the onset of a deadly pandemic that would bring the world to its knees. In its destruction the COVID-19 pandemic has proven the humanity that connects us is greater than what separates us.

It is for this reason that 2020's 100 South African Shining Stars stand out as examples of perseverance and dedication to serve. Each year these Shining Stars prove that South Africa's solutions are indeed in the hands of the country's youth.

These are young people like 19-year-old Paseka Sekhukhune, our youngest honouree, who ensures people in remote Limpopo villages have access to resources that will keep them protected from COVID-19.

We also profile young female farmer Abueng Leepile, who uses her passion for agriculture to ensure food security in her community.

The 100 young people featured in this edition represent a small number from a large pool of exceptional youths in South Africa.

To those who received this year's Shining Stars accolade, congratulations!

To those who aspire to receive this accolade in years to come, I encourage you to continue the good work you have started.

And to the unsung heroes – the young nurses, doctors, emergency services staff and many others saving lives during this devastating period – we salute you.

Dineo Bendile



The 100 young people featured in this edition represent a small number from a large pool of exceptional youths in South Africa.

Made possible by our



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Thank you



EDUCATION





BONGANI BRIGHTON MKHONTO **GAUTENG**

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Bongani Brighton Mkhonto describes himself as a goal-orientated and purpose-driven individual.

He holds a BCom in Financial Sciences from the University of Pretoria and is now pursuing a Postgraduate Diploma in Management with Regent Business School.

Mkhonto is co-founder of ThinkBig39, an NPO registered with the Department of Social Development which is aimed at motivating and psychologically preparing high school learners for tertiary studies. Since 2012, the organization has ensured that learners in rural communities get sufficient information and assistance regarding career choices and access tutoring where needed.

The organization now has five branches in Phalaborwa, Tembisa, the University of Limpopo, the University of Johannesburg and the University of Pretoria.

Adapting to the impact of COVID-19, the Tembisa and Phalaborwa branches have started online tutoring via WhatsApp for Grade 11 and 12 pupils in all subjects. More than 5 000 learners countrywide have participated in the group's activities.

○ EDUCATION



NICCI LEGOKA **GAUTENG**

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Talent acquisition specialist Nicci Legoka is the founder of Growth Mindset SA, a youth development and people empowerment organisation that helps young people through their career selection process.

"We aim to enhance the quality of life for young enthusiasts living in adverse economic conditions. We provide career guidance services to the high school learners and university students," she says.

Over 3 000 young people have participated in the career choice guidance programme, which has exposed Grade 7 to Grade 9 learners to various careers and assisted them in choosing subjects that are relevant to the careers they are interested in pursuing.

After participating in a career choice guidance seminar, Grade 12 learners are provided with interview skills and advised on how to apply for bursaries, university courses and jobs. Through her programme, Legoka has helped many young people choose careers they are passionate about, while also striving to reduce the rate of unemployment in the country.



MLAMULI MBAMBO GAUTENG

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Mlamuli Mbambo conducts financial literacy talks, master classes and workshops for students, young entrepreneurs and employees in need of financial education.

“We believe financial education is the key to financial wellbeing. We make financial literacy come alive through fun, interactive and experiential learning workshops,” says Mbambo.

Passionate about making financial education accessible to all, he recently published a book titled *Winning the Money Game*, which focuses on financial literacy principles. He is also an expert contributor on community station Radio Khwezi 's award-winning programme *Sakha Isizwe*, where he provides financial literacy guidance to the station's predominantly rural audience.

“Our show reaches more than 150 000 listeners monthly. I have witnessed our predominately rural and semi-urban listeners becoming financially savvy. The questions that the listeners ask have become sophisticated and we also get testimonials,” says Mbambo.

○ EDUCATION



GUGU NGWENYA GAUTENG

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Gugu Ngwenya is the founder of Igugu Library Foundation whose primary objective is to bring about change in disadvantaged communities, by instilling a culture of learning and reading at the early development phase. In particular, her foundation not only wants to have children reading, but wants to ensure they read with understanding.

To achieve this mission, Ngwenya donates storybooks to pre-schools and primary schools. More than 800 books have been donated since 2018.

Ngwenya also hosts workshops for parents on how to instil a culture of reading within their households. The foundation also assists children in underprivileged communities with daily reading after school.

“Reading and learning is a crucial skill proven to empower human beings with knowledge and the foundation has devoted itself to the recognition that reading is a right for all children and as a result it will enable them to discover the world of information found in books,” Ngwenya says.



NHLANHLA NKABINDE GAUTENG

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Nhlanhla Nkabinde is the founder of Enriching Young Minds, a tutoring service company in Ekurhuleni, Gauteng that believes in total excellence for learners in every field of their lives, not just academics.

Subjects offered include mathematics, physical science, life sciences and geography.

"We provide advanced learning methods where we bridge the gap between the teacher and the learners. In our lessons we have a tutor teaching the entire class, within that class there are tutors who have their groups of learners, not more than ten, who check on the understanding of each learner," says Nkabinde.

Nkabinde's organisation also supports learners in their journeys towards higher education by paying for one university application for each Grade 12 learner in their programme.

"We also provide learners with more insight of what they can do after school and all the funding options they can apply for to make sure they pursue careers of their choices," Nkabinde says.

EDUCATION



SIMO MTHETHWA KWAZULU-NATAL

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Dr Simo Mthethwa is a whizz-kid who can solve complex mathematics problems in just a few minutes. In 2019, Mthethwa graduated with a PhD in Mathematics from the University of KwaZulu Natal (UKZN) at the tender age of 26. In 2016, while doing his PhD, he founded an organization called Mthethwamatics.

The organization aims to assist high school teachers effectively teach Mathematics and assists learners between Grade 10 to Grade 12 with their understanding of Mathematics. Furthermore, Mthethwa helps learners explore Maths-related career paths within different industries.

His organisation has helped young people in high schools, to the extent that it has influenced learners and produced outstanding achievers who are now at tertiary level.

Mthethwa is currently a full time maths lecturer at UKZN. He has also worked on various projects such as Extended Learning and the national Maths Olympiad.



LINDSAY WESNER WESTERN CAPE



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Lindsay Wesner is the driving force behind her teacher training company Teach, Learn, Innovate and the initiator of the #ZAEdu hashtag on Twitter. Her infectious enthusiasm for developing teachers has reached thousands of educators across South Africa.

She has also rallied support for educators and learners during the COVID-19 pandemic, to provide access to online learning for all learners in South Africa affected by school closures.

The now popular #ZAEdu hashtag on Twitter has become a means of linking a large online community of teachers, giving them a platform to share teaching resources and hold discussions about the state of the profession.

"I've always believed in the power of stories. I'm friends with a lot of teachers on social media and I don't see much difference between the [social media] stories they share, and the stories shared by people in other professions," says Wesner on her decision to start the community hashtag.

"As educators, we are destiny changers, we are custodians of the world's most precious resources and we have [education related] things to post about, to tweet about, to share with the world because we all have incredible stories to tell," says Wesner.

○ EDUCATION



LUTHANDO NOMZAZA EASTERN CAPE



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Luthando Nomzaza, who hails from Uitenhage in the Eastern Cape, runs a tutoring programme for learners between Grade 8 to Grade 12 with a focus on Mathematics, Physical Science and Accounting.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, Nomzaza went the extra mile by offering online learning to pupils, sending them regular tutorial videos. His belief is that "schools may be closed, but learning remains open", regardless of learners' socio-economic background or poor access to high end technology.

Nomzaza is a selfless teacher and challenges his learners to think critically about education and social issues.

His strategies to not only build children academically but holistically as independent and responsible South African citizens.



NTOKOZO NZIMA MPUMALANGA



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Ntokozo Nzima of Embalenhle township in Mpumalanga, is the founder of Ignite Academic Solutions, which offers tutoring services to learners on Saturdays and during their school holidays.

Concerned by the high rate of school drop-outs in his community, Nzima took it upon himself to start hosting extra lessons for pupils at a local library, supporting them on their academic journeys.

Today, that small study group sharing a table at a local library has blossomed into a fully fledged tutoring service operating at a number of schools throughout the province.

By creating extra classes, Nzima is not just teaching but also creating jobs for young people who are passionate about teaching.

EDUCATION



LUTENDO MASHAU LIMPOPO



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Lutendo Mashau is an everyday hero for many learners in parts of Limpopo. Mashau uses money out of his own pocket to buy needy learners prescribed textbooks and study guides.

He also assists matric pupils with their applications for university entry as well as for bursaries.

To encourage learners to reach their full academic potential, Mashau holds regular competitions for them, making it a practice to reward pupils for their excellent performance.

Pupils whose lives he has touched describe him as “someone you can always count on”.

“Mashau is always available to help students who look up to him. He is reliable and always ready to help as an educator,” says Gilbert Mashau who nominated this Shining Star for the accolade.



TOMMIE HURTER LIMPOPO

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Limpopo based chef Tommie Hurter is a pioneer in the culinary arts education field. Hurter started the Limpopo Chefs Academy, which is the first fully recognized chefs academy in the province.

Driven to combine his passion for teaching and love for culinary arts, Hurter opened the academy's first campus in Mokopane in 2014. Since then the school has expanded to a second campus in Polokwane.

His mission is to ensure that "people in Limpopo no longer need to leave their borders and move to bigger cities in pursuit of world-class hospitality training and education," Hurter says.

The academy also provides skills development for local hotels and restaurants looking to upskill their staff members.

○ EDUCATION



CINDY MKAZA-SIBOTO WESTERN CAPE

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Cindy Mkaza-Siboto from Khayelitsha in Cape Town, Western Cape watched with concern as her younger sister struggled with her homework, without the presence of teachers to explain difficult concepts. He also assists matric pupils with their applications for university entry as well as for bursaries.

Motivated to close the gap in her sister's own teaching and education, Mkaza-Siboto became an advocate for many other young people who found themselves in a similar position to her sibling.

In 2014, she and her husband founded Emagqabini Education Academy, a homework support programme that offers academic assistance to high school learners with the aim of having them access the best post-schooling opportunities.

She also assists matric pupils with their applications for university entry as well as for bursaries.

"When we started the homework support programme we worked from people's living rooms in Khayelitsha. Now we have grown this initiative into an organisation and supporting 100 learners every year," Mkaza-Siboto says.

Her organisation has also placed 35 girls with the Royal Cape Yacht Club Academy, a move she says has given young girls from Khayelitsha the confidence to pursue activities outside their day-to-day environment. "90% of these learners that we placed are black girls, changing the narrative for the sport and girls," says Mkaza-Siboto..



QONDILE MTSHABI MXOLI EASTERN CAPE

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Qondile Mtshabi Mxoli, was 23 years old when he began his career in education entrepreneurship.

After completing his studies he initiated a programme called the Compassionate Scheme, which provided financial assistance to learners whose families could not afford to pay their school fees.

He later began working in the adult education space, encouraging people, particularly those who had dropped out of school, to develop their skills in various fields. He is the founder of Apex Academic College, an academy that helps learners who are struggling in various school subjects, as well as conducting matric rewrite classes for those who failed to achieve their desired Grade 12 results.

"I am passionate about education entrepreneurship," Mxoli says. "[I want to] encourage lifelong learning and [provide adequate] career guidance."

○ EDUCATION



GRANT EDMOND WESTERN CAPE

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Grant Edmond is the co-founder of Just Grace NPC, a non-profit organisation based in Langa township, Cape Town, Western Cape.

Through his organisation he runs numerous programmes including "Qubeka" – an initiative that provides holistic support including computer training, coding, career guidance and life skills

"Phuhlisa" is another of his organisation's programmes that supports learner retention in schools by working closely with pupils who are at risk of dropping out.

Observers say Edmond leads his organisation with passion, diligence and integrity, working alongside 50 volunteers in the community.

Edmond's youth empowerment programme provides holistic education to youth in Langa, preparing them well to contribute meaningfully to society and maximize their earning potential later in life.

ADVERTISEMENT



A Reflection of Values and Passion for Education

The Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership and Governance (MGSLG) was established in 2002 and officially launched in August 2003. It falls under the Gauteng Education Department. The school was established to research, develop and deliver cutting edge, capacity-building programmes in School Management & Leadership, School Governance and Teacher Development for schools in the Gauteng province. Described as a leader and a teacher loved by learners, parents and his community; Matthew Goniwe epitomised the noble ideals, civic values and strength of character which broadly characterize the qualities sought in determining South Africa's stand out teaching professionals. The school is a reflection of his values, his passion for education and principles.

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PHILANTHROPY



ROTENDA GAVHI LIMPOPO



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She's only in the second year of her Accounting Sciences degree at North West University, but Rotenda Gavhi is already making an impact in her community.

As director of non-profit organisation, Be That Girl, Gavhi helps implement programmes to empower girls academically, socially and spiritually. Focusing on disadvantaged communities, Gavhi helps provide mentorship and career guidance, hosts seminars, does fun walks and raises funds for sanitary towels to assist girls in need.

"We always stand for each other," says Gavhi. "This is an initiative that aims to always be there for a girl child." In addition to her non-profit work, Gavhi is a young member of the New York Academy of Sciences under the 1000 Girls 1000 Futures Programme, which connects girls interested in STEM to mentors in the field. Gavhi is also a social development officer at her university.

No stranger to life's challenges, she believes the obstacles she has overcome can be used as stepping-stones to empower young girls. "Everything has its own downfalls. We all fail sometimes, but one thing I don't do is to lose hope," says Gavhi. "As young as I am, it is much better for me to give more than what I have received already."



RANDY MAMPURU GAUTENG



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It didn't take long for Randy Mampuru to realise she wasn't cut out for a desk job. Four years ago, she quit her role as a travel consultant. While back home in Dobsonville, Soweto, she started noticing a few things.

"The young kids would play from 2pm to 7pm, waiting for their parents to get home. And I just wondered: 'who's helping them with their homework?'"

Before long, three children were doing their schoolwork every afternoon at her mother's kitchen table. But news spread, and more and more children began to show up.

Eventually, "my mom kicked us out of her kitchen!" says Mampuru.

Fast forward to today and she's founded Kidz Hub, a registered non-profit organisation, which, for a minimal fee, provides 50 children with daily homework and literacy assistance, and exposure to entrepreneurship, gardening, recycling and financial management. Kidz Hub also provides employment to seven tutors: graduates from the community who were previously unemployed. Additionally, it works in tandem with the University of Johannesburg's volunteer programme.

Mampuru is in the process of setting up a computer centre in the three-bedroom home that she rents for the Kidz Hub premises.

She epitomises ubuntu in action, and she's all about making longterm change. "I'd love to see the work that I do having a lasting impact on humanity," she says. "That's all I want."



NYANISO TUTU-BURRIS WESTERN CAPE



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It started with a conversation at a dinner party. "We were speaking about the traumas faced by women of colour," says Nyaniso Tutu-Burris (23). Over time, she established PhakamAfrika: an organisation with a mission to develop Africa's future female leaders of colour through education and social development.

PhakamAfrika's three tiers comprise a curriculum-based after school programme, a US summer camp-style "holiday camp", and a placement agency where girls are placed internationally either as au pairs or air hostesses.

At a recent holiday camp, the girls collaborated with renowned South African artist Richard Scott to create an art piece to be sold in order to raise funds for the camp. On opening night at the art gallery, "I overheard one of my girls saying: 'I never thought that something I did would be worth something'," says Tutu-Burris. "And while it broke my heart, it also brought me joy that I was able to be a part of that."

Tutu-Burris says she wants to help her continent self-actualise. "In school we learn about the great kings and queens of Africa. We learn about the riches that the continent can and has provided," she says. "I want to help get us back there. I want to be part of the driving force that helps Africa to regain her glory."



MOELETJI MAPHETO LIMPOPO



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Moeletji Mapheto knows what it's like to grow up without running water. Originally from a rural area in Limpopo, she's now completing her articles to qualify as a Chartered Accountant. And this 27-year old is working tirelessly to lift those who are mired in the same difficult circumstances that she was.

Mapheto has adopted 25 learners at a school in rural Limpopo, paying for all their learning needs. But she hasn't stopped there. She's led community projects to transform buildings into libraries in order to foster a culture of reading. And recently, she decided to transform the filthy, run-down pit latrines at Phauwe Secondary School in Ga-Mphahlele.

With no cash upfront, she asked for donations and volunteer labourers from the community. "A lot of unemployed youth came forward," she says. "In return, I helped them fix their CVs."

The volunteers went to work. In order to save money, they handmade bricks from cement instead of buying them. The gleaming new toilets were recently "handed over" to the school along with sanitisers and masks for the learners. "The people were overwhelmed," says Mapheto. "They didn't expect something that flushes." By focusing her efforts around educational support, she hopes that "just one learner will come out of poverty and assist the next person," she says. "That's how we will break the cycle of poverty."



LINDOKUHLE KUBEKA FREE STATE



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As a young man, Lindokuhle Kubeka started to notice the gaps between the “haves” and the “have-nots” in his Free State community. So “I started a shoes and clothing donation drive for disadvantaged families and child-headed homes,” he says.

This simple act was the start of what would become a multi-tiered non-profit organisation known as the Lindokuhle Foundation, established five years ago.

The foundation serves remote communities with core-designed projects and programmes to address things such as youth empowerment, social welfare issues, arts and culture, and life skills. They run everything from Saturday school, to a young ex-convicts campaign, to soup kitchens, career expos, chess and book clubs, and women empowerment expos.

One of Kubeka’s favourite projects is the foundation’s annual school motivational tours expo. “We get to motivate and inspire high school scholars on how to make well-informed decisions about their lives,” he says. “I want to be more than an outstanding citizen, I want to restore hope and transform people’s lives,” says Kubeka. “The world is not changed by your opinion, but by your example.”



LEHLOHONOLO PEEGA GAUTENG



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When you ask Lehlohonolo Peega how many musical instruments he can play, he laughs..

“Quite a lot,” he says. “Violin, trumpet, keyboard, bass guitar, recorder, saxophone, marimba, djembe, piano, clarinet ...”.

It may sound like Peega is looking to start the next one-man band. But actually, he has been running a pro-bono music school every week in Soweto for the past 10 years. “If we receive something that is out of my capacity, I sit and learn the instrument so that I can teach it,” he says. Every Saturday from 9am to 3pm, those who are interested are invited to come along to a local church and learn. He uses his own money to buy instruments. Peega has also volunteered as a local ward sports and recreation coordinator, helping schools in the area to coach sport and establish teams. As a student at Wits University, he established the Inala Food Project to try and tackle food insecurity. He then identified music as an opportunity to give hope to disadvantaged children who are mired in despair.

“For us it’s more than the music,” says Peega. “It’s not necessarily about making them the next Hugh Masekela. We use the music as a tool to change lives.”



KWANELE KUNENE KWAZULU-NATAL



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Kwanele Kunene was awarded Best Masters Student in her faculty at the Durban Institute of Technology last year. She received a scholarship to study her Masters in Latvia and second scholarship to study towards her PhD at the University of Montpellier, France. But that hasn't stopped her from giving generously of her time to those who need it.

Kunene started Zokumizizwe Holdings with her twin sister "because we didn't want the learners to experience the hardship that we experienced when we finished matric," she says.

Ostensibly, the organisation gives practical guidance and support to learners, but her mentees say it's so much more than that. "She truly helped me to grow in confidence which, in turn, made me realise my own potential," says Ayanda Sikhosane, who nominated her. "Her tireless commitment and support has inspired and motivated other learners, allowing us to strengthen study skills and overcome personal barriers that we are faced with. I honestly feel I couldn't have achieved the grades I did without her support." Kunene's motivation for greatness is grounded in three things: hope, curiosity, and above all, her family. "I don't think I can do anything without them," she says. "They are the reason for my existence and their love and affection is what makes me keep going in life."



KOINONIA BALOYI WESTERN CAPE



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Four years ago, Koinonia Baloyi read an article about the struggles of homeless women during menstruation. "They have to use napkins, tissue or pieces of material for their period, which is unhygienic," she says.

In response, she founded Girls With Wings (GWW), an organisation that restores the dignity of homeless and underprivileged women by providing them with sanitary products. They currently assist 400 women around Cape Town each month, and have distributed over 20 000 sanitary products to date.

In 2018, Baloyi launched Fitness for a Cause as a fundraising platform. It allows members of the public to participate in a sponsored outdoor bootcamp that raises funds for GWW. "This platform is growing, we are getting people fit and we are able to reach more women each year. That's a reason to smile," she says.

What keeps Baloyi going is "seeing the impact we are making. Each month I get to interact with homeless and underprivileged women that are in need of sanitary products, and we as an organisation can actually do something about it," she says. "The work we do matters, the women we support matter. I am grateful that I have access to sanitary products and that I can extend that same access to women in need."



LUIGIA NICHOLAS **WESTERN CAPE**



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Luigia Nicholas is a member of Stellenbosch University's Disability Network, where she champions for the rights of people with disabilities within the institution.

Her earliest advocacy work started in secondary school, where she had to assist her school to adapt to her needs as a learner with impaired eyesight. In university, she soon realised that many students, like her, were struggling with issues of acceptance and integration into society. This motivated her to become vocal about the needs and rights of disabled students.

Nicholas' experiences have seen her become leader of Stellenbosch University's SRC Special Needs portfolio, which champions the rights of students with disabilities within the SRC structure. She has already made an impact by advising the university on the need to address inadequate special planning on its campuses, which does not take the needs of people with disabilities into account.

She has also assisted the university's Disability Unit with the development of a co-curricular module on disability inclusion on campus called 'Lead with Disability'. The module examines universal design, universal access and other areas and has already impacted at least 40 students in its short time. Nicholas also mentors other students with disabilities on her campus.



LYDIA SONO **MPUMALANGA**



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Lydia Sono from KaMatsamo in Mpumalanga's Nkomazi municipality describes herself as a 33-year-old lesbian rights activist, community builder, motivation speaker and rape survivor. After surviving a homophobic rape attack and failing to access the necessary justice and recourse, Sono began her journey advocating for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community in her town.

“Since then I have become an activist and I fight against hate crime, homophobia and gender based violence. I advocate for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community, women's rights and children's rights in our society,” says Sono.

She holds community dialogues where she provides knowledge about LGBTQ+ rights. She also guides and counsels those who want to open up about their sexuality. “I [also] encourage rape survivors not to keep quiet but instead they must share their experience to get help as soon as possible. I always lead by example. By sharing my rape experience I give them hope and healing,” Sono says.

A true community builder, Sono also carries out other activities in her community including collecting sanitary pads for schoolgirls, to reduce the rate of children missing school due to a lack of menstrual hygiene needs. During the lockdown she also started a drive to collect face masks for elderly people and says more than 3000 elderly people in her community have benefited from the initiative.



NTOMBOXOLO JACK **EASTERN CAPE**



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Ntomboxolo Jack from Port Elizabeth is the founder of Intellectual Minds, a tutoring facility for children in the city's KwaZakhele township.

Growing up in the community, where substance abuse, violence and crime were rampant, Jack used education as a way to better her own life. She is now committed to keeping the children of KwaZakhele off the streets and focused on their schooling.

Intellectual Minds Academy is the first tutoring facility located in the community. Through the initiative Jack provides high school learners with support to excel in their studies and increase their chances of a better future. The learners she assists have achieved an average of over 80% in matric Mathematics and commerce subjects.

The organisation employs an average of 22 tutors every year, most of whom are university students.

“Ntomboxolo is an all-round leader who carries a dream to make a difference in her community. She carries a passion to develop the youth and play an active role in the fight against adversity in our country. She is a pillar to her peers, a role model to many and a hero to the people of her community,” says Ndiphiwe Mhlontlo who nominated Jack for her accolade.



KHUTSO MOHALE **GAUTENG**



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Khutso Mohale is the founder and the CEO of Ambitious Future Careers, a non-profit organisation that assists young unemployed South Africans with the tools to make themselves noticed by prospective employers.

The organisation provides a range of services for those who are starting or trying to continue their careers. These include drafting CVs and cover letters, interview preparation, job application assistance as well as motivational talks during the gruelling job search process.

Mohale believes part of the difficulty for many job hunters is a lack of preparedness, a lack of resources, and unprofessionalism, which ultimately lead to them being overlooked for jobs. His organisation aims to equip young people with these skills to better their chances at gainful employment.

Last year his organisation held its first 'Open Day for Career Seekers' at the National Library in Tshwane, which was attended by over 300 people. With the assistance of Mohale and his team, over 8000 CVs were submitted by job seekers to prospective employers.



NOZIPHO MASHABA LIMPOPO



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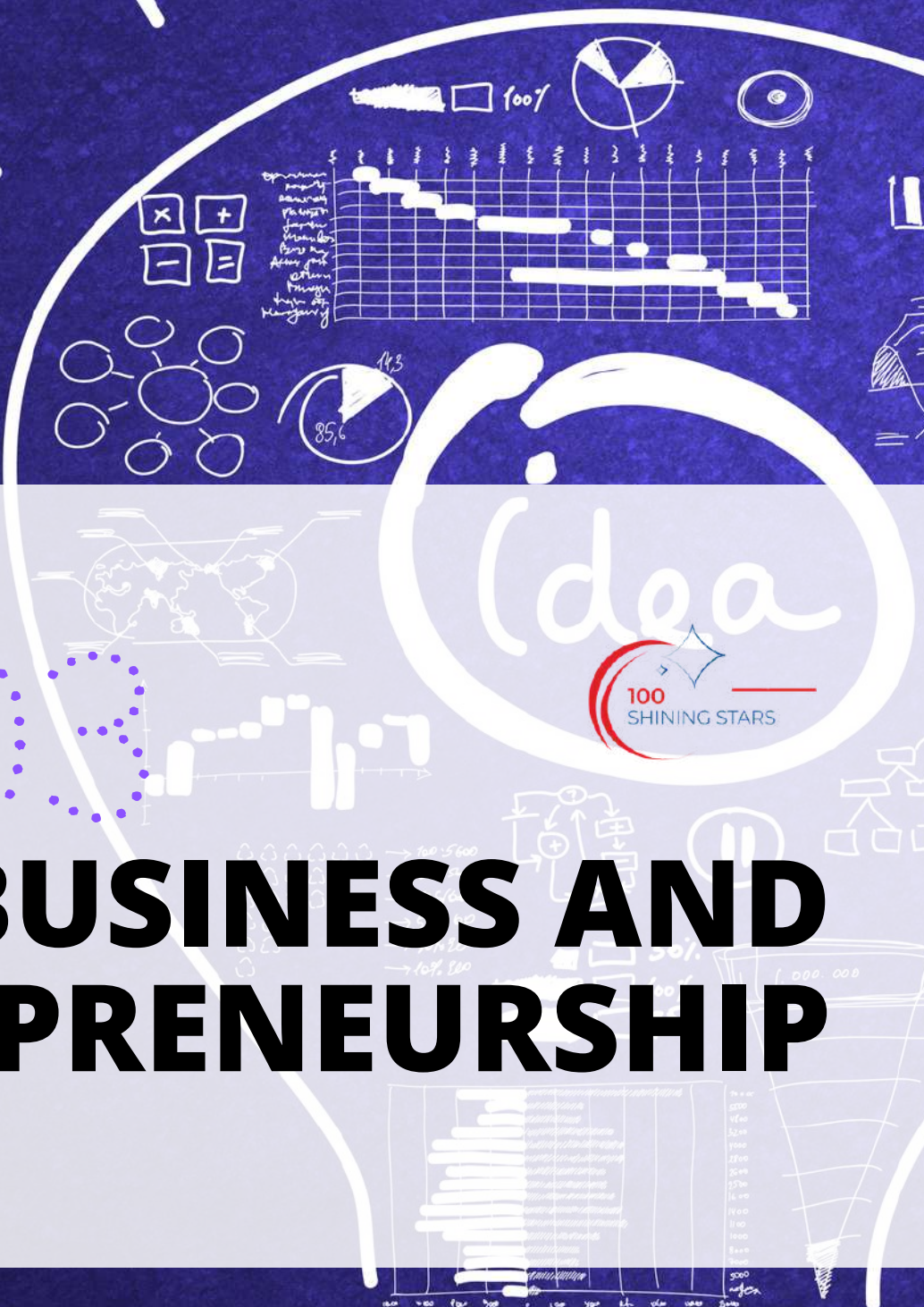
Nozipho Mashaba runs a youth development organisation in Limpopo that promotes respect of self and of others, as well as tolerance of cultural diversity. Her organisation, Unlimited Youth Development, also works towards entrenching confidence in young people through coaching, training and inspiring them to become active leaders in their communities.

Mashaba provides extra-mural activities for young girls in the form of debating, public speaking, drama and pageantry. She has continuously shown the power of working together through providing extra lessons to help learners navigate their academics and improve their skills.

She also provides career guidance, helping pupils through the process of applying for tertiary institutions and bursaries.

“I am proud to say as one of the students I passed very well thanks to this beautiful initiative. Although she [Mashaba] had little, she always went out of her way to ensure that everyone around her is empowered and ready to conquer the world,” says Tamson Lamula who nominated Mashaba for the accolade.

“I am proud to say I have achieved my dream thanks to her. Nozipho is a philanthropist at heart. She has taken a lot of young girls, embraced them and made them her sisters,” Lamula adds.



BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP



OARABILE MOKOMA **NORTH WEST**



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Oarabile Mokoma from Rustenburg in the North West is a Business Administration student who is determined to create a flourishing township-based tourism industry in his home province.

Mokoma considers himself a “kasi” tour advisor. At the age of 21 he founded Phoka Africa, a digital tourism company that focuses on tourism in Phokeng, a town in the North West.

Mokoma saw a need to help connect North West villages and townships to the wider tourism sector. Phoka Africa provides tourists with a database of township-based businesses including bed and breakfasts (B&B), spas, restaurants and tour guides. Realising that many township businesses lack thorough advertising, Mokoma's company also provides marketing services to township-based enterprises.

To fund the business, Mokoma saved money from his allowance. Ultimately, he says, his aim is to build a “winning circle” for businesses and to help existing enterprises align to form a robust tourism industry in the province's townships.



NOMUNTU NDHLOVU **MPUMALANGA**



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Nomuntu Ndhlovu, a 29-year-old from Steenbok village in Mpumalanga, runs Untum Financial Solutions, a company that aids young women with skills to master their finances.

One of the company's programmes “Financial Inclusion South Africa” aims to assist women running small informal businesses, by equipping them with the skills to keep abreast of their finances at both business and personal levels.

Another of Ndhlovu's projects, SACOTECH, helps women running stokvels to adequately manage the flow of money within their investment societies. Ndhlovu says she is influenced by female anti-apartheid stalwarts such as Charlotte Maxeke, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and others who “did what no one else dared to do to” to fight for the freedoms enjoyed by today's youth.

“I want to constantly break the glass ceiling, be resilient and have the focus and mental health to change the status quo and traditions that marginalise us as women,” Ndhlovu says.

She says her ultimate goal is to create change in people's lives. She believes working closely with women to improve financial literacy is the first step towards effecting change and creating new traditions.

JUBILATION MAGAGULE **MPUMALANGA**

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Jubilation Magagule (25) who hails from Bushbuckridge's Allandale village is a digital marketing specialist who owns and runs a beverage manufacturing company based in Mpumalanga.

Torha Holdings and Beverages Trading, is a 100% black youth-owned company through which Magagule and his team provide purified bottled water.

Torha, which means "thirst" in XiTsonga, currently supplies its beverages to wholesale retail outlets, funeral parlours as well as the hospitality industry in parts of Mpumalanga.

"Start up capital was the biggest challenge ever but using my principles - use what you have to get what you don't. I started Torha with just R500 and it was not easy," says Magagule who believes his disadvantaged background is what has propelled him to work hard.

He hopes that in five years from now the company will have expanded to have two branches operating in two other provinces, which will serve as jobs creation for South Africa's unemployed youth.



MAXWELL THUSI **KWAZULU-NATAL**

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Maxwell Thusi from Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal always dreamed of being a chartered accountant and entrepreneur.

He is the founding director of Thusi Holdings, a paralegal and business consultancy company that assists over-indebted and blacklisted consumers.

From 2014 to date, Thusi says his company has assisted over 3000 people, many of whom lacked the financial literacy to make functional decisions around their personal and business finances.

The company has four divisions including a call centre, a business consultancy division, a paralegal division and a training centre.

Thusi's company operates in the Eastern Cape (Mthatha), KwaZulu-Natal (Pietermaritzburg) and Gauteng (Johannesburg). He plans to open two more branches by the end of 2020.

"When one starts a business they need to be driven by two Ps - passion and profit. There will be times when the business won't make money and you will need something that will make you wake up in the morning and go to the office. That is where passion comes in. It keeps you going during challenging times in this entrepreneurial journey," says Thusi.

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GODFREY THAE NORTH WEST

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Godfrey Thae from the North West province runs Metseng Entrepreneurship Network, a rural-based enterprise development organisation.

The organisation was established in 2017 primarily to tackle the challenges encountered by unemployed graduates and youth in small towns and rural areas who aspire to be entrepreneurs.

Thae empowers the rural and township youths to establish sustainable business support systems. His company provides virtual learning experiences through online entrepreneurship training, coaching and business support accessible anywhere, anytime.

Thae says he was influenced by South Africa's current economic problems, which encouraged him to go out and come up with solutions to help entrepreneurs during a time of uncertainty for many business owners. He also wants to make it common practice for people in underprivileged areas to start their own businesses, with the right support in place.

Since the beginning of the national lockdown he has worked virtually with many business owners affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.



KHUBANE TEBOGO MANAKA GAUTENG

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Khubane Tebogo is a qualified internal auditor and certified fraud examiner. She is also the founder and chief executive officer of Khubane Accounting Tax and Consulting.

Through her company she has assisted crèches in Gauteng and Limpopo with administration and compliance needs as well as assisting them to secure funding from the private and public sectors.

This has aided a number of these creches to access adequate educational infrastructure, replace pit toilets, provide nutritious food, and training for teachers. Khubane also trains and mentors women to guide them through the process of setting up and registering their own fully-compliant crèches.

Her other passions include entrepreneurship and social work. To combine her two interests, she recently established the Khubane Sustainable Food Projects, which specialises in farming and training youth on farming activities.

“Social work is not easy, sometimes it means letting go of your family and friends as not all people will understand and support your work,” she says. Khubane believes in living a life full of passion, purpose and productivity and is motivated by the need to improve people's lives and help them sustain their livelihoods.



ALESIMO MWANGA GAUTENG



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Alesimo Mwangi was just 18 years old when she began exploring her interest in entrepreneurship, starting a few initiatives with her teenage friends. Though her early business ventures were not resoundingly successful, they propelled her to believe she could pursue entrepreneurship as a career.

“We learned a lot and made a lot of mistakes. Through my experiences and professional achievements I knew I had to give back to young people who could be experiencing what I did,” she says.

Today Mwangi is the founder of an organisation called the Youth Entrepreneurship Exchange Program (YEEP Africa). The organisation hosts workshops for young aspiring entrepreneurs and those in the early stages of their entrepreneurship journeys.

YEEP Africa also hosts an annual boot camp for young people across Southern Africa where young entrepreneurs are matched with mentors and stand a chance to win cash prizes and continuous business support.

Mwangi also runs PAWA Africa, a digital content development consultancy.

“If I could pursue my dreams I really encourage them (young people) to aim even higher, because it is possible,” she says.



KGOTSO MAJA GAUTENG



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With a law degree from Wits University, work experience at some of the country's big corporates and a Master of Business Administration degree underway, Kgotsomaja is using his varied skills to make a long-term impact in South Africa.

He founded Wall Street Africa, an organisation that partners with corporates looking to meet their socio-economic Development requirements for Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE). The aim of the organisation is to help companies implement high-impact, sustainable socio-economic Development solutions that leverage the skills in the company and serve the community and supply chain in which it operates.

One of the programmes he's proud of is Project Fundisa, which helps cooperatives design projects “that make sense for their communities”. After an intensive period of business incubation, mentorship and training, the cooperative presents their offering to a panel of investors.

“It's not only about meeting the B-BBEE scorecard, it's about making a meaningful contribution to people's livelihoods,” he says.

Maja volunteers as a board member for Weskoppies Psychiatric Hospital and is the Regional Secretary of the Progressive Professionals Forum in Tshwane. He is a Mandela Institute of Development Studies Alumnus, a Young African Leadership Initiative alumnus, and was one of Barclay's Top 100 Brightest Young Minds for South Africa in 2014.



MTHUNZI KHANYI

GAUTENG



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Mthunzi Khanyi went from being a call agent to owning his own outbound call centre.

His company, Undisputed Investments, is a direct marketing business that specialises in lead generation, database management and consumer marketing list rentals.

Through Undisputed Investments Khanyi runs a 126-seater call centre that specialises in the sale of insurance and cellphone products, among others. Khanyi also runs a debt counselling business alongside his wife, assisting over-indebted consumers. Added to his long list of entrepreneurial ventures is a security company as well as a telecommunications company, Undisputed Telecom, which supplies hosted switchboards, number porting and other services.

Khanyi is described as a “very humble, down to earth man of God”, by Lethukuthula Kubheka who nominated him.

ADVERTORIAL

Busmark: Driven by excellence

The company that is responsible for manufacturing buses that are found all over South Africa, in use by various bus operators and in a number of cities throughout the continent, has South African roots and boasts a manufacturing excellence tradition that is approaching 50 years and has produced and maintains 10 000 buses. Busmark has production facilities in Gauteng, Western Cape, and service branches all over South Africa.

Busmark was established as a family business in 1973, which makes it 47 years, and is now a black owned company with an executive leadership team led by CEO Patuxolo Nodada. The company designs, develops, manufactures and services buses on behalf of local and international Original Equipment Manufacturers including, but not limited to, Mercedes Benz, Scania, Volvo, MAN Ferrostal, Isuzu, FAW and Tata. Nodada describes the company's values as being a focus on customer service, safety, and quality. The company's work is also underpinned by teamwork, passion, and innovation.



The company employs 1300 people across its plants and facilities and prides itself on using local funding and 90% local content in manufacturing. Busmark manufactures the entire bodywork of a bus, including its finishing. Busmark also manufactures its own fiberglass and steel components, using South African raw materials. It also has partnerships with companies such as Ulrich seats for the manufacture of local composite seats, using locally sourced steel, paint, leather, and rubber.

Many of us probably use Busmark manufactured buses without being aware. Busmark manufactures buses for Isuzu, Hino, Fuso, and Mercedes Benz and these are in turn used for municipal bus services such as Metrobus in the City of Johannesburg. The company has also manufactured buses for use by Gautrain, as well as the Bus Rapid Transit System for Cities such as Tshwane, Ekurhuleni, George, the award winning MyCiTI in Cape Town as well as Polokwane.

In 2014 Busmark, with support from the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) built a world-class "mini automotive industrial hub" in Cape Town. The facility, with a manufacturing and dedicated maintenance plant, has created 242 permanent jobs and another 442 indirect jobs in Western Cape.

The plant has also been successfully used as an enterprise development facility, in where Small and Medium Enterprises have been incubated as sub-contractors.

Busmark conforms to the best international safety and quality standards which are approved by the South African Bureau of Standards and International Safety Organisation (ISO) globally. The company's after sales service sees it keep spare parts for repairs for 20 years after initial supply.


Busmark's track record and experience in manufacturing and engineering has seen the company regularly called upon to design and build non-standard vehicles for a specific application or terrain, such as game drive open top vehicles and specialist delivery and heavy-duty commercial vehicles.



04

HEALTH

NOZIBUSISO NYAWOSE **KWAZULU-NATAL**

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Nozibusiso Nyawose will probably turn most of your stereotypes about psychologists on their head. She's young, black, female and grew up without a lot of luxury. And in fact, it is all of those things that make her so passionate about what she does.

She comes from a rural area, where "mental illness has been predisposed by issues of poverty, environmental stressors, violence and past injustice," she says. "I want to advocate for mental awareness in these areas."

One way she has done this is by acting as resident psychologist on a number of local radio stations, including *East Coast Radio* and *Gagasi FM*. Another is by running free virtual mental health awareness classes known as "Monday Motivation", where she consults many of her pro-bono clients through social media.

"Being able to give back to society without any expectation of me is everything," she says. There is nothing more fulfilling than a message simply saying 'Thank you Nozi. I made it because of your guidance'.

"Nyawose says she challenges herself daily to soar to greater heights. "I do not want to become another statistic of a child from a rural area who didn't make it because of circumstances," she says. "Failure is not an option."



THOKOZANI SITHOLE **KWAZULU-NATAL**

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Thokozani Sithole is a 31-year-old counselling psychologist who grew up in Empangeni, north of KwaZulu-Natal. Sithole holds a masters degree in counselling psychology from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and a postgraduate diploma in HIV and Aids Management from Stellenbosch University. He is currently pursuing his doctoral degree in consulting psychology with the University of South Africa.

"My career and my future are entrenched in advocating and raising awareness on mental health issues and promoting psychological well-being," he says.

Sithole is currently employed as a senior psychologist at the Durban University of Technology and runs a private practice in the Pietermaritzburg area.

Passionate about sharing his knowledge on psychological issues affecting society, he has made use of various media platforms to destigmatise issues of mental health. He is one of the resident psychologists on Ukhozi FM's breakfast show where he shares his expert inputs and opinions on mental health topics.

ASHRAF BOOLEY **WESTERN CAPE**

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Ashraf Booley is a 29-year-old writer, poet, and entrepreneur. In 2018, he was selected for the Mandela Washington Fellowship, and is currently the Chapter President of Impulse Cape Town. Through his work with the Impulse Group, an affinity group of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Booley promotes healthier lifestyle choices in the homosexual community focusing on sexual, mental and physical health as well as substance use and abuse.

He does this with advocacy events and online campaigns. As chapter president, Booley leads a team of volunteers and a board of directors and is actively involved in every aspect of the organisation.


In 2018, Booley studied Civic Leadership at Wagner College in New York, which included a brief stint interning at the Pride Centre of Staten Island, a LGBTQI+ community centre. In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, Booley recently created a Facebook group called the South African Queer Resource Group.

"This is a platform for homosexuals living in South Africa and is dedicated to connecting the community with various opportunities and resources," he explains.

Booley is also working on another project, Queers of the Cape, a digital platform dedicated to sharing homosexual stories from the Cape and shedding light on the nuances of being gay.



BANELE MHLONGO **WESTERN CAPE**

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Banele Mhlongo's most outstanding achievement to date is the introduction of sign language classes to the medical curriculum at the University of Cape Town (UCT).

The groundbreaking move stemmed from research Mhlongo collaborated on, which looked at ways of providing timely healthcare services to members of the Deaf Community of Cape Town (DCCT) and the Dominican school for the Deaf.

This gave rise to his move to host sign language learning and awareness classes as well as hosting a national month for the deaf.

Mhlongo is now working on creating a health educational app to assist students, doctors and the deaf community. He is also a sixth-year medical student at UCT.

SIPHOSETHU XHANKO **EASTERN CAPE**

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Siphosethu Xhanko is a young activist who is passionate about gender equality, education and health, and has recently become more involved in HIV prevention and management.

“It is my calling to help youth, especially those that have recently found out that they are HIV -positive and need the support the most at that time,” says Xhanko.

Xhanko advises these young people and helps them adhere to their medical treatment through one-on- one counselling sessions, motivating them to stay on their medication and live healthy lifestyles.

Xhanko firmly believes that making an impact is important in society.



PASEKA SEKHUKHUNE **LIMPOPO**

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Paseka Sekhukhune is a young passionate and dedicated learner from Mphanama village in Limpopo, whose talents and capabilities became apparent after the announcement of national lockdown in the country.

At the start of the lockdown he rallied a number of pupils from his school to form #BeAwareofCoronavirus, a group that travels throughout his village spreading awareness on the COVID-19 pandemic and educating community members on how to stay safe.

The group, under Makgalaborwa’s management, also conducts awareness campaigns at funerals and social grant payment points where they alert people about the virus and ensure that proper sanitisation takes place at those locations.

“The campaign moved from just raising awareness to ensuring that the health safety regulation announced by the Department of Health such as sanitizing, keep social distance, and wearing of masks are adhered to,” says Sekhukhune.

The group now has the support of the local Mphanama Clinic, the ward councillor, as well as private donors who have contributed sanitisers and transport to allow the group to spread its message.

THUTHUKILE MBATHA **GAUTENG**

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Thuthukile Mbatha is a researcher at public interest law centre, SECTION27. In her health advocacy career, she has focused her efforts on fighting access to HIV prevention measures among the youth.

In 2017 Mbatha was a fellow at global HIV prevention organisation AVAC, where she advocated for access to the HIV prevention drug PrEP for higher education students.

She is a member of the global sexual and reproductive health organisation 'SheDecides'. Through her capacity as a friend of SheDecides, Mbatha is involved in reviewing the Southern African Development Community's sexual rights to measure progress in ensuring the realisation of sexual and health rights. Her activism involves lobbying on mainstream and social media as well as community mobilisation and research



SAFURA ABDOOL KARIM **GAUTENG**

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Safura Abdool Karim is a public health lawyer researching innovative ways of using the law to improve health systems. Through her work she has examined what laws sub-Saharan countries could introduce to reduce the prevalence of diseases such as diabetes and hypertension.

Her work also focuses on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases through the use of legal and policy mechanisms. Abdool Karim has a master's in Global Health Law from Georgetown University in the US and has been actively involved with a number of organisations to make laws accessible and applicable to address pressing public health issues such as HIV, TB in prisons, tobacco control and the regulation of health technologies and medicines.

She is currently a researcher at the South African Medical Research Council and pursuing her PhD in Law at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, focusing on constitutional rights and non-communicable diseases.

ADVERTORIAL

Women Continue to Play a Leading Role Even During Covid-19

On behalf of the Gauteng Department of Health I would like to express appreciation for all women health workers at the frontline during this women's month. The year 2020 and the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll on the health system and society in general. The outbreak of the pandemic has not only changed the way in which society functions , but also how health personnel deal with the day to day activities in hospitals. While hospital facilities continue to be places where lives are birthed and people are healed, the context of the COVID-19 pandemic has taken away the aspect of affection and expressed sympathy that normally is the thread that binds health workers during both difficult and joyous times.

The World Health Organisation has declared the year 2020 as the year of the Nurse and Midwife, these being professions that are dominated by women across all walks of life, and therefore important to note. The global health system is one that is rested upon its workforce, about 70% of which being women workers, and the majority of which are represented in the lower paid levels of

work. This context makes it crucial that in celebrating women's month we also consider the areas where gender transformation still needs to take place considering the move towards Universal Health Coverage by 2030. It is important that the approach to health delivery, especially in a pandemic context must be one that is gender sensitive and not blind to the gender specific needs of health workers, this includes those in the LGBTQIA community.

Women have and continue to play an important role in the shaping of society and its development. August being the month where we celebrate women and their contributions to our country's fight against apartheid and oppression, is a reminder that women have played an important role towards the end of an unequal system anchored on the disenfranchisement of the majority of South Africans on the basis of their race and class position. In relation to women, South African women have historically been victims of a triple oppression that is premised on their race, class and gender position. From this reality however, we as a nation have birthed a generation of women who have stood up against an oppressive regime fighting for the freedom to move around in their country without being subject to pass laws. The women of 1956 lead the struggle against apartheid and continue to inspire South African women today.

While society deals with the challenge of Gender Based Violence and femicide, it is important to also recognize that women are among those that are at the helm of providing healthcare services including emotional support to women and children who are victims of abuse. High numbers of domestic violence in South Africa put a strain on public health services, in this regard, it is also important that we do not tire to speak out against violence, especially that which is inflicted on women and children.



Acting Gauteng Health MEC: Jacob Mamabolo



As we continue to wage the war against the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important that we continue to express our appreciation for all frontline workers in all health facilities in South Africa. Indeed, the past few months have taken their toll on health workers and their families. The Department of Health is doing everything in its power to respond to the outbreak, minimizing deaths and saving lives. While numbers of positive cases continue to rise, it is encouraging that many are recovering from the virus. We encourage society to continue observing the health guidelines and adhere to the regulations. Overcoming this battle requires that we all stand together and fight this pandemic.

Jacob Mamabolo
Acting Gauteng Health MEC



05



SPORTS AND RECREATION



MZWAKHE XULU

KWAZULU-NATAL

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In 2016, Mzwakhe Xulu co-founded a nonprofit organisation known as Calibrating Minds Society (CMS). This NPO was the vehicle to promote debating in the rural areas of the Empangeni region.

Xulu was this NPO's vice chairman between 2016 and 2018 and then elected as its chairman in 2019 – a position he still holds.

He is passionate about debating and public speaking and has won several awards for the latter as a high school learner. With the goal of developing leadership and debating skills he has organised and overseen successful annual debating championships.

In 2018, his NPO's debating division was admitted as a member of the KwaZulu-Natal Schools Debating Association (KZNSDA), the official organiser of high school debating in the province and an affiliate of the South African Schools Debating Board.

Xulu's was the first team from the Empangeni Debating League that participated in the KZNSDA Provincial Debating Championship in 2019.

Despite limited resources, Xulu still promotes debating in rural schools and teachers are excited about the positive fruits reaped by students overall.



KIKI RACHUENE

NORTH WEST

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Kiki Rachuene carries out after-school programmes for children in the Bojanala region of the North West Province.

It is her mission to take these children off the streets and show them the importance of education and that having a self-worth makes everything possible.

Her after-school programmes include cultural activities such as poetry, drama and debating as well as sporting activities such as netball and soccer.

"I believe that together we can do more...these kids are the future generation. I just want to give them a platform to show their talent and [show them that] through education, you can be anything that you want to be," says Rachuene.

SHONISANI MASUTHA

LIMPOPO

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Shonisani Masutha is a young woman who was born and raised in the informal settlement of Kliptown, Soweto. Through tenacity, she has risen above her underprivileged background, where crime, poverty, substance abuse and teenage pregnancy were an accepted norm.

Today, she is a trailblazer in sport who has served in both local and international sporting federations. She is currently part of the organising committee of the Volunteer Leaders Academy of the International University Sports Federation (FISU), which equips emerging sport management leaders with the necessary skills to handle volunteer services at major sporting events.

Her accolades include being student ambassador for the FISU and chairperson of the Student Committee for the Federation of Africa University Sports (FASU). She also holds the position of executive student assessor for the Confederation of University and Colleges Sports Association (CUCSA) for Africa Region 5.

She graduated with a Master of Sports Administration from the Russian International Olympic University.



PRETTY MAROTA

LIMPOPO

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Pretty Marota has become a prominent leader, especially in sports, in her community in Limpopo's Lepelle-Nkumpi municipality.

"I am the only woman in sports in our community, working amongst men to develop young boys to become the professional footballers of tomorrow," Marota says. "Already some of our athletes are being recognised by big teams like Baroka FC and Black Leopards," she adds.

Besides using sports as a tool of upliftment, Marota has also started doing community development work to support young people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the national lockdown.

She provides tutoring services for pupils who lack the adequate resources and support during the lockdown.

"I call myself 'imbokodo' and am doing all I can to motivate and build a better nation for our youth. I try to be a great role model to as many of our fellow brothers and sisters as possible. As dedicated as I am about education, I also value [my own] education and am studying to be a teacher while I am completing my diploma in marketing," Marota says.

EMMANUEL BOPE GAUTENG

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Emmanuel Bope is described as an innovative person and a visionary leader. In March 2020, when South Africa went into lockdown, Emmanuel decided to take his love for fitness and start a company called Quarantine Fitness – an online fitness initiative that hosts 25 and 40 minute workout sessions. The sessions are currently hosted through Zoom or WhatsApp video calls.

In less than a month, the company has acquired an investor which has allowed it to create a Quarantine Fitness App which will be offering training sessions without the need to use Zoom or WhatsApp.

Those who subscribe to Bope's service will also be provided with nutritional guidance on the app.

Currently, Bope leads a team of 12 employees under Quarantine Fitness. His passion, zest and drive to make himself and his community better have helped him to rise above the challenges of the pandemic and have created employment opportunities for the youth.



KESA MOLOTSANE FREE STATE

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Kesa Molotsane is a professional middle-distance runner from the Free State. She holds a number of national titles and is regarded as one of the most versatile athletes in the Mangaung region.

Molotsane runs in three disciplines: track and field, cross country and, road running, and excels in all three.

In 2016 she broke the 1500 metre record at the Varsity Athletics event held in Stellenbosch. The following year she would go on to win the Spar Grand Prix Women's 10 Km Challenge in Pietermaritzburg.

Molotsane has represented South Africa at the World Student Games and at two World Athletics Championships in 2017 and 2019.

She is a proud ambassador for the ASICS sports equipment company, Spar Grand Prix and the Mother and Child Academic Hospital Foundation (MACAH).

SIFISO SHANGE

MPUMALANGA

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Sifiso Shange is a member of local running group, the Bellas Athletics Club, in Mpumalanga Ehlanzeni municipality.

He is one of the top runners in this region and has inspired many in his community to adopt healthier lifestyles through running, emphasising that running is an easily accessible method of exercise that has no age limit.

Shange has recruited and trained young athletes from the University of Mpumalanga and currently captains the university's 2020 athletics team.

“Running has transformed me into a better leader with dedication and passion about healthy living lifestyle, having run numerous marathons such as the Comrades and Soweto Marathon,” he says.

He has worked as a life coach at a high school in the province and as a mathematics tutor to help young stars score A's in the science field.

“I want to help rural people to manage their scarce resources for sustainable development and improved livelihoods, by addressing community phenomena like poverty, food insecurity and unemployment,” says Shange.



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JUSTICE AND LAW



SIYABULELA JENTILE **GAUTENG**

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Siyabulela Jentile is the founder of the #NotInMyName organisation that works in the social development space. He has a number of other responsibilities in and outside of South Africa, including being an advisor at Together First, a global campaign that brings together experts, civil society activists and business leaders to develop global governance ideas.

Jentile is also a features writer for the United Nations Association in the UK and a Cosmo Men Stand Up campaign ambassador, connected with Cosmopolitan magazine. He has also earned multiple awards.

"I took a drastic decision to leave a career in engineering, refusing to stand on the sidelines and watch the country's moral degeneration as a mere spectator. I am passionate about civic leadership and social entrepreneurship. I do what I do because I believe in equality, justice and fairness. If change is to happen, it is up to each and every one of us to be part of that change – first as individuals and then as a collective," Jentile says.



THABANG POOE **GAUTENG**

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Thabang Pooe has been working in public interest law since she graduated from university. Despite opportunities to work at commercial firms, she always believed in using her skills for the greater community good and during her length of her career has worked for prominent human rights organisations including SECTION27 and Sonke Gender Justice.

Pooe has developed community rights education material as part of her commitment to empowering communities she works with. She has co-authored a guide for victims of sexual offences, particularly those happening at schools, and championed a programme about sexual violence.

"I am extremely passionate about the law as it is a mechanism to effect social change. I believe in challenging the status quo and calling for transformation in the legal profession and in the NGO sector," she says.

Pooe is also co-founder of the Black Workers Forum, a gathering of black professionals promoting transformation in the public interest legal field.

Now an advocate, Pooe still prioritises public interest work and continues to inspire young practitioners, particularly those with an interest in human rights.



ANELE GQASANA **WESTERN CAPE**

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Cape Town-born Anele Gqasana is a paralegal and youth desk coordinator at Langa Community Advice Services, an organization providing free legal services to residents in the township of Langa.

Gqasana says it has been a lifelong dream of his to provide accessible legal and mediation services to underprivileged communities. His main concern, he says, is to ensure he changes the lives of locals in his community by empowering them with knowledge.

Gqasana's journey towards developing Langa has seen him work at a local orphanage where he was involved in a number of community development programmes. These included support groups for teenage mothers, an elderly citizen's support group, and a child-headed household monitoring programme.

He says the smile on people's faces after he has successfully impacted on their lives is the fuel that keeps him going.



MANDISA MBATHA **GAUTENG**

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Mandisa Mbatha is an admitted advocate of the High Court, a qualified negotiator, mediator and arbitrator.

He established Viki Mediation in 2014 after realising socioeconomically disadvantaged people could not access conflict management and legal services.

Viki Mediation aims to increase access to conflict management, legal services and training in order to assist people to preserve what is important to them.

"I am an activist at heart and have decided to use the law as a tool to bring about social justice in our communities. Many people in South Africa are on the fringes of the legal system due to their socioeconomic standing. Viki Mediation works to bridge this gap and ensure increased participation. I am also passionate about the empowerment of entrepreneurs and the youth and conduct accessible and affordable workshops to upskill them with professional skills," Mbatha says.

These services are offered to minorities such as pensioners and members of the LGBTQIA+ community at a nominal administration fee, because Mbatha believes these services are central to the preservation of assets and relationships and should be readily accessible.



BUHLE BOOI **WESTERN CAPE**



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At the tender age of 22, Buhle Booi is both an education and urban land activist and an advocate for quality and equal education in South Africa.

He works with the social movement Equal Education, where he serves as its national deputy chairperson.

Booi is also a volunteer facilitator working with young people to make them understand and fight the inequalities they face with in the education system.

He is actively engaged in fighting the legacy of spatial inequality in Cape Town through advocacy and peaceful activism, calling for affordable housing and fighting against unlawful evictions by educating members of society about their eviction rights.

Most recently he worked with the Khayelitsha Community Action Network to respond to the impact that would be suffered by those in the informal settlements during the COVID-19 pandemic. Booi, along with his team, have worked to provide health education and source food donations to minimise the impact of food insecurity during the pandemic. He and his team also advocated for the provision of running water and other basic services so that people in informal settlements can better adhere to the hygiene protocols.



JESSICA DEWHURST **WESTERN CAPE**



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Jessica Dewhurst is the founder and CEO of The Justice Desk, an award-winning human rights organisation operating in South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Having started her journey in human rights at the age of 14 as a volunteer, she realised she could make a difference in the world and began The Justice Desk.

Dewhurst and her team advocate for human rights justice among the youth, vulnerable groups, civil society and in government. They work primarily in township areas and vulnerable communities, empowering and equipping people with the necessary skills and platforms to lead their own change.

Dewhurst is a trusted professional in the field of human rights and anti-human trafficking activism, and is often called on to guide people and projects across the globe.

She describes herself as a “proud South African who believes in the power of everyday activists”.

Since starting The Justice Desk, Dewhurst and her team have empowered the lives of 250 000 people across south central africa.



JAMEELAH OMAR **WESTERN CAPE**

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Jameelah Omar has revolutionised the teaching of criminal law and procedure, a subject which has long been blind to its roots in apartheid jurisprudence and disconnected from the present-day reality of crime in South Africa and its dysfunctional criminal justice institutions.

Omar enables student-centered partnerships for work shadowing, and community service in criminal justice. She is also the first woman to author a leading criminal law and procedure textbook in SA.

"I entered law school after attending a previously disadvantaged high school. I found it to be a rather alienating environment and I found my faculty and lecturers rather separated, and that a lot of the legal material had little relevance for what I and others experienced on the Cape Flats," says Omar.

"When I became a lecturer it became my mission to create a learning environment my students can relate to, and in turn use their experience and be joint contributors to their learning. I have also found that in my area of criminal justice, although much of the law has been changed since democracy, many procedures have stayed the same. Procedure in law is as important as the substance of the law and it is important that students understand this," she adds.



ENVIRONMENT



environment, forestry
& fisheries

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THAPELO PHIRI GAUTENG

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Thapelo Phiri from Gauteng's West Rand has made it his mission in life to fight against food insecurity. He is currently focusing on mitigating climate change in agriculture and improving food security with his organic fertiliser, Dijo Tsa Mobu.

His product has been described as the future of agriculture, as it sustains the soil's organic matter, which allows it to produce crops for longer periods without any negative effects. Phiri believes solving the food issue is one of the biggest ways to contribute to humanity.

He is the SADC region's first representative at Youth for Global Change, where he focuses specifically on food security.

Phiri believes solutions to some of the world's biggest problems can best be solved through innovation and entrepreneurship. As such he is also the founder of a non profit organisation where his focus is on entrepreneurship and education for rural and township youth.

NATANIA BOTHA GAUTENG

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Natania Botha is a passionate person with a distinctive love for the environment. She serves as the head of membership for the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA).

Botha works alongside members of underprivileged communities to stress the importance of waste recycling and maintaining a healthy environment.

She serves these communities by building vegetable gardens and doing community clean-ups.

Botha's commitment and passion for social and environmental change has taken her to the smallest of communities in South Africa, as well as international platforms. She was selected as one of 300 youth leaders to participate in the United Nations Environment Programme's Africa Youth conference hosted in Kenya.



ABUENG LEEPILE NORTH WEST

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Abueng Leepile grew up in a village called Madibe-a-Makgabana situated on the outskirts of Mahikeng in the North West province.

She followed her passion for farming and founded Bokamoso Abu farms.

Leepile was driven to pursue her interests in agriculture by the need to ensure food security in South Africa. She grows crops such as butternut, beetroot, peppers and chilies and has hopes of branching into livestock farming as well.

She says her journey as a female entrepreneur has been challenging, especially in a field known to be male dominated. She believes there is an urgent need for more young people to involve themselves in farming.

“After some research, I realised the average farmer in South Africa is 62 years old which means that within the next 20 years, more than half of all the farmers in South Africa will be too old to work, retired or deceased,” Leepile says.

“This helps me to act on my passion of farming in order to produce food for our communities, country and outside our borders,” she adds.

She says her journey in farming has taken resilience and determination, helped by the support of her family.

AKHONA XOTYENI EASTERN CAPE

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Akhona Xotyeni is a youth activist, humanitarian and environmentalist from King William's Town in the Eastern Cape. She is currently studying towards her masters in Environmental Management at Stellenbosch University.

She describes herself as a “natural born leader” who has been advocating for youth and community development at grassroots, nationally and at an international level.

Xotyeni believes environmental justice is a human right and therefore advocates for its effective policy implementation on the matter.

She is also a volunteer at the South African Institute of International Affairs where she assists with designing and implementing youth programmes around climate action, education and awareness.

She was recently invited to participate in Parliament's climate change debate and has had the opportunity to represent South African as a panellist at the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) Ministerial Conference in 2019, the 2019 EU-SA Climate Action Summit and the 2020 EU Climate Change Roundtable Debate.

Her ultimate goal is to use her voice to advocate for youth and community development, as well as to hold global leaders accountable in order to ensure a safe and healthy planet for future generations.

ASIPHE MAKHUMALO COSA WESTERN CAPE

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Asiphe Makhumalo Cosa from Kayamandi township in Stellenbosch has been lauded for raising awareness about the importance of water preservation in her community.

In a province that faced a huge water crisis just two years ago, Cosa's education campaigns help people understand where they fit within the water consumption cycle.

"Her water education campaigns and commitment to the disadvantaged communities has brought a perspective for us to recognise that water knows no boundaries. It flows throughout the world and connects everyone...therefore we should use it wisely and save our natural resource," says community member Zikhona Mani who nominated Cosa to be recognised as a South African Shining Star.

Cosa also runs her own plumbing company and is known to provide her services for free to those who are needy within her community.

Locals also celebrate her for being a change driver who advocates for quality service delivery in Kayamandi.

SIYABONGA TSHABALALA MPUMALANGA

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Siyabonga Tshabalala from Steenbok village in Mpumalanga seeks to address social and environmental issues through green businesses and innovative projects.

He owns a recycling company called Siyabuddy Recycling and Waste management' which seeks to create a culture of recycling within communities, reduce the contamination of rivers, promote climate change awareness and protect the sustainable use of land.

Tshabalala's company has diverted more than 4000 tonnes of waste from communities to landfills. His company also provides employment to 15 young people and indirectly created over 1033 jobs by working with waste pickers who sell recyclable material.

Through buying material from waste pickers in Mpumalanga's Nkomazi region, Siyabuddy is estimated to pump back R95 000 into the region's economy monthly.

Tshabalala's company has collected numerous awards and accolades for its environmental work.



MARGO ADONIS

WESTERN CAPE

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Margo Adonis is an environmental activist who believes water is a human right that people have a responsibility to use in a conscientious manner.

Adonis is a community leader taking a stand on environmental issues and combating climate change through environmental education projects and campaigns within communities and schools throughout the Western Cape.

Her projects include beach clean-ups, health and hygiene drives, and eco club visits to schools, among others.

During the 2018 water crisis in the Western Cape, Adonis held a water awareness drive at primary schools in Saldanha Bay, Western Cape, where she emphasised the importance of respecting water and had young people sign a pledge to abide by water conservation efforts.

She is described as someone who is passionate about youth empowerment and uses all opportunities granted to her to ensure she reaches her full potential as a young leader.

ADVERTORIAL

Young activists urge action on the environment, climate change

More than 100 young people from 15 organisations urged the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries Ms Barbara Creecy, to ensure that economic recovery from Covid-19 is just, green, inclusive and youth and gender-responsive. The minister responded in part by announcing funding of R1 million through The Driving Force for Change initiative.

Minister Creecy recently hosted a virtual Youth Environment and Sustainability dialogue, where the environmental activists presented a wide range of ideas and suggestions on how to rebuild the economy and society after the Covid-19 pandemic. The virtual dialogue formed part of government's Youth Month programme and was hosted under the theme Youth Power: Growing South Africa together during the period of Covid-19.

The Dialogue drew inspiration from President Cyril Ramaphosa, who used his Youth Day message to challenge young South Africans "to craft and design programmes to enable the country to reach its developmental goals and address the unemployment crisis".



Some of the participants included Reneilwe Manaka from the South African Institute of International Affairs and Ulrich Steenkamp who is an Education and Outreach officer at Earthlife Africa. They seek to emulate their global peers such as Greta Thunberg, the Swedish activist who has risen to prominence over the past few years, 16 year old Isra Hirsi from the United States, Wanjiru Wathuti of Kenya and Yola Mgongwana, who hails from Khayelitsha.

Among the suggestions presented to the Minister was a green recovery mechanism that is both gender and youth responsive. The dialogue urged government to move to the rapid introduction of renewable energy, greener public transportation and the upscaling of the circular economy to better manage waste.

The young activists also requested access to finance in order to pioneer and implement their environmentally friendly solutions. Minister Creecy urged the youth and youth-led organisations to apply for the Driving Force for Change funding that aims to support innovative projects tackling issues of climate change, waste management, biodiversity and ecosystems.

The minister indicated that applications for this funding would be open for two months from 1 July until the end of August 2020. Adjudication by an independent panel is expected to take place in September and October. Announcement of the selected projects will be made in November. A total of 10 projects will be funded to the tune of R100 000 each.

ADVERTORIAL

SA intensifies its fight against climate change through new adaptation strategy



South Africa has intensified its fight against Climate Change by adopting the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS). The strategy was developed in consultation with a range of key stakeholders, including industry and civil society and approved by cabinet.

Climate change refers to the change in long term weather patterns over a 30 year period or longer, that is caused by a rise in the earth's surface temperature . It leads to the melting of glaciers and ice caps, rising sea levels that threaten small island nations, acidification of the sea and the frequent occurrence of floods and droughts.

The Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms Barbara Creecy said the NCCAS supports the country's ability to meet its obligations in terms of the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which the Minister said elevated the importance of climate change adaptation through the establishment of a global framework for mitigating the effects of climate change.

"The NCCAS outlines a set of objectives, interventions and outcomes to enable the country to give expression to its commitment to the Paris Agreement," said Minister Creecy. "It gives effect to the National Development Plan's vision of creating a low-carbon, climate resilient economy".

The Minister said meeting the Paris agreement goals would require predictable and adequate finance, technology, capacity building mitigation and adaptation support from all countries.

"Adaptation to climate change presents South Africa with an opportunity to transform the health of the economy and build resilience, thus strengthening the social and spatial fabric and enabling the country to remain globally competitive," Minister Creecy said.

South Africa has been a leader in the fight against Climate Change, having acceded to the United Nations Framework of Climate Change Convection in 1997 and ratified the Kyoto Protocol in 2002. The country's response to Climate Change was formalised by the convening of a Climate Summit in 2005 and the adoption of the Long Term Mitigation Scenarios strategy by 2009.

ADVERTORIAL

EIA will be streamlined, not scrapped, for energy and environmental projects

Government will streamline and simplify, rather than scrap, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for renewable energy projects. This was announced by the Department of Environment, Fisheries and Forestry through a series of notices published at the end of July.

Departmental spokesperson Albi Modise said the most important change the department will introduce would be to reduce the waiting time for these applications from 107 days to 57 days so as not to delay project implementation.

Modise explained that the reason government was able to streamline the process was because in many cases the development corridors for gas pipeline and renewable energy development zones had already been undertaken through Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) which took two and half years to complete. This meant project developers would not need to apply afresh.

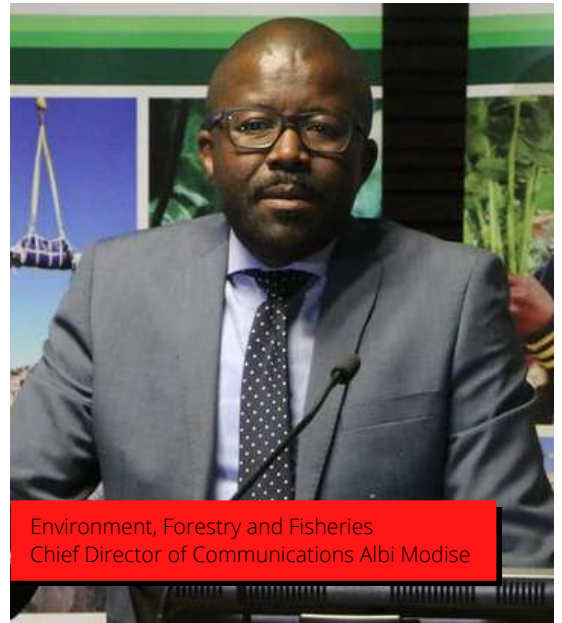
In the case of environmentally sensitive projects developed through Working for Wetlands, Working for Ecosystems, Working for Water and Working for LandCare projects, these were implemented through the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP). These projects relate to the eradication of invasive plant species, and the rehabilitation of wetlands, ecosystems and degraded community farming land and are the only ones excluded from EIAs. "Because the programmes have been implemented for over 10 years, the impact and mitigation measures employed are well-known and a full assessment process for each project is therefore not necessary," said Modise.

The first set of notices government published dealt with procedures when applying for environmental authorisation for the development of gas transmission pipelines when developed within Strategic Gas Pipeline Corridors, large scale wind and solar PV installations when developed within Renewable Energy Development Zones and electricity grid infrastructure when developed within Renewable Energy Development Zones. The proposals streamline the process to allow these developments to follow a basic assessment process rather than a scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment process.

The second set of notices, also published at the end of July, related to the proposed adoption of a Generic Environmental Management Programme (Empire) for Gas Transmission Pipeline Infrastructure developed this year.

"The proposed generic programme will replace the site-specific application but the developer is still required to undertake an EIA process and to commit to implementing the provisions of the generic Environmental Management Programme. It will be an offence should they not do so," said Modise

The last set of four notices published in July dealt with the consultation on the adoption of a generic environmental management programme (EMP) for the management and mitigation of environmental impact resulting from the implementation of the Working for Wetlands, Ecosystems, Water and LandCare projects. Modise said none of these initiatives had been implemented as they were in the consultation phase.



Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
Chief Director of Communications Albi Modise

ADVERTORIAL

Government invites comment on plastic bag regulations

The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries has invited comment on the regulation of plastic carrier bags and flat bags in South Africa. This is with the view of amending regulation that governs the use of plastic bags. The most important proposed amendments include a move to ensure bags are made from fully recyclable materials by 2027 and a R10 million fine for repeat offenders who contravene the regulation. The closing date for comments is 7 September 2020.

“Plastic bags play a vital role in the South Africa economy as they support the manufacturing and chemical value chain. But waste from plastic is one of the greatest threats to the environment. These regulations are aimed at managing that,” said the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries Ms Barbara Creecy. Minister Creecy noted that single use plastic like plastic straws and carrier bags land up in land fill sites, illegal dumping sites, rivers and ultimately oceans, where they threaten marine wildlife



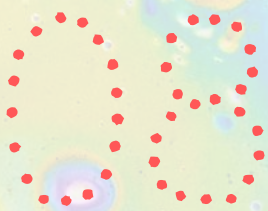
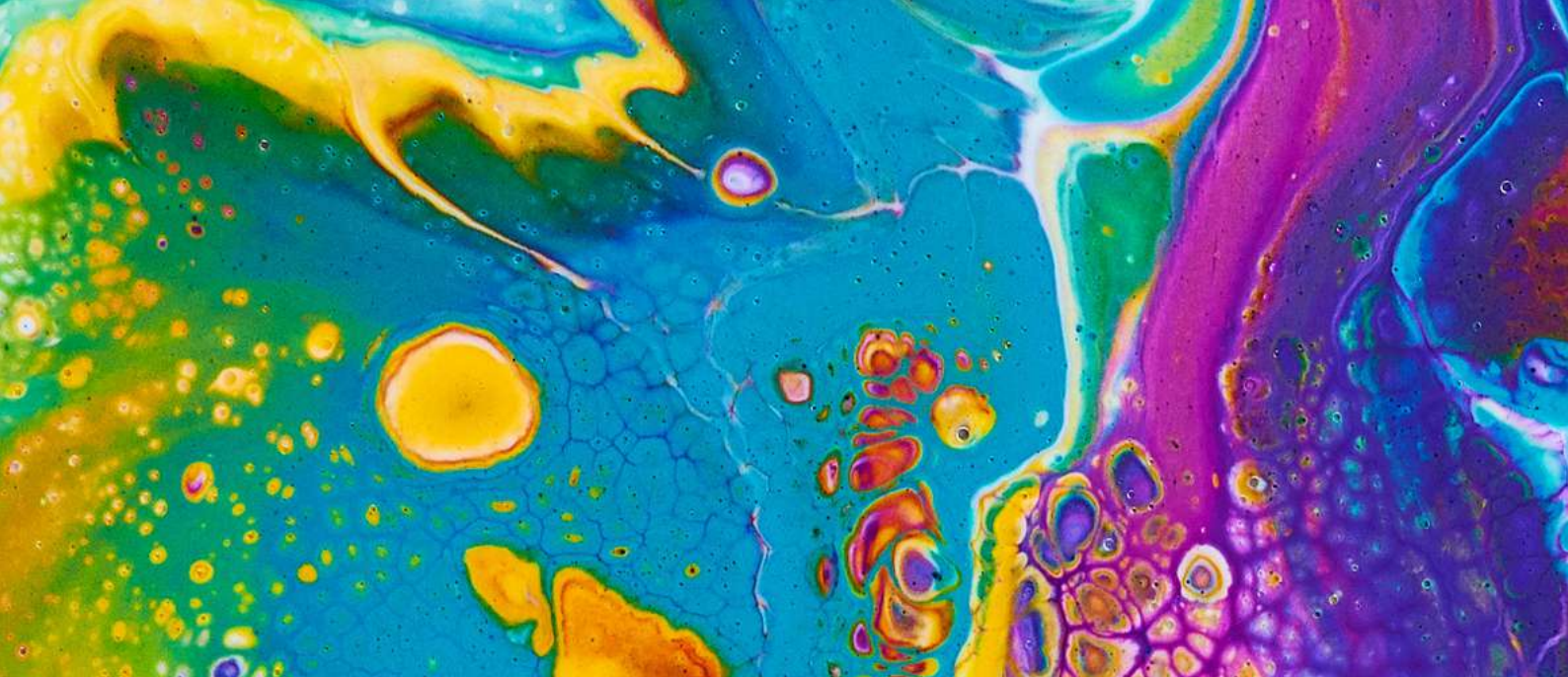
The Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms Barbara Creecy

South Africa has had the Act regulating plastic carrier bags and flat bags since 2003. The Minister further said that the amendments to the act emanated from the review of all policies affecting plastic bags in the country. These amendments are designed to prevent the manufacture, import and distribution of plastics that do not conform to standards set within South Africa.

The proposed amendments also focus on “post-consumer recycle” material generated by households or by commercial and industrial plastic users. The amendments state that plastic carrier bags and plastic flat bags must be made from a minimum of 50% post-consumer recycle from 1 January 2023, 75% of recycled materials from 2025 and must comprise 100% post-consumer recycle from 2027.

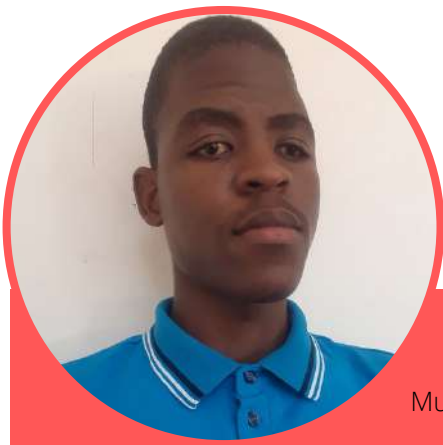
The revisions further propose that any person who contravenes the regulations could face a fine not exceeding R5 million or five year’s imprisonment. In the case of a second or subsequent conviction the person could be imprisoned for up to 10 years or face a R10 million fine.

Minister Creecy said the plastic industry had already been considering the manufacturing of recyclable plastic carrier bags and the use of recyclable content in their manufacturing. “A few retail businesses have started to distribute plastic carrier bags that have a significant recyclable content,” she said. The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries is working with the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) and the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) to finalise the implementation plan of the regulations. The NRCS will continue with their responsibility on enforcement and compliance with the regulations..



ARTS AND CULTURE





MUSA GIFT MASOMBUKA GAUTENG

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Musa Gift Masombuka is a Student Teacher intern at the LEAP Maths and Science school in Alexandra, north of Johannesburg, with a background in arts and culture. He was a finalist in the South African Traditional Music Awards and is a published poet and author of "Emoticons of a poet".

"As a writer, you become the voice of the voiceless, you speak for the society, and become their mouthpiece. Being a poet has taught me to address and confront societal challenges," says Masombuka.

He also recognises the immense responsibility that being a teacher gives him, serving as a student role model and assuming the roles of a parent, a friend, and a counsellor to learners who face many social challenges. Masombuka says the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the move towards digital learning but also the use of traditional technologies like radio, still the most ubiquitous medium in poor rural areas.

XOLANI GIFT NKOSI GAUTENG



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Xolani Gift Nkosi is a dancer, choreographer and musical director based in Daveyton, Ekurhuleni and popularly known as Gift the Bishop. His talent has been internationally recognised, with acceptance to two prestigious international film schools: The New York Film Academy and the American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

Growing up, Nkosi's mother worked at a daycare centre for the disabled. She often took Nkosi and his brothers to work, where they performed for the children and taught them music and dance. From there Nkosi began developing arts programmes for the disabled and the blind.

He has been involved in the arts for more than seven years and has studied at the internationally acclaimed Moving Into Dance Mophatong, working with some of the biggest names in South African dance and theatre.

Nkosi uses his talent to contribute to the development of the arts, and is strongly committed to mobilising the arts as a vehicle for personal and social transformation.

Nkosi founded five choirs in Daveyton, Ekurhuleni and currently runs a ballet dance programme in his home garage. He has produced a prolific body of work dedicated to critiquing personal and social issues.



NOBANTU MODISE **GAUTENG**



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Nobantu Grace Modise is the Founder & CEO of media house Afrophia and Editor in Chief of Afrophia Magazine based in Johannesburg. "I enjoy bringing concepts to life through writing, photography, design and layout," says Modise.

She describes Afrophia as an online magazine that "unveils the beauty of all there is to love about Africa, from culture to style, wellness and environmental sustainability." Modise presents Africa and people of African descent in dignified and balanced light they are seldom seen within the mainstream media space.

She is an International Relations and Political Studies graduate from Wits University. As part of her passion for developing a globally competitive African people, Modise sits on the board of "VukaMngani", a youth foundation that offers non-academic educational support to youth and recent graduates in South Africa.

Modise says she is driven by a deep love for the African continent, its diversity and potential to have a better and more sustainable future. She also notes that hers is the first generation of African youth that can engage the world on its own terms, and that such an opportunity should not be squandered.

CHRISTIAAN STEYN **GAUTENG**



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Christiaan Steyn is the founder of The Foundation for the Advancement of Musicians Empowerment (FAME.org.za). Steyn is a musician turned intellectual property (IP) attorney. He has been involved in the music industry since 2008, and qualified as an attorney in 2012. In 2019, combining his love of music and his interest in copyright regulation, he founded FAME, which is a nonprofit organisation dedicated to providing legal knowledge and support to South African musicians.

The Foundation actively educates musicians free of charge, and provides local artists with legal support and guidance in Copyright and agreements related to their music and the music industry.

"I believe music is one of the key pillars of our society, and a fair and equal music industry in South Africa is possible," says Steyn about what drives him. He says he envisages a South Africa where musicians are the masters and owners of their own music, and where every musician can make a decent living through their art.

Steyn notes that the COVID-19 pandemic has already changed the way in which society listens to music and experiences 'live' shows. "The lockdown has also provided musicians the time to create more music, and forces them to explore more creative methods to get exposure for their art. The pandemic has started the shift towards musicians becoming more independent in the South African music industry," he says.



CONFIDENCE SELEME GAUTENG

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Confidence Seleme is the co-founder and Managing Director of Ascension Group. He is a personal and organisational development specialist as well as an author and motivational speaker.

His book titles include *A Confident Approach*, *There's A Leader in the Mirror* and *People Are the Bottom Line*.

"I love helping people unleash their true potential," says Seleme.

The national lockdown due to Covid-19 has given him the opportunity to take advantage of available modes of technology and start conducting his work digitally. This has included conducting his motivational speaking engagements, which are ordinarily done in person, to a virtual audience.

Seleme's Ascension Group heads up two subsidiaries: Ascension Business Consultants and Ascension Leadership Training. He also hosts a talk show called *Talk with Confidence*.

THABISO MOFOKENG FREE STATE



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Thabiso Mofokeng is a creative writer in Sesotho and English, languages a publisher and Group Managing Director at Mosa Media.

He has published a number of books in Sesotho, some of which have been used as prescribed reading by the Department of Basic Education.

He is the founding director and publisher of Mosa Media and Book Distributors, which specialises in publishing and distributing quality books written in African languages. Mofokeng is also a freelance Sesotho language practitioner for several institutions and has facilitated various workshops in poetry and prose.

He completed his master's in Creative Writing with distinction at Rhodes University. In 2018 Mofokeng was declared best writer in the Free State by the provincial department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation. He has contributed to more than 20 books and journals, in Sesotho and English.



BRIDGET NWOVHE LIMPOPO

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Mushayathoni Bridget Nwovhe is a published author and an award-winning poet who has been featured in two anthologies. In 2018, her poem, Lufuno Asitserere won 2nd position in the Sol Plaatje European Union Poetry Award. In 2019, her poem, Takutshedzaiwe Ramaphosa', was featured in the 2019 Sol Plaatje Anthology.

Nwovhe is the MD and founder of YKP, a book distribution company, and Bee Confident, a sanitary pad brand. She is a mentor at the New York Academy of Science and is also a member of Black Women in Sciences, 2019/20.

She is the recipient of the 2018/19 National Library of South Africa Community Grant Funding for her poetry collection, Heli Shango a li naTshilidzi. She is an activist at heart who is concerned with gender-based violence and women empowerment. As a public speaker, she hosts women empowerment events alongside other organisations where she uplifts and encourages others. Nwovhe says she is driven by a desire to live, to lead, to inspire and to leave a mark.

SONWABILE GINGQISHE EASTERN CAPE



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Sonwabile Gingqishe is the CEO of Orange Development Organisation, which aims to revive arts in rural schools. In 2009, while still a petrol attendant, he used his salary to purchase trophies and medals that served as prizes for his arts competition.


He now regularly tours the Raymond Mhlaba District and has grown the arts competition to a point where he has been able to assist talented youngsters to obtain opportunities to study arts internationally.

Gingqishe says he is driven by the desire to give back to the communities what he never had when he was trying to make it in the industry. Due to Covid-19, he is now unable to tour but now has to conduct workshop, other training and auditions online.



BUNTU DUKU EASTERN CAPE

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Buntu Duku is the co-founder of the Ivanya Yethu Heritage foundation, which aims to preserve heritage in the lives of young people through arts and culture. Duku's projects focus on the holistic development of previously disadvantaged youth through holiday programmes.

His methods include using song, dance and storytelling to inspire and motivate young people to become deeply embedded in their roots and have pride in who they are and where they come from.

Duku is also a passionate singer, songwriter and author.

DENGA PEARL RAMUFI (RITA DEE) LIMPOPO

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Denga Pearl Ramufi (31) popularly known as Rita Dee Nephawe, is a recording artist looking to follow in the footsteps of artists from Limpopo such as Sho Madjozi, Candi Matavele and King Monada. She is a director of Rita Dee Entertainment based in Thulamela, Limpopo.

Ramufi says while growing up she was always the standout child who loved music as well as entertaining people. She established her company in 2012 under trying conditions, but her perseverance paid off as the music scene in Limpopo continues to produce music that has captivated audiences.

"I'm passionate about what I do and everyday when I wake up I make sure that I'm heading to the right direction of success and building an empire," she says. Rita Dee says her dream is to see Tshivenda artists perform internationally.



TWIN MOSIA **FREE STATE**

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Twin Mosia describes himself as a heritage and culture activist. He is the founder and curator of the Elandskop Museum in Petrus Steyn, Free State.

The museum aims to create an awareness of South Africa's history and heritage through showcasing and celebrating arts and culture.

Mosia is a recipient of the National Golden Shield Heritage Award and the South African National Parks Kudu award for his culture and heritage work.


He says he is motivated by the need to uplift and create opportunities for people who, like him, come from small towns where opportunities are limited.

One of his efforts at creating opportunities is the establishment of a community park in his hometown of Petrus Steyn. The park will consist of a heritage park, an amphitheatre, a stage and much more which he hopes will open up opportunities for local artists and performers.

For him, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought an awareness of new avenues and methods of continuing his heritage preservation work.

"COVID-19 presents us with many opportunities to work more in a sustainable manner but also focusing heavily on cleaner and greener environments locally," Mosia says. "For example, after 5 years of trying to secure an old building for a museum, we have now decided to utilise the space at our community park for an outdoor museum! No need to crowd in a building," he adds.

NONTOBEKO MKHATSHWA **GAUTENG**

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Nontobeko Mkhathswa is an arts administrator and co-owner of Kiri Pink Nob Art, an arts production company.

The company produces work in the literary, visual and performing arts among others.

Mkhathswa is a Rhodes University drama graduate who also has a passion for youth development and mentorship. She hosts annual career guidance events in her home village in Mpumalanga. With endorsements from the Department of Arts and Culture and the Nkomazi Local Municipality in Mpumalanga, Mkhathswa is developing outreach arts programmes in the province's rural areas.

She has worked in programmes such as The Inner City High School Drama Festival at the Hillbrow Theatre and the Young Directors Programme at the National Children's Theatre. "Through teaching the arts I have witnessed my students improve in communication, improve self-confidence and have a deeper cultural understanding and a greater awareness of self," Mkhathswa says.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



MMAKI JANTJIES

WESTERN CAPE

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At age 35, Professor Mmaki Jantjies leads ground-breaking research that could fundamentally impact the way South African children learn in the years to come. With a PhD in computer science and varied strategic industry experience behind her, Jantjies' work is exploring the use of local languages alongside English in the development of educational mobile learning platforms for STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects.

"I thus focus on STEM technology in education to help improve digital access to local learning resources," she says.

Her passion for her work has extended to outside the lecture halls at the University of the Western Cape.

In 2016, working closely with student leaders and alongside several organizations, she began a community initiative to teach digital skills and programming concepts. And now, Jantjies has founded a second organisation called Peo Ya Phetogo, which imparts these skills to teachers in schools.

She's earned a slew of accolades for her work, but Jantjies always appreciates the sacrifices of "those who came before us and did not have the opportunities that we have," she says.

"My family taught me that 'Motho ke motho ka batho ba bangwe': with the little that one has, you can easily impact just one person's life. Nothing can be more fulfilling than this."

LUKANYO NANI

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Born and raised in Cradock, a small farming town in the Eastern Cape, Lukanyo Nani had little access to technology. But this didn't stop him from teaching himself how to code. With no other coders in the town that he knew of, he had to rely on his own resourcefulness to master the skill.

Today, the 20 year-old is a full stack developer, and he's harnessed his skills to provide a timely public service as the COVID-19 pandemic sweeps across South Africa.

"I saw a lot of misinformation and conspiracy theories going around about the virus," he says. "It was very upsetting. It was then I decided to make an app containing accurate information about COVID-19.

Because of regulations around information pertaining to the virus, Nani was unable to put the app on the Google Play Store. He simply relied on word of mouth, sending it to all his family members and friends, and circulating it on social media.

"Many people have thanked me for the app," he says. "They say that it helped them see through all the conspiracy theories that were going around at the time."

ZIKHONA TYWABI-NGEVA

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Dr Zikhona Tywabi-Ngeva did not choose chemistry. Chemistry, she says, chose her. After enrolling at the last minute for a National Diploma of Analytical Chemistry, she “fell in love” with the subject, was offered a bursary, and “the rest, as they say, is history”.

Tywabi-Ngeva (33) has held several lecturing positions at universities throughout the country and has won several accolades for her contributions and influence in her field. Currently a Senior Lecturer and a researcher at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, she says her job motivated her to form a nonprofit organisation.

The Dr ZTN Foundation aims to use cutting-edge models to empower, nurture and develop the young people of the Eastern Cape and equip them with life skills, career guidance, and mentorship skills. It also runs the “fitted for work clothing drive” which provides suitable donated clothing to graduates from underprivileged backgrounds who will be attending job interviews or starting new jobs.

Although her professional career was built in KwaZulu-Natal, she moved back to the Eastern Cape in order to explore using water and energy to help solve some of the societal challenges faced in the rural parts of that province.

Her advice to young learners is: “Yes, you will fail. Get back up and keep fighting! Just because someone says you can’t achieve something, does not make it true.”

JOHAN WIGGINS

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Johan Wiggins is the founder of Student Hero, an online platform that allows students and prospective students to compare, pre-qualify and apply for different payment options to fund their higher education fees.

The organisation partners with various higher education institutions to provide a free-to-use portal where students and their parents can assess their eligibility for various funding sources, in particular student loans.

The portal, Wiggins believes, has revolutionised the higher education funding system as it exposes people to a multitude of options and shows them what they can and can’t afford.

Wiggins says his idea was inspired by an awareness that many parents would find themselves deeply indebted in the process of paying for higher education fees, simply by choosing a loan option they could not afford. “

The banks are geared towards assisting people, but what’s happening is because we have a lot of first-time entrants into higher education, they don’t know about these [affordable funding] products,” Wiggins says.

“They end up borrowing money as a personal loan and end up getting themselves into quite a pickle because of it. So we take it case-by-case to ensure we give those parents the best shot at funding education.”

ONALENNA MARUMOLOA

NORTH WEST

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Onalenna Marumoloa from the North West is the developer of Nu Inferno TV, an application that allows people around the Rustenburg area to access content relevant to their communities.

Before creating the app, Marumoloa says he noticed how rural communities around Rustenburg did not have access to community media sources. He saw digital technology as the most affordable and convenient way to provide locally -created current affairs and entertainment content. The app is available for download on Google Play Store and can be accessed on a cellphone.

Marumoloa believes the future is digital and says he plans to keep his content strictly digitally based, at least for the foreseeable future.

“What I like about online TV is that it’s accessible and you can take it wherever you go. You don’t need to be at home to tune in,” Marumoloa.

He says, in future, he hopes to use his app as a platform for the many talented young people in Rustenburg who are left out of the mainstream media space.



CIVIL SOCIETY & YOUTH

SBUSISO NGOMANE

MPUMALANGA

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Sbusiso Ngomane from Block C Nkomazi, Mpumalanga is an educator and community developer. He works with young people through sport and is the coach of the ambitious Black Cats rugby club. The club is the first black registered rugby club that focuses on rural development. He has implemented a rising champs programme where, through sport and recreation, young boys are taught about gender-based violence and its negative impact on society.

Their training is focused on topics such as gender discrimination, respecting the autonomy of women and understanding body language. Growing up under the tyranny of an abusive father, Ngomane has personally lived through the effects of gender-based violence and found sport to be an escape from the trauma of domestic abuse within his home.

He makes his contribution to fighting gender-based violence by teaching boys about the importance of respecting themselves and the women they come across. He believes societal change can only come from what men learn as young boys.

Ngomane is motivated by the prospect of seeing a developed community around him and impacting on young people's lives so that they flourish. His goal is to contribute positively to the community through education and sports.



LEBOHANG DAVID MOLAPO

GAUTENG

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Lebogang David Molapo from Carletonville in the West Rand is a multi award winning entrepreneur and philanthropist.

Growing up in a small township plagued by drug abuse and gangsterism, Molapo watched some of his own friends succumb to gang culture and other social pressures, which ultimately landed many of them in prison. Distressed by the situation in his community, Molapo decided to do something in a bid to effect change.

He currently serves as the executive chairman of the LD Molapo Foundation, through which he strives to inspire and motivate young people by demonstrating that even in the bleakest of situations, they can achieve extraordinary outcomes.

The foundation has established multiple initiatives including motivational tours in schools and prisons, an annual soccer and netball tournament, and a career guidance youth expo roadshow.

Molapo is also the CEO of an EduTech start-up company named Mitutor. Mitutor is an online learning platform that connects learners in need of tutoring to qualified tutors. He has a strong passion for community development and believes there is potential for success in everyone.

ALLASANDRA GEORGE

GAUTENG

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Allasandra George is a community development worker who runs The Chosen Generation Youth Empowerment, a nonprofit organisation in Westbury, Johannesburg.

The Chosen Generation aims to empower the youth through arts, team building, school holiday and career development programmes. George honed her skills as a volunteer for events such as Kids Olympics and the Joburg Carnival.

George says inspiration is a desire to make a difference and change the mindsets of her community's youth. "Become the mentor you wish you had" is how she describes her mission. The Chosen Generation has been collecting goods such as sanitary pads and clothes for a nearby women's shelter and plans on hosting an online career exhibition later this year.

Asked about the impact of COVID-19 on her type of work, George says: "I believe we are the ones that give the enemy power. COVID-19 is the enemy right now." The pandemic has affected her organisation's ability to carry out any of its programmes. George, however, refuses to give up and instead works remotely and brainstorms ideas while indoors. "There has been a huge change in our working area, but we did not become stagnant and give up. That is what is important during this difficult time," says George.



NKOSIKHONA MPUNGOSE

KWAZULU-NATAL

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Nkosikhona Mpungose is what can be described as a change agent and a youth activist. He has dedicated his life to uplifting the youth and the eThekweni community at large. He has acquired many skills to combat social ills through civic education, personal leadership, and development as well as organisational abilities and governance.

He serves in many structures as the voice of young people. Among his many responsibilities, he is a representative for Social Development Goals at Statistics South Africa and he sits on the South African National Aids Council as youth sector leader for KwaZulu-Natal.

Recently Mpungose assembled young people to combat COVID-19 in the eThekweni municipality and five other districts of KwaZulu-Natal. He has contributed to the National Youth Policy, National Strategic Plans as well as the National Adolescent & Youth Health Policy. He represents youth and students in the SADC region, and he is a South African Climate Change Ambassador, just to name a few.

Mpungose studied Public Policy & Civil Society Affairs at Auwal Socio-Economic Research Institute (ASRI).

TEBOHO MAHLABA

FREE STATE

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Teboho Mahlaba, who is in his early 20s, runs a nonprofit organisation that focuses on youth community development and education in QwaQwa, Free State. His NPO, Lehakoe Centre for all Careers, has a number of tailored programmes for young people in his community.

Mahlaba says he is passionate about education, and is saddened to see young people gambling with the privilege of free education. "I grew up in an environment full of poverty and crime and I made a promise to myself that I will try to navigate those conditions with an introduction of intensive education," says Mahlaba who is currently studying towards a BCom degree in management at the University of the Free State.

Mahlaba says COVID-19 has forced his organisation to change the way it operates this year. He and his team recently conducted their Each One Teach One tutoring campaign through WhatsApp, which he says presented a challenge of high data costs and poor network availability.

The pandemic also prevented them from launching their Aspiring Difference event, which offers career guidance for Grade 9 pupils.

The centre now plans to conduct the #100ALLIN campaign digitally. The campaign assists matriculants taking a gap year to apply for study and bursary opportunities.

Their fourth and final programme is Queen Rebels, a women empowerment programme that focuses on hygiene and personal development.



SEIPATI TITIPANA

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Seipati Anitta Titipana is the Executive Director and Founder of Lebone Innovators Foundation. Lebone is a nonprofit organisation that works with chronically ill and vulnerable children and youth through literacy, mentorship and the arts.

Lebone has adopted two children's homes, to provide its services to young people. The NPO has also partnered with children's reading programme Nal'ibali, to access supplements for its literacy programme.

Through her organisation, Titipana has impacted the lives of 500 children and youth on both online and physical platforms.

Lebone also has health expos to encourage youths with health challenges, and to create platforms for them to speak their minds. Titipana says she is driven by passion, her own life story as well as the testimonies of the children she assists.

PHUMELELE MAHLOMBE

EASTERN CAPE

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Phumelele Mahlombe hails from Sakhisizwe in the Chris Hani District Municipality in the Eastern Cape, where he established the Sakhingomso Youth Development Forum in 2019. Sakhingomso, an isiXhosa word for 'building the future', aims to develop young rural community leaders.

Mahlombe formed this movement with young people he mentored and now leads alongside them. His community development programmes have reached more than 12 500 young people in the space of two years.

Mahlombe's programmes include assisting Grade 12 learners with career guidance and assistance to apply for tertiary institutions. He has also assisted young people to become entrepreneurs while helping them acquire soft, technical and leadership skills.

Sakhingomso runs annual soccer and netball tournaments as well as an annual heritage month programme, which has given young people a platform to showcase their natural talents and establish many arts and culture groups within Chris Hani District.

"Having seen many young people struggling with social and economic challenges, I have decided to be the change I want to see," says Mahlombe, who considers himself a socioeconomic activist.



MOLEFI SOMPANE

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Dedicating his life to the wellbeing of others is a sacrifice Molefi Sompane has been making since 2011. This is when he established the Centre for Morals and Values in Mangaung, Free State, as a place where young people, mostly men, are developed to fight substance abuse and teenage pregnancy in their communities.

Since its establishment the organisation has reached 12 high schools and 45 primary schools where it created groups that learners can utilise to equip each other and empower each other socially, in education and careers. Almost 500 young men are estimated to have left a life of crime to attain a positive focus as a result of these programmes.

NKOSINATHI NDLOVU

MPUMALANGA

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Nkosinathi Ndlovu is a Mpumalanga-based disability rights activist. He has received numerous accolades for his excellent achievements in uplifting the poor, people with disabilities and the youth. He is a recipient of The Order of the Baobab in Silver for his fight in recognition of the rights of people with disabilities.

Ndlovu served as board member of the 5th World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) Youth Camp hosted in South Africa in 2011.

In 2013, he founded the South African Deaf Youth Development Project and served as its national president. The organisation has partnerships with the Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Free State and Gauteng provincial governments, as well as the national Department of Social Development.

Ndlovu is also former Secretary-General (SG) of the Southern African Development Community Africa Deaf Sports Confederation, representing the sporting body in Africa between 2012 and 2013.

He was appointed as the first Deaf Youth Ambassador of Parliament in Cape Town from 2009 to 2014. He represented youth with disabilities and has served in the Education Commission

Ndlovu says he is driven by a desire for social justice, accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities, especially those among the youth.



MPHO TJOPE

GAUTENG

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Mpho Tjope is a motivational speaker, author and founder of a non-profit organisation called Albinism Advocacy for Access.

The organisation focuses on assisting young people with albinism to access health products such as sunscreens and to acquire adequate support through their educational journeys. The organisation also encourages youths with albinism to freely and fully participate in their areas of interest.

Tjope's organisation assists 150 learners every year with building their confidence, offers counseling and assisting them to access prescription glasses and screening for skin cancer, and offering counselling.

The 35-year-old grew up in a small township in Kimberley, Northern Cape where he was the only child with albinism in a family of seven children and the only person with albinism in his community.

This, he says, was challenging as he was bullied, teased and had challenges accessing glasses and coping in school. However, Tjope persevered and finished matric as the top learner in his class.

He is the author of a book titled 'Life with Albinism filled with Pearls', which documents the challenges and victories of a person navigating life while living with albinism.

LESEGO TAU

GAUTENG

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Lesego Tau describes himself as a human development practitioner. He is a motivational speaker, youth activist and advocates against gender-based violence.

He is the founder of Touch Motive Consulting, a company that provides team building events, conflict management interventions, and workplace emotional intelligence workshops.

Tau is involved in training youth who come from disadvantaged communities in leadership, writing and job preparedness, among many other skills. During school holidays, Tau hosts youth camps for young people in Soweto, where he grew up, where he assists learners with career guidance and motivation regarding their academic goals.

He has also been involved in leading programmes for the reintegration of previously imprisoned people into society, encouraging communities not to stigmatise those who were once imprisoned.

"He taught me that I should be authentic, that's what people will appreciate about me, and that being authentic will sustain me. He is indeed a shining star because he is nurturing, who nominated Tau for the Shining Stars accolade.

The many others who nominated him describe him as someone who is always there to listen to and guide young people in Soweto.



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POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE



SAKHILE MNGADI **KWAZULU-NATAL**

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Sakhile Mngadi is the first interim Provincial Chairperson of The Democratic Alliance Students Organisation (DASO) in KwaZulu-Natal.

Mngadi is also the Federal (National) Deputy Chairperson of DASO, a position he currently holds as head of all media and publicity for the organisation. This year, the DA recognized Mngadi as one of its prestigious DA Young Leaders Programme (YLP) Class of 2020 candidates.

The YLP is the DA's flagship leadership programme that has kick-started the political careers of the party's many well-known politicians over the years.

Mngadi is also the chief executive officer of the Rooftop Entertainment Group and has submitted his name to stand for office under the DA in the 2021 Local Government Elections as a councillor for the eThekweni Municipality.

Upon completion of his architectural studies this year, Mngadi intends to enrol for Masters of Business Administration (MBA) at the University of Cumbria, United Kingdom, in 2021.



PALESA MOFOKENG **GAUTENG**

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Palesa Mofokeng, former Student Representative Council (SRC) academic officer at Wits University, is wielding a scythe in the education sector. A selfless leader, she assisted those who were facing academic and financial exclusions and voiced out students' academic needs at the university's Senate meetings. She also hosted examinations and academic drives to aid vulnerable students.

"If students find themselves struggling, it is important that they seek help before things escalate and they find themselves in situations where they face failure or exclusion," says Mofokeng.

Mofokeng has also led various governing structures at Wits including the Wits All Residence Council and the Wits Education Students Council.

Mofokeng holds an Honours degree in Education and she is currently studying towards her Masters degree in educational technology at Wits University. In January 2019, Palesa Mofokeng co-founded an early childhood development centre called Future Stars ECD Centre with her partner Thato Mokoena. The centre continues to grow and bring hope to those in need.



SMILEY MAPABE GAUTENG

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Smiley Mabape is riding the crest of the wave in natural sciences and leadership circles. Mabape, 35, holds a masters in Chemistry from the University of the Witwatersrand.

His research saw him declared winner of the International Royal Key Award in 2017.

In his first year as a PhD student at the University of South Africa (UNISA), Florida Campus, he won the first prize for best proposal presentation during the Taiwan-South Africa Conference.

After retiring from student politics in 2013, Mabape rejoined community politics in 2017 in Alexandra Township where he currently resides and participates in the ANC.

He was recently elected as a political commissar of SASCO (South Africa Students Congress) in the Greater Johannesburg region.

He has also co-written a political document on "The Conceptualization of True and Free Quality Education".

Mabape is currently serving as the secretary of Nanotechnology and Water Sustainability Research unit at the Unisa, Florida Campus.



MPHO BUNTSE GAUTENG

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Mpho Buntse is a motivational speaker, political activist and an outspoken LGBTIQ+ rabble-rouser; a role that involves highlighting issues important to members of the LGBTIQ+ community.

He is involved in strengthening collaboration across intersectional lines, honing communications for a cohesive LGBTIQ+ movement and providing unprecedented access to the country's most prominent LGBTIQ+ leaders.

Buntse has also been vocal about issues of LGBTIQ+ learners in schools and agitated for gender-neutral toilets.

He is also active in the South African Students Congress.

Buntse has also represented his school, province and South Africa at numerous conferences, debates and engagement forums. While at university, Buntse served as a Student Representative Council member. He also served in institutional forums such as the Student Parliament, Student Judiciary, Academic Appeals Committees and the Student Advisory Council.

Buntse currently serves as the National Spokesperson for the ANC Women's League's LGBTIQ+ Desk.



KABELO MAHLOBOGWANE GAUTENG

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Kabelo Mahlobogwane is the founding member and Gauteng Secretary of the Educators Union of SA (EUSA) who has made an impact throughout the country by standing up for the rights of educators.

EUSA, which now represents over 25 000 teachers, recently took Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga to court to challenge the reopening of schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Currently I am organising a summit which seeks to mobilise and equip teachers with the necessary skills to teach in the world of today and the future,” Mahlobogwane says.

Mahlobogwane recently received a grant from the Trevor Noah Foundation and the Young Leaders Initiative to develop a marking app for teachers.

“In my activism I aim to organise and give teachers the necessary skills and tools for them to be able to be effective, which will see an improvement in the basic education outcomes across Africa,” he says.



PREVIN VEDAN KWAZULU-NATAL

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Previn Vedan has reignited SHAYOMO (The Shallcross Youth Movement), an anti-apartheid movement in his community in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal.

The organisation was re-launched to address the new scourges of drug abuse and youth complacency in his community.

SHAYOMO is an organization that focuses on youth activism and the promotion of a spirit of volunteerism.

At the age of 26, Vedan became one of the youngest ward councilors in eThekweni. His dedication and relentless energy to effect change have earned him widespread recognition.

Vedan, who has a background in human rights law, continues to be the voice of the marginalised, ensuring that all of those who live in his ward receive dignity and respect from government and the State.

He has partnered with organisations such as the World Health Organisation, the United Nations and the Gift of the Givers to spearhead many projects in Ward 71, which have had a measurable impact on people’s lives.

ADVERTORIAL

KZN government empowers its youth with R70 million youth business fund

The KwaZulu-Natal government has successfully funded 55 diverse, youth owned businesses in the province through its Youth Business Development Fund. The fund has awarded grants reaching a maximum amount of R2 million to each business, arguably the highest grant amount given by a government funding agency in South Africa.

Financing for the Youth Business Development Fund is comprised of a R70 million loan from banking group ABSA as well as government seed funding. The service has seen KwaZulu-Natal listed among only a few provinces, including the Eastern Cape and Northern Cape, that provide funding dedicated to youth business.

The funding scheme is driven by the youth directorates of the Office of the Premier and the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs in KwaZulu-Natal.



KwaZulu-Natal Premier Sihle Zikalala

Chief Director for Youth Development in the office of the Premier, Sabelo Ntuli, said the fund was primarily aimed at assisting those who were already in business, but regarded as high risk clients by commercial banks. “The idea is to give them a leg up and help them compete with established peers” Ntuli said.

The 55 businesses that have been funded were selected from an initial pool of more than 2000 applicants, and 448 shortlisted hopefuls. Funding is not paid directly into the recipients accounts but instead goes towards the procurement of equipment and instruments that will enable them to run their enterprises better and more productively. Businesses that were unsuccessful in this round of funding but have shown potential will be put into a business development programme.

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“The idea is to give them a leg up and help them compete with established peers” Ntuli said.

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KwaZulu-Natal Premier Sihle Zikalala with some of the Youth Business Development Fund beneficiaries.

Ntuli noted that the applicants had a wide range of skills and education levels, from graduates who were looking to start their businesses in their fields of study to self-taught farmers and fashion designers as well as those looking to start business such as ice making. “The important criteria that we applied was to look for businesses experience as well as direct, hands on involvement in the business to improve the chances of the business success” he said.

A variety of economic sectors in all the province’s district municipalities have been supported through the financing programme. These sectors include agriculture, manufacturing, mining, construction, transport and logistics, catering, tourism, hospitality, recycling, creative arts, communications and entertainment sectors.

Among the funded enterprises are car rental businesses that have been able to purchase vehicles for to expand their fleets, while other companies have used the funding to purchase logistics mining beneficiation and agricultural equipment.

At the time of launching the fund, KwaZulu-Natal Premier Sihle Zikalala said the scheme was specifically designed to advance economic transformation. Zikalala has called on large private businesses to support the fund by contracting Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMME) for the procurement of goods and services.

He has also called on the private sector to take on youth owned businesses in their enterprise development and incubation programmes as well as mentoring and skills transfer endeavours.

Grant recipients have expressed desire for the application process to move to a digital environment in future funding cycles, to bypass the need to drop off forms at municipal offices. Ntuli said there were plans to do this as the economy moved towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution. He said the move to digital would be done in a way that did not disadvantage rural applicants, suggesting that the physical drop off option will be retained for a period.

Ntuli said the KwaZulu-Natal government would call for new applications for funding in September 2020.

Beneficiaries of the KZN Youth Business Development fund.



Mphiliseni Mthembu (29), City Chauffeur Car Rental

Mphiliseni Mthembu (29) started City Chauffeur Car Rental with the original intention of setting up a cab e-hailing service such as Uber or Bolt, but found the space cluttered in his hometown of Durban. He then developed a fully-fledged car hire and shuttle service for corporates and clients.

A Chartered Accountant with a successful corporate career with Sun International among others, it was while working for the hotel group in Johannesburg and regularly using Uber that he struck upon the idea of getting into the taxi business.

He started his business in 2017 with family friend Ndunduzo Ngubane. Their first contact was with Black Umbrellas, the business incubation service run by Cyril Ramaphosa's Shanduka Foundation.

Mthembu's company received funding of R 600 000 from the Youth Business Development Fund and this was used to purchase a Hyundai H1, 9 seater vehicle and a trailer to add to their fleet of two cars. This would allow them to better service larger groups and tourists. The business came to a halt during the national lockdown and survived on its reserves. Mthembu expects business to slowly resume with the easing of restrictions.



Sphesihle Mdlalose (34), ILZ Consulting

Sphesihle Mdlalose's business, ILZ Consulting, has truly been transformed by funding from the Youth Business Development Fund. The company carries out geo-technical investigations, the study of rock and soil for construction purposes as well as borehole water studies for residential, agricultural, or mining use. Receiving a R2 million grant has allowed the business to grow from having Mdlalose as its sole employee a year ago to employing eight people.

Mdlalose (34) holds B.Sc. in Geological Sciences University of KwaZulu-Natal obtained in 2009 and an honours degree obtained from the University of Pretoria last year. The funding allowed him to purchase a drilling rig, a testing machine as well as a bakkie and, as a result, he employed five new staff to bring his staff complement to eight. The early part of the lockdown proved a slight disruption but the need for water supply to fight Covid-19 means there has been a high demand for his service.

He sees the next phase of his growth as being the purchase of a high-pressure compressor, which he currently rents at high cost. This will enable him to employ six more people.



Andile Mthembu (32), Phinduvuke Car Rental

Andile Mthembu's business, Phinduvuke Car Rental, operates in the highly competitive space of car rentals in Durban, a city that is both a tourist and commercial destination. Car rental companies in this city distinguish themselves through pricing and service. Based in Pietermaritzburg, Phinduvuke Car Rental hires out cars to both public and private companies. In addition, the company also provides shuttle service as well as long and short-term rentals. The company received funding of almost R2 million from the KwaZulu-Natal Youth Business Development Fund and currently has 5 people in its employ.

The business experienced a slow-down due to the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic and the effects it had on the tourism sector, which has been hard hit by the travel restrictions. To keep above water, Phinduvuke Car Rental has devised an SMS service to engage clients and keep them informed on the company's offerings including specials and discounts for short and long-term bookings. With the country now under level 2 of its lockdown, the company has now opened bookings for the festive season.

Mthembu started out in business 12-years ago and has now roped-in his wife, Carol as the company's Chief Operations Officer.



Mbusiseni Langatshe (27), XP Sofia Empire

SXP Sofia Empire, a company based in uThukela whose core business is print media, custom apparel branding and embroidery, found itself having to adapt and be innovative in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, even though it is not an essential service business.

The company, founded by 27-year old Mbuyiseni Langatshe, adapted its services and used its infrastructure to print Covid-19 related information resources, death certificates and branded face masks. The company received R800 000 funding from the KwaZulu-Natal Youth Business Development Fund and employs three full-time employees and two part time staff to ease pressure whenever there are high volumes of work.

On the outlook and prospects for the business, Langatshe notes "we aim to secure more return customers by sourcing largely embroidery work around the hotels in the area. Tourism is one major source of income in the Drakensberg. Therefore, we intend on providing embroidery for uniforms for both the hospitality sector as well as for schools in the area".



A sanitising booth and geysers manufactured by Albert Mkhwanazi and his team at Khethi Bet



Albert Mkhwanazi (27), Khethi Bet

Albert Mkhwanazi (27) and his brother Thabo (24) have taken an interest in engineering instilled by their father and turned it into a profitable business. They are joined in the company, Khethi Bet, by their older sister Khethiwe (34) who is an accountant.

The company installs industrial geysers and pipes and manufactures stainless steel items. The siblings did not let the Covid-19 pandemic slow them down. "Wherever there is a problem, there is a solution," says Mkhwanazi, who notes that during the lockdown when Khethi Bet could not resume work, the company turned to manufacturing sanitiser stands and booths.

The company received funding worth R1.8 million from the Youth Business Development Fund and used the funds to purchase most of the manufacturing equipment it required. The company currently has 25 employees and the have extended their workshop and plan to open a hardware store in Mangozi. The company has contract with Westville prison to maintain their boilers and deliver products outside KwaZulu-Natal, including Kimberley and outside South Africa to Tanzania and Mozambique.



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