

# Vuk'uzenzele



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| October 2018 Edition 1



It's smiles all the way for the owners of the Leratong Bakery cooperative which received assistance from the Department of Social Development and the National Development Agency.



**Agricultural allies enjoy abundant returns**

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**Ordinary shack turned into luxury spa**

**Page 9**

# Baking loaves of success

**KITCHEN QUEENS** have kneaded, shaped and baked a livelihood for themselves, with a little help from government and their supportive community.

**Galooome Shopane**

Over two decades ago, a group of women from Qwaqwa in the Free State put on their aprons, got out the flour and mixed up a better future for themselves.

The Leratong Bakery co-operative was started by nine women. Sadly, five of the original members have passed away but the remaining four have not only been able to put bread on the table but have created a strong sisterly bond.

Leratong Bakery supplies nine crèches around Qwaq-

wa, as well as private households.

"Everything we do was self-taught and we have worked very hard," said co-operative member Ntsejwa Nkone.

Nkone said that part of their success and sustainability came from the support

that they received from their community.

"Our relationship with community members is very good; they have supported our products and have encouraged us to continue what we do as they love our baked goods."

Nkone explained that they

received funding from the Department of Social Development that enabled them to purchase three stoves, a dough mixer, bread slicer, ingredients and allowed them to do some marketing.

"The process was not that

**Cont. on page 2**

“*And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.*”

Nelson Mandela



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# Men-to-men: Be a man, my boy

**W**hen \*Tshepo Mofokeng was 10 years old, he witnessed the rape of his 17-year-old sister.

While the armed attacker told the little boy to lie down and not watch, he can still hear his sister's screams.

After the attack, the man ordered the siblings to run and not look back. As they painfully made their way home, his sister made him promise not to tell a soul of the rape. Mofokeng kept his word but the secret made him very bitter.

"As I grew up, I would see the rapist around Katlehong and I grew more and more angry. I could not accept that he was getting away with his actions."

When he was an older, strong teenager, Mofokeng could no longer curtail his rage, and he would assault his sister's attacker whenever he saw him. He went from being a peaceful child to an angry youth.

Two things saved Mofokeng from his violent path. Firstly, he was blessed with a father and older brother who knew that violence was not the answer and while they did not

know why Mofokeng was acting out, they were able to guide him back onto the straight and narrow.

The second was the intervention of railway police who witnessed Mofokeng's last attack

**"The majority of men have been influenced by patriarchy. They had been beaten as a child and do not see why they should not raise their children in the same way."**

on his sister's rapist. The rapist was left with a broken leg but when Mofokeng explained to the railway police what the man had done all those years ago, they decided to let the youngster off with a warning.



The rapist was taken to hospital and did not press charges.

Attacks on women remained commonplace, however, and Mofokeng was increasingly concerned. While a Pretoria Technikon student, he helped form a club to sensitise men to their role in society and in 2004, he registered the South African Men's Action Group (SAMAG) as a non-governmental organisation.

Today, SAMAG has 10 full-time employees and a footprint in Gauteng, the Free State, North West, Limpopo and Mpumalanga. It is committed

to fostering social change.

Its primary message is 'Real men don't abuse women'. "Real stands for Responsible, Enlightened, Archetypal (exemplary) and Loving," said Mofokeng.

"The majority of men have been influenced by patriarchy. They had been beaten as a child and do not see why they should not raise their children in the same way. In many cultures, men are dominant and women are seen as being on the same level as children and therefore it is seen as acceptable to discipline them in the

same way," said Mofokeng.

Everyone has a role to play in changing mindsets, said.

He believes children should be raised without gender stereotyping. They should be treated as children rather than boys and girls and fathers should play a hands-on role in the children's lives. **V**

**You can contact SAMAG on 011 022 9007.**

**\*Tshepo Mofokeng not his real name.**



## Cont. from page 1

difficult and we did not wait a long time. We just went for an interview and we made it," explained Nkone.

The women received further assistance from the National Development Agency (NDA) which trained them in management and operations. The NDA also donated a minivan for deliveries. This all amounted to funding worth about R900 000.

The NDA is an agency of the Department of Social Development.

October is Social Development Month which is aimed at engaging communities to identify their challenges and put together action plans to deal with these challenges.

With the assistance of the NDA the Leratong Bakery has definitely implemented their plan of action by moving their business to new heights and creating jobs.

The bakery has made a name for itself and are famous for the freshest bakes in town.

Nkone said she is proud of the business's longevity and now wants to incorporate more people into their bakery.

"I hope that the co-operative will grow even bigger so that we can take on and serve more people," she said.

Nkone and her partners hope to infiltrate the market further by supplying local supermarkets with their bread and buns. **V**



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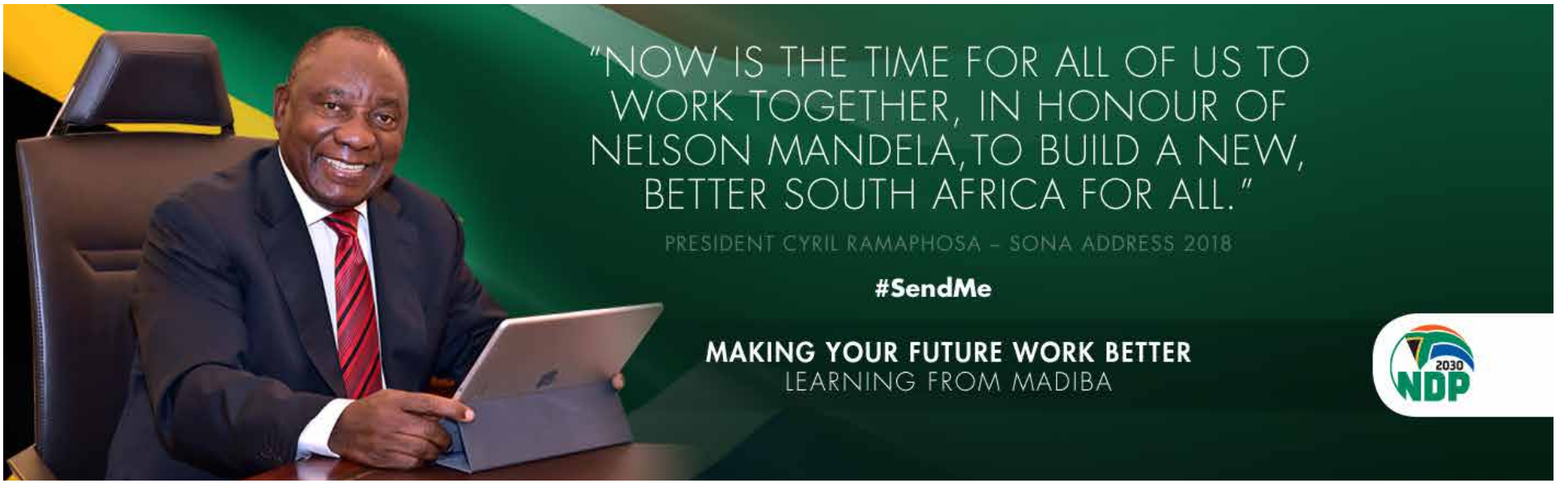
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# Tackling the land debate



**"S**outh Africa belongs to all who live in it." without this declaration our Constitution would be a hollow statement if the majority of South Africans did not have access to the land of which we were robbed and from which we were alienated during centuries of colonialism and decades of apartheid.

There is currently a lot of discussion and debate – but also disinformation and fear mongering around South Africa's land reform and redistribution process.

It is therefore necessary to reiterate that the aim of land reform and redistribution is to

make our nation more cohesive, more equal, more secure and more developed and it is an essential part of our vision of inclusive growth.

The process we have embarked on to ensure that all South Africans have access to land for a wide range of purposes – from subsistence farming to urban development and industrialization – is transparent, rules-based, constitutional and consultative.

Hearings have been held throughout the country and the current parliamentary process is a further opportunity for South Africans from all backgrounds and of all persuasions to jointly chart a way forward. We are confident that through

dialogue, discussion and engagement we will arrive at solutions that will not only take our country forward but also transform it to truly reflect that our nation belongs to all who live in it.

Contrary to what some are claiming, the Constitution has not been amended and current laws apply. Government respects the rule of law and will act in accordance with the Constitution at all times.

As part of maintaining the rule of law, our law-enforcement agencies will therefore act against individuals or groups who illegally claim or occupy land for whatever reason. We cannot allow law-

lessness to take hold while we are talking and working together as South Africans to ensure that we place land at the disposal of all South Africans in a fair and legal manner.

The ongoing parliamentary process will allow us to together determine a land reform model that works for everyone. The debate around land reform is an important one and it can ensure that we strengthen our nation and social cohesion by working together.

Government is leading the national effort for land restitution and redistribution that will undo the Original Sin of land dispossession and enable access to land in a way that grows the economy, ensures food security and increases agricultural production.

I encourage all South Africans to make their voice heard to Parliament as the public consultation process proceeds.

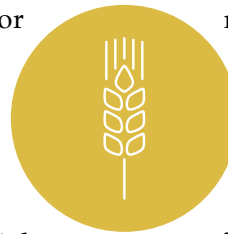
Citizens, the business community and the international investor community are among the many stakeholders who are watching our process very closely – and with good reason, because South Africa offers unique opportunities and benefits to all these interest groups.

While we are in this process, South Africa remains open for business, and investments in agriculture and farming are welcomed and remain safe. It is in South Africa's interests to have commercial farmers, and this process can ensure that we have even greater numbers of successful commercial farmers.

Investors in our country are reassured by our strong fiscal and economic framework that has been laid since the start of our democracy and which demonstrates our consistent prudent management of the economy.

Our work is affirmed by the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index which ranks South Africa 22nd in the world for investor protection while the Ernst and Young's (EY) Attractiveness Report on Africa 2017 highlights that South Africa remains the continent's leading foreign direct investment destination.

Moreover, the country's sound financial system, highly regulated banking sector and world class infrastructure supports investment. We remain committed as a country to the continuation of sound economic policies that vigorously pursue economic growth that includes and is enjoyed by all South Africans. **V**



## SEND ME TO BUILD THE MZANSI I WANT

Together we move South Africa forward

#SendMe #ThumaMina

Department: Government Communication and Information System  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# eThekweni's sign of respect to deaf citizens

**PEOPLE WHO** are hearing impaired will no longer feel like foreigners in their own city, thanks to a drive to teach sign language.



■ eThekweni municipality councillors who successfully completed a sign language course.

Hlengiwe Ngobese

The eThekweni Municipality ward councillors will be

able to communicate with deaf people living in their ward thanks to training provided by the council. Twenty councillors re-

ceived training as part of breaking down communication barriers and ensuring that people living with disabilities have a voice in the city.

Belinda Mhlongo, the deputy head in the speaker's office, said the aim is to train all councillors in the municipality.

"People with special needs are also ratepayers, therefore it is important that they get the same services, just like everyone else. However, we can't reach out to them if we don't know how to communicate with them."

She added that all councillors should be able to communicate with deaf

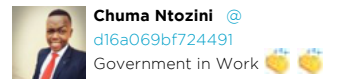
residents and said that the mainstreaming of disability remains a huge challenge. People with disabilities are often marginalised when it comes to finding jobs and accessing services, she said.

Speaking after receiving her certificate of competence, Councillor Busi Ndlovu said she will now be able to communicate with deaf eThekweni residents.

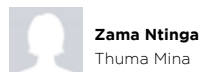
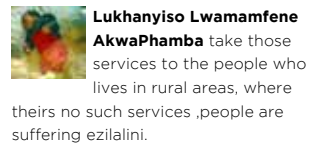
"The training has boosted my confidence in sign language. I have two neighbours who are deaf and previously I battled to engage with them. I would write what I wanted to say on a piece of paper, but now I can use sign language to communicate." **V**

 On Twitter

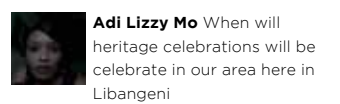
Public service month



 On Facebook



Tourism and Heritage month



 On Twitter



# Kids learn about transport through play

**GO GEORGE** makes affordable and reliable public transport a reality for residents of George in the Western Cape.

Dale Hes

Children residing within the George municipality in the Western Cape are catching on to the benefits of public transport through educational, fun games that have been distributed in schools around the area.

The GO GEORGE bus rapid transport system has become an outstanding feature of the local municipality in recent years, making affordable public transport available to most residents in the city's rural and urban areas.

GO GEORGE had the innovative idea of developing educational material that would teach children about the bus service in an entertaining and memorable way.

In November 2017, a GO GEORGE board game was

the first item designed for use in schools, to support the current curriculum on public transport. The beautifully designed game contains question cards about the bus service, and a board on which students can 'move' through the city. Question cards were developed for two age groups: six to nine and 10 to 13.

"When learning is fun, it sticks. The board game has provided hours of enjoyment while children learn about the benefits of public transport for the environment and community," said GO GEORGE manager James Robb.

Following the success of the board game, GO GEORGE recently released a 120-piece puzzle targeted at learners in Grades 1 to 3. After completing the colourful puzzle, learners can search for the GO



■ Learners of the Kretzenhoop Primary School enjoy building the 120-piece GO GEORGE puzzle.

GEORGE mascot, Georgie, in the picture.

Meanwhile, Grade 4 pupils are being educated through an activity book containing fun activities such as a word search, code breaking and a bus route maze.

Currently available in Afrikaans and English, the educa-

tional material will also soon be translated into Xhosa.

One of the schools benefiting from the initiative is the Kretzenhoop Primary School in Blanco, which has over 1 000 learners.

Kretzenhoop head of foundation phase teaching, Moyra Titus said that the children

have had fun while learning all about GO GEORGE.

"All of the materials are very colourful and beautifully made. The learners were very excited about the puzzle and the activity books and did not want to stop using them after they began working with them." **V**

# Business woman excels in school of life

**A KWAZULU-NATAL** woman is a business success, thanks to her own determination and a helping hand from Ithala Development Finance Corporation.

**Hlengiwe Ngobese**

**A** challenging childhood and little formal education did not stop Nokuthula Dladla from following her dream and becoming a successful businesswoman.

The 59-year-old owns Megaphase Roads and Civil, which specialises in manufacturing road signs, road markings and road construction. Founded in 2009, it is based in Kwa-Zulu-Natal and has a satellite branch in Johannesburg. Megaphase has 81 employees and has given many a person denied an education a chance to prove themselves and live a dignified life.

Dladla believes a person's past should not determine their future and this philosophy has helped her win a number of awards, including overall winner of the prestigious annual Technology for Women

in Business Awards hosted by the Department of Trade and Industry; and the Operational Excellence in the Manufacturing Sector Award in the Ithala Business Achievers Awards.

Before opening Megaphase, Dladla worked as petrol attendant, a sales person in a furniture shop and at a bank.

"While I was working at Nedbank, one of my clients spotted my potential and snapped me up to manage his road signs business," she said, adding that she earned a top salary and within a few months was driving a Mercedes.

"But my heart was not happy because I had not fulfilled my dream of owning my own company. I eventually stepped out on my own and started this manufacturing business," she said.

She said the biggest challenge she encountered in establishing her business was being taken seriously in a male-dominat-



**■ Nokuthula Dladla, owner of Megaphase Road and Civil.**

ed industry. "I have years of experience in this sector and know the business extensively. However, I sometimes get sidelined simply because I am a woman," she said.

While Dladla sold the signage manufacturing division of the

company in July to empower four employees who started the business with her in 2009, she still runs the road marking and road construction divisions. She said as part of the take-over agreement, she is going to mentor them for

three years.

She had this message for entrepreneurs: Work hard on your dreams. Be willing to learn and to make sacrifices and remember there are many government entities willing to fund viable start-ups. **■**

## Safety and empowerment for abuse victims

**A GROUP** of Western Cape shelters protects, supports and empowers women and their children so that they can shake off the shackles of abuse.



**■ Staff from Sisters Incorporated who are part of the Womens Shelter Movement participate in a march against women abuse.**

**Dale Hes**

**H**enrietta du Preez is an abuse survivor who's life has changed thanks to the caring environment offered by the Western Cape Women's Shelter Movement (WCWSM).

Sexually abused by her father when she was a girl, she also found out in 2015 that her own daughters were being molested by their stepfather.

"I realised that I needed help because I wanted to kill this man but I didn't want my children to go through a life without their mother," said Du Preez.

A friend told her about Sisters Incorporated in Kenilworth, one of 13 shelters being run by the WCWSM.

"Walking through the gates was the greatest decision I could ever make. The social workers gave me the therapy needed to heal my wounds and to become a better mother to

my children. After leaving the shelter my children are stable and safe," said Du Preez.

The WCWSM was founded in 2009. It provides a safe haven to more than 300 women and children across Cape Town.

"We strive to shelter victims affected by crime and violence, in particular gender-based violence and human trafficking; and to empower all who pass through our doors to become better-equipped for their role in society," explained Sisters Incorporated shelter manager Delene Roberts.

Apart from basic living requirements, the shelters provide skills training such as computer literacy, CV writing, arts and crafts, and other services such as parenting classes and human rights' workshops.

"The full-time social worker

assists residents with daily counselling, medical and legal needs, protection orders and schooling," Roberts added.

The shelters receive approximately half of their funding from the Department of Social Development, with additional support provided by the City of Cape Town. **■**

**Victims of abuse can contact the Western Cape Women's Shelter Movement on 021 448 6792 or visit one of the shelters. To find a shelter near you, visit [wcwsm.org.za](http://wcwsm.org.za). You can also report any abuse of women and children to the Department of Social Development on 0800 220 250.**

# Agricultural allies enjoy abundant returns

Hlengiwe Ngobese

**W**hen 33 farming cooperatives work together, an abundance of crops are produced and a happy market that knows that it can access a steady supply of fresh produce is the result.

Nyamvubu is one of the biggest cooperativ groupings in KwaZulu-Natal. Established in 2014, the power of 33 means that a large quantity of cabbages, beans, mushrooms and beef are readily available and that Nyamvubu has a growing reputation for reliability.

Speaking to *Vuk'uzenzele*, Nyamvubu chairman Ndo-da Xulu said the cooperativ received R21 million from the provincial Department of Agriculture as part of government's Comprehensive Rural Development Programme that aims to tackle underdevelopment, food security, unemployment, poverty and other social ills.



■ Nyamvubu cooperative members work hand-in-hand to make their farming business a success.

"We used the money for fencing, irrigation equipment, tractors and livestock. The model we have implemented of one hectare per household has proved successful and it encourages everyone to work hard. If you do not plant, you don't

get anything when others sell their vegetables. This model also works well with livestock farming because when the truck comes to collect cows going to the market, everyone wants to take part," he said.

Nyamvubu has created

employment opportunities for 200 people who assist cooperativ members during the planting and harvesting seasons.

A recent development in the cooperativ is the inclusion of a new cooperativ formed by school-leavers unable to se-

cure employment. They did training through the Cedara agricultural college and are growing mushrooms. Their first harvest was recently sold to a big supermarket in Greytown. Soon, they will make peeled butternut available to consumers. ■

# Land expropriation questions answered

Allison Cooper

**S**outh Africans have many questions around land reform following the National Assembly's adoption of a motion to amend the country's Constitution to allow for the expropriation of land without compensation. *Vuk'uzenzele* spoke to government to get these questions answered for our readers.

## Why is land reform needed?

The process of land reform dates back to the 1913 Natives Land Act, which was passed to allocate only about seven percent of arable land to Africans. In the 24 years since South Africa's democracy, the promise of having land

returned has not been realised by millions who live in poverty.

## Will Section 25 of the Constitution change?

Parliament is considering whether this section of the Constitution needs to be amended as part of the process.

## How will the process unfold?

The Joint Constitutional Review Committee undertook an extensive nation-wide public hearing process from June to August and deliberations took place from 4 and 7 September.

Parliament is now considering whether Section 25 of the Constitution needs to be amended. If Parliament agrees, government will draft and introduce a Bill to give ef-

fect to the motion and specify the amendment wording.

Through dialogue and a consultation process an amicable solution will be found to reignite and grow South Africa's economy.

## How will the new land reform measures be applied?

The proposed amendment would reinforce the fundamental principles of the property clause which, among other things, prohibits the arbitrary deprivation of property and holds that expropriation is possible in the public interest, subject to just and equitable compensation.

## When will the process of land and beneficiary identification and conditions for ownership be confirmed?

This will only unfold once the



Parliamentary process is complete and a clear way forward has been found.

## How will the process of land reform bring about transformation of the agricultural sector in a manner that does not affect production and jobs?

Access to land can improve

the quality of life for all South Africans. There is a need to make land available to people who want to work it, to increase agricultural production and grow the economy. Land reform will not erode property rights. It will ensure that all South Africans' rights, not only those who currently own land, are strengthened. ■

# New nurses ready to serve

More Matshediso

The North West Department of Health recently held a graduation ceremony for about 364 new nurses who received training from provincial nursing colleges.

The nurses graduated in different fields that include comprehensive nursing, midwifery, psychiatric nursing, advanced midwifery and neonatal nursing science, as well as operating theatre and clinical nursing science.

The graduation comes as the department re-engineers primary health care to respond faster in improving the health status of communities.

Mmabatho College of Nursing and Excelsius Nursing College are two government nursing colleges tasked with training nurses for public health facilities in the province.

Vuk'uzenzele spoke to Onica Chiloane (36) from Tlhabane West in Rustenburg. She is the overall best achiever in comprehensive nursing at Mmabatho College of Nursing.

She said qualifications in

**“I realised how important nursing is as I got to play a role in contributing to people’s health.”**

comprehensive nursing will open doors for her because the course is broad and comprises general nursing, psychiatry, midwifery and community nursing.

“I am one of those nurses who is able to assist a variety of patients who visit health facilities, from pregnant women to a mental health patient or anyone at all,” she said.

She said nursing was not part of her plans after completing matric but she found herself doing a one-year learnership with an old-age home in Pretoria in 2004, and she has never looked back.

“I realised how important nursing is as I got to play a role in contributing to people’s health. Now I am passionate about it and the sky is the limit for my career plans,” she said.

As a nurse, Chiloane said one has to get as much information as possible about the patient in order to give them the help they need.

“You have to be humble because you deal with different personalities and states of mind. It is a job that you do



■ Onica Chiloane a top achiever can't wait to serve her community.

not do for money but out of love to serve,” she said.

The graduates will be deployed to health facilities in

the province that are in need of extra nurses for efficient and prompt health service delivery. ■

# Raising awareness of alopecia

**A RARE CONDITION** related to hair loss has led a Durban woman to advocacy.

Sizakele Mdluli-Chaplin has a dream of living in a world where beauty is not defined by long hair, a slim body and straight white teeth.

She was diagnosed with alopecia, which is a condition that causes the immune system to attack hair follicles throughout the body and leads loss from the scalp, underarms, eyebrows, eyelashes and the pubic area.

“So basically, you lose all your hair and people call you an alien and all sorts of hurtful names,” said Mdluli-Chaplin.

Mdluli-Chaplin has been living with this disease for seven years and she is determined to raise awareness about the condition.

This Durban-based woman who is now living in the United States has written a book titled ‘Enough Already’ in a bid to create awareness about this disorder.



■ Sizakele Mdluli-Chaplin.

She adds that it took almost a year to get a diagnosis of what was happening to her after visiting several physicians and dermatologist who couldn’t explain why she was losing her hair.

She adds that when she was finally diagnosed, she still had no point of reference on a way forward on treating her condition.

“My frustrations escalated not only by what was hap-

pening to me, but by realising that I didn’t have a clue where to start looking for help. There is a wave of stigma associated with hair loss.”

She adds that although the condition is not fatal, some

people die slowly on the inside from shame.

She adds that people with alopecia are often teased because look differ without hair.

“This I believe happens because the public does not know nor understand this condition. Those who are sufferers are afraid to embrace their hair loss because hair loss is associated with being sick or getting old.”

She explains that alopecia can start at any age, and some people are born with it, scientists have not been able to pinpoint exactly what triggers alopecia, even though it is believed to be a genetically programmed disorder.

She pointed out that alopecia cannot be prevented or avoided because it manifests itself differently from person to person.

“Eating healthy and keeping your gut clean sometimes can help along with avoiding stressful situations,” she said. ■

# Kiswahili to be offered in South African schools

## More Matshediso

South African schools will be able to choose Kiswahili as an optional second additional language 2020.

This was one of a number of announcements recently made by Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga.

"We are confident that the teaching of Kiswahili in our schools will help to promote social cohesion with our fellow Africans," the minister said.

Kiswahili is a Bantu language with similarities to many other African languages. It is the third most spoken language on the continent after English and Arabic, with more than 100 million people speaking it.

It is also one of the official languages of the African Union. Minister Motshekga said the language has the power to bring Africans together.

There are currently 15 non-official languages listed in the National Curriculum Statement as optional subjects.

These include French, German and Mandarin but do not include an African language.

**"We are confident that the teaching of Kiswahili in our schools will help to promote social cohesion with our fellow Africans."**

The minister explained that all but one of the 15 languages originate outside Africa. Arabic, spoken in North African Arabic countries, is the only one with links to the continent.

"This continues to perpetuate the colonial mentality and necessitated us to take action and rectify this," the minister



■ Learners in South African schools will soon be able to converse in Kiswahili.

said.

## Coding as a subject in schools

Another development announced by the minister is the future introduction of coding as a subject in schools.

Coding is essentially written instructions that a robot or a computer program can read and then execute.

Once this is introduced in

schools, learners will be able to determine the task they want to complete through a robot, design the code to make it happen, and then send it to the robot to view the outcome.

## Exam readiness

Over 787 200 learners are expected to sit for this year's National Senior Certificate examinations from 15 October

and the minister is optimistic that the outcomes of the 2018 examinations will improve.

She said a new system is being implementing that will do away with supplementary exams and replace them with a second national exam. The new system will save the department money and give pupils more time to prepare for exams. ■

# Learners with special needs receive world-class technology

## More Matshediso

As the world evolves into a digital era, learners with special needs should not be left behind when their peers experience new technology as part of learning in schools.

This is why the Department of Social Development and the MTN SA Foundation donated computers that have special software to the Efata School for the Blind and Deaf in Mthatha in the Eastern Cape.

Efata has 411 learners; 124 are blind and 287 are deaf.

The acting principal of the school, Yolande Mtwá, said two computer laboratories, each with 22 specially adapted computers, were donated. The combined value of the



labs is around R3 million.

The computers for learners living with vision disabilities have text-to-speech capabilities and earphones so that

each learner can focus on their own work. Also donated was a printer with braille translator software, which converts print-based text to braille and

vice versa. For deaf learners, Mtwá said the computers have special software that will help them with their main subjects, including South African Sign Language.

"The computers also have CAPS-orientated textbook software which will enhance teaching and learning in our school," she said.

Mtwá encouraged parents to take an interest in their children's schoolwork and be more involved in school activities.

"Parents need to regularly visit their children in the school and not only see them during school holidays," she said.

Another exciting announcement on the day was that the services of sign language tutors had been secured to help parents of deaf children

learn sign language in order to better communicate with them.

The department's deputy minister, Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, who is also partially blind, said the donation of computer centres like these is aligned with the plans set out in the White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2015-2030.

"The White Paper calls for the removal of discriminating barriers to access and participation and ensures that the rights of persons with disabilities to equality and access are realised," she said.

The school is one of 40 that will be receiving computer laboratories in 2018 through the public private partnership between the Department of Social Development and the MTN SA Foundation. ■



# Ordinary shack turned into luxury spa

Nonkululeko Mathebula

**T**haini Masakane has made a name for herself by transforming a shack into a beauty spa.

Based in Botshabelo in the Free State, her business, Victory Body and Nail Studio, is growing in leaps and bounds and is attracting people from all over who arrive for some pampering.

Having sold Tupperware at the age of 19, the 28-year-old said she's always been passionate about running her own business and is glad to have embarked on this journey.

"I initially started out working for someone in the industry and that's where I got the experience," she said, adding that she studied cosmetology at Bloemfontein's Motheo TVET College.

Eventually she was ready to branch out on her own and has not looked back since. Her business fills a market gap in Botshabelo and she has a growing and loyal client



■ Thaini Masakane took social media by storm by not allowing her circumstances to define her and is building her dream.

base. Manicures, pedicures, massages, waxing and facials are offered.

Photos that she posted on social media of her pretty spa-in-a-shack went viral

recently, with people praising Masakane's innovation and saying she is an inspi-

ration to township girls.

Housed in a shiny new corrugated iron shack that looks quite ordinary from the outside, the spa has a luxurious interior that is perfect for pampering.

"The response I got blew my mind. I am still in awe and shocked. I am really humbled by the positive support I got from my community and even people outside the Free State."

Masakane is an orphan and was raised by her aunt who owned a poultry business and also sold sweets, cakes and peanuts: a clear indication that entrepreneurship runs in the family.

"My ultimate dream is to see my business grow into an empire that will be able to create jobs for the jobless and give young people hope that you can make it in life if you set your mind to it," said Masakane.

She said her focus now is on growing her business by getting more training so she can extend the range of services offered. ■

## Skinny Sbu Socks destined for success

Edwin Tshivhidzo

**F**or most people, socks are just an item of clothing worn on the feet and there is really nothing fancy about that.

But not for Sibusiso Ngwenya, whose super stylish socks have taken urban South Africa by storm.

What began as a hobby of sock collecting, rapidly turned into a successful business for this Tsakane-born youngster and today the Skinny Sbu Socks brand can be found on shelves at major retailers such as Markhams and Spree.

Ngwenya, 26, is the founder and head designer at Skinny S'bu Socks (SSS), an authentic



■ Sibusiso Ngwenya was able to target a niche market with his trendy socks brand.

luxury of sock brand designed and manufactured in South Africa.

Ngwenya's deep passion for socks began at a young age and he shares a personal anecdote about his height and

how this was key in shaping his love of socks.

"I am 1.9m tall and while growing up my pants were often not long enough and my socks would always show. I began to pay a lot of attention

to the type of socks I wore because they were always on display," he says.

Ngwenya began collecting luxury socks and over the years he owned hundreds of pairs of these branded socks. He later saw a gap in the South African market for stylish and luxury socks.

He started his business with his last R70 which he used to buy 14 pairs of socks and sold them in the Gautrain. The socks were sold out in minutes.

"From that moment, I never looked back, I decided to move from Tsakane to Jo'burg as I believe that there are more opportunities for me to grow my business," he says.

The brand became so successful that Ngwenya began struggling to meet the demand for his socks. Ngwenya's colourful line of socks targets young, metropolitan men.

The business employs seven other young people who are helping with among other things, design, marketing and distribution. Ngwenya has just opened his first shop at the sought-after Maboneng precinct in Johannesburg where he also hosts monthly networking sessions for budding entrepreneurs.

He attributes his success in life to the teachings of his mother who taught him to be business-minded from a young age. ■

# New pack house boosts farmers export business

**NEW FARMING** infrastructure to grow the farming sector of the Eastern Cape and entice young people into agriculture.

Siya Miti

**T**hree commercial citrus farmers in Ngqushwa in the Eastern Cape no longer have to worry about their harvest being spoilt thanks to the provincial government that handed over a R55-million packhouse.

The new pack house has updated storage features which will help improve the quality and lifespan of the citrus fruit waiting to be exported.

The farmers produce over 300 hectares of citrus.

One of the farmers is Ham-bile Nyamezele, who grows 49 hectares of Valencia oranges, Satsuma, Clementine and mandarin, which are exported to Europe, the Middle East, Canada and Russia. He said



■ Farmers in the Eastern Cape will grow their businesses thanks to a new pack house donated by government.

the new pack house would boost profitability.

In the old facility built in 1927, they could not pack all their fruit, especially soft citrus for a long time, said

Nyamezele

He added that this led to farmers using excessive amounts of money on frequent trips to their suppliers to ensure that the produce were delivered

to local and export markets without getting spoiled.

"We had to travel about 80 kilometres on a gravel road to Fort Beaufort, which is a very expensive trip. If you expect

90 percent export, in reality it would only be 60 percent because some of your produce would spoil and be lost," said Nyamezele.

He added that farmers had to take turns during harvest time which was also bad for business.

"Now we can all harvest at the same time and also store our produce at the same time without worrying that it will be spoiled. We have a cooling system which keeps the fruit fresh for a longer period," said Nyamezele.

Provincial Agriculture MEC Xolile Nqatha said the investment made by his department was in line with growing the number of farmers in the region along with enticing young people to join the agricultural sector. ■

## Food gardens make sense and cents

Allison Cooper

**W**ith innovation, dedication and passion, almost anyone can grow their own food.

This is the belief of food garden expert Amon Maluleke. "If the majority of South Africans started growing their own vegetables, immense strides would be made in a very short time to address food security and poverty alleviation," he said.

Growing food in rural areas is easier because of access to rivers and land, but anyone, anywhere can grow their own food. "If you buy a pumpkin for around R10, you not only have a meal, but can use the seeds to grow more pumpkins. One seed can yield two to five pumpkins and each pumpkin has dozens of seeds,"



■ Amon Maluleke with community volunteer Lekau Nkoko at Thembalami Care Centre's food garden.

Maluleke said.

### Maluleke's tips for easy planting

**Prepare the soil:** In rural areas, get hold of some goat or cattle manure and work it into the soil. In urban areas,

invest in some compost or make your own from vegetable and fruit peels, egg shells and even cardboard egg cartons. If possible, raise your vegetable bed by making a border of bricks and filling it in with soil.

These raised beds help stop weeds and pests, prevent soil compaction and provide proper drainage.

**Pick the right spot:** Vegetables need around five to eight hours of sun a day so avoid shady areas. Ensure you are near a water source and avoid very windy areas.

**How much space:** A piece of land five metres by six metres in size can feed a small family. If you live in an urban area without access to land, you can make do with very little space, however, by growing food in containers, such as pots, or old tyres stacked on top of each other, or even by making a bag garden using old sacks. This is also good for older people who cannot bend.

**Water often:** The soil should always be slightly damp to the touch.

Maluleke, who currently works at Rand Aid's Them-

"If the majority of South Africans started growing their own vegetables, immense strides would be made in a very short time to address food security and poverty alleviation."

balami Care Centre adjacent to Alexandra township, is a pioneer of inner city gardening and was one of the founders of Johannesburg's Bertrams Inner City Farm. ■

# Championing the best interests of children

**FAMILY DISPUTES** affect children the most but there is a team of officials dedicated to help.

**Solly Kganyago and More Matshediso**

The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development is committed to protecting the rights of children through its Family Advocate Office, which assists parties to reach an agreement in cases of custody, access and guardianship.

If the parties are unable to reach an agreement, the Office of the Family Advocate evaluates the parties' circumstances and makes a recommendation to the court that is in the best interests of the child.

Londiwe Ngwenya (36) is a family counsellor based at the Office of the Family Advocate's Johannesburg Regional Office.

She recalled a recent case which involved a married couple with two minor children. "The mother had filed for a divorce while in South

Africa on a tourist visa before travelling abroad with the children, leaving the father behind in South Africa," she explained.

"The father then lodged an urgent application at the High Court, alleging that the mother had abducted the children and he did not know where they were. The court made an interim order that the mother return to South Africa with the children," she added.

After investigating, Ngwenya and her colleagues recommended that it was in fact in the best interests of the children to go back to reside with their mother as neither parent had permanent residence in South Africa. The court eventually ruled in favour of the Family Advocate's recommendations but in the year that the case dragged on, the children suffered emotional and psychological trauma as a result of being separated from their mother. **V**



■ Londiwe Ngwenya is safeguarding the rights of children.

For more information on services offered by the Office of the Family Advocate call 012 357 8022

You may consult the Office of the Family Advocate if:

- There is a dispute regarding contact or care of a child.
- A person wants to draft a parental rights and responsibilities agreement.
- A person wants to amend or terminate parental rights and responsibilities agreements registered with the Family Advocate.
- There is a dispute on whether the unmarried father of a child born out of wedlock has satisfied the requirements which make him eligible to acquire full parental rights and responsibilities in terms of the law.

## SASSA – granting vulnerable children a better life



Foster care grants provide a lifeline to people who have stepped in to raise children who are either orphaned or

whose parents are unable to care for them.

To qualify for a foster care grant, you must be a South African citizen, permanent

resident or refugee. The foster child must live in South Africa and be legally placed in your care. The child must also remain in your care and should be younger than 18.

Qualifying guardians receive R960 per month per child, paid through the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) in one of the following ways:

- Cash at a specific pay point on a particular day
- Electronic deposit into your bank or Postbank account.

To apply for a foster care grant, submit the following documents to your nearest SASSA office:

- Your 13-digit bar-coded identity document (ID) and the birth certificate for

the child (if you don't have your ID or the child's birth certificate, complete an affidavit on a standard SASSA form in the presence of a Commissioner of Oaths).

- If you are a refugee, your status permit and refugee ID.
- Court order that placed the child in your care.
- If the child is at school, the child's school certificate.
- Proof of your marital status.

You will then complete the application form in the presence of the SASSA officer (note that only you as the applicant or a SASSA official can complete the application form) and will be given a receipt. Keep it as proof that you applied.

If your application is not approved, SASSA will inform you in writing and give a reason. If you disagree with the decision, you can appeal to the Minister of Social Development at the national office of the Department of Social Development. You must appeal within 90 days of being notified that your application was unsuccessful.

It may take up to three months to process your application. If approved, you will be paid from the date the court placed the child in your care. This service is free.

A number of situations could also result in your grant lapsing or being suspended. If this happens, visit your nearest SASSA office. **V**

# Popular venue attracts tourists and locals

**AN EASTERN CAPE** man does not let his disability define him; he plays to his people-loving personality and infuses some kasi spirit.

Siya Miti

**M**thombo Nkula has built a popular tourist attraction and hospitality venue from the ground up, despite living with a disability.

The hospitality industry was a natural fit for the bubbly 50-year-old who loves hosting people.

"I am a people's person, so I would let people come and chill at my house on weekends. People knew I wasn't selling alcohol, but they would buy their own and hang out at my place. The experience encouraged me to realise my dreams and I extended my house to incorporate a kasi restaurant."

Mthombo's Palace and Restro Lounge, which Nkula launched on his 48th birthday on 24 October 2015, has a restaurant that offers African cuisine and a mini-butchery that supports the growing 'shisa nyama' culture of 'buy and braai'.

Nkula confessed that business was slow at first and he sometimes had to give food away. But he pressed on until



■ The sky is the limit for Mthombo Nkula who has a thriving township tourism business.



in 2016, MTV-Base gave his business the boost it needed.

"MTV-Base needed a tourist attraction venue in Mdantsane to host an event and they chose my place. It gave my business so much good publicity. Ukhozi FM also came to host an event here and my business boomed from there," said Nkula.

Now Mthombo's Palace has grown into a thriving business frequented by locals as an after-party venue and tourists looking for a township experience.

"I was nominated for Tourism SA's Lilizela Awards (entrepreneurship category) and came up tops in the province and third nationally," said

Nkula.

"I am constantly improving my place and the tourism department of the Eastern Cape [Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism] supports me by bringing tourists to come and eat here when there are events. I am blessed big time," said Nkula.

"I started with two people, now I have six just in the kitchen. I have more than 15 permanent staff members."

Nkula became a paraplegic after a firearm accident in 1991. The former teacher battled to find employment as a result and had to find innovative, entrepreneurial ways to put bread on the table. **V**

## Protecting the victims of sexual offences

Dale Hes

**S**exual offences are among the most widespread crimes in the world causing trauma to victims. In South Africa, victims of these crimes need to be aware that their rights are protected by the Sexual Offences and Related Matters Act, and that they have safe places to turn to for help.

Also known as the Sexual Offences Act, this law criminalises sexual abuse or exploitation, rape, sexual assault, bestiality, incest, indecent exposure, sexual

exploitation of children, and compelling persons to witness sexual offences.

Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) Legal Director Marissa van Niekerk discusses the Sexual Offences Act and the issues surrounding sexual offences.

**Vuk:** Can you describe the purpose and importance of the Sexual Offences Act?

**MvN:** The purpose of the Act is to afford victims of sexual offences the protection that the law can provide and ultimately to eradicate the high incidence of sexual offences committed in the country. Sexual offences are of grave

concern because they impact on society as a whole.

**Vuk:** How do victims of sexual offences find support?

**MvN:** There are national policy guidelines by the South African Police Services in dealing with and supporting victims of sexual offences. When cases of sexual offence are reported, they must be given immediate attention, and any required medical assistance must be provided as soon as possible. Whether at the crime scene itself or at a police station, officers must remain with the victim until the investigating officer arrives. Victims must also be

assisted with access to counselling.

**Vuk:** What obstacles need to be overcome for victims to be fully protected by the Act?

**MvN:** Firstly, many incidents of sexual offences go unreported to the police due to a number of factors. These include fear of retaliation or intimidation by the perpetrator, lack of access to services by victims, the personal humiliation of being exposed as a victim of a sexual offence in a community, and the fact that the offender is often known to the victim and frequently a member of the victim's family.

Sexual offences must be reported in order to ensure that the Act is effectively implemented. **V**

For information on services offered by the Commission for Gender Equality call 0800 007 709.

**Deputy Director: Labour Centre Operations**

Labour Centre: De Aar, Ref No: HR 4/4/8/349

Salary: All inclusive: R 826 053 per annum  
Enquiries: Mr. ZL Albanie, Tel: (053) 838 1500

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PO Box 4560, Johannesburg, 2001

**Assistant Director: COID-Statutory Services**

Provincial Office: Mpumalanga, Reference No: HR 4/4/7/59

Salary: Commencing: R 356 289 per annum  
Enquiries: Ms. NL Njwambe, Tel: (013) 6558 775

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Private Bag X7263, Emalahleni, 1035

**Deputy Director: Employment Standard (BCEA Administration)**

Centre: Directorate: Employment Standard, Head Office

Reference No: HR 4/18/10/01HQ

Salary: All inclusive: R 826 053 per annum  
Enquiries: Mr. S Rathai: Tel: (012) 309 4636

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**Assistant Director: COIDA**

Centre: Labour Centre: Mthatha, Reference No: HR4/4/1/12

Salary: Commencing: R444 693.00 per annum, Enquiries: Mr. S Mapukata, Tel: (047) 501 5600

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Applications must be submitted on form Z83, obtainable from any Public Service Department or on the internet at [www.gov.za/documents](http://www.gov.za/documents). The fully completed and signed form Z83 should be accompanied by a recently updated, comprehensive CV as well as recently certified copies of all qualification(s) including a Senior Certificate and ID-document [Driver's license where applicable]. Non-RSA Citizens/Permanent Resident Permit Holders must attach a copy of their Permanent Residence Permits to their applications. Should you be in possession of a foreign qualification, it must be accompanied by an evaluation certificate from the South African Qualification Authority (SAQA). Applicants who do not comply with the above-mentioned requirements, as well as applications received late, will not be considered. The Department does not accept applications via fax or email. Failure to submit all the requested documents will result in the application not being considered. Correspondence will be limited to short-listed candidates only. If you have not been contacted within eight (8) weeks after the closing date of this advertisement, please accept that your application was unsuccessful. Suitable candidates will be subjected to a personnel suitability check (criminal record, citizenship, credit record checks, qualification verification and employment verification). Where applicable, candidates will be subjected to a skills/knowledge test. All shortlisted candidates for SMS posts will be subjected to a technical competency exercise that intends to test relevant technical elements of the job, the logistics of which be communicated by the Department. Following the interview and technical exercise, the selection panel will recommend candidates to attend generic managerial competencies using the mandated DPSA SMS competency assessment tools. Successful candidates will be appointed on a probation period of 12 months. The Department reserves the right not to make any appointment(s) to the above post. The successful candidate will be expected to sign a performance agreement. It is the Department's intention to promote equity (race, gender and disability) through the filling of this post(s) with a candidate whose transfer / promotion / appointment will promote representativity in line with the numerical targets as contained in our Employment Equity Plan.

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# Russia looks to SA for fresh produce

**A STRONG PARTNERSHIP** between the two countries resulted in local farmers being able to export their harvest.

**R**ussia continues to be an important market for South African fresh produce, says the Fresh Produce Exporters' Forum (FPEF).

FPEF CEO Anton Kruger said about ten percent out of 2.7 million tons of fresh fruit exported from South Africa goes to Russia.

Kruger was part of the Department of Trade and Industry's (dti) delegation which is participating in the World Food Moscow trade fair which took place recently.

The dti-led delegation of businesspeople forms part of the department's efforts to promote South Africa's agro-processing industry in to consolidate and establish

a market presence of South African goods in Russia.

Kruger said the South African pavilion at the fair added value for the FPEF, which is a voluntary, non-profit organisation with more than 130 members, accounting for about 90 percent of fresh produce exported from South Africa.

Kruger, who also represents the Export Council for the Fresh Produce Industry in South Africa, said since 2017, they have seen a steady export growth in pears, apples and table grapes, although the bulk of exports is still citrus.

He said the council is engaging with the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and is addressing the label-



ling issue. This follows the decision by the Euro Agent Commission to introduce new labelling requirements. The decision added a lot of cost and additional efforts for

South Africa to export its fresh produce.

Kruger said while 10 percent out of 2.7 million tons of fresh fruit is exported from South Africa to Russia, this took a

dip in 2016 to around six percent as a result of the labelling requirements.

He said since 2017, the volumes have picked up again to reach 10 percent.

Kruger said there is potential for South African grown avocados to be exported to Russia.

"We noticed that there is a big opportunity for us to introduce avocados and test the Russian market," said Kruger.

Last year the annual World Food Moscow hosted 1 433 exhibitors from 65 countries specialising in food and beverage products, with 78 percent of the exhibitors reporting that they had return of investment from exhibiting at the show. **SAnews.gov.za**

## SA deepens relations with Japan



**Japan views South Africa as a regional manufacturing hub into Africa.**

**E**conomic cooperation was at the core of the Department of Trade and Industry's (dti) investment mission to Japan.

The dti embarked on the weeklong trade mission to the island nation with Presidential investment envoy Phumzile Langeni.

The visit to Tokyo is in line with President Cyril Ramaphosa's investment drive to

attract \$100 billion worth of investments into the South African economy over five years.

President Ramaphosa appointed four presidential investment envoys in support of government's investment drive.

Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies said the mission was to engage and increase the awareness of the

sectoral value proposition to Japanese companies - some of whom are already excelling in South Africa and to encourage the companies to both invest and expand in South Africa.

He said it would further deepen the economic cooperation and provide an opportunity for partnerships, joint ventures and supplier development between Japan and South Africa.

Japan has always been a long-term Top 10 investment partner of South Africa. Japan has more than 140 companies operating in South Africa such as Toyota, Nissan, NGK, Sumitomo Rubber Industries, amongst others, and finds South Africa as regional manufacturing hub into Africa.

"The delegates will meet with leading Japanese companies operating in various sectors such as banking, asset

management and automotives, including the original equipment manufacturers," said Davies.

South Africa, he said, seeks to derive value from its historically cordial bilateral relations with Japan, as South Africa embarks on industrialisation and developing regional value-chains.

The delegation also includes acting Head of Invest South Africa Yunus Hoosen. The delegation will engage with Japanese government, business federations, Japanese government agencies, banking institutions, as well as current and potential investors. **SAnews.gov.za**



### This month in history

**1 October 1881 Pixley ka Seme is born**

Pixley ka Isaka Seme was born on 1 October 1881 in KwaZulu-Natal. Seme was a founding member of the South African Native National Congress (SANNC) in 1912, which was renamed the African National Congress (ANC) in 1923. The organisation was formed as a result of Black dissatisfaction with the South Africa Act of 1909, their treatment after the South African War, and the numerous laws being passed that controlled and restricted Black movement and work.

Seme, nephew of Chief Langalibalele Dube, was elected Treasurer-General in the first inaugural meeting of the SANNC in 1912. He was the barrister and President of the ANC from 1930 to 1936 when he was ousted by Reverend Z.R. Mahabane. Subsequent to this, circulation figures for his newspaper *Abantu Batho* dropped, resulting in its closure. His effort to re-launch his political career with the "All Africa Convention" was not very successful.

Seme died in Johannesburg in 1951.

# Taking albinism to the stage



■ Regina Mary Ndlovu uses acting to educate about albinism.

## More Matshediso

A theatre production by Arthur Molepo titled 'Mama, I Want The Black That You Are' goes to the root of teaching society about the human rights of people living with albinism.

Albinism is a genetic disorder in which there is partial or total lack of the pigment melanin in the eyes, skin and hair.

The play stars Puleng Molebatsi, Regina Mary Ndlovu, Ntsoaki Mathiba, Boitumelo Mathabela and Alister Mbuso Dube.

The play is centred on the life of a 15-year-old girl called Matlakala who has albinism and who harbours a plethora of emotions based on the abuse and prejudice she has suffered

from the community because of her condition.

Matlakala comes from a loving family of parents who do not have albinism. To protect them she has kept the social problems she has encountered due to the stigma and myths surrounding albinism, away from them.

*Vuk'uzenzele* spoke to one of the cast members, Regina Mary Ndlovu (29), who is a professional actress with experience in theatre and film. She is also living with albinism.

Ndlovu plays a demon character who torments Matlakala with the aim of showing her that if she does not do anything about the abuse and discrimination that she is experiencing, she will eventually die.

"Participating in this play means everything to me. It is

my life because through my acting I get to teach people and use this platform to tell real stories. It means the world to me because I was victimised for a long time too, I went through abuse and discrimination and I had no voice," she said.

"Through this play I now have a chance to become a woman and a role model that I did not have growing up," she added.

Ndlovu said she can relate to the storyline of the play well because she has had first-hand experience of abuse and discrimination.

She said being involved in the play has taught her that it is not about fighting back but rather educating people that living with albinism is equally humane. ■

## Female promoter has critics on the ropes

**FIGHTING HER** way into a male-dominated industry was not easy but a KwaZulu-Natal woman refused to throw in the towel.

### Hlengiwe Ngobese

Hard work and determination helped boxing promoter Zandile Malinga succeed in a man's world.

The 33-year-old owner of Starline Boxing Promotions said cracking into the industry was tough. Established boxers dismissed her capabilities because she had not personally been inside a boxing ring, she explained.

She countered that having been a boxer does not necessarily qualify a person to be a good boxing promoter. Rather, they need to have a thorough understanding of the South African Boxing Act and the boxing industry, and they must have good business sense and an excellent eye for talent.

Malinga's father-in-law was Maxwell 'Shaluza Max' Malinga, one of South Africa's most gifted and beloved fighters in the 1970s and 80s.

He later trained fighters and promoted tournaments under the banner of Starline Promotions.

It was this great man who inspired her to enter the industry. In those days, it truly was male dominated, with only a handful of professional women boxers.

Malinga said her father-in-law's fists provided for his family and allowed him to venture into the world of business. "I wanted to show women boxers that being a boxer is a gift that can be used to put food on the table. It is a gift that you can use to change your life," she said.

Malinga's most notable tournament was the 2016 international title fight between World Boxing Federation super welterweight champion Noni Tenge and Hungary's Szilvia Szabados.

"This was the highlight of my boxing career; it made even those who looked down on me as a female

promoter start to respect my skills and capabilities. It was my first international tournament and it drew international attention."

Malinga works closely with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Sport and Recreation to scout young female boxers.

"I really believe that as promoters we should not focus only on big tournaments but we should help amateurs establish themselves," she said.

Malinga holds a degree in communication and speech and drama but she does not see herself leaving the boxing arena. ■



■ Zandile Malinga leads in scouting boxing talent in KwaZulu-Natal.