

# Vuk'uzenzele



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## Female farmer ploughs her way to success

**VOLUNTEERING** on a farm from an early age has ensured a successful career in agriculture for the dynamic female entrepreneur.

**Nonkululeko Mathebula**

**F**rom being poverty stricken and teased for working on a farm Mahlatse Matlakane (20) is now a beaming green pepper farmer.

Mahlatse began volunteering at a local green pepper farm over weekends and school holidays at the age of 15 to help her unemployed mother put food on the table.

Matlakane is based in Ga-Moisimane in Buchum just outside Polokwane in Limpopo.

She said although she is enjoying the fruits of her labour it was not always easy.

“Growing up was very hard for my siblings and I. My peers used to mock me when I started working on the farm and said that farming was for illiterate people.

“This hurt my feelings but I wanted to gain knowledge in farming so that I could pursue it as a career,” she said.

When Matlakane had



■ Mahlatse Matlakane is on her way to successful farm green peppers in Ga-Moisimane in Buchum just outside Polokwane in Limpopo.

gained some experience she approached the owner of the farm where she was volunteering Johan Nel about planting her own seeds and

growing peppers.

Nel gave her two hectares of land on his farm.

“I was amazed by how small seeds could turn into

plants that produced big green peppers. Seeing how the plants were taken care of

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**“To the youth of today, I also have a wish to make: be the scriptwriters of your destiny and feature yourselves as stars that showed the way towards a brighter future.”**

Nelson Mandela



# Home Affairs bionic system to provide faster service

**THE NEW** biometric system called ABIS will be rolled out over a period of five years.



■ Home Affairs Minister Malusi Gigaba gives the new Automated Biometric Identification System a test drive. The system is being launched to speed up service delivery and the issuing of ID documents.

The new Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) will have an impact on the turnaround time for issuing ID documents, passports, and will reduce the duplication of identities.

That is according to Minister of Home Affairs Malusi Gigaba who recently launched ABIS which is said to change

the way in which South Africans are identified and will form the backbone of how the public and private sector will manage the authentication of their clients.

ABIS will be the identification and security solution in support of national government's drive towards modernisation of all departments for service efficiency.

The system will offer a single source for biometric authentication for South Africans.

"The ABIS project will be rolled out in phases over a five-year period. Implementation will entail migration of the current Home Affairs National Identity System (HANIS) data fingerprints and facial recognition to the new ABIS with improved

functionality, installation and configuration of ABIS infrastructure and building of system functionalities," he said.

The country's banks will be able to verify client identification quicker and the tourism sector will benefit due to quicker response times at ports of entry to capture and verify a traveller's identity.

Minister Gigaba also said the SA Police Service will be

**"The ABIS project will be rolled out in phases over a five-year period."**

able to search for suspects by matching latent prints against ABIS records. The system will also lead to improved border control which should create a competitive economic environment to attract critical skills, enable growth, increase foreign direct investment and create jobs.

## DID YOU KNOW?



The Department of Home Affairs has issued 10 million smart ID cards.

Minister Gigaba said the ABIS project was initiated in January 2016 with the aim to replace the national security system.

Minister Gigaba said one of the major challenges that were faced with the national security system was the imminent collapse of the over 20-year-old biometrics database which left the department with no choice but to carry out a technology upgrade.

Minister Gigaba added that the department partnered with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research to develop specifications for a new biometric database.

He said the department worked with the State Information Technology Agency to procure a future-fit Automated Biometric Identification system. ■ [SAnews.gov.za](http://SAnews.gov.za)

## ● Cont. from page 1

by using fertilisers to control bugs made me fall in love with farming even more. I knew right there that this is what I wanted to do," said Matlakane.

After completing matric Matlakane took a gap year despite having been accepted at the University of Johannesburg to study law.

She went back to Nel to ask him for more farming

assistance and he suggested that she speak to a chief in the area about the possibility of giving her land.

After seeing her progress on Nel's farm the local chief gave her 40 hectares of land on the Babirwa Ba Tau Ya Tswala farm from where she now runs her business. She has employed four young people to work on the developing farm business.

Matlakane's farm supplies green peppers to fresh pro-

duce markets in Bochum, Polokwane and Johannesburg.

While her business has a comfortable monthly turnover Matlakane has her sights set on breaking into the international market.

Matlakane said she is positive about her future and has a goal is to uplift poverty-stricken community members by providing skills and employment as her business continues to grow. ■



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# Creating opportunities for young people

**F**or South Africans, 16 June 1976 marks the day the struggle against apartheid moved into a new phase and the youth formed the vanguard of that change.

Those brave young South Africans declared “enough is enough!” and in so doing defined a new era in the history of the struggle. Those young people demonstrated to the apartheid government their complete rejection of racial oppression.

Their bravery as they stood in front of apartheid police determined to use live rounds is legendary. The majority of South Africans supported the uprising which took the apartheid government by surprise and showed that those with initiative would lead the future.

Thanks to their struggles, and the struggles of those who followed, today’s youth live in a country free of racial discrimination and oppression and have opportunities as well as dignity.

Yet, even though we may have defeated apartheid, the youth of today still experience the effects of its legacy and hundreds of years of colonialism. Our young people are particularly vulnerable to unemployment, poverty, inequality and low skill levels and government is working hard to unravel these terrible deficiencies.

That is why our policies are geared towards ensuring that young people, in particular, thrive despite their challenges. As a pro-poor government we have a number of pro-



grammes in place to alleviate poverty. For example, our approach is directly opposite to that of apartheid – for this government cares about the majority and particularly, the black child.

While we work with communities to improve their well being, measures we have taken over time through the child support grant, free schooling, free tertiary education for those who qualify and government sponsored feeding schemes we’re seeking to improve the lot of the poor.

Look around you and take note of the access to water and electricity which has accelerated owing to government’s initiatives.

Despite these efforts up to 51 percent of young people do not finish Grade 12 resulting in problems in the search for jobs because of the level of skill required.

In March this year the Youth

Employment Service (YES) was launched which is an initiative between business, government, labour, civil society and the youth which seeks to create one-year paid positions for those between 18 and 35. A minimum stipend of R3 500 will see those who are on the outside of formal employment being able to spend time inside businesses which is a crucial learning process.

This initiative complements the work already being done to tackle youth unemployment. It provides a vital ingredient that has been missing – the provision of meaningful work experience for young people on a scale that will have a significant and lasting impact on employment, on the economy and on broader society.

We all share a responsibility to ensure that young people gain the confidence, capabilities, and exposure to succeed in the working envi-

ronment. That is why we have prioritised the development of pathways into work for young people.

I call on companies to join the programme, not only to increase the chances of employment for many thousands of young people, but also so that the companies themselves can develop the young workforce that they will need to expand and grow. The success of our efforts will be judged by the extent to which they create more employment and education opportunities for young people.

Together we need to build pathways for young people into the world of work and to enhance their skills. It is true that early childhood is crucial and we are determined to improve the quality and value of the learning that young people receive in our basic education system.

Both government and the

private sector share a responsibility to develop the skills of young South Africans and ensure that these skills are suited to the needs of our economy, now and into the future.

At the same time it is up to our youth to seize the day and be inspired by the 1976 generation and take their future into their own hands. Young people must rise up and use opportunities afforded to them to better their lives and their communities, to seize the initiative where they can and to develop their own networks and develop their own businesses where possible.

It is encouraging to see that access to higher education and training has grown over the last two decades, significantly increasing the number of people in the workforce who hold degrees and diplomas.

Young people who have worked hard in their studies and finally have degrees and diplomas must use their qualifications to expand their possibilities while building their careers. These young people are part of a new generation of skilled young South Africans building a new inclusive economy.

They must remember that their families, communities and country have invested much in them and it is their responsibility to use our free education initiative properly.

Together, we are working to build a society that is fundamentally different from the one that has come before.

Let us work together to secure a better future for all our youth. **U**

# Tshwane motorists say goodbye to long queues

**THE NEW** online booking system will allow motorists to make an appointment to renew their licenses at centres around the metro.

**Nonkululeko Mathebula**

**M**otorists in the Tshwane Municipal area can now make bookings to renew their driver's licenses in the comfort of their own homes thanks to a new online system introduced by the city.

The system was launched in Pretoria and is designed to speed up the process of service delivery.

The booking system is free of charge and can be used to secure a booking at Centurion, Akasia, Bronkhorstpruit and Waltloo licensing centres and is available for download on <https://onlinecompanysa.co.za/book>

Tshwane Member of the Mayoral Committee for Trans-

port Sheila Lynn Senkubuge said the move would go a long way towards improving service delivery in the region.

"Lines at licensing centres are extremely long and people spend time in long queues and even have to take leave just to get things done."

Senkubuge said in some licensing centres there is no parking for customers which makes the whole process tedious.

"We are thrilled to announce that this will no longer be the case. What we have embarked on will help us deal with the influx at our licensing centres due to this year being another five-year cycle return for thousands of applicants who converted from the green barcoded identity book driv-

ing licence to the legislated licence cards of 2003," said Senkubuge.

To use the system, drivers can register on the Online Company website to make the booking. Once at the testing station they can skip the queue by presenting a printed email with the appointment details to security officials.

Motorists are also reminded to bring an optometrist's certificate for the renewal because doing so can reduce the time spent at the data capturing desk by around 60 percent.

In the future the time taken to collect licenses could drop to 15 minutes according to Senkubuge.

Motorists can also opt to get their driver's license card delivered to their homes or



■ Drivers in the Tshwane municipal area can now make bookings online to renew their driver's license.

places of work at an additional fee.

It will cost a motorist R96.45 to get their driver's license delivered in most Gauteng areas.

Residents in Hartbeespoort

Dam Brits, Vereeniging and Vanderbijlpark will pay R141.41 with drivers in Rustenburg paying R204.34 to get their cards delivered to their doorstep. ■

## SANRAL at the core of road safety

**SANRAL HAS** erected fences on portions of two highways to keep pedestrians safe.

**Hlengiwe Ngobese**

**T**he South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL) has ensured the safety of residents within the eThekweni municipality in Kwa-Zulu-Natal by erecting fences along portions of two highways.

Pedestrians living near these roads were being hit by vehicles when attempting to directly cross the highways rather than using the overhead bridges.

The fences have been erected along the N3 near Cliffdale, and on the N2 at Kwa Mashu. Each fence is two kilometres long.

SANRAL has previously erected fences on the N3 near the Mariannhill Toll Plaza to prevent hawkers gaining access to the plaza.

Bruno Cullen SANRAL's



■ The new fences will ensure pedestrian safety along the highway.

Eastern Region project manager said pedestrians vandalised the fencing that had been erected along certain sections to prevent them from crossing the busy highway.

"We have experimented with

vandal-proof fences which have so far proven to be effective in preventing people from crossing and causing an unsafe environment."

The fencing, which is almost 2.5 metres high is manufac-

tured from galvanized, pressed, high-density mesh panels with

**"Pedestrians are the most vulnerable of all road users and road safety is an important priority for SANRAL."**

anti-cut dimensions and galvanized spikes bolted along the top.

It is not possible to climb this type of fence and it is difficult to cut.

"Pedestrians are the most vulnerable of all road users

and road safety is an important priority for SANRAL.

"We ask for pedestrians' cooperation to ensure that their lives are not placed in jeopardy by the deliberate and wilful destruction of the fencing," said Cullen.

He urged pedestrians to use the pedestrian bridge as a safety precaution.

The ward councillor of Cliffdale, Mthetheleli Sibisi, said more than eight people have been killed in accidents in this area.

"We are happy that this area has been fenced. This project is going to help minimise accidents in the area, especially at night because most people who died here were crossing at night and not wearing bright clothes so cars couldn't see them. We thank you SANRAL for coming up with this project," said Sibisi. ■

# Roka Lebea tribe rejoice over land title deed

Jauhara Khan and  
More Matshediso

**T**he Roka Lebea tribe is rejoicing after finally being handed the title deeds to the place they have called home for over two centuries.

The Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform Maite Nkoana-Mashabane recently handed the title deed to the tribe leaders at the Seroka Primary School in Limpopo.

The Roka Lebea tribe is from the Ga-Seroka village, which is near Jane Furse in the Sekhukhune district municipality in Limpopo.

Their land claim was processed almost 20 years after it was lodged.

The traditional leader of the tribe, Kgoshigadi Seroka Tlakale Monica, had lodged a land claim on behalf of the tribe on 23 November 1998 with the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights. The tribe wished to acquire the formal

rights to the Dingaankop 543 KS farm, which occupies 1035.5872 hectares (about 10 square kilometres). They have lived on this land from about 1800 to the present day.

The tribe was never physically removed from their home, but they have had informal unregistered rights to the land due to Section 11 of the Native Trust and Land Act of 1936, which prohibited the ownership in title or purchase of land by "natives".

The claim has been processed under Section 3 of the Restitution of Land Rights Act of 1994.

One of the beneficiaries of the land claim, Maditau Makgwale, shared his excitement with *Vuk'uzenzele*.

"I am happy and proud that we have our own land, and we will be able to make a living out of it. We are planning to start agricultural projects and mining on the land, and we will continue to work together with government so that we will be able to create jobs



■ The Roka Lebea tribe from the Ga-Seroka village which is near Jane Furse in the Sekhukhune district municipality in Limpopo now have full ownership of their land after receiving title deeds from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform.

for our people and for our children to afford educational opportunities."

He said they would focus on crop production, but some community members also owned livestock, which gave the community a head start in their farming efforts.

"All members of our community are going to benefit from this land, especially the youth.

We have about 600 people who will benefit from this title deed. The land is big enough for all of us, it is about 1035 hectares," he said.

Makgwale discouraged the act of land grabs, which has been prevalent across the country in recent weeks. He said it was important for citizens to do things according to the law.

"Some of the people take up the land illegally but have no plans for it. It is only right to do things properly so that we can benefit from the land," he said.

In her budget vote recently, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane said the department had already restored 3.5million hectares of land which could change the lives of those still stuck in the second economy. ■

## Patience and passion makes piggery 'cool'

**WHILE LEAVING** a full-time job to start a farming career is too scary for some, others take the plunge and live their dream.

Annemarie Redelinghuys

**B**ubbly pig farmer Miriam Mulungo (49) says farming is 'cool' and it is the responsibility of every South African to play their part in food security.

"I have been a pig farmer since 2003. I left my job as a nurse because I had a passion for farming. I want to encourage South Africans to be involved in farming, especially young people," she said.

Mulungo owns Mulungo Agricultural Piggery and Crop in Modderfontein, Gauteng, which employs eight permanent workers and produces about 200 pigs a month for abattoirs in the area.

She has 220 sows and five boars and impregnates the sows via artificial insemination.

Mulungo's love of farming



■ Miriam Mulungo's love for agriculture led her to pig farming.

started at a young age, when she would go to the field to help her mother.

"We had cattle when I was

growing up and we just loved farming. Everything we ate came from the soil," said Mulungo, explaining that her

mother grew maize, peanuts and yogo beans.

The successful farmer's journey was not always easy and she struggled in the beginning.

Mulungo started her piggery by hiring a plot in Nooitgedacht, Gauteng, but had to stop due to farming restrictions.

Things started to look up when the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform let her lease 173 hectares of land.

"I was very excited to get this piece of land because it meant that my dream of being a farmer would come to life."

The Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development also assisted her to build the structure of her piggery.

"The department also assisted me with 49 sows to boost my business."

Mulungo says that it takes pa-

ience and passion to be a sustainable farmer and encourages women and youth to venture into the world of farming.

"Women have always been the backbone of farming in communities. If a woman is farming she has the ability to feed the whole community."

"Everything that you eat, wear and use somehow comes from the soil. If a person starts farming from a young age they are giving themselves a head start into a lucrative and sustainable business," she said. ■

For more information about the agricultural programme offered by the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, call 011 240 2500 or email [Nthabiseng.suping@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:Nthabiseng.suping@gauteng.gov.za).

# Great strides made towards healthcare for all

**THE NATIONAL** Health Insurance pilot project moves to the next phase.

Jauhara Khan

**T**he Minister of Health Aaron Motsoaledi highlighted progress made with regard to the National Health Insurance (NHI) in its 10 pilot sites across the country during his Budget Vote.

This year will mark five years since the beginning of preparatory work for the NHI and great strides have been made. The department is now completing the construction and refurbishment of 701 clinics within and outside of the 10 pilot districts at a cost of R40 billion for infrastructure and almost R2 billion for equipment.

"In addition we are constructing consulting rooms for doctors who visit our clinics on a contract basis. We have completed 142 and we are busy with 21 and will have 163 in total. There are also new and refurbished hospitals and refurbished nursing colleges within and outside of the pilot districts," said Minister Motsoaledi.

## Monitoring medical stock electronically

Minister Motsoaledi said the department has implemented various systems in hospitals to ensure that clinic medicine stocks are monitored and replenished.

The Stock Visibility System (SVS) measures clinic stock levels electronically by scanning a packaging code with a special cell phone application. Once scanned, the stock level is reported to an electronic map of all clinics in the country at the central tower in Pretoria.

Minister Motsoaledi said, "We are proud to announce that we have the SVS in 3 163 clinics, 658 of which are within the NHI pilots, since we started implementing in July 2014."

The Rx Solution and other electronic stock management



■ The NHI also provides better services for those in need of mental health assistance.

systems work in a similar fashion to SVS and have been installed at 80 percent of 10 central hospitals, 94 percent of 18 provincial tertiary hospitals, 83 percent of 47 regional hospitals and 71 percent of 254 district hospitals.

## CCMDD programme brings relief to clinics

The NHI has also seen the implementation of the Central Chronic Medicines and Dispensing and Distribution programme (CCMDD) which helps relieve congestion at clinics and hospitals.

"Patients who are stable and on chronic medication do not have to visit clinics anymore, except maybe after six months for check-up. They can collect their medicines at 401 pickup points around the country. A total of 1,3 million patients are using the system."

Motsoaledi revealed that the department has implemented a unique patient identifier system that ensures that patients are recognised at every clinic they visit.

The department worked with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research,

the Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Home Affairs to implement the system, which is in operation at 1 859 clinics, 705 of which are in pilot areas. "South Africa has never had a patient information system that allows us to follow a patient from one facility to the other.

"This means that one patient can visit many facilities on one day and collect medicine and receive similar services without us knowing because there is no system to detect this," the Minister said.

Over six million South Africans are already registered on the system, with 80 000 to 100 000 people being registered per day.

This Unique Patient Identifier is linked to a patient's ID number so they have the same number for life. People can register at any of the 1 859 facilities and it only takes five minutes. Once registered, it only takes 45 seconds to retrieve their file on their next visit.

Motsoaledi said that the pilot programme has screened 3,2 million school children for

physical barriers to learning and found that over 500 000 have health issues that require the help of medical specialists.

The pilot programme funds their treatment and offers antenatal care, family planning, breast and cervical cancer screenings and treatments to 1,2 million women who fall pregnant annually.

The NHI also provides better services for those in need of mental health assistance. Motsoaledi said it would help the elderly and disabled with assistive devices, like hearing aids and wheelchairs, and will clear up the backlog of cataract operations for the elderly. **V**

## DID YOU KNOW?

The NHI is a financing system that will ensure that all South Africans are provided with essential healthcare regardless of their employment status and ability to make a direct monetary contribution to the fund.

## On twitter

### On the new Home Affairs Biometric System



**Cazz** @Av\_Cazz  
Sophisticated technology, but no training to staff... But I'm optimistic.



**Natasha.Skyblu** @NatashaVanNiek3  
Was today at home affairs in Pretoria National home affairs, the service is up to a potential good standard and friendly authentic services. And looking forward to wait for my ID smartcard and passport. A+ for good serviceability.



## Facebook



**Vusi Gumede**  
The Negativity. People forget it used to take up to 3 months to get a green book ID. NOW it will take you up to 3 days and can be done



**Michelle Schrikker**  
Waiting for an unabridged birth certificate since March 2017, maybe they should first get the basics right before implementing new systems

### Reaction to the passing of anti-apartheid photographer Sam Nzima



## On twitter



**RubyKekana** @RubyKekana  
May the soul of #SamNzima rest in peace. We must honour his legacy by renaming the street he took photographs of Hector Pieterse after him



**Matimu Mathebula** @Stuart\_Matimu  
It's through his dedication and passion for his work in photography that youth of our generation and generation to come know about Hector Pieterse... Thank you #SamNzima for preserving the history of the struggle.



## Facebook



**Mne Kumalo**  
RIP baba Sam Nzima. I was so sad to hear of your passing... the greatest photographer ever in SA who exposed the brutality of the South African Police who shot protesting students at close range during the 1976 Soweto uprising... the world wouldn't have known the truth



**Lesedi Dibakwane**  
Just got informed of the passing of Ntate Nzima. For some years he was our neighbour. What a gentleman!! Sad passing of a part of our historical memory, a living archive.

### On President Cyril Ramaphosa's visit to the ILO's Future of Work global commission in Switzerland:



## On twitter



**@realNelson** @Nelson09396648  
Looks like president ramaphosa is making progress in the international communities



**Kgabo** @MoruduKgabo @GovernmentZA @CyrilRamaphosa  
Equality need to be priority in terms of wages balance.



## Facebook



**Sindi Tshabalala**  
Nazo!! Our Honourable President at work!!



**Tebogo Phukubye**  
May I ask how can a person who lives on less than \$2 a day, can survive on R20 per working hour, maybe the ILO will advise for a living wage.

@VukuzenzeleNews

Vuk'uzenzele

# Deadline looms for NSFAS recipients

**THE NEW** agreement between students and NSFAS states that learners must pass at least 50 percent of all courses in the first year and in the following years of study.

**I**f you are a first year student who has qualified to get a bursary from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) you need to ensure that you have signed your bursary agreement by 31 July 2018.

NSFAS recently announced that it was implementing its new National Student Financial Aid Scheme Bursary Agreement (NBA) which came about as a result of government's fee-free education announcement.

NSFAS transformed from a loan and bursary funder to a government funder.

The NBA is only applicable to first-time entering students and senior students who applied to the NSFAS for the first time this year.

NSFAS sent an email notification to students from the universities of Cape Town, Sol Plaatje and the Mfozozi, as well as Port Elizabeth and Motheo technical vocational education and training colleges in early May.

Notifications will also be sent to all other universities and colleges.

"The email notification con-



■ Students benefitting from NSFAS bursaries will have to sign a new bursary agreement by 31 July 2018.

tains a link on which students must click. The link will take them to an online version of the NBA which they have to sign by the deadline.

"The NSFAS is concerned that the process is moving slowly. By 15 May we had generated 37 893 NBAs, but only 5 063 had been signed," a spokesperson for the scheme said in a statement.

Affected students who fail to sign the NBA by 31 July 2018

will not have their bursaries paid.

The NBA also has new terms and conditions which students must to adhere to.

#### Students who sign an NBA:

- Can't relinquish, assign, transfer or delegate any of their rights or obligations under the agreement.
- Must focus on their studies and adjust themselves to university life in a responsible and disciplined manner.

- Must comply with academic requirements, such as attending classes and participating in lectures, tutorials and academic support programmes.
- Must complete all set assignments and tasks and undergo all tests and examinations (written and oral).
- Must pass at least 50 percent of all courses in the first year and pass sufficient courses in subsequent

years.

- Students who immigrate have to pay the bursary back in full before they leave the country.
- From the second year of study beneficiaries must participate in a minimum of 10 days or 80 hours of community service or special project work per year.

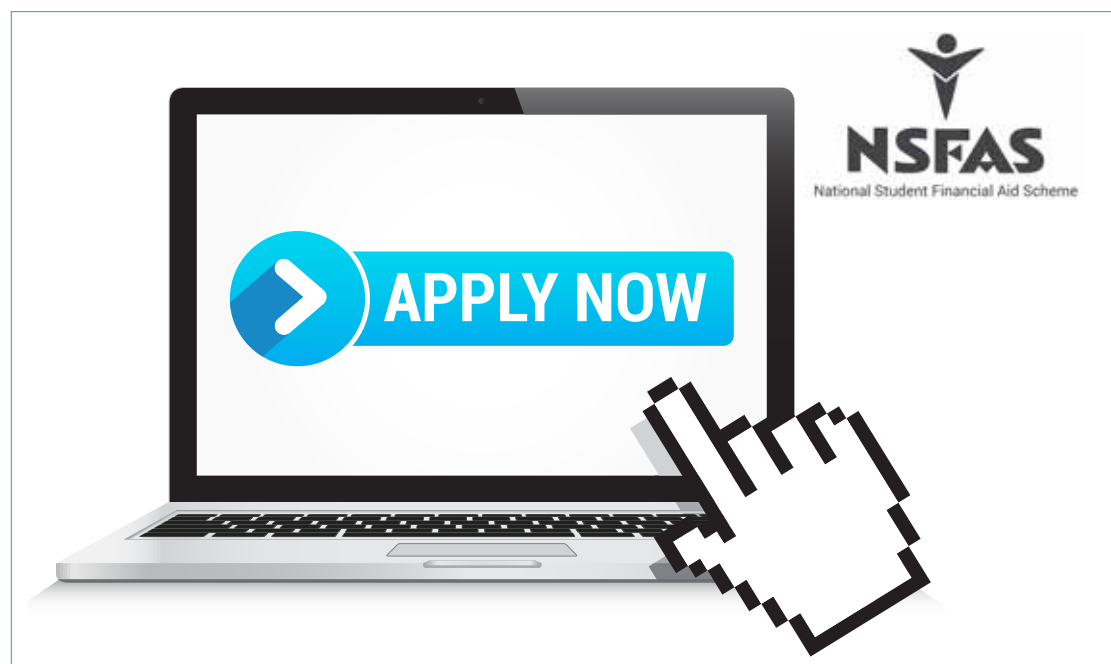
If students do not honour these obligations the NSFAS can terminate the NBA. ■

#### How to sign the NBA

All students affected by the NSFAS NBA have to sign the new bursary agreement by 31 July 2018. The NBA can be signed online or manually.

#### Online signing process

- You will receive an email from the NSFAS.
- The email will contain a link. Click this link. You will be directed to an online portal.
- Insert your ID number. The system will send you an SMS, which contains a One Time Pin (OTP). The OTP will be sent to the cell phone number that you registered with the NSFAS.
- Use the OTP to sign the NBA online.
- When you have done this,



you will see a notification indicating that the NBA terms and conditions have been submitted.

If your cell phone number has changed you must email a certified copy of your green barcoded ID or smart card and

an affidavit stating that you have changed your number and providing your new number to [uds@nsfas.org.za](mailto:uds@nsfas.org.za).

#### Manual signing process

If the online signing option is not functioning optimally, the NSFAS will make a manual NBA available for onsite physical signing. This will be driven by the NSFAS Servicing Team at the scheme's offices.

This option should only be used as a last resort as manual forms will delay approval and payment.

"We encourage all institutions to assist us to get students to sign the NBA by the required deadline," the NSFAS said in a statement. ■

**For more information, contact the NSFAS at 0860 067 327**

# Eco-warriors protect rhinos

**AN ENVIRONMENTAL** Expanded Public Works Programme is ensuring both job creation and wildlife protection.



■ Environmental monitors have played a part in reducing poaching in nature reserves around the country.

**Dale Hes**

**E**nvironmental monitor Phakamani Nyawo (26) based at Umkhuze Game Reserve in KwaZulu-Natal is one of 1 659 monitors who have

been entrusted by South African National Parks (SANParks) to look after the environment in public and private nature reserves across South Africa.

Nyawo, who is part the environmental monitor project

run by the EPWP, believes it is important to educate communities about looking after the environment.

"We need to go out there and make the community understand why it's important to conserve nature. It is

only then that the community will understand the role of wildlife," he said.

The programme equips young South Africans with the skills they need to work in nature conservation and biodiversity and has ensured that Nyawo is able to look after his family.

"My family's home has a great roof now without leaks, and it's because of my job. I am pleased that I got this opportunity," he said.

The Minister of Environmental Affairs Dr Edna Molewa has dubbed monitors as 'eco-warriors' because they play a crucial role in fighting environmental crime such as rhino poaching.

"Last year about 1 659 environmental monitors were deployed to rhino poaching hotspots to assist with environmental protection. They will be empowered to become rhino ambassadors in these areas," she said.

Nyawo was also part of the team that caught a poacher in the Umkhuze Game Reserve which led to a criminal conviction.

"I was proud of my efforts and in this case experience was the best teacher as it led to catching the poacher," he said.

The programme has been instrumental in assisting with the successful arrest, investigation and sentencing of poachers, reducing wildlife poaching by 50 percent and ensuring a 76 percent decrease in animal trapping. ■

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Department of Environmental Affairs has spent R235 million equipping young people with environmental skills.

# Fired up about job creation

**WITH FIRE SEASON** approaching *Vuk'uzenzele* found out about a successful government-funded programme that prevents and controls wild fires.

**Adele Schoorman**

**W**orking on Fire (WOF) manages an integrated fire management programme which has ensured employment for many youngsters from marginalised communities.

Funded by the Department of Environmental Affairs

the programme falls under the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

It provides hope to many young people who can't find jobs and has achieved remarkable success in the prevention and control of wild fires lessening their impact.

The programme employs over 5 000 people from marginalised communities and has trained them in fire awareness, education, prevention and suppression, as well as other skills, such as first aid, carpentry, cooking, health and safety and communications.

WOF communications officer Lebogang Maseko explained that the programme targets youth and employs people with

disabilities to work at its provincial bases.

"We place a strong emphasis on skills development and providing jobs to youth who are fresh out of high school or who have just graduated from tertiary institutions. Of the programme's recruits 94 percent are youth, 31 percent are female and three percent have a disability," she confirmed.

Lorraine Mokoena (31) from Mpumalanga is one of the recruits who benefited from the programme. She has been working at WOF for the past 11 years.

After completing matric she struggled to find employment for two years. Her sister then told her about the WOF programme.

"The application process was tough. Fitness is the most important criteria for

the job and new recruits are put through their paces. Once you pass the test you have to pass a medical examination and then the firefighting training begins," she said.

Mokoena started as a junior firefighter and has worked her way up to the position of senior crew leader, leading a team of 18 firefighters.

"This job has changed my life. I am the only bread winner for my siblings and two children. I can now feed my family and send my children to school," said Mokoena.

She admitted that the firefighting arena is generally a man's world and she has learnt to be tough as a woman in this field.

Mokoena has set her sight on becoming a ground operations manager within the next two years. This will make her responsible for all WOF teams

located in Mpumalanga. ■

With fire season upon us Mokoena offered the following tips to prevent veld fires:

- Don't light fires in the open if you cannot control them.
- Ensure that you have enough help and equipment to cope with all eventualities.
- Don't leave a fire unattended
- Keep an eye on the weather.
- Fires in the open should not be lit on very hot or windy days.



■ Lorraine Mokoena has benefited greatly from the WOF programme.

For more information about the WOF programme contact 021 418 2569 or 082 508 0990 or email: [news@wofire.co.za](mailto:news@wofire.co.za).



# Young doctor a beacon of hope



■ Dr Nhlakanipho Gumede, the CEO of the Pholela Community Healthcare Centre in Bulwer in KwaZulu-Natal says his passion to serve has been his moral compass.

Allison Cooper

**F**ree-spirited yet practical and proactive sums up the young and successful Dr Nhlakanipho Gumede (34), who firmly believes in leading by example, values, professionalism, respect and innovation.

Born in Mbazwana in the north-eastern part of KwaZulu-Natal and raised by his grandmother, Gumede and his siblings came from a poor family but “never went hungry.

“We had a school, clinic and shops close to home, but we didn’t have electricity and had very little water until later in life when we had a tap in our yard. I grew up in a rural area where civilisation and life was evolving,” he recalled.

Gumede completed his Medical degree in Cuba in 2010 at the Instituto Superior de Ciencias Medicas de Villa Clara but his training required that he completes his final year in South Africa and he enrolled at Wits University. He then wrote his Cuban exams and obtained a Doctor en Medicina (Doctor in Medicine) degree which

is equivalent to a MBBCh/MBChB, at the age of 26.

The passionate healthcare professional “always had a thing for health” even though he didn’t believe that he

**“It’s all in our hands. The 1976 generation laid the foundation and the 1994 elections gave us freedom to start taking control of our country.”**

would become a doctor one day.

“I remember asking why only white or Indian men worked in pharmacies and why black youth were not taking up these positions. When I was growing up people were dying from diseases. I saw a lot of Malaria in my area and I always wanted to work at a health institution

but I never wanted to become a doctor even though everyone at home always thought that I would become one,” he said.

## Grabbing opportunities

One day Gumede saw an advert looking for students who wanted to study medicine in Cuba. He didn’t miss the opportunity. “This was going to be the financial alleviation my family needed, especially my mother who was financing my tertiary education,” he added.

Gumede was just 31 when he took on the challenging and exciting role of acting CEO at Pholela Community Healthcare Centre in Bulwer, KwaZulu-Natal. A year later in 2016, he was appointed as CEO.

He has made fighting disease and poverty his mission, giving hope to others and solving any problems that arise at the healthcare centre.

“I enjoy taking good government policies and putting them into practice at grassroots level and the relationships that I have with patients and employees. What is most fulfilling though, is to see my team being actively involved in the development of strate-

gies that guarantee that our people and society receive the healthcare services that they deserve.

“To be the one that pushes this agenda makes me happy about my job. After all, prevention is better than cure,” said Gumede.

## Teenage pregnancy and HIV

Pholela’s greatest challenges include the high incidence of HIV and teenage pregnancy. “It is medically proven that teenage pregnancy is a risk factor of HIV. We are worried about the high number of teenagers who fall pregnant.

The fact that they are pregnant means that they did not use protection therefore they are at risk of sexually transmitted infections such as HIV,” said Gumede.

Pholela is working on a strategy that includes teenage pregnancy campaigns in schools and educating the community to stop this epidemic.

“We are also planning a huge event in June 2018 that will involve Operation Sukuma Sakhe, traditional leaders, municipalities and all government departments. It will help us to educate more teenagers and ensure that the message is spread not only to them also, but to the community at large,” he added.

Gumede has his sights firmly set on obtaining a Business Administration degree majoring in health. From there he wants to obtain his Masters in Public Health and a PHD.

Gumede’s message to youngsters this Youth Day is clear. “It’s all in our hands. The 1976 generation laid the foundation and the 1994 elections gave us freedom to start taking control of our country. The government cannot give you everything on a platter. Some things you must work hard for. Don’t wait for government to give you anything. Wake up and fend for yourself. There is a great world out there waiting for you,” he said. ■



# A blossoming young scientist

**THE LOVE** for biology led Welcome to the world of botany.

Dale Hes

**A**t the age of 29, Ashton Welcome is already making waves in the scientific community. She has authored and co-authored three scientific articles and presented her fascinating work at various national and international conferences.

Welcome is in her second year of employment as a plant taxonomist at the South African National Botanical Institute's (SANBI).

Her role in a field known as biosystematics is to unlock the mysteries of plant families examining the differences between species while also exploring the importance that plants have for humans and the environment alike.

"Being so interested in useful plants I began to realise the importance of the classification of plants. For example two plants may look very similar, but one of them may be an edible species and the other poisonous so you have to understand what the difference is," Welcome explained.

She specialises mainly in the Malvaceae family of plants which includes commonly-known genera such as cotton and the hibiscus.

The Malvaceae family contains 4 225 known species and it is Welcome's job to identify the differences between samples of species that occur in Southern Africa.

"We take these groups of species and see what the characteristics are that differentiate them. Sometimes it will be something obvious such as the flowers or leaves, but other times you will have to examine the anatomy under a microscope to spot the differences," said Welcome.

She added that Malvaceae plants have various uses for humans.

"We all know the value of cotton in terms of clothing



■ Ashton Welcome's role in biosystematics is to unlock the mysteries of plant families examining the differences between species, while also exploring the importance of plants for humans and the environment alike.

and textiles. Some plants also contain edible nuts, others are eaten as a traditional spinach, while some have very fibrous bark that can be used as rope."

## A love for nature

Welcome grew up in a house set amongst rocky hills close to a nature reserve in southern Johannesburg where her love for nature was ignited.

"We had a little mountain garden where I would play. I didn't realise it at the time, but looking back I think that this is

where my passion for biology and botany started," she said.

"I loved biology at school and it was one of the subjects that I got a distinction for in matric. I was also part of the high school science club. It felt very natural for me to go into a biology-related degree at university," she added.

Welcome took biology and botany in her first year at the University of Johannesburg (UJ). In her second year she was introduced to economic botany and the use of plants

by humans. This eventually led to the PhD thesis that Welcome is working on which explores the indigenous food plants of South Africa. She has already made some interesting findings.

"The first pattern we have established is that cultural groups living in dry areas are more dependent on food plants that have a higher water content. I am very excited about discovering more through this project because it really shows how important

plants are and how dependent people have been on them over hundreds of years."

## Flourishing at SANBI

SANBI is a cornerstone of the scientific community in South Africa especially when it comes to botany. The herbarium contains thousands of plant specimens which researchers, universities and scientists often turn to when completing their work. Welcome is one of the people who ensures that all of this information is correctly organised, so that it can be accessed easily.

She says that SANBI plays a vital role in protecting the incredible biodiversity of South Africa.

"There is no other organisation like SANBI; certainly in Southern Africa there are none that compare. SANBI is the foundation that everyone turns to for our historical collections, library, preserved specimens and our expert researchers. These are the go-to people in the industry, and one day I hope to become a go-to person myself."

Welcome said that the youth of today need to look at botany and science as a whole in a different way.

"The youth don't see this as a glamorous career and some students may rather study towards careers that are portrayed as more fashionable. But I think that if more emphasis is placed on linking plants to their importance and the history of their use then that would encourage a lot more people." ■

For more information on SANBI youth programmes email [Students@sanbi.org.za](mailto:Students@sanbi.org.za) or logon to the SANBI website on [www.sanbi.org/community-initiatives/student-intern-programmes](http://www.sanbi.org/community-initiatives/student-intern-programmes)

# Hope for former drug addict



■ The Department of Social Development worked with the National Drug Authority to eradicate substance abuse in communities.

Jauhara Khan

**M**inister of Social Development Susan Shabangu has pledged that the department will work towards a society free of the demand and supply of drugs.

Speaking at the national budget vote Minister Shabangu said that the department would work with the National Drug Authority on Integrated Anti-Substance Abuse

Programmes to eradicate substance abuse in communities. She said the department would also take forward the work it had begun on the National Drug Masterplan 2018-2022.

During her speech Minister Shabangu said the lucrative profits derived from the drug and substance trade are encouraging criminal activities in South Africa.

In line with this *Vuk'uzenzele* spoke to a former drug addict and inmate at Atteridgeville

Correctional Centre in Pretoria to find out how his life changed after his imprisonment.

It is a very different life from the one he had been living prior to his arrest in 2016. He is currently serving a three-year sentence for theft at the Atteridgeville Correctional Centre in Pretoria.

His arrest came after a 12-year long drug addiction which saw him turn to crime.

"I started taking drugs while I was in school. My friends were smoking and taking drugs, and they pressured me into taking drugs, too," he said.

He began to take nyaope, ecstasy and 'rock' which is the street name for crack cocaine, which he bought from drug dealers near his home.

"I would use my spending money for school to pay for drugs. I would even ask my neighbours for money and tell them it was for school materials. My mother would pay them back and not question why I was borrowing money," he said.

The death of his young son in

**"Drugs turn you into a monster. No one can ever trust you again. I no longer have a taste for drugs. I know that I will never succeed if I go back."**

2011 also caused the 29-year-old to seek solace in drugs.

Soon he turned to theft to keep up his drug habit. At first he would steal his neighbours' cutlery. He was eventually arrested for stealing from a local supermarket in early 2016.

"I filled my trolley up with groceries and tried to leave the shop. The security guards stopped me at the door and they arrested me," he said.

He was taken to the Kgosi Mampuru II Correctional Facility and then Atteridgeville Correctional Centre after being sentenced to three years in prison.

"My family was shocked about what had happened. I had let them all down. My mother had a stroke four months into my sentence and

died. It was painful. I knew I had a lot to think about."

The inmate who wished to remain anonymous was optimistic about the future.

He is studying certificate in agriculture and will be released in October next year.

"Drugs turn you into a monster. No one can ever trust you again. Seek help if you can. I no longer have a taste for drugs. I know that I will never succeed if I go back," he said. ■

For more information on overcoming drug addiction you can call the South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (SANCA) on 011 892 3829 or logon to <http://www.sancanational.info/>

## Career blossoms after helping others

**GOVERNMENT'S** social worker scholarship programme has helped another youth pursue a career she calls her destiny.

Adele Schormann

**N**okubonga Mnguni's (27) passion for caring for others has blossomed into a career in social work.

Mnguni works for the Mbombela-based Mental Health Society in Mpumalanga where she assists people with disabilities and mental illnesses.

"Become a social worker because you care about people. I studied this course because I love helping people and I am passionate about it. We need more social workers in our province," Mnguni said.

Her decision to become a social worker came naturally but was further encouraged by a scholarship from the Department of Social Development which enabled her to study

at the University of Johannesburg (UJ).

"During my first year at UJ I applied for a loan from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme. I also heard about the social worker scholarship programme and took a chance applying.

"I was awarded the scholarship and I am proud to be one of its beneficiaries and a social worker. I am forever grateful for the opportunity that the Department of Social Development has given me," she said.

Mnguni encourages young people to become social workers because they play a very important role in their communities.

Mpumalanga Department of Social Development spokesperson Pertunia Lessing said the province is struggling with a shortage of social workers.



■ Nokubonga Mnguni is passionate about helping others through social work

She explained that the ratio of social workers to patients is one for every 6 776, when it should be one for every 5 000.

"Women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly, in particular, who are

abused, at risk, abandoned or neglected, are dependent on specialised social work professionals," Lessing confirmed.

Meanwhile the Minister of Social Development, Susan Shabangu said in her budget

vote that the department is attending to on the challenges faced by social workers.

"There are 3 864 unem-

**"I studied this course because I love helping people and I am passionate about it."**

ployed social work graduates even though there remains a need for their services across various sectors. The department will continuously help to explore opportunities for the absorption of these social workers into the workforce," she said. ■

# School girls given a helping hand



■ The Subz pads are reusable and have a life span of three to five years.

**GIRLS FROM** disadvantaged communities now no longer have to miss school during their menstrual cycle.

## More Matshediso

**G**irls who cannot afford to buy sanitary pads sometimes miss about 60 days

of school a year. This is according to the Northern Cape Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

To ensure that this does not happen the Department has

partnered with the Clicks Helping Hand Trust to distribute reusable sanitary towels at schools across the province.

The joint campaign was

recently launched in Hoptown at Steynville High School and will be rolled out to rural schools.

The department said the distribution of reusable sanitary towels will ensure that girls can attend school during menstruation and will financially benefit impoverished families.

The reusable sanitary towel has a life span of three to five years and it is environmentally friendly.

Developed, designed and manufactured by Project Dignity founder Sue Barnes the Subz pads are made from five layers of specialised fabrics which earned the product absorbency approval from the South African Bureau of Standards.

Barnes developed the product after learning about some girls' dire situation at African schools.

Sports, Arts and Culture MEC Bongiwe Mbinqo-Gigaba said the lack of affordable sanitary products puts girls at a disadvantage in terms of education and prevents their mobility and productivity as young women.

"Without sanitary prod-

ucts girls are excluded from their right to an education as stipulated by the Constitution of South Africa," said the MEC.

Clicks manager Donna Davids said the inability of girls from disadvantaged backgrounds to show up at school for a week during their periods has a profound negative impact on their education.

"While we will continue with our activations which aim to provide all young South African women with reusable sanitary pads, we are thrilled that the public is also able to purchase them," she said.

The department has appealed to the public to support the campaign by visiting their nearest Clicks branch and making a donation of R29,95 at till points.

The Clicks Helping Hand Trust is a registered non-profit organisation that offers free clinic services, through its network of clinics, to disadvantaged South Africans who do not have a medical aid and lack access to basic primary healthcare services. ■

# Housing credit for low-income earners

**WHETHER YOU** want to build a new house or renovate an existing building the Rural Housing Loan Fund (RHLF) can help you.

## More Matshediso

**T**he Department of Human Settlement's Rural Housing Loan Fund (RHLF) can help low-income earners from rural areas who have limited options when it comes to accessing funds to build or renovate their homes.

The RHLF, a state-owned wholesale development finance institution helps these citizens to access housing credit and government housing subsidy funds.

The RHLF offers incremental housing finance to low-income earners through approved intermediary part-

ners, including micro-finance lending institutions registered with the National Credit Regulator; cooperative financial institutions; and community-based organisations, such as stokvels and building clubs.

These partners borrow funds from the RHLF and lend to individual borrowers throughout South Africa's rural areas including small towns and secondary cities.

Motsei Sebolao (68) from Borakalalo Village in Zeerust is one of the people who have benefitted from RHLF's services.

She took a loan of R5 060 from RHLF intermediary lender Kabo Financial En-

terprise in February 2017 to complete the extension of her house.

"I needed money to purchase additional roofing material for another room. I used to live in a two-room house with my children and grandchildren. I managed to extend the house by another three rooms but I ran out of roofing material. Kabo Financial Enterprise helped me to accomplish my dream.

"I now live in a five-room house with my four children and three grandchildren," she said.

Sebolao receives a government social grant and gets financial help from her daugh-



■ The RHLF is ensuring that low income earners have a chance to own a home.

ter, who is volunteering as a teacher at Motswedi High School near her home.

She used her social grant money to build her home because all of her children are unemployed.

Sebolao is expecting to repay the loan by February 2019 and is happy with the

service she received from Kabo Financial Enterprise. ■

Interested lenders can contact the RHLF by emailing [mmothobi@rhlf.co.za](mailto:mmothobi@rhlf.co.za), calling 011 644 9887 or visiting the website [www.rhlf.co.za](http://www.rhlf.co.za).

**Senior Employment Service Practitioner III (ESP3)**

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Enquiries: Mr. J Mphahlele, Tel: (053) 838 1580

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**Assistant Director: Beneficiary Services**

Office: Provincial Office: Mpumalanga  
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Centre: Chief Directorate: Information Communications technology, Head Office  
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**Director: Statutory Services**

Centre: Chief Directorate: Statutory and Advocacy Services, Head Office  
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Enquiries: Adv. F Mncanca, Tel: (012) 309 4562

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Centre: Directorate: Work-Seeker Services, Head Office  
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Centre: Directorate: Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Head Office  
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# Transforming the future of work

**THE WORK** of the ILO Global Commission is in line with the creation of decent jobs to ensure young South Africans have skills in the changing workplace.

**P**resident Cyril Ramaphosa has called for greater efforts to accelerate the creation of a just, humane and inclusive world of employment for all saying it could no longer be business as usual.

The President was speaking as co-chair of the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Global Commission on the Future of Work in Geneva, Switzerland.

He added that young people, women and those with disabilities must be at the centre of efforts by the global community for social justice as it responds to the challenges of a rapidly transforming global workplace.

"The Future of Work will enhance the involvement of women, young people and disabled people in the world of work and how they can participate in a much more effective way. This concept will assist in creating more jobs, generate growth, and increasing fairness," said President Ramaphosa.

President Ramaphosa co-chaired the third meeting of the Commission together with the Prime Minister of Sweden, Stefan Löfven. The gathering considered the Framework on the Global Commission's Final Report which had focused partly on the issue of the disabled.

According to The Presidency, the Commission is important as it seeks to convince business and government to regard workers as an asset rather than an expense.

"This requires a new global social contract for creating and distributing value in the economy, including collaboration on enhancing productivity and reducing inequality, among others," the Presidency said in a statement.

The High-Level Global Commission comprising experts from government, business and labour was established by the ILO in 2017 to assess the rapid transformations taking place in the global economy and world of work, and iden-



President Cyril Ramaphosa meeting with the Director-General of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Guy Ryder (left) and Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven (centre) at the ILO's Global Commission on the Future of Work in Geneva, Switzerland.

tifying the key challenges and recommendations.

The work of the Global Commission aligns with government's focus on the creation of decent and sustainable jobs, and efforts to ensure young South Africans have the skills necessary to thrive in the changing workplace.

President Ramaphosa assumed his position as the new co-chair of the Global Commission on the Future of Work of the ILO while in Switzerland. **■**

## This month in history



### 16 June 1976 – The Soweto Uprising

A day that began with peaceful protesting but ended in violence, tears, blood and the death of a 13-year-old boy, Hector Peterson. The Soweto Uprising started when more than 20 000 learners marched against the use of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in black secondary schools on 16 June 1976. The uprising then escalated into a nationwide revolt, revitalising the struggle for liberation in South Africa.

Apart from the language issue, students also demanded an

education as good as that provided for white students. Police used teargas to disperse the crowd and students threw stones in retaliation. Police then responded by firing live bullets, killing Hector Peterson.

In South Africa today this day is known as Youth Day which marks not only the sacrifices made by the youth on that day, but also of those children who defied "Bantu Education" and took up arms in the struggle for freedom.

Youth Day is commemorated annually on 16 June.

Source: [www.sahistory.org](http://www.sahistory.org)

## SA withdraws Israel ambassador

**THE SOUTH AFRICAN** government has taken a strong stance against the violence carried out by Israeli armed forces along the Gaza strip.

**T**he South African government has recently recalled its ambassador to Israel in protest against the Israeli attack in the occupied Gaza Strip.

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) said the decision was made following Israel's deadly attack in the Gaza Strip in the middle of May.

"Given the indiscriminate and grave manner of the latest Israeli attack, the South African government has taken a decision to recall Ambassador

Sisa Ngombane with immediate effect until further notice," the department said.

The South African government said it condemns - in the strongest terms possible - the latest act of violent aggression carried out by Israeli armed forces along the Gaza border.

Israeli forces opened fire on Palestinians who were protesting against the inauguration of the US embassy in Jerusalem. The attack led to the deaths of over 40 people the injury of many Palestinian citizens and the destruction of property.

"As we have stated on previous occasions, South Africa reiterates its view that the Israeli Defence Force must withdraw from the Gaza Strip and bring to an end the violent and destructive incursions into Palestinian territories," the department said.

The department said the violence in the Gaza Strip will stand in the way of rebuilding Palestinian institutions and infrastructure.

The routine actions of the Israeli armed forces present yet another obstacle to a perma-

nent resolution to the conflict, which must come in the form of two states, Palestine and Israel, existing side-by-side and in peace.

The violence in the Gaza Strip comes in the year of Nelson Mandela Centenary. South Africa's first democratic President would have celebrated his 100th birthday.

President Mandela was instrumental in resolving many conflicts throughout the world. He was forthright in his condemnation of Israel's military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He was in favour of a negotiated settlement that would see Israeli's and Palestinian's living in peace.

He also called for concrete action by world bodies and states with influence to find solutions to the deadlock.

The late former President was resolute in his support of the struggle of the people of Palestine for self-determination. His message that there can be peace, security and friendship in the region has remained the cornerstone of South Africa's approach in dealing with conflicts. **■**

# South Africa mourns the passing of Sam Nzima

**SAM NZIMA** will forever be remembered as a man who had the courage to fight apartheid with his camera in hand.

**R**enowned photographer Sam Nzima (83) recently passed away at a Nelspruit hospital following a short illness.

Nzima will be remembered for putting South Africa and the 1976 student uprising on the international stage with the photographs he took at the time.

Nzima took his last breathe on 12 May.

Nzima's most famous photograph is of young Mbuyisa Makhubu carrying a slumped and bleeding Hector Peterson away from the rioting crowd in Soweto on 16 June 1976.

The image is an emotional one with Hector's sister Antoinette Peterson with them.

The photograph became an international symbol of resistance against apartheid and being forced to use Afrikaans



■ Veteran photographer Sam Nzima who passed away recently was hailed for his bravery through his pictures.

as a medium of instruction in black schools.

President Cyril Ramaphosa expressed deep sadness at the sudden passing of Nzima, who was a recipient of the National Order of Ikhamanga.

"Sam Nzima was one of a kind. His camera captured the full brutality of apartheid oppression on the nation's psyche, the history of the defiance campaign through to forced removals and the

Soweto student uprisings.

"We convey our heartfelt condolences to his family and may his soul rest in peace," said President Ramaphosa.

The South African National Editors' Forum (SANEF) encouraged young journalists to draw inspiration from Nzima.

"He had unwavering commitment to transformation and the deepening of democracy at huge personal risk. As an industry we are honoured to have had journalists such as Nzima in our ranks," a SANEF statement read.

Nzima was born in 1934 in the rural village of Lilydale in Mpumalanga near Bushbuckridge.

His interest in photography developed at a very young age when he was fascinated by one of his teacher's cam-

era and the concept of images coming out of a box.

He bought himself a Kodak Box Brownie and went to the Kruger National Park during school holidays to take people's photographs for a fee.

Nzima moved to Johannesburg to seek work and got his first lucky break as a photo journalist at *The World* newspaper.

When he took the photograph of Hector Peterson he was still working for *The World* and was covering the students' strike for the paper. After this image was published in *The World* Nzima was put under house arrest for 19 months in Lilydale.

It took 22 years for Nzima to receive the photograph's copyright. He was assisted by a legal firm. ■

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## First South African to compete in the Miss Plus World Pageant

**THE ORGANISERS** of Miss Plus World selected Dipolelo Hou to represent South Africa after she won the national title in 2017 based on her philanthropy work.

### More Matshediso

**D**ipolelo Hou (35) is set to make history as the first to represent South Africa in the Miss Plus World Pageant, which will be held in Atlanta in the United States of America on 25 July.

The Miss Plus World Pageant and its subsidiary, the Miss South Africa Plus World showcases the intelligence, articulation, creativity, leadership, grace and beauty of women across the country and the world.

Hou shared her excitement with *Vuk'uzenzele* and said she plans to fly the South African flag high at the pageant.

"I am humbled by this great achievement. I am planning to share good stories about my country when I get to Atlanta. I am very proud of my country's eleven official languages and the treasures found in various provinces. South Africa has a rich history. I will give the world a clear picture of what South Africa is all about," said Hou.

The organisers of Miss Plus World selected Hou to represent South Africa after she won the national title in 2017, based on her philanthropy work. The organisers monitored her lifestyle and charity work from afar.

Born in Botshabelo in the Free State, Hou has done various charity work in her

community which includes working with local libraries to promote the culture of reading among children, spending time and buying gifts for hospital patients during the festive season, visiting old age homes and working with a local cancer association.

She also organises sanitary towels for girls from poor families. "I am a servant of the people. I always do my best to help people who are in need and within my reach," she said.

Hou is planning to bring the world title home and believes that she will have the capacity to do more humanitarian work on a global platform.

She feels that she is a perfect contestant because the organisers are looking for a queen who will reach out to various communities across the world as well as her country of birth.

Hou is proud of being a size 40 and encourages other plus size women to love themselves and embrace their cellulite.

She has a full-time job as a personal assistant to the Free State MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Mathabo Leeto.

The Miss Plus World seeks to strengthen communication and engage in open dialogue with women from across the world about the issues that affect them. ■



■ Dipolelo Hou is confident that she will make history by being the first to represent South Africa in the Miss Plus World Pageant.