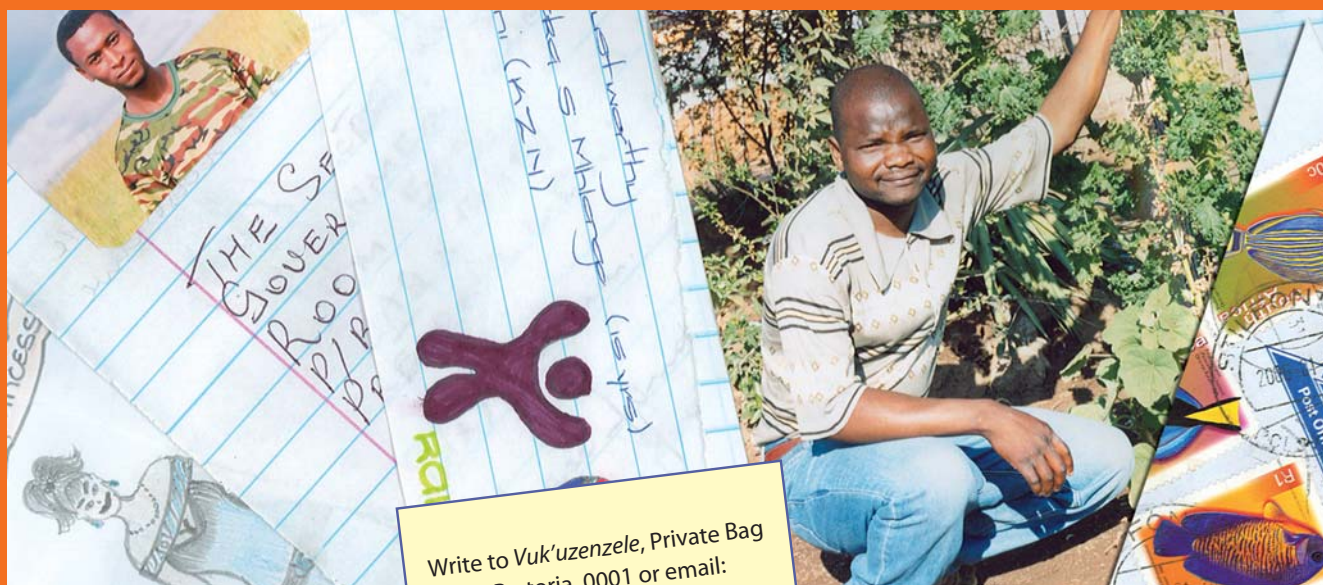


Give us a piece of



Seize opportunities

This is a wake-up call to the youth of my country to stand up and seize the opportunities brought by government and NGOs.

We're so young! Let us be proud and enjoy our youth in a positive way. Let's do away with alcohol and substance abuse, crime, vandalising our schools and disrespecting our parents. Stop or prevent the spreading of HIV, Aids and STDs. Be a responsible member of your community. Be a proudly South African youth!

Joseph Sello Dikobe
Jericho

Don't blame poverty

I grew up in a rural area full of poverty, I was raised by poor parents in an uneducated family. There was not enough food,

no money. Today, hard work has shown results. I passed my matric with exemption. I was very happy with my achievement, although I am still struggling to find a bursary. But I never lose hope.

Fortunately I didn't sit down and blame poverty, but chose to do something for myself. Presently, I am a security guard and I also have my own tuck shop. So, to every South African I would like

to say: Let us not blame poverty for our failure, let us not use poverty as an excuse for our wrong deeds. Let us join our hands together and fight poverty. Let us all rise and shine. Lastly, let us all rise and do it ourselves.

Anonymous
Delmas

Ignoring people's plight

Let us practice what we preach. I challenge government with this because I feel that the plight of the poor people of South Africa is ignored. In January, I was in Diepsloot when the area was flooded by heavy rains - the people's shacks and their belongings were destroyed.

The community was crying for help from the municipality. Some of the victims applied for RDP houses prior to 1996, but to no avail, others were given tempo-



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