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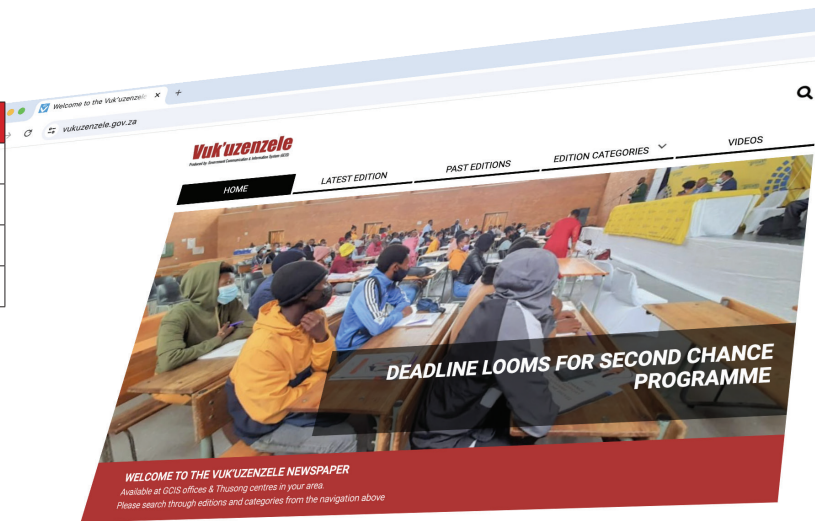


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Vuk'uzenzele Government Newspaper is published twice a month (both editions are published digitally) by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS). It is a widely read free newspaper that has set out to reaching all citizens from all parts of the country with easily shareable features that enables people to easily share the newspaper to their contact lists. This newspaper has a section that focuses on communicating programmes and opportunities created by government that seek to empower citizens that are negatively affected by the fluctuating economy. The newspaper is translated in all official languages and the majority of it is published in English. It is also accessible in Braille, on www.vukuzenzele.gov.za and the Gov APP.

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Produced by Government Communication & Information System (GCIS)

December 2023 Edition

KZN farmer cultivates biofuel from seeds

Shile Mkhondo

A young, curious farmer's quest to grow from biofuel from traditional crops has seen her become an environmental activist. Shile Mkhondo, 28, who studies for her post-graduate diploma in the field of environmental science at the University of Zululand, has spent the last few years of her life growing and cultivating biofuel from seeds.

For the Nkandla-based farmer, it all began in 2017. "I was reading an agricultural business and looking for alternative energy crops that can grow in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), just to try and move away from the oil-based crops," she says.

She then established an oilseed company exploring the possibility of growing the future seed in KZN.

"I started out in the field and asked if it could just be an oilseed or the final, from there, I developed my business."

With her intense passion and after three years of further research and studying, to produce the seed, she signed her company, Spiga Clean and Green.

The oil is then put through a milling process to produce biofuel. "Spiga, a natural product of that can be used to produce jet fuel. Spiga grows the crop, harvests it, and extracts the oil."

She says she is currently in a negotiation phase with highly interested seed buyers. It is a major step that she is proud of that can be used to produce jet fuel. Spiga grows the crop, harvests it, and extracts the oil.

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