

Vuk'uzenzele



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Agritech business soars over KZN plantations



Nokuphila Gumede has intergrated technology to the agricultural sector with her drone technology.



Image: Nokuphila Gumede.

in partnership with Thabiso Sithole and Khanya Nyawo, the company is rapidly becoming a game-changer in precision farming, offering drone-based services tailored to crop spraying, ripening, mapping, and fertilising.

Gumede (31), who hails from KwaDukuza, was first introduced to agriculture when she moved to Pietermaritzburg in 2015 to study at the Cedara College of Agriculture.

She went on to obtain a degree in Agriculture from Cedara and later completed an honours degree in Agricultural Extension and Rural Resource Management at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

“My partners and I started the business in 2021 after I got an opportunity to do a drone licence programme that was funded by the Agribusiness Development Agency (ADA),” she explained.

“While we were doing that licence, I did a bit of research on drones and how they can fit into the agriculture industry. People in the sector were not aware that drones can be utilised for things like spraying or fertilising — they only knew drones as tools for taking images and videos.”

That realisation was a turning point for Gumede.

“When I found out what else drones could do, I was intrigued by how they could make processes more efficient for farmers. I decided to start the company providing these services because I saw the value they would add to the industry.”

Field Tech Solutions today uses high-tech drones to spray chemicals such as fertilisers, pesticides,

Sihle Manda

Nestled in the heart of the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands, Howick-based Field Tech Solutions is redefining agriculture through drone-powered innovation.

Founded by Nokuphila Gumede

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herbicides, and ripeners, particularly on sugarcane and maize fields.

“In providing those services, we help farmers save costs because drones are accurate. A drone sprays the exact amount of chemicals on the exact target area. In that way, there is no wastage of chemicals,” Gumede said.

Tough challenges

Despite a promising business model, the company faced tough challenges in the early stages.

“Starting the business was really difficult because drones are really expensive. The one we currently have, costs about R300 000,” she revealed.

A breakthrough came in 2023 when Field Tech won the FNB



Image: Nokuphila Gumede.

Youth Start-up Accelerator Programme pitching competition.

“I was lucky to be part of this programme. I pitched to them, and they were so excited by the business. That was how we got the funding to purchase our first drone,” she said.

Although the business currently operates with just one drone, it has already made a significant impact. “We are planning to get more drones because demand for the service is growing a lot. Farmers are definitely seeing its benefits. This month alone, I think we’ve already covered

about 300 hectares with just the one drone,” said Gumede.

Currently, Field Tech Solution’s services are limited to KwaZulu-Natal, but plans to expand are in motion.

“Getting more drones will allow us to expand our operations and hire even more people.

We really want to expand to other provinces.”

With a team of seven, including three directors, Field Tech Solutions is not just offering a service — it is cultivating a smarter, more efficient future for South African agriculture. ☺

R500m Spaza Shop Funding: How to Apply

Government has disbursed R6 million of the R500 million allocated through the Spaza Shop Support Fund (SSSF) to eligible spaza shops and other food-handling outlets.

The fund, aimed at increasing the participation of South African-owned spaza shops in township and rural retail trade, was launched in May.

“This is progressing at a slow pace due to the number of parties involved in coordinating the work, including inspections, verification of citizenship, and site and health inspections,” Minister of Small Business Development Stella Tembisa Ndabeni said during a recent media briefing in Pretoria.

“The fund will assist shop owners

who met the deadline for the registration of an operating permit.”

The scheme offers funding of up to R300,000 per shop through a combination of grants and low-interest loans.

Additionally, it provides dedicated funding for initial stock purchases, infrastructure improvements, business development tools, and the adoption of Point of Sale (POS) systems.

The fund is being administered by the National Empowerment Fund (NEF) and the Small Enterprise Development Finance Agency (SEFDA).

Through the scheme, shop owners will receive assistance to meet hygiene and regulatory standards, ensuring the provision of safe, high-quality products. ☺ – [Sfnnews.gov.za](https://www.sfnnews.gov.za)



Image: GCIS.

For more information about the SSSF, visit www.spazashopfund.co.za, call 011 305 8080 or email spazasupport@dsbd.gov.za.

Qualifying criteria:

Each application will be assessed according to the following:

- The spaza shop or store must be owner-managed and -operated.
- The owner must have a valid South African identity document.
- They must register with the SMMESA (<https://www.smmesa.gov.za>).
- Owners must hold a valid trading licence or municipal permit. If not, they must obtain one before accessing support.
- A valid and original municipal trading licence/permit or business licence is required for general dealers. Photocopies will not be accepted, and licences must be issued by a municipality, not a councillor.
- Eligible shop or general dealer owners must register with the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC), the South African Revenue Service (SARS), and the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF), if not already registered.

How to apply for the scheme:

- The spaza shop, general dealer, or grocery store owner must visit their nearest SEFDA office to submit the required permits and identity document in person, or submit them online.
- SEFDA will assist with compliance registration and due diligence.
- The owner will complete an application form, which will be submitted to the DSBD for approval.
- If approved, the owner will be instructed to collect their bank card from an appointed bank.
- Clients can also apply directly to SEFDA by completing an application form and submitting it, with all supporting documents, to spaza@sefa.org.za.



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THE PRESIDENCY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Over 200,000 young people start work in schools today

Today marks the ‘first day at school’ for about 200,000 young people at over 20,000 schools nationwide. This time, however, they are not arriving at school as learners, but as working adults. They are participants in the fifth phase of the Basic Education Employment Initiative, the largest youth employment programme in South Africa’s history.

After a year’s pause, the initiative returns to townships, villages, inner cities, farms and special needs schools, bringing hope, energy and incomes to places where opportunities are too often out of reach.

The initiative is a flagship programme of the Presidential Employment Stimulus, which has, since its inception in 2020, supported the delivery of jobs and livelihood opportunities in our country. The Basic Education Employment Initiative is implemented by the Department of Basic Education and by provincial education departments. It is now funded by the UIF Labour Activation Programme and national government.

This programme is designed to develop the work skills that employers say they need, such as time management, task management, teamwork, problem solving, IT, admin and much more.

In the process, participants undertake roles aligned to school priorities to ensure these young people add real value, enhancing the learning environment for learners and strengthening learning outcomes.

The Basic Education Employment Initiative offers opportunities for young people at all skills levels. Graduates are prioritised for work in the classroom, where their tasks allow teachers to spend more time on teaching and lesson preparation. Curriculum Assistants support maths, science and technology. Reading Champions promote

literacy and a culture of reading. Lab and Workshop Assistants support technical subjects. Others support IT and school administration.

They also tackle essential maintenance, such as fixing doors, painting peeling walls, maintaining school vegetable gardens and playgrounds. Care and Support Assistants work with School Support Teams to identify and support children at risk. Still others spark life into sports, art and music, activities that inspire learners, uncover their talents and build pride in communities. Together, these roles provide real work experience to young people and vital support to our education system.

The best possible advice to the young people starting at schools this week comes from a former participant in the programme. In 2023, Sibongile Joni was a Curriculum Assistant at Emsengeni Primary School in the Eastern Cape. She has since been employed in an NGO called Masinyusane.

She has this advice for participants now starting in the programme: “Be reliable: your consistency builds trust. Be willing to learn, ask questions, accept feedback and grow daily. Take initiative: if something needs to be done, do it without waiting to be told. Treat every task as important, no matter how small, because excellence in the small things builds your reputation. Always be professional: your attitude, respect and conduct matter. Build strong relationships with staff and learners. People open doors for those they trust and enjoy working with. Lastly, make the most of the trainings offered, they equip you with the skills you’ll need for your next step.”

She says this journey has taught her that growth doesn’t come overnight. She says: “Start strong.



Stay consistent. You’re building your future today.”

Every participant has their own hopes and dreams for their future beyond this programme. Whether they pursue a career in education, undertake further studies, search for a job or embrace self-employment, they won’t be starting from scratch. From this programme, they will carry invaluable skills and experience. Yet, in a tough labour market, they will each need to tackle their next chapter with creativity and initiative.

As a society, we cannot leave young people to navigate the transition into work alone. Together, we need to step up to assist them.

These young people will leave the school environment having shown up, contributed and made a difference. They will have worked

in high-pressure environments with limited resources and will understand deadlines and responsibility.

To employers, we say: give them their next opportunity, mentor their enthusiasm, help take their potential to the next level.

We also need to reach those young people who want to be entrepreneurs. We need to find new ways to support those who want to create their own jobs and local value, to connect them to finance, training, markets and networks.

Today we celebrate this cohort of young people beginning meaningful work, many for the first time. But let us also not forget those who applied for these posts but who weren’t selected.

Through the Presidential Employment Stimulus, we have demonstrated the government’s

capacity to address the youth unemployment problem.

Through this programme we have been able to give young people work experience and a pathway to formal employment or even further education. We do believe that this will have a much longer term benefit for the employability of young people. This is but one initiative that seeks to address the youth unemployment challenge. We still have much more to do to address the plight of young people.

These young people are showing us what they are capable of. It is up to all of us in society to give them the opportunities they need to thrive. 🌟

This President’s Message was first published on 2nd of June 2025.

How to start a business as a young person

Namedi Mathuthe

In a country with a high rate of youth unemployment, this Youth Month demands more than ceremonial speeches — it calls for action. But amid the economic strain, digital shifts, and a shrinking formal job market, young South Africans are stepping up — not as jobseekers, but as job creators.

It is time young South Africans re-

imagined their place in the economy. Entrepreneurship is no longer just a buzzword; it is a critical tool for empowerment, income generation, and societal change.

Beyond income, entrepreneurship offers young people the chance to break the cycle of generational poverty. By creating businesses rooted in local needs — from agriculture to artisanal products — young entrepreneurs don't just

uplift themselves; they create jobs, cultivate community wealth, and spark innovation in underdeveloped areas. It becomes a domino effect: one small enterprise can support families, reinvest in local economies, and unlock new pathways for others. In this sense, entrepreneurship is not just about self-employment — it's a transformative weapon against poverty.

How to start a business as a young person

Step 1: Identify a problem or passion

Every great business starts with a need. What solution can you offer? What excites you? Passion drives persistence.

Step 2: Validate your idea

Ask potential customers: "Would you buy this?" Use polls, surveys, or test prototypes. Social media can help you measure interest cheaply and quickly.

Step 3: Write a business plan

This is your roadmap. Outline your goals, market, competitors, strategy, finances, and operations. The Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency can assist you with developing a business plan.

Step 4: Register your business

Go to the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) and get your entity formalised. This unlocks access to business support and funding.

Step 5: Register with the South African Revenue Service (SARS)

Once your business is registered with the CIPC, you'll automatically receive an income tax number. Be sure to apply for a Tax Clearance Certificate or Tax PIN — it's often required for funding applications, tenders, and opening business bank accounts.

Step 6: Open a business bank account

This creates financial credibility and keeps your money matters organised. Banks will typically require your company registration documents and Tax PIN.

Step 7: Start lean

Use what you have. Focus on generating revenue before expanding.

Step 8: Use digital marketing

Leverage free platforms like Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, and WhatsApp to promote your brand.

Step 9: Measure, reflect, improve

Track your expenses and income. Gather feedback. Always improve your product or service.

Where to find funding as a young entrepreneur

Access to capital remains a top barrier — but it is not impossible. Consider the following support mechanisms:

- National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) - Offers grants, business mentorship, and development support tailored to youth entrepreneurs - www.nyda.gov.za
- Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency (SEFDA) - Provides training, finance, and tools to help small businesses grow - www.seda.org.za
- Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) - Funds scalable, youth-owned businesses in sectors like manufacturing, agro-processing, and energy - www.idc.co.za
- The Jobs Fund (National Treasury) - Supports innovative, job-creating youth projects through matched funding - www.jobsfund.org.za
- Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) - Backs science, technology, and innovation-based start-ups with seed funding and commercialisation support - www.tia.org.za

Entrepreneurship is not easy. It requires grit, sacrifice, and constant reinvention. But it is one of the few viable paths toward inclusive growth, poverty eradication, and long-term job creation.



Namedi Mathuthe works in the Business Development Unit at the SEFDA Limpopo Jewellery Business Incubator and is currently pursuing an LLB degree at the University of South Africa.

LETTER

Hello Vuk'uzenzele,

My name is Buyelwa Ntshewula, please could you advise me on how I can access funding to start my business?

Kind regards,
Buyelwa Ntshewula

REPLY

Dear Buyelwa,

Thank you for contacting Vuk'uzenzele newspaper, which is produced by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS).

Below are institutions that could assist you with business registration and funding:

1. Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency – www.sedfa.org.za
2. National Youth Development Agency – www.nyda.gov.za
3. Department of Small Business Development – www.dsbd.gov.za
4. Industrial Development Corporation – www.idc.co.za

Warm regards,
Vuk'uzenzele

President Ramaphosa highlights importance of US visit

Dikeledi Molobela

President Cyril Ramaphosa has highlighted the importance of his recent working visit to the United States (US), telling Parliament that the engagement was both necessary and timely, given the critical role the US continues to play in South Africa's economic landscape.

"The United States continues to play such a big role in the life of our economy. It was necessary and important for us to go and engage with them, because many of our people's jobs depend on our economic dealings with the United States," President Ramaphosa said recently.

The President was responding to questions from Members of Parliament, with topics such as economic growth and the rising cost of living on the agenda.

President Ramaphosa recently concluded a successful working visit to the US, accompanied by ministers, well-known South Africans, and representatives from business and labour.

The visit was aimed at improving and strengthening bilateral relations between South Africa and the US.

The President explained that the objective of the trip was to meet with the US government to discuss tariffs, investment, and other related matters. It was also to encourage the US President Donald Trump to attend the Group of Twenty (G20) Summit which South Africa will host and to promote investment by American companies in South Africa and South African companies in the US.

He reiterated that the primary goal of the working visit was to reset the relationship between the two countries, recognising the significant economic and political ties.

The delegation also sought to address concerns over the strained relationship, which was a concern for many in South Africa, and to ensure mutual economic benefits.

"The issue of relations between South Africa and the United States was an issue that occupied many people's minds in our country, and many had raised concerns about the deteriorating relationship between our two countries, having



President Cyril Ramaphosa and US President Donald Trump during a recent visit to America to iron out diplomacy matters.

recognised the important role that both our countries play in each other's economy, apart from various political relations, diplomatic relations, and we realised that the impact on our country's economy would be adverse unless we were able to repair or reset the relationship between our two countries," the President said.

The President highlighted the importance of the US as a trading partner, with over 600 American companies invested in South Africa, and vice versa.

On the economic and sectoral impact, President Ramaphosa detailed that the sectors that would be affected by the relationship with the US included the agriculture and automotive sectors.

He added that the visit aimed to protect jobs and investments in these sectors by maintaining strong economic ties.

G20 and strengthening ties

On the Group of Twenty (G20), the President said that the trip aimed to highlight the significance of the G20 process and to encourage US participation.

"It was also important to discuss the G20 and to highlight the important role that a country like the United States, which is the



largest economy in the world, plays in the activities of the G20, which we are so deeply immersed in and have the responsibility of leading. It is important for the United States to engage with the G20 process, and ultimately to entice the leader of the United States to come to the leaders' summit at the end of the year," the President said.

The President emphasised that despite public perceptions, the

delegation had meaningful discussions with President Trump and his representatives, fostering ongoing engagement.

He added that the engagement process initiated after the trip has led to discussions on tariffs and investments, indicating a positive reset of relations.

The reset of relations is believed to have been achieved, with ongoing discussions expected to continue through the G20 process.

Despite what we could have seen on television, we were able to have a much more meaningful discussion and meeting with President Trump and his representatives during the quiet room where we had lunch together and had meaningful exchanges on a number of issues. And we do believe that the engagement will continue through the G20 process," the President concluded. 📍

Young entrepreneur supplies her rural community with gas

More Matshediso

Amidst the energy crisis that South Africa has been battling with for the past few years, 28-year-old Tina Zungu of Khula village in Mtubatuba, KwaZulu-Natal, has come up with a business idea that greatly benefits locals.

Zungu is the founder of the Ngilozzi Project, a retail business selling liquefied petroleum (LP) gas in and around her village. She established the business in 2023 while the country battled ongoing loadshedding.

“The business idea dawned on me when I realised that many residents relied on alternative sources of energy such as gas to run their household chores, such as cooking, when they experienced loadshedding,” she explained.

Zungu started researching the need for gas in her community and discovered that most households and fast-food outlets were using gas as a source of energy, but they had to travel a distance to buy it.

“I thought of bringing the service to the doorstep of my fellow residents so that they

no longer have to travel long distances and pay more money to get LP gas, especially since there are not enough job opportunities in my village,” Zungu said.

She added that her business is the only one that currently offers the service in her area, and this helps the business run more smoothly.

To make sure that her business grows, she also took part in a Business Management Training Programme from the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), which was introduced to her community by a ward councillor.

“The training focused on key aspects of business management. Subsequently, I qualified for R50,000 grant funding that enabled the business to branch out to nearby rural areas. This also helped to create employment for two locals who were previously unemployed,” she explained. Zungu encouraged unemployed youth to consider entrepreneurship because it can be a powerful tool for job creation and poverty alleviation in their communities. She made these comments

against the backdrop of Youth Month, which is celebrated in the month of June to honour the contribution that young people made to the struggle for freedom in the country.

On 16 June 1976, students led a protest against the apartheid government, refusing to have Afrikaans as the medium of instruction in schools. This resulted in many youth losing their lives.

“I encourage South African youth to pay homage to them [youth of 1976] by participating in the economy and prioritising education so that they can empower themselves,” Zungu concluded. ☺



Image: Tina Zungu.

Tina Zungu saw a gap in the market which prompted her to start her LP gas business.

For more information, email: ingiloziproject@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 073 550 8235

For more information about the NYDA visit: www.nyda.gov.za

Save lives, donate blood

More Matshediso

When you donate blood, you give patients the gift of a second chance at life — a gift that science still cannot replicate.

This is according to the South African National Blood Service (SANBS), which has reminded South Africans of the importance of voluntarily donating blood ahead of World Blood Donor Day (WBDD), celebrated annually on 14 June. SANBS, a non-profit

organisation licensed to provide blood transfusion services in South Africa, stressed that blood transfusion is a core component of the nation's healthcare system. Individuals who donate blood make a vital contribution to the health and survival of others.

“Maintaining adequate blood stocks is an ongoing challenge for many countries. In South Africa, less than 1% of the population are active blood donors — and with each unit of blood lasting only 42 days after collection, it is crucial

for donors to give blood regularly and for blood service organisations to broaden the donor pool,” SANBS explained.

The organisation noted that for most people, the motivation to donate blood stems from pure selflessness — the understanding that a single unit of blood can save up to three lives, as it is separated into red blood cells, plasma and platelets.

“Generally, patients are not expected to pay for blood from their own pockets. At public

hospitals, the costs are covered by the government and/or a patient's medical aid when admitted to a private facility.

“We receive no funds or subsidies from the government and are entirely funded through the fees we charge for our service, which ensures the availability of safe, high-quality blood products. Blood is an essential but costly resource due to the collection, screening and testing processes that guarantee its safety for transfusion,” SANBS said.

The cost of transfused blood covers services such as collection, testing, storage and delivery. Staff salaries and operational overheads also contribute to the total expense.

Additionally, costs account for the transport of blood to specialised laboratories and the rigorous testing of each unit for transfusion-transmissible infections, including HIV, Hepatitis B and C, and syphilis. ☺

For more information visit: www.sanbs.org.za

Courage brings the smell of success

Neo Bodumela

Matimba Makaringe is a prime example of how courage and determination can play a pivotal role in building a business.

After being involved in an accident in which she suffered second-degree burns so severe that she could not take a bath due to open wounds, she mustered the strength to start Courageous Cosmetics.

“Shortly after the accident, I suffered a miscarriage.

The stench from the burn wounds, and whenever I’d go on my periods, was bad — I think because of the traumatic response to the miscarriage. I began to believe that I needed a very strong perfume to mask that,” she said.

Makaringe’s business, which began in 2017, is based in Nkowan-kowa in Limpopo.

She adds that while shopping for perfumes, she discovered how unaffordable brand-name products were.

“I then brought it back home and said: what about the low-income earner? They can’t afford to smell good, so I decided to make something for myself that could also benefit others.”

Makaringe received training and office equipment from the Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency, SEFDA (formerly known as the Small Enterprise Development Agency), which also helped her become business-ready.

Furthermore, Makaringe found strategic support from the Limpopo Jewellery Business Incubator (LJBI) — a township-based incubator in Seshego (Polokwane) focused on empowering businesses owned by previously disadvantaged individuals.

The LJBI, an entity of SEFDA, provided her with essential branding material and equipped her with training on South African Revenue Service (SARS) compliance and productivity, ensuring her business adheres to key regulatory standards.

However, she describes breaking

into the industry — dominated by expensive household-name brands — as challenging.

“It’s been tough because most people don’t believe that the product [Courageous Cosmetics] is of good quality... My vision was to restore hope and dignity. I want the construction worker to smell good, and I want the domestic worker to smell good. The price is targeted at lower-income groups, but the quality remains very good.”

Courageous Cosmetics products range between R30 and R250.

“The proudest moments for me are when that low-income earner comes into our shop with so much pride and says, ‘I smell so good’. Also, being able to retain employees... being able to take care of families through job creation. We also had a programme where we put four interns through internships at the shop, where they were learning.”

The business has created 10 permanent jobs and trained 25 women through its reseller programme. ☺



Matimba Makaringe has turned a tragic experience into a successful business.

A cleaning brand born from hope and hustle



Khulile Moyake decided to start his cleaning product business to create a legacy.

Sihle Manda

In the heart of New Brighton, in the Eastern Cape, a determined Khulile Moyake set out to rewrite the narrative of his community as being crime ridden.

“I was wondering why this was the case,” he said, reflecting on the high crime levels. “And the answer I received was that ‘I have no one to look up to’. I went to the drawing board to figure out how I could solve the problem of a lack of role models and tackle unemployment in the process.”

From that deep reflection, Asicoce Products was born — a homegrown detergent manufacturing business with a mission to provide affordable, high-quality cleaning products while also empowering the community.

Moyake adds that the aim is to

control the entire value chain in the manufacturing process while ensuring that the products are affordable.

While the business began in 2022, the journey started much earlier.

Before founding Asicoce Products, Moyake worked at a local Hungry Lion franchise.

“I had this feeling that I was not doing enough. I decided to quit my job and started researching opportunities that I could pursue. I realised that every household uses detergents and I thought maybe I could give it a try,” he said.

Initially, he sold and resold established detergent brands, but the model was not financially sustainable.

“I did not have the money to do proper research, so I had to settle for just searching on the internet. I googled ‘how to make

a liquid soap’ and I found a channel on YouTube,” he said.

With no formal training or funding, Moyake dedicated a year and a half to learning and refining his formulas.

“The first year was purely research and development and I kept making mistakes. I tried to sell it, but customers complained that the soap was not foaming. I went back to the drawing board and tried again until I got it right,” he recalled.

Today, Asicoce Products manufactures and sells three key cleaning products: dishwashing liquid, thick bleach, and a multi-purpose cleaner.

Moyake handles everything himself — production, marketing, and sales.

“The business is still growing. So, I go door-to-door trying to make sales. I try to market the business wherever I go,” he said. Moyake remains steadfast in his dream.

Asicoce Products aims to become the first-choice detergent brand in South Africa — not just for its affordability and effectiveness, but for its commitment to sustainability and community upliftment. ☺

Visit asicoceproducts.com for more information.
You can reach Asicoce Products on WhatsApp: 067 941 9990
or Email: info@asicoceproducts.com

Promoting reading of African languages in children

More Matshediso

Promoting a culture of reading among South African children is essential, as their struggles with literacy could have serious consequences for the country's future.

This is why five mothers, who are also friends, came together to establish an online bookstore that specialises in children's books featuring characters that are inclusive and diverse in all South African official languages.

Co-founder and director at Ethnikids, Khumo Tapfumaneyi, said the business was created nine years ago from a personal desire to have children's books with representative characters reflecting various South African languages.

"We were frustrated by the lack

of inclusion for African families in the book market in South Africa. Out of the five founders, two have remained in the business. We started out as a subscription-based service that then morphed into an online bookstore," she explained.

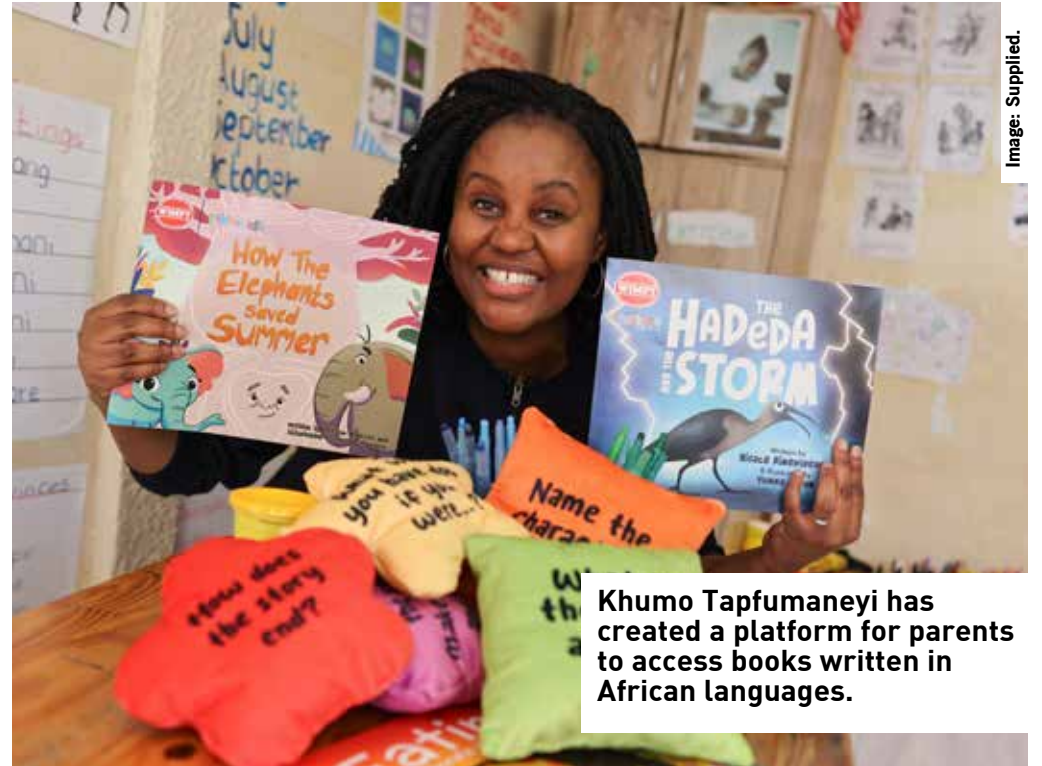
She added that the company is passionate about igniting a love of reading among children, and providing diverse material so that more children can relate to it and identify with it.

"We have the widest selection of books featuring representative protagonists in South Africa. It is imperative that we promote and encourage the love of reading in South Africa... children become excited and engaged when they come across material that they identify with. It's important that

our children know and experience books that are made for them," said Tapfumaneyi. Ethnikids supplies books to homes and schools and also publishes material. It also hosts reading events for children to foster the love of reading and helps stock libraries.

Besides distributing books through its online store, at markets and book fairs, the company has been publishing children's books in all South African languages for Wimpy restaurants for five years now.

The company received grant funding from the National Arts Council in 2019 to conduct a township library tour. In 2023, it attended training provided by the National Empowerment Fund (NEF) and recently attended a Supplier Training Workshop with



Khumo Tapfumaneyi has created a platform for parents to access books written in African languages.

TikTok and Instagram: @ethnikids_co
Facebook: Ethnikidsco

For more information about the National Arts Council visit www.nac.org.za
The National Empowerment Fund can be reached at www.nefcorp.co.za
Polokwane, 0742, Tel: 015 293 0214.

the Gauteng Department of Economic Development.

In February, the company won the Otto Foundation Best Picture Book Award for a children's book that it published in partnership with a popular South African artist, Sho Madjozi titled Shoma and the Stars.

"Over the years, we have employed a total of nine individuals on a casual and permanent basis. Trading online has also enabled a small business like ours to have a national footprint, a global audience and compete with larger bookstores," she explained. 📍

Shoe brand rises from setback

Edwin Tshivhidzo

What looked like a setback quickly turned into a triumph for Lerato Makhisa, who owns Ribbons Collection, an online shoe store.

Before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Makhisa owned a beauty salon. When that business didn't work out, she ventured into selling shoes, hair, clothes, sunglasses – basically anything related to style and beauty.

"I was doing well until COVID-19 hit us. When the borders closed, I couldn't receive stock from abroad or fulfil customer orders. This was a tough blow. But sometimes setbacks redirect us. While sharing my challenges with a friend, he introduced me to a local South African leather shoe manufacturer," Makhisa said.

This conversation opened Makhisa's eyes to the world of shoe manufacturing.

"I started learning about leather shoe manufacturing and soon after, launched Ribbons Collection in 2020."

Makhisa quickly established a shoe manufacturing factory, which complemented the production of the shoes.

However, early into the business, she chose to close the factory due to manufacturing challenges.

"During the peak season of our local production process, we worked with a group of artisans and support staff, directly creating five to seven jobs in manufacturing, packaging and logistics. Right now, we have an opportunity for distributors across the globe."

Makhisa explained that after the closure of the factory, she

did not despair. She shifted to producing shoes abroad and continued operating her online store.

"But my vision hasn't changed. I'm still hopeful and working towards establishing my own production facility in South Africa – one that not only produces world-class shoes, but also empowers young people with skills."

Ribbons Collection has not received government funding.

"Everything has been self-funded or supported through personal networks. It hasn't been easy, but it's taught me how to be resourceful and build with what I have."

Ribbons Collection's main clients are modern, style-conscious men who value quality, detail and distinction. 📍



Lerato Makhisa at the helm of running an online business.

For more information about Ribbons Collection, visit ribbonscollection.co.za

CIVILIAN SECRETARIAT FOR POLICE SERVICE

VACANCIES

NOTICE CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS OF PERSONS TO SERVE AS MEMBERS OF THE FIREARMS APPEAL BOARD

The Minister of Police hereby invites applications from candidates, and nominations of suitable candidates, to be considered for appointment to serve as a member of the Firearms Appeal Board in terms of section 128 of the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act No. 60 of 2000). The Firearms Appeals Board is responsible for considering appeals against decisions of the Registrar of Firearms relating to applications made in terms of the Firearms Control Act. The members of the Appeal Board are appointed on contract for a period not exceeding five years on a part time basis.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS TO APPLICATIONS: Persons wishing to serve as a member of the Board must satisfy the requirements in terms of the Act. The successful nominee/ applicant will be appointed for a period of not exceeding five years on such terms and conditions as the Minister may determine. Nominations/or applications must be submitted in writing to the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service, Attention: Director: Human Resources Management, Private Bag X922, Pretoria, 0001 or hand delivered or couriered to 258 Lilian Ngoyi Street, Pretorius Street, Fedsure Building 2nd floor, Pretoria at the Reception Desk. No late applications will be accepted. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in the candidate being disqualified. Correspondence will be limited to shortlisted candidates only. If you have not been contacted within three months of the closing date of this advertisement, please accept that your application was unsuccessful.

Shortlisted candidates will be subjected to a security clearance of Top Secret.

The nomination of the proposed candidate must include a letter of motivation for the nomination, a signed confirmation that the candidate meets all the statutory requirements for appointment and the candidate's detailed curriculum vitae with supporting documents.

POSTS: TWO (2) MEMBERS OF THE FIREARMS APPEAL BOARD (REF NO.: CSP/03/2025)

This is a re-advertisement of Ref: CSP/02/2025. Applicants who previously applied should not re-apply.

REMUNERATION: The remuneration and allowances of the members are prescribed by the Minister with the approval of the Minister of Finance.

CENTRE: Pretoria

REQUIREMENTS: The member of the Firearms Appeal Board must be a South African citizen; Be a fit and proper person; Not have any criminal convictions and should not have been previously found guilty of misconduct in the public service or in the private sector; Have a tertiary academic qualification with a demonstrable knowledge of administrative law and procedure; Have a sound knowledge of the Firearms Control Act, 2000 and the regulations; Have a theoretical knowledge of firearms; Have practiced in his or her specific field of knowledge for at least five years.

DUTIES: Considering appeals against decisions made by the Registrar of Firearms in terms of the Firearms Control Act, 2000; Considering representations made during the appeal hearing; Requesting additional evidence as may be required; Finalizing appeals and making decisions within prescribed time-frames; Reducing the backlog on pending appeals; Compiling reports to the Minister on appeals, systemic and other problems that result in appeals; Making recommendations to the Minister of Police on measures to address the systemic causes leading to appeals.

ENQUIRIES: Director: Human Resources Management: - Civilian Secretariat for Police Service. Telephone number: (012) 493-1385

APPLICATIONS: To be emailed to recruitment42@csp.gov.za

CLOSING DATE: 20 June 2025

ADVERTISEMENT OF VACANCY: NATIONAL HEAD: DIRECTORATE FOR PRIORITY CRIME INVESTIGATION (DPCI)

GENERAL DIRECTIONS TO APPLICANTS:

The post of National Head: DPCI will be vacant effective 1 June 2025, and is hereby advertised. Applicants who would meet the post requirements on or before 31 May 2025, when the post became vacant, are encouraged to apply. Applications for the post must be submitted on the prescribed application form, obtainable from the SAPS website www.saps.gov.za under the link "careers". Application forms can also be obtained from the DPCI at the following e-mail addresses: MonyelaM@saps.gov.za or WesselsA@saps.gov.za.

The application form must be fully completed and the post particulars of the post must be correctly specified on the application form. All applications must be accompanied by

a comprehensive Curriculum Vitae, copies of all educational qualifications, study records and supporting documents (which need not to be certified).

POST: NATIONAL HEAD OF THE DIRECTORATE FOR PRIORITY CRIME INVESTIGATION (DPCI) (REF: DPCI/SMS/HO/06/2025)

This is a re-advertisement of Ref: DPCI/SMS/HO/01/2025. Applicants who previously applied should not re-apply.

LEVEL: Salary Level 15: Lieutenant General

APPOINTING AUTHORITY: The Minister of Police, with the concurrence of Cabinet, must appoint the National Head of the DPCI and report to Parliament on the appointment.

PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT: A non-renewable fixed term contract of not less than seven (7) years and not exceeding ten (10) years, subject to the conditions imposed by the South African Police Service Act, Act 68 of 1995.

CONDITIONS: The successful candidate will be required to –

- sign a non-renewable contract of not less than seven years and not exceeding 10 years;
- enter into a performance agreement with the Minister of Police; and
- be subjected to a security clearance to the level of Top Secret before approval of appointment, if not already in possession of such valid security clearance.

CENTRE: Pretoria

REMUNERATION: The remuneration, allowances and other terms and conditions of service and service benefits shall be determined by the Minister of Police with the concurrence of the Minister of Finance, by notice in the Gazette. An all-inclusive remuneration package of not less than R2, 151,324.00 per annum will be payable.

REQUIREMENTS: The applicant must be a South African citizen and be a fit and proper person with relevant experience, conscientiousness and integrity to be entrusted with the statutory responsibilities of the position. Section 17E of the South African Police Service Act, 1995 requires that the applicant shall be subjected to a security screening investigation in terms of and in accordance with section 2A of the National Strategic Intelligence Act, 1994 (Act 39 of 1994).

The successful candidate must hold a recognized degree or equivalent qualification in Policing/ Police Science/ Police Management/ Criminal Law/ Forensic Investigation/ Criminology/ Management/ Public Management and/or Administration or related relevant qualifications with a track record of at least seven years senior management experience and proven leadership skills.

The applicant must also have:

- Sound knowledge of the functioning of the criminal justice cluster.
- Sound knowledge of the principles of corporate governance; strategic capability, leadership and people management skills; and
- Sound financial skills with knowledge of the PFMA, coupled with good analytical and communication skills.

DUTIES: The National Head of the DPCI must ensure that the DPCI performs its functions as provided for in section 17D of the South African Police Service Act, 1995; Determine the fixed establishment of the DPCI and appoint the staff of the DPCI; Manage and control all members of the DPCI in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic and any other applicable legislation; Prepare and provide the National Commissioner with the necessary estimate of revenue and expenditure of the DPCI for incorporation in the estimate revenue and expenditure of the South African Police Service; Control monies appropriated by Parliament in respect of the expenses of the DPCI; Make presentations to Parliament on the budget of the DPCI; Lead and provide strategic direction to the DPCI at national and provincial levels; and Develop and maintain sound relationships with relevant government departments or institutions to assist the DPCI to achieve its objectives.

ENQUIRIES: Director: Human Resources Management- Civilian Secretariat for Police Service. Telephone number: (012) 493-1385

APPLICATIONS: To be emailed to recruitment22@csp.gov.za

CLOSING DATE: 20 June 2025

The Civilian Secretariat for Police Service is an equal opportunity, and gender sensitive employer and it is our intention to promote representivity in the Public Service through the filling of these posts. The Secretariat for Police Service is committed to the achievement and maintenance of diversity and equity employment.



Department of Military Veterans VACANCY

POST : DIRECTOR-GENERAL: MILITARY VETERANS (LEVEL 16)
(FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT)
REF NO. : DMV01/11/2024
Re-advertisement: Candidates who previously applied are encouraged to re-apply
SALARY : R2 259 984.00 – R2 545 854.00 per annum (All inclusive)
CENTRE : Pretoria

REQUIREMENTS: A senior Certificate, appropriate postgraduate qualification in Public Administration, Public Management or Social Services or relevant post graduate qualifications (NQF level 8) as recognised by SAQA. 10 years of relevant experience at a senior management level (of which at least 3 years' experience must be with any organ of state as defined in the Constitution, Act 108 of 1996). The candidate must have executive management experience and experience in monitoring and evaluation of government policies as well as a thorough understanding of government policy and administrative processes. Knowledge in Strategic Leadership, Prescripts, policies and business ethics as well as Government wide policies. Ability to interpret and apply policies and legislations. Knowledge of the Constitution, Public Service Act, 1994, Public Finance Management Act, 1999, and the National Development Plan, Deep knowledge of relevant Government legislation, policies, and priorities. Ability to interpret and apply policies and legislations. People Management and empowerment. Financial management, Project and Programme Management and Change management. Personal attributes: Interpersonal relations, Integrity, Confidential, Courteous, Responsive, Fairness, Credibility, Commitment and Compassionate. Skills in Report writing, Research, Presentation, Analytical at macro as well as micro level, Motivational, Decision making, Facilitation, Project Management and Strategic planning and management, and strategic thinking.

DUTIES

- The Guide and direct efficient and effective delivery of socio- economic support services to military veterans.
- Guide and direct efficient and effective delivery of Military Veterans empowerment and stakeholder management programmes.
- Provide leadership for the effective and efficient management and administration of the department.
- Serve as the Accounting Officer/ Head of Department in line with the requisite legislative and regulatory prescripts for financial management, risk and integrity management and internal audit services.
- Manage the provision of executive support services.
- Manage consultative commitments as Head of Department.
- Provide strategic direction and overall management of Departmental programmes

ENQUIRIES: Mr P.J. Sengwane – Tel No.: 012 765 9358

CLOSING DATE: 23 June 2025

NOTE: The Department of Military Veterans is an equal opportunity affirmative action employer. It is our intention to promote representatively (race, gender and disability) through the filling of these posts and candidates whose appointment/promotion/transfer will promote representatively will receive preference.

Full post details are available at:
<http://www.dmv.gov.za/vacancies.htm> and
<http://www.dpsa.gov.za/dpsa2g/vacancies.asp>



GCIS VACANCIES

The GCIS is an equal opportunity employer. In the filling of vacant posts, the objectives of Section 195 (1) (i) of the Constitution of South Africa of 1996, the Employment Equity (EE) imperatives as defined by the EE Act, 1998 (Act 55 of 1998) and relevant Human Resources policies of the department will be taken into consideration. People with disabilities will be accommodated within reasonable limits. Therefore, preference will be given to candidates whose appointment will assist the department in achieving its EE targets in terms of the department's EE Plan. People with disabilities will be given preference regardless of race or gender.

APPLICATIONS: The DG of GCIS, Private Bag X 745, Pretoria 0001, hand deliver to Tshedimosetso House, 1035 cnr Francis Baard & Festival streets, Hatfield, Pretoria, or emailed to recruitment@gcis.gov.za

FOR ATTENTION: Ms P Kgopyane

CLOSING DATE: 20 June 2025

DIRECTOR: SECURITY AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT - REF NO: 3/1/5/1-25/10

CHIEF DIRECTORATE: Human Capital and Corporate Support

SALARY: R1 216 824 per annum (Level 13), (all-inclusive salary package) of which 30% may be structured according to the individual's needs

CENTRE: Pretoria

ENQUIRIES: Ms Linda Kaseke, Tel: 012 473 0128

DIRECTOR: EDITORIAL AND LANGUAGE SERVICES - REF NO: 3/1/5/1-25/11

CHIEF DIRECTORATE: Products and Platforms

SALARY: R1 216 824 per annum (Level 13), (all-inclusive salary package) of which 30% may be structured according to the individual's needs.

CENTRE: Pretoria.

ENQUIRIES: Ms Zanele Mngadi, Tel: 012 473 0141

Kindly visit www.gcis.gov.za for more information on the requirements and functions of these posts.



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