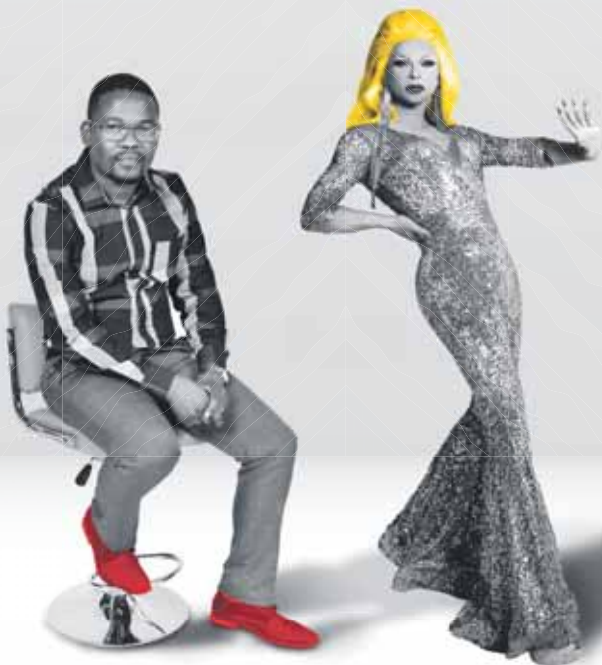


Mail & Guardian  
2000  
YOUNG  
South Africans  
2020

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MORE THAN JUST ANOTHER LIST  
THIS IS THE LIST



**NHALNHLA G. MAFARAFARA, 35**

*Pharmacy manager at Matlala District Hospital*

Health



**MANILA VON TEEZ, 30**

*Drag artist and designer at Manila von Teez and Haus of Vjorn*

Arts & Entertainment



**SINAKEKELWE NKWANYANA, 28**

*PhD intern at University of KwaZulu-Natal*

Education



**ADAM DUXBURY, 29**

*CEO and founder of Granadilla; Chief of staff at Yoco*

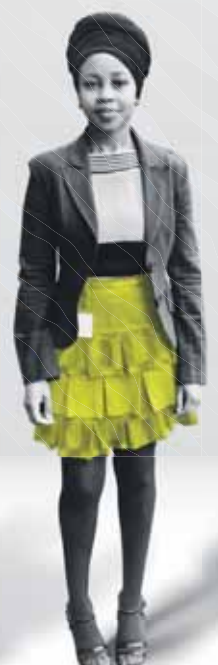
Business, Entrepreneurship & Tourism



**YUSUF OMAR, 31**

*Co-founder of Hashtag Our Stories*

Film & Media



**KARABO MOKGONYANA, 23**

*African Youth Ambassador for Peace*

Civil Society





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FOREWORD

THE IMPORTANCE OF INNOVATION

BP, one of the world's largest oil companies, recently said it was going to reduce its carbon emissions to net zero by 2050. This is the only way, science tells us, to keep global heating to a non-catastrophic level.

The decision makes financial sense; companies must innovate to survive. Its CEO also said a strong motivation was its inability to attract skilled workers. People just didn't want to work for a company that is destroying the world.

This isn't an isolated reality. Ever-more research is showing that the current generations – Millennial and Z – tend to value job satisfaction above job security (not that this exists anyway). We are using our skills to force change.

This is the spirit in which the *Mail & Guardian* was founded in 1985. A group of largely young journalists innovated, seizing on the arrival of word processors to create a weekly newspaper in defiance of the apartheid state.

The 200 Young South Africans project is therefore an extension of our DNA. The world is a better place when youth innovate and challenge the status quo. And this project seeks to acknowledge that truth.

I went to my first 200 YSA as a trainee journalist in 2011. As I have grown, so has that cohort. They are now in leadership positions in civil society, government and the private sector.

Where the system has refused to listen to their demands for a better world, those people innovated and did things a different way. The class of 2020 is no different. From making law more accessible to environmental engineering and our new category, frontliners, these are people who are already changing our world.

In such an awful year for so many of us, we added the frontliners to recognise the young people who, every day, risk their lives and mental health to look after us, and our families.













Keep an eye on all 208. Support them. Be challenged by them and join them.

Sipho Kings: Acting editor-in-chief



Photo by Paul Botes

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HOW WE CHOOSE THE 200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR WINNERS?

At the beginning of every year, we open up nominations for Young South Africans online on mg.co.za. This year we received about 6 000 nominations. Once nominations close we go through the list thoroughly shortlisting potential candidates. We select candidates for each category. Our team of writers then contact the selected candidates and we write profiles based on these interviews. If you know someone we should profile in 2020, be sure to nominate them when entries open next year on 200youngsouthafricans.co.za

Opening your phone's camera and pointing it at the QR code next to a name will let you head straight to their online profile, where we've published longer profiles covering their talents, careers, and achievements.

**Disclaimer for winners over 35**  
All winners were within the standard MG200YSA age range of 18-35 at the time of nomination. The decision was taken not to exclude those whose birth date fell between the close of nominations and publication.

# TRANSFORMING TOMORROW FOR OUR YOUTH THROUGH INCLUSIVE, DECISIVE BUSINESS LEADERSHIP

By Khensani Nobanda,  
Group Executive: Marketing  
and Corporate Affairs, Nedbank



Whether you choose to embrace and support it or not, the simple truth is that the recent prominence of the #BlackLivesMatter (BLM) movement has brought about a vital mindset shift in many areas of society and, equally importantly, in the halls of power of many businesses and corporations around the world.

For South Africans the spirit of BLM holds particular importance given that our nation is still grappling with the systemic socioeconomic inequalities brought about by decades of apartheid rule.

*Against this backdrop, BLM goes beyond voicing society's shared anger at the inhumane physical treatment of people of colour, which is what sparked and reignited the movement. Rather, it is a rallying call for all members of that society to renew their commitment to and vigour in addressing the systemic racism that is still ingrained in much of the world's social fabric.*

This call is not aimed only at people and politicians. It is also an extremely important one for businesses to heed, particularly given

the extent to which the still-dire inequality and income gaps in our country have been exposed by Covid-19.

*The combination of the pandemic and the considerable attention garnered by BLM compels us to consider how businesses and brands in South Africa are truly positioning themselves to effectively address social, economic and political issues, not least the uncomfortable truth of lingering institutional racism in corporate South Africa.*

It is obviously important that businesses take a stand against this scourge. And many have. But public pronouncements and strongly worded staff emails simply are not enough. South Africa needs its businesses to do more, and that demands strong, inclusive and empowered leadership that understands how important it is to make the real changes, and create the real opportunities, that our country's youth needs to achieve its full potential.

It is an approach that we at Nedbank can confidently claim to be following, and one that is closely aligned with our sincere belief that our success is 100% dependent on our commitment to, and effectiveness in, helping to drive the sustainable development and transformation of the society in which we operate.



For us such transformation goes far beyond corporate social investment (although that is an essential component). It involves a proven and extensive commitment to full employment equity – starting at executive leadership level. It also requires a willingness to invest in, and fully support, a transformed supply chain as a way of extending our impact beyond our immediate industry. And, possibly most importantly, it demands that every leader in our organisation, irrespective of race, gender or physical ability, has a seat at the decision-making table.

Ultimately, one of the main responsibilities that any South African business has today is to ensure it is creating the opportunities that tomorrow's young black business leaders need to be able to transform the world for good. And the best way to do that is to encourage and enable the black professionals already in leadership positions to challenge the status quo, make meaningful and valuable contributions in the boardroom, and create an environment in which tomorrow's leaders can maximise their impact and effectiveness. That is real transformation. And when it comes to delivering it, black leaders truly matter.

# DIGITAL LEADERSHIP WITH A PEOPLE FOCUS – THE KEY TO BANKING EFFECTIVENESS IN THE FUTURE

By Ciko Thomas; Group  
Managing Executive: Nedbank  
Retail and Business Banking



The early recognition by the country's banks of the important role they had to play in helping individuals, families and business of all sizes survive the economic challenges of Covid-19 proved to be a lifeline for many South Africans over the past few months. This was evident from the overwhelming response to the various financial relief measures made available by Nedbank, and the others, at the height of the pandemic.

*This response highlights the important role that banks must play in underpinning the financial ecosystem of the country as a whole.*

Importantly, though, this role is not only required during times of crisis. If Covid-19 has taught us anything, it is that banks are integral to the long-term economic recovery of the country, and of all South Africans – particularly the next generation of consumers, employees, and business leaders who are understandably concerned about what that the future may hold for them.

For Nedbank, delivering on this responsibility demands a combination of a genuine commitment to the wellbeing of people and ongoing investment into digital platforms that make it possible to convert that commitment into future-enhancing actions. This is particularly true in terms of the responsibility we have as a bank to enable and drive the development of a future economy and society that will become the reality for today's young people. We are acutely aware of the imperative that exists for businesses today to create a legacy that South Africa's youth will be proud to inherit, and that will afford them the solid foundations on which

to build the brighter future that they envisage and desire.

For us, this is the ultimate goal, and imperative, of the significant digital transformation of industry today. The massive global impact of Covid-19 brought home the plain truth that every business in the world, including Nedbank, has an immediate and urgent responsibility to radically transform itself, not just for the benefit of future generations, but in partnership with them.

To this end, we are investing massively into leveraging digital solutions, and partnering with the brightest young minds, not just in financial services, but in many industries and social spheres. We do this with a singular goal in mind - to fulfil our social mission by providing authentic money strategies that help people manage their money better and, at the same time, to make our products and services readily available across all channels so that people can achieve the money outcomes they need to create the futures they deserve.

With this objective in mind, one of Nedbank's first responses to Covid-19 was to launch a digital portal called together.nedbank to help clients manage the impacts of the crisis on their lives and finances. The portal focuses on giving consumers helpful, non-product-related content and information, which would provide guidance, alleviate uncertainty, anxiety and distress during this period. The fact that the digitisation of these solutions and processes provided a sense of comfort to our clients was a valuable reminder of how, in the future, we must ensure that we leverage digital advances fully to deliver highly personalised services with an empathetic human touch.

Another vital lesson delivered to banks by Covid-19 is the imperative that we all increase our efforts to be far more than just financial institutions. Given the pivotal position we hold

within society and the economic ecosystems of the country, we have a real responsibility to act as an enabler of lifestyle aspirations. Nedbank was quick to recognise the opportunity we had to leverage digital solutions to help South Africans overcome their lockdown challenges.

And we met this responsibility by bringing forward the launch of our Avo platform – a bespoke e-commerce platform with a difference. In addition to meeting client needs for essential services during lockdown, the super app offers a range of value-adding products and services, all delivered seamlessly through strategic partnerships with trusted service providers.

Our dedicated Nedbank youth banking and lifestyle offering, Unlocked.Me also came into its own during the lockdown period, ensuring that the country's young people could still remain connected to their unique lifestyle requirements, and providing a valuable digital conduit to job opportunities, mentors, coaches and online courses.

While Covid-19 has been as challenging for Nedbank as it has for all other businesses, it has also served to validate our long-held commitment to constant digital innovation as a key way to meet the requirements of our own social contract, particularly towards young people, while also differentiating ourselves from competitors through the delivery of life-enhancing, client-focused banking services and solutions. We believe that the banking of the future must be built on this type of integrated approach that combines digital excellence with unwavering commitment to human development. Interestingly enough, these are two elements that most young people also consider priorities for a better future, which is why we will continue to partner with tomorrow's leaders, pioneers, innovators and industry champions to fully understand their vision of the future, and then work with them to fully leverage our digital transformation in order to realise it.



# BE THE DIFFERENCE THAT IMPACTS OUR WORLD.

As a purpose-led and values-driven organisation, we offer our people unique opportunities to be the difference that impacts our world. See how our people are being the difference below.

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## PEOPLE AND PURPOSE

**Nedbank's approach to human resources centres on enabling their employees to make a purpose-driven impact**

– Cayleigh Bright

For current and future Nedbank employees purpose is at the core of the bank's mission. Encouraging its team members to 'be the difference' that they'd like to see in their organisation and the world, the bank places its emphasis on a purpose-driven impact. By looking to the future and developing the talent that will likely become their future employees, Nedbank intends to fulfil 'Our People Promise' by making an impact through its organisation's talent – and for them.

Working with the University of Johannesburg (UJ), Nedbank is providing support to the future's brightest young talent – ensuring, in the process, that they get the chance to welcome these innovative young professionals into their organisation. During breaks in the university year, students are given the opportunity to perform vocational work in Nedbank's offices, in departments relevant to their fields of study.

*'We give them each a senior business mentor and they actually help to solve real Nedbank challenges or projects that we're working on.'*

says Jacqui Barnes, Head of Learning and Development at Nedbank. 'They have to go and research, and present back to us, and we get amazing insights from them. And they get exposed to Nedbank – so by the time they complete their degree, we're not foreign territory, we have a relationship with them, we're aware of their talent, and we can employ them.' For the graduates, the value of being sponsored by Nedbank increases immeasurably because of this opportunity to obtain real-world training, as evidenced by the anecdote of one recipient of multiple funding offers choosing Nedbank, based on the chance to gain work experience. Ultimately becoming a Nedbank employee is, of course, a bonus.

The young talent working with Nedbank's established teams can inject new inspiration and up-to-the-minute expertise into their working environment. Noting that young mentees work in all aspects of the business, Jacqui speaks highly of the results recently produced in every area from multimedia to data analysis. 'Banks have scarce critical skills shortages in IT, programming, coding ... It's not just about 'data' anymore. It's about being able to do something with enormous amounts of data – being able to chew

through that, make sense of it, spit out some intelligence, and make some key business decisions based on that. That is a key skill, and believe it or not, it's not readily available.' With Nedbank's early-career support, Barnes believes, this can begin to change.

*'They are incredibly innovative,'*

she says of UJ, explaining that the university's commitment to tackling the exciting and challenging prospects of the Fourth Industrial Revolution is further proof that they make an ideal partner for a future-facing programme such as this.

In 2020 the programme has looked a little different due to the constraints of lockdown, but it seems that there would be no better group than this to tackle the innovations necessitated by 'the new normal'.

*'My experience has been more of a virtual experience due to the effect of the Coronavirus but regardless of that, I was exposed to what Nedbank is mainly about, which is doing good for the people,'*

says Bekezela Nicole Thoka, a 22-year-old student currently pursuing her honours degree in BCom Information Management at UJ.

*'I had the opportunity to complete assignments for top business heads within Nedbank, and the opportunity to interact with them*

*virtually, which made me develop an interest (in) working hard and eventually being chosen to be part of the Nedbank team. As the employees are considerate, they provide you with guidance, make you feel part of the team and try to work around the little work experience one might have.'*

She describes the team as approachable, and willing to help her, whenever needed. On the financial assistance that Nedbank has provided, she says,

*'Funding is one issue that most university students experience, and it is extremely difficult to get a postgraduate sponsor. Nedbank, however, came to my rescue. My fees are extremely high and as an honours student, I have to attend evening classes. Therefore, I need accommodation close to the university. Fortunately, the Nedbank scholarship also provides funding for accommodation, textbooks and a monthly allowance – which means the only thing I have to worry about is excelling in my academics, and one day becoming a business analyst who mostly specialises in strategic design and implementation.'*



# THE YOUTH MARKET UNLOCKED

Nedbank is looking to help young South Africans – and maybe learn something in turn



Bridget Nkandu, Executive of Youth Segment, Nedbank.

Bridget Nkandu is Nedbank's Youth Executive, a role that requires her to be dynamic and attend to the complex problems and diverse needs of the youth market. With 15 years of experience in the financial sector, she's developed several successful strategies and now, she's working on Unlocked.Me, a holistic banking platform for the youth market.

Please could we begin by asking a bit about you – how did you come to be a part of Nedbank, and what does your current role entail on a day-to-day basis?

Prior to joining Nedbank in 2018, I had spent over 11 years at Barclays Bank South Africa. As part of my MBA, I submitted a dissertation on "Understanding the factors that influence millennials' choice of primary banking relationships in South Africa" and I observed

that Nedbank's purpose and intent to drive great client experiences resonated with me. I am seeing the results of my research come to life with propositions like Unlocked.me.

Could you tell us about some of what was taken into consideration when your offering for students was expanded to include all individuals between the age of 16 and 26? What were some of the customer needs that you took into

consideration?

When expanding our offering to include young adults, we took into consideration some of the youth's pain points. With youth unemployment on the rise in South Africa, we understand that financial inclusion and skills development play a critical role in helping the youth become active economic participants.

The key pain points cut across all youth, and not just students only. Therefore, Unlocked.me is for all youth, and is not only an account, but also a platform that provides access to services and educational tools to help them navigate every step of their journey.

Unlocked.Me offers an impressive bundle of benefits and services to young customers. Would you be able to talk us through the three Unlocked categories and why each was included?

When developing Unlocked.Me, we wanted to provide a product that offered more than banking at zero fees. The three core pillars of our proposition are Money, Potential and Lifestyle. In terms of unlocking their Money, our bank account offers zero monthly maintenance fees and a MyPocket, a free linked savings pocket that offers great interest rates.

We understand that this market is ambitious which is why we've partnered with GradesMatch and MoveUp. Through the Unlocked.Me platform and GradesMatch, high school learners can access personalised digital career advice and get assistance when they apply for tertiary studies. Young adults looking for work can auto-generate their SmartCV while searching for entry-level jobs through MoveUp.

When it comes to unlocking their lifestyle, our e-commerce platform provides the youth with access to deals in tech, fashion and lifestyle experiences. We believe that we've created a platform that will provide even more value as we journey with clients through the various stages of their lives.

What trends are you seeing in terms of how young customers are using credit – and do you have any advice for them in this regard?

We are living in increasingly difficult times and right now, young people need security. At Nedbank, we offer solutions that address youth transacting, savings, protection and borrowing needs. A recent survey conducted for this market shows 41% of youth have a savings or investment account opposed to 27% with a credit product. At Nedbank, we encourage this behaviour and continue to provide guidance and financial education through all our platforms in order to help the youth change their money habits while saving for that proverbial rainy day.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT Unlocked.Me VISIT [www.unlocked.me](http://www.unlocked.me) or DOWNLOAD the Nedbank Money App.



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# BUILDING A HEALTHY FINANCIAL FUTURE

These are tough times, economically speaking, but now is also a great moment to start forming healthy money habits

– James Nash

A certain mindset is needed to start building wealth. For many people, money is merely a means to an end, allowing them to pay their rent and put food on the table. However, it has the potential to be so much more. Wealth can be used to take on many endeavours, such as bettering your community, facilitating change, or empowering others – but first it has to be built over time. Cultivating the right mindset for this pursuit is key, and that includes being willing to make sacrifices and embrace delayed gratification.

Much of the world operates in a manner that rewards you instantly for participating: likes on photos, swiftly delivered goods, and streaming services offering a plethora of content on-demand are only a few examples. Building wealth is utterly unlike those other things. It will take time and

one only reaps the rewards later in your life, even if the sacrifices you make today are felt immediately. A long-term view is required alongside careful planning of your future, to ensure a financially stable foundation for you to build on.

One of the best investments you can make is in yourself, which you can do through education. That said, whatever your specialisation or career, it should be a priority to invest in your financial IQ and learn the basic principles of managing your own money.

This will not only improve your outcomes but also allow you to pass on this knowledge to others in your family or community, allowing you to start building generational wealth. One of the many tools you can use to do this is a financial plan, no matter how much you may earn.

Although many think only the very rich need financial planners and advice, this simply isn't the case. Having a deeper understanding of how to meet your needs, achieve your goals, and make provision for the unexpected will give you confidence when making financial decisions and peace of mind about the future. A financial plan allows you to be in control of your money, instead of allowing it to control you.

Learning to align your finances with your priorities will make an impactful difference in your life. Don't waste time and resources on things that aren't important to you.

Think about the future you want for yourself and your family and invest in what makes that possible. In fact, many of the wealthiest people in the world got where they have because they spent their time, resources, and capital on solutions to real-world problems.

However, one can only invest if they can afford it, so to start making those first steps, it's important to build healthy money habits. As the saying goes, the devil is in the details – it's often the small, seemingly insignificant habits and disciplines that make a fundamental difference in the long run. One of the most important of these habits is simple but often overlooked: saving. Putting aside money every month may seem daunting, especially to those only beginning their careers, but starting as early as possible, no matter how small, will give you a considerable head start.

Although it sounds like a restrictive activity, budgeting is relatively easy and will free up money in the long run. An excellent habit to develop, it will give you a clear view of how much money you have coming in and where it goes each month. Incorporating savings as a regular monthly expense will help you remain disciplined and when it's all calculated, what remains is yours to enjoy. Even if you're not comfortable with spreadsheets, there are many apps you can use and even bank accounts designed to help you budget. Budgeting will also help you to be prepared for when things don't go according to plan.

A family member may fall ill, a car might need to be fixed, or something else that requires an immediate solution might occur. An emergency savings fund specifically for times like these is an important thing to create. It can mean you can avoid debt in the long run, something that is key for building wealth. A credit card is also a useful tool, allowing you to build a credit record that will allow you to take a loan for a car or house down the line. However, it's important to not view it as a source of "free money". If you aren't careful, it's easy to get into debt and your money will be wasted making interest payments.

All of the above tips will help but the most important advice is to start saving early. Retirement may seem a long way away but time is your biggest ally in terms of building wealth. A little bit of money put away each month can become something much larger if you're consistent about it. Partnering with a financial planner can help you to start your financial journey and cultivate habits that will change your life. A financial planner can help you to avoid common pitfalls, especially if you aren't confident in your knowledge yet. A small investment in the larger picture, it's a way of making wealth a personal priority.

Compiled by John Karis:  
Nedbank Head of Sales and Services –  
Nedbank Financial Planning.



Nedbank Financial Planning

## MAKE YOUR MONEY COUNT, NOW AND IN FUTURE.

It's not how much money you have but what you do with it that counts. We can help you make smart decisions about your money that support your goals, hopes and aspirations.

To get in touch with one of our professional financial planners, call us on **0861 238 887** or email us at **financialplanning@nedbank.co.za** quoting **#NFPMG200**.

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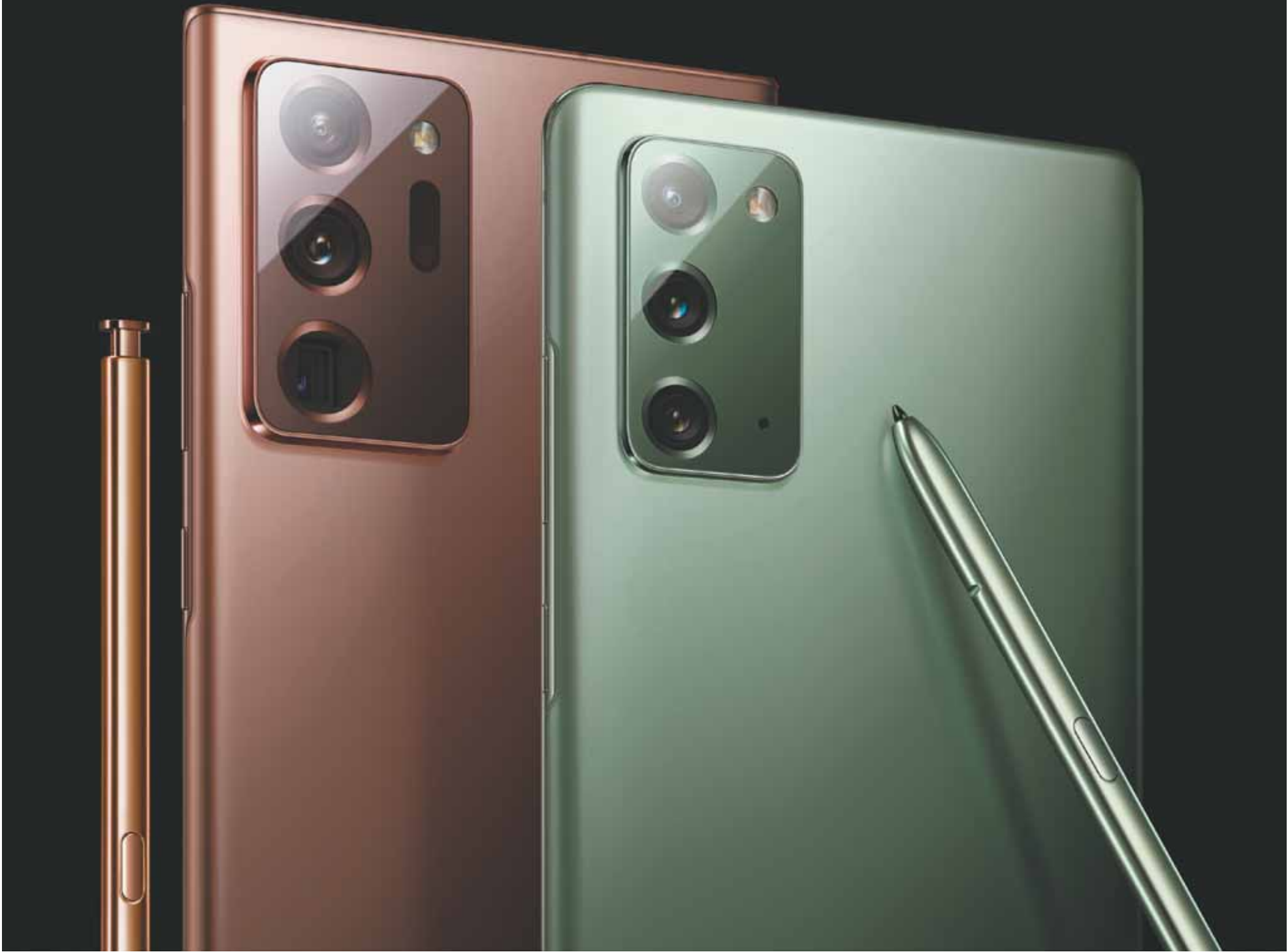
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MATRONA FILIPPOU: ADDING SPARKLE TO THE FUTURE OF SOUTH AFRICA’S FEMALE PROFESSIONALS



“ The answer to being a better woman leader is not merely imitating male leaders, but developing your own style of leadership ”

After almost 25 years of working at The Coca-Cola Company, Matrona Filippou is returning to where it all started — Johannesburg. This is where she began her career at the African headquarters of one of the world’s most valuable and recognised brands. Now President of the Southern and East Africa Business Unit at The Coca-Cola Company covering 18 countries across the region, her steady rise speaks to her willingness to lead the change and create the future, being open to other people and new ideas, encouraging experimentation, and respecting and embracing diversity.

“For many women, the real challenge is self-belief, being comfortable and confident in yourself. Most women I know have experienced that moment when their comments during a meeting are ignored; they are overlooked for assignments or put their hand down far too quickly when they are not asked to share their views. It requires enormous resilience in the face of these microaggressions to speak up and stay strong.

“It’s the time of the year when we celebrate Women’s Day in South Africa — one of my favourite days of the year. It’s a chance to honour our mothers, daughters, colleagues and friends: the many special women who bring such value to us. Here are some personal reflections of the day.”

Lead the change, create a future

For the past two decades, Filippou has built, grown, and inspired diverse, world-class teams to drive a high-performance culture at The Coca-Cola Company. Her climb through progressively challenging positions allowed her to develop and hone her ability to take a strategic vision from the drawing board to an effective, actionable reality. It also enabled her to successfully apply her skills as a game changer and thought leader in many roles. One of these was as lead architect of a landmark merger for the company in Nigeria.

“People often don’t realise how entrepreneurial Africa is and how much opportunity there is,” says Filippou. “In 2016, we identified Chi Limited, the leading value-added dairy, juice and ready-to-drink (RTD) tea company in Nigeria for acquisition”. Filippou led a team, working with banks and corporate mergers teams, to pursue the transaction, which resulted in the successful execution of the largest juice and dairy acquisition for The Coca-Cola Company on the continent.

“We needed to adapt to the changing needs of our consumers. The acquisition would spearhead the change we were looking for, staying on top of consumer trends and creating a future in diverse categories. From a personal point of view, making your voice heard, producing a vision and staying the

course despite the naysayers, enabling and empowering people to deliver and to be comfortable to deliver on that vision, and trusting in their ability to do so, has been one of the greatest learnings in working with diverse teams.”

Learning from others

Her first appointment outside of Africa was three years in Turkey as the Chief of Staff to the firm’s Eurasia & Africa Group President, based in Istanbul. Then it was on to Kenya, Nigeria and later Greece.

She credits working alongside some extraordinary and inspirational colleagues as well as her father for helping to develop her unique leadership style that stood her in good stead as she charted her way through different cultural contexts.

“My father taught me three invaluable lessons that have shaped my approach to work and life: resilience, courage and decisiveness,” she says. “Resilience is an ongoing attitude of looking at unexpected issues as challenges rather than obstacles. Courage is leading with principles — your true North — and not shrinking from bold actions for fear of failure. Finally, decisiveness is critical to our success as leaders. I believe inertia or indecisiveness is crippling for the individual and the company. Make the call: right or wrong, you can always course correct later.”

Putting the team first

Her record in general management, mergers and acquisitions, customer management, portfolio innovation, strategy and effective implementation is founded on a collaborative approach to getting the job done. After working in several countries there is one golden thread that runs through her approach to managing teams: encouraging and fostering continuous improvement through collaboration and by inspiring and empowering teams to work effectively and efficiently.

“I do believe that exceptional leaders are people who put their team first. Most of us know what sort of people we want on our teams, those who tick the boxes of integrity, commitment, and high energy,” she explains. “Most team members would probably say they look for the same triumvirate in their leaders.”

Filippou believes in continuous improvement, collaboration and in fostering a winning spirit. For her, team leadership is about inspiring and empowering groups to achieve a collective goal, and then giving them the space to do so effectively. She strives to create an environment of learning to help others continue their professional development, with the goal to create value by helping people enhance their skills while exploring new ideas and solutions.



Matrona Filippou is the Coca-Cola Company President of the Southern and East Africa Business Unit

“As women we need to continuously build and develop our professional skills. It is one thing to create a strategic vision on paper, but it is an entirely different thing to make that a practical, actionable reality,” she says. “This only happens when you offer a learning environment for others to continue their professional development and enhance their skills while exploring new ideas and solutions. We must all become perpetual learners and as leaders we must foster an environment that excites our teams to do that.”

Stop worrying

Of course, like many other women, striking the elusive work/life balance has proven a challenge and being passionate about work, while being loving and present for her family has required Filippou to make determined and sometimes hard decisions. “It may seem glib, but sometimes it takes courage to look for balance and act on it,” she adds. “Between the hustle and bustle of meetings, travel and work and home commitments, there are times when you need to stop, reach for that bar of chocolate, curl up on the couch, and watch a feel-good movie.”

In terms of the leadership style of female executives, Filippou looks

back on the many fruitless hours she spent worrying as a young professional as she was making her way in the corporate world.

“Worrying is, I believe, counter-productive, and women are especially prone to it,” she admits. “Perhaps due to our management styles, which are more about collaboration and empathy than confrontation, more about asking questions and listening, rather than barking orders and shutting down debate. Of course, I am generalising, but women do manage differently and the answer to being a better leader is not merely imitating male leaders, but developing our own style of leadership.”

As she takes the helm of the Southern and East Africa region for the beverages giant, Filippou is optimistic about new opportunities that will arise in a post Covid-19 reality. The business sector must continue to put our people and customers first, have the courage and commitment to grow its operations in a very tough economic environment and to remain passionate about applying innovation and collaboration in leveraging and creating opportunities that enhance the prosperity of communities across the continent.



**NEO MAHLANGU, 28***Fine artist and designer*

@nenemahlang

**F**ine artist Neo Mahlangu holds the honour of being the youngest black woman to have designed coins for the South African Mint. She's the multifaceted artist and designer behind two R2 coins, depicting children's rights and the right to education, to commemorate 25 years of democracy in 2019. A year earlier, she was named as one of the Design Indaba's Emerging Creatives for 2018. She describes herself as an Afro-optimist, and through her one-woman business, Neo Mahlangu Studio, she's working to become a role model and encourage young black girls to pursue whatever they want to achieve.

— Lesley Stones

**PHUMLANI PIKOLI, 32***Multi-disciplinary artist*

@scoutgumbee

**W**riter Phumlani Pikoli is shaping himself as a multi-disciplinary artist by working with theatre-makers and by producing books. His collection of short stories, *The Fatuous State of Severity*, features urban youngsters coping with the absurdities of present-day South Africa. His novel *Born Freeloaders* is a cheeky twist on the term "Born Frees" that describes the generation born into democracy. His writing is bold and uncompromising, and he doesn't mind if it gets him into trouble occasionally. He's open about his struggles with depression, in an effort to break the taboo surrounding mental health discussions among young black people.

— Lesley Stones

**MANILA VON TEEZ, 30***Drag artist and designer:**Manila von Teez and Haus of Vjorn*

@manilavonteez

**A**s an art form, drag has spilled into fashion, music, make-up and activism. And Manila von Teez — a drag artist from Elsies Rivier in Cape Town — has claimed her part in this cultural zeitgeist. In 2016, Von Teez blew audiences away, as she fought her way through to the finals of SA's Got Talent. Her raw talent is undeniable. As a trained designer, Von Teez presents hard-hitting performances backed up by some of the most exciting looks. Von Teez says she still battles self-doubt, but there's no doubting her role in bringing drag into South Africa's mainstream.

— Sarah Smit

**KELETSO MOPAI, 27***Writer: BlackBird Books*

@KeletsoMopai

**W**ith the publication of her first book, *If You Keep Digging*, Keletso Mopai joined the growing ranks of young, local authors winning wide critical acclaim. The book, a collection of short stories set in South Africa, highlights marginalised identities and examines the daily lives of people who may otherwise be forgotten or dismissed. Mopai says: "My work mostly focuses on social issues that affect South Africans — young South Africans in particular — including domestic abuse, mental health, homophobia, racism, colourism and other issues that I'm passionate about."

— Max Dylan Lazarus

**UNOCEBO BUCIBO, 33***Phd Candidate: University of Pretoria, Lecturer: Market Photo Workshop & Vega, Photographer: KJNS STUDIO*

@Nocebo.Bucibo

**U**Nocebo Bucibo despises the narrative of the starving artist. Young South Africans, she believes, should not be inhibited by the fear that following their passions may one day leave them destitute. Bucibo, a photographic researcher and lecturer, has learned first-hand just how empowering her chosen profession can be — for both the artist and the subject. Her biggest exhibition to date — *A Just Image: South African Hostels and Contemporary South African Photography* — is just one example of this. Bucibo, who is currently completing her PhD in development studies at the University of Pretoria, is also the founder of the KJNS Studio.

— Luke Feltham

**SINETHEMBA TWALO, 35***Artist and curator: NGO - Nothing Gets Organised*

@blackunicornblessings

**S**inethemba Twalo is an artist and curator who is completing a PhD in art history at the University of Johannesburg. In 2016, in collaboration with artist Dineo Seshee Bopape and curator Gabi Ngcobo, they established Nothing Gets Organised, a platform that functions as an unconventional, defiant space for practitioners to unravel and detangle their practices free of commercial restraint. Here, research is ongoing, malleable and open-ended. Through their appreciation of South Africa's visual culture, Twalo's art practice looks to facilitate a greater appreciation for slower, more analytical pieces of work that are less concerned with creating a spectacle.

— Zaza Hlaethwa and Bongekile Macupe



Scan the QR code on each winner with your phone camera to learn more about each winner.



**LESEDI MAFURA, 25**

Author, poet, performer, radio news anchor and founder of an organisation working with children: Awoke in Words organisation/Sibanye-Stillwater/Merafong FM/Peu Arts foundation.

Lesedi Tshedza

**A** poet, performer, and radio news anchor, Lesedi Mafura is consistently in search of new challenges and opportunities. In recent years that drive has materialised into recognition — she was nominated for the 2018 Ishashalazi Poetry Ensemble award in Gauteng and the 2019 Ishashalazi Poetry Ensemble award in the West Rand corridor. Her biggest surprise was still to come: her poetry collection, *Honey Moon, Honey Earth, Honey Fire, Honey Spirit*, was published on Amazon this year. She wants to get it published in hardcopy given the demand for her works. Mafura is also studying to be a boilermaker so she can use her hands to make a better contribution.

— Luke Feltham

**NELISIWE NKOSI, 21**

Freelance photographer

@Nelsimo\_nkosee

**A**fter Nelisiwe Nkosi was raped, she was unable to talk about it for months — until she found healing through photography. Pictures of her body built up into a collection called *Breakeven*, exhibited at The Market Photo Workshop when she graduated from its advanced photography course. “Photography is a way of telling the untold stories and showing information I can’t really put into words,” she says. She’s now a freelance photographer working to become known for her talent, not her history, although they’re intertwined. “I believe that because of what I’ve been through I am constantly pushing myself to be better,” she says.

— Lesley Stones

**MUTINTA BBENKELE SIMELANE, 27**

Project Manager

@misstintsy

**M**utinta Simelane knows what it’s like to share a stage with greatness. After all, she performed poetry at the Global Citizen Festival in 2018 — an event where some of the most recognisable faces of the entertainment industry arrived on our shores. Symbolically, this is where South Africa belongs: alongside the very best there is. “In all the projects that I have been a part of, the world is in awe of the talent here and how vibrant the young people of South Africa are,” she says. A TEDx speaker who has taken part in projects across the globe, she’s leading by example

— Luke Feltham

**REFILWE NKOMO, 35**

Director: Visual Arts Network of South Africa

@flokomo

**R**efilwe Nkomo has developed a niche for herself that allows her to do what she loves and satisfy her internal drive to make a meaningful contribution to society. As director of the Visual Arts Network of South Africa, this multidisciplinary artist and curator creates programmes and installations. Her work has received recognition as far afield as South Korea, Brazil, Ghana, Germany and the United States. Nkomo has excelled academically, too, achieving a master’s in arts and politics from New York University, then attending the German Development Institute’s Managing Global Governance Academy. She was also chosen as a Clore Chevening Fellow for 2019/2020.

— Luke Feltham

**AMI FAKU, 27**

Musician: Vth Season

@Ami\_Faku

**R**ising star Ami Faku has a rich, soulful voice that draws you in, even if you don’t understand the words. Faku comes from Port Elizabeth and often sings in isiXhosa, but loves to explain the stories behind her songs. They certainly touch a nerve, with people sharing comments on social media about how her music has helped them to heal. Last year, Faku had five different songs in the Top 100 on local radio stations. Music-streaming service Deezer named her its most popular South African female artist in 2019 and she’s among the top 10 most-streamed female South African artists on Spotify.

— Lesley Stones

**MOAFRIKA WA MOKGATHI, 32**

Co-Founder and director: Hear My Voice

@moafrika\_wa\_mokgathi

**P**oet MoAfrika wa Mokgathi is the co-founder and director of Hear My Voice, an organisation that uses poetry as a catalyst to address social issues. One issue she recently tackled was the lack of income for performing artists during the Covid-19 lockdown; her Poetry Relief Fund raised money for 45 poets. Her poems blend English and Sepedi, and her debut collection, *My Tongue is a Rainbow*, explores marginalised languages that are dying out, race, inequality and the abuse of women and children. Every Sunday she produces and hosts The Jazz Sessions on Transafrica 872 Radio.

— Lesley Stones



eNCA NEWS ANCHOR

THEMBEKILE

MROTOTO

CHARMING, BOLD, FUNNY  
AND SUPER SMART

Born in the Free State, Thembekile grew up in Bloemfontein and has been active in the media industry since 2010. Since then, his career has maintained a steady upward trajectory, and now the multi-talented personality anchors News Grid, the 4 PM-5 PM weekday slot on 24-hour news channel eNCA (DStv Channel 403).

Why eNCA?

I have always wanted to work for eNCA. I can still remember watching that first bulletin anchored by Jeremy Maggs and Redi Tihabi and thinking I wanted to sit behind that news desk. I was drawn to take channel's bold and fearless approach to news.

How do you prepare for your news shift?

My preparation for any show starts with watching some of the earlier bulletins that we're running on eNCA, going through the news diary, watching international broadcasters to see what's happening in other parts of the world, and catching up with the various online news services.

From there, I need to get a list of guests who have been confirmed for interviews and those we're chasing so I can prepare questions.

One thing you say to yourself  
before going live on News Grid?

Don't screw it up!

Toughest interview to date and why?

There isn't a single interview that comes to mind as my toughest, but it's always interesting to interview politicians and business people who want to dodge accountability. Many of them get quite worked up and give long answers, and I need to figure out how to interject and bring them back to the point of discussion without becoming hysterical or unnecessarily rude.

What's the biggest lesson you've learned  
since joining the channel?

Prepare. Prepare. Prepare.

You're very big on career development.  
What has it taken for you to master  
your craft?

I am the biggest TV news junkie. I spend hours watching local and international news to see how other anchors present their shows and approach interviews. I even go back to watch clips of historical moments just to see how the news coverage was executed. That has honestly been how I have sharpened my skills over the years.

Name three things the public doesn't know  
about you, that you want them to.

Firstly, I am very rarely satisfied with my work. I think it makes me a bit of a



perfectionist? Secondly, my childhood career options were so far apart – I wanted to be a news anchor or a bus driver. And lastly, I belong to a wonderful group of people who watch Dr. Pimple Popper videos on YouTube to unwind. It's so relaxing.

What's your ultimate "I have made it" career  
move?

Being part of the eNCA team that covered the 2019 national elections was a big career moment. I didn't expect to be included and feature so prominently in the shows. Then, of course, there was getting News Grid – my own daytime show on a channel I've always wanted to work for. I'm living my dream!

What advice do you have for  
South Africa's youth?

Go for what you want in life and do it at your own pace. No joy comes from comparison with how others are progressing.

eNCA NEWS ANCHOR

TUMELO MOTHOTOANE

CONFIDENT, FEISTY AND PASSIONATE ABOUT AFRICA

Tumelo is no stranger to television or the newsroom. The vivacious anchor has worked both locally and abroad and has previously held the position of news correspondent for Russia Today International News. Now, eNCA viewers can look forward to Tumelo delivering the latest breaking news from South Africa and the world every weekday between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM on All Angles, alongside her co-anchor Thulasizwe Simelane.

Tumelo was also featured on the Mail & Guardian Young 200 in 2016, which bears testament to how, when one pursues their dreams, anything is possible.

Why eNCA?

As South Africa's very first 24-hour news broadcaster, I respect the channel's journey in creating a platform for independent newsgathering. I was in matric when eNCA launched in 2008 and watching seasoned anchors such as Nikiwe Bikitsha, Jeremy Maggs, and Siki Mgabadeli deliver news with No Fear Nor Favour. Seeing how they had the best interest of South Africans at heart induced my desire to work for the channel one day. Twelve years later – here we are.



When did you know you were meant  
to be in-front of the camera?

From a very young age, I think by 12 or 13 years of age, I definitely knew that I was meant to work on Television. I hosted TV game shows with my cousins at my grandparent's home with our elders as our audience. I would play a TV presenter in front of the mirror, pretending to host my own show. Television is my first love.

One thing you say to yourself before  
going live, on All Angles?

"Don't sneeze on air"

What news story do you wish you had  
covered in the past?

One of the news stories I wish I had covered is the story of Mama Winnie Madikizela Mandela. I am intrigued by how persistent her story was, even amid adversity.

Toughest interview to date and why?

The toughest interview to date has to be of a daughter relaying how her father died in a makeshift tent at the hospital's parking lot during the COVID-19 pandemic. Listening to her emotionally narrating how the family is suffering from losing their patriarch was one of my most challenging moments on television.

What's the biggest lesson you've learned  
since joining eNCA?

Time management is imperative.

You're quite passionate about Africa. What  
brought about this love for the continent?

While based in Moscow and working for Russia Today International News, I realized that the world was still very much misinformed about the African continent. I then grew a passion for sharing some of Africa's news from business, politics, right through to tourism.

Name 3 things the public doesn't know  
about you, that you want them to

I do not eat raisins.

I cherish my alone time.

I enjoy listening to South African jazz music. The legendary Ntate Jonas Gwangwa being one of my favorites.

What's your ultimate "I have made it  
career move?"

My first TV debut back in 2010 on Soweto TV. I made a vow that there was no turning back from that first big break intro.

What advice do you have for SA's youth?

Invest in yourself today. Your future self will appreciate the sacrifices you made.

eNCA congratulates  
all the 2020 M&G 200  
Young South Africans  
nominees and winners.

“Your continuous  
dedication to your  
various passion points  
has set you apart from  
the rest. It is truly  
inspiring to witness  
South Africa's youth  
trailblazers charting  
new paths of greatness  
for themselves.”

– Jody Jacobs, eNCA Newsroom  
Operations Manager





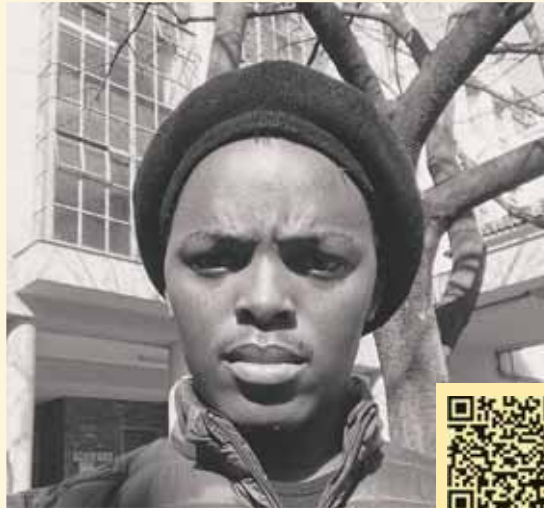
## AYESHA MUKADAM, 32

Social designer and storyteller

[Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) @ayeshamukadam

Using talent and creativity for a greater good is music to Ayesha Mukadam's ears. She's a social designer and storyteller who is committed to creating social impact through art, food and memory. Mukadam also works as an education and outreach volunteer at the Oranjezicht City Farm, was invited to present a workshop on food and memory at the Design for Humanity Summit in New York, and was a finalist for the Rupert Art Foundation's Social Impact Arts prize with The Long Table Project, which looks at food-sharing to rebuild connections across geographical and social boundaries.

— Scott Dodds



## LEHLOHONOLO PEEGA, 24

Founder and Principal: Music Is Joy

[YouTube](#) @Lehlohonolo Peega

Musician Lehlohonolo Peega is the founder of a free weekly music school in Soweto called Music Is Joy. Kids and the occasional adult go to learn music and have fun and pick up life skills like confidence, discipline, commitment on the way. Peega is still a student himself, studying for a music degree at Wits University. He plays about a dozen instruments, has a band called Abuntu, and has performed with a variety of other musicians and for theatre shows. He doesn't dream of being a big star, but of helping other ordinary kids to find their voice through music.

— Lesley Stones



## VUMA IAN LEVIN, 33

Guitarist, improvising musician, composer & teacher

[Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) @vumalevin

Vuma Levin has been described as a "virtuoso". It's a big designation to live up to, but so far the jazz artist has proven critics right. First picking the guitar up at 14, Levin's journey as an artist has seen him graduating from the prestigious Conservatorium van Amsterdam, performing at some of the top venues in the world and releasing his fourth lead album to critical acclaim. Despite already coming a long way, Levin is still seeking space for growth. "I hope to find something outside of myself that I can use as the inspiration for my next work," he says.

— Sarah Smit



## RELEBOGILE MABOTJA, 34

Executive producer

[Twitter](#) @RelebogileM

Relebogile Mabotja is a dynamic media personality who's managed to put various aspects of her talent to the test while staying at the top of her game. The executive producer was introduced to South African screens as an actress; she's also a presenter, musician, radio host, writer and musical director. The levels her excellence reaches surprise not only her audiences but sometimes even her: "I have achieved goals and dreams I never even imagined for myself. I wanted to sing but never knew I would be making a living as a composer and a publisher."

— Jabulile Dlamini-Qwesha

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### TREVOR NOAH

Comedian and host of *The Daily Show* (@Trevornoah)  
2010: Arts & Culture

– James Nash

The way in which we, as a global society, go about our work is changing at an accelerating pace. Technology has disrupted countless industries rapidly and will continue to do so at an exponential rate for the foreseeable future, as famously stated by Gordon Moore as far back as 1965. It is an intimidating prospect, but this cloud mostly has a silver lining. More tedious jobs might disappear outright as automation and robotics become more ubiquitous. New jobs will take their place, and the workforce will likely have to adapt and develop new skill sets at every level.

At Nedbank Corporate and Investment Banking (CIB), the business is aware that the rapidly changing world requires dynamic young people. There is an initiative to actively look for such individuals to bring them into its ranks through its Nedbank CIB Graduate Programme. The programme is designed to attract, develop, grow and retain the very best graduates, primarily from previously disadvantaged groups, and to build a strong talent pipeline of dynamic young professionals who can deliver scarce skills, contribute to business strategies and drive the transformation of the

business and industry. In return, Nedbank CIB offers them the insights, experience and opportunities they need to become tomorrow's global banking leaders.

The leaders of this next generation of workers will have to be different from their predecessors. That is to say, the days of highly specialised people making lifetime careers out of a very specific skill may be largely over. This is a reckoning every industry must face, as was made evident by the recent release of OpenAI's GPT-3, the most powerful language-based artificial intelligence built thus far, which can write poetry, create a blog that can attract tens of thousands of followers who believe it to be human, develop a fully functional app from a text description, and much more. Many of its talents were things considered to be too 'human' for AI to emulate, yet it has been successful. What is needed now is a new generation of business leaders to forge our economic future and who are capable of envisioning and creating new industries, or vastly changing established ones.

Human expertise will still be needed but its application will not be quite the same as before. Corporate ladders are no longer the only way to reach the highest echelons

of individual success. The startup economy in South Africa and abroad has proven that young people are more entrepreneurial out of necessity and that they are also succeeding, disrupting industries and surprising those not paying close attention. These youths are innovators, thinkers, creators and collaborators who can adapt to the rapidly changing circumstances of our world today. They do not have one field of expertise but several – something required of young people who have grown up during the simultaneously tumultuous and triumphant eras that technology has defined.

The Nedbank CIB Graduate Programme is an incredible opportunity for such individuals to launch their careers at one of South Africa's leading financial institutions. Those accepted into the programme are exposed to theoretical and practical training in a diverse range of fields and are mentored in mergers and acquisitions, private equity, corporate finance and a host of other specialised financial fields by in-house industry experts who have proven themselves and their expertise over time. The qualifying graduates are all employed as fulltime Nedbank staff members, with all accompanying employee benefits, for the duration of the programme.

The initial six-week investment banking foundational programme is only the beginning. Graduates eventually embark on an 18-month programme that educates them intensively in everything from investment banking disciplines and fintech trends to personal leadership and design thinking methodology.

They are also encouraged to make the most of their time by getting involved in the Nedbank CIB-endorsed corporate social investment project, where they can make a real and meaningful impact on society. Both the banking and business communities are global, and the programme recognises this by sending participants to two international destinations to gain African and global industry experience. Nedbank CIB sees money differently and strongly believes that it is necessary to go beyond seeing to proactively doing. The CIB Graduate Programme is a key way to prove this commitment by creating opportunities for recently graduated young difference-makers to harness their talent, passion, creativity and innovation so they can be the change they want to see in the world.

Joe Public 25/11





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## MTHO XULU, 33

President: South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry

[@MthoXulu](#)

**N**avigating the economic downturn triggered by the Covid-19 lockdown gave the already busy Mtho Xulu an even greater public role. He's a high court advocate, the chief executive of JSX Investments, president of the South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry and a director of both the Small Enterprise Development Agency and Business Unity South Africa. When the pandemic struck, Xulu represented companies in urging the government to do more to help small businesses survive. His call for action built on his long-existing goal of contributing towards making South Africa a first world country by 2050.

— Lesley Stones



## RAJIV DAYA, 32

Head of investments: Founders Factory Africa

[@DayaRajiv](#)

**R**ajiv Daya began his career in management consulting and investment banking and expected to move into private equity. However, after turning down a move to London and heading to Nairobi instead, he decided to focus on access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises instead. This unexpected change resulted in a complete shift in his personal and professional outlook and philosophy. "I now spend my time combining these worlds in a way that inspires me and allows me to use the skills I have developed in a more meaningful way with aspiring entrepreneurs," he says.

— Fatima Moosa



## UZAIR ESSACK, 28

Managing director and founder: CapeCrops

[@uzi\\_essack](#)

**W**e're told that start-ups need to skyrocket to success or risk becoming obsolete, but Uzair Essack has proven that starting small and building up gradually can lead to a bright future. The Forbes Africa 30 Under 30 and Entrepreneur of the Year is the founder of CapeCrops, a company that exports fresh fruit and vegetables to more than 32 countries. It hasn't been smooth sailing to the top — a deal that went wrong plunged him into R1-million debt at the age of 24 — but he has learned from every failure, coming out the other side a savvy entrepreneur.

— Rosie Goddard



## VELANI VALENTINE MBOWENI, 28

Entrepreneur, co-founder & chief executive: LULA

[@veladivela](#)

**V**elani Mboweni is the co-founder of LULA, a ride-share shuttle service that groups riders by destination, saving time and reducing traffic. But now businesses have shut their doors, people have lost their jobs and others have taken salary cuts as a result of Covid-19 regulations to prevent the spread of the disease. Keeping his company afloat during this time, without having to lay off staff, and adding a new product line during these trying times is something that Mboweni is most proud of. Mboweni, who has a BCom from the University of Cape Town, a BA Honours from the University of Witwatersrand and a postgraduate diploma in business administration from Wits Business School, says he's surprised himself with the fact that his business is still standing successfully.

— Bongekile Macupe



## ADAM DUXBURY, 29

CEO & founder: Granadilla, Chief of staff: Yoco

[Adam Duxbury](#)

**S**erial entrepreneur Adam Duxbury has launched businesses in widely varied fields: Granadilla Swim, a fashion label; Rooftop on Bree, a Cape Town event space; and Sunn Kombucha, brewing fermented drinks. The latest is Granadilla Eats, launched just ahead of the Covid-19 crisis. With Granadilla Swim and Sunn Kombucha at risk of collapsing under the lockdown, he reinvented those businesses within 48 hours: with existing staff and premises, he partnered with local farmers and businesses to facilitate fresh food deliveries. Duxbury is also Chief of Staff for Yoco, a financial platform that builds tools to help small businesses run their financial processes more efficiently.

— Lesley Stones



## ZIZIPHO NTOBONGWANA, 26

Founder and managing director: Sheba Feminine

[@zizi\\_ntobongwana](#)

**T**he average person who menstruates will spend between R15 000 and R25 000 on sanitary products in their lifetime. And more often than not, those products can have harmful effects on a person's health and the environment. Zizipho Ntobongwana started Sheba Feminine in 2017 to undo some of the damage done by the multi-billion dollar industry. Sheba Feminine's organic cotton and biodegradable products contribute to living sustainably. But Ntobongwana's interests lie beyond conscious consumerism. She is also passionate about reproductive and sexual health and works to remove the shame associated with these subjects.

— Sarah Smit



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## PALESA MOLOI, 27

Chief executive officer: ParkUpp

@\_parkupp

**A**s the chief executive and co-founder of ParkUpp, Palesa Moloi has achieved what many of us have dreamed of — a solution for parking chaos. The service connects unused parking spaces with drivers, and the property industry has been very receptive to the product. Through hard work and trial and error, success has followed, and the plan is now to scale up. Moloi has finalised contracts with one of the biggest property funds in the country, travelled to Silicon Valley with four other startups, and received awards from the South African Institute of Black Property Practitioners and the Women's Property Network.

— Max Dylan Lazarus



## JARYD HERMANN, 26

Founder: WECAST

Jaryd Hermann

**J**aryd Hermann acknowledges that harnessing his self-awareness played a big role in the success of his company WECAST — a digital talent agency that links consumers and suppliers in the film industry. Founded in 2018, WECAST has since expanded to New York. Hermann was admitted to the Young Entrepreneur Council, and he has written for the likes of Forbes and GQ. However, it's the personal work he's done behind the scenes — his ability to learn and unlearn, set boundaries for himself and adjust his expectations — that's been his proudest achievement to date.

— Rosie Goddard



## KATLEGO LETSOALO, 30

Monitoring and evaluation specialist:  
Minerals Council South Africa

@im\_katlego

**A**s a monitoring and evaluation specialist with the Minerals Council South Africa, Katlego Letsoalo works tirelessly to enforce safety, provide skills development and reshape the perception of mining and its relationship with mining communities. He's always wanted to help people and, with his extensive knowledge and experience gained through his studies, he moves between the field and the office, assisting mines to operate safely or helping graduates to find training and employment in the mining sector. With its historically troubled reputation, mining needs people like Letsoalo to honourably develop the industry to become more community centric.

— Scott Dodds



## KATLEHO PABALLO MAKUPU, 26

Manager and philanthropist

@kp\_paballo

**K**atleho Paballo Makupu is a consulting actuary and manager at EY Global Consulting, a technical member of the Actuarial Society and an award-winning philanthropist. Her many accolades include winning the Carrol Boyes Fabulous Girl Foundation's Girl of the Year, CEO Global's Pan Africa award for Africa's Most Influential Woman, the Youth Service and Excellence award from the Gauteng premier and the Association of South African Black Actuarial Professionals Inkanyezi award. Makupu wants to use her experience to provide a platform to aspiring female professionals, mentoring and preparing them to take on leadership positions."

— Scott Dodds



## MUSA MALULEKA, 20

Founder and owner: Disktjie

@Disktjie

**W**hile the rest of the world has grass, we have gravel and that is our own unique, proudly African story," says 20-year-old Musa Maluleka. He's the owner and founder of soccer boot company Disktjie. The Atteridgeville-born teen entrepreneur saved up to start the company from primary school, between playing soccer with other township children. These days his boots have been worn by over 50 players in South Africa's Premier Soccer League. Maluleka has received numerous accolades, including the EDHE Intervarsity-General Existing Business, Can Do Unbreakable Entrepreneurs 2019 winner and the EO Global Students Entrepreneurs Awards South Africa national winner.

— Thando Maeko



## HOPE DITLHAKANYANE, 24

Venture partner: MEST Africa

@hope\_dithakanyane

**H**ope Dithakanyane says she feels strongly about changing the injustices faced by women, both in the workplace and entrepreneurship space. The 24-year-old is a venture partner at Mest Africa. Dithakanyane says although she sees plenty of talent in her field of private equity and venture capital, there just aren't enough opportunities available. She feels strongly about changing this, especially for women. "My greatest passion is where business and empowerment of women intersect," Dithakanyane says. One of the major problems she has identified is that women remain underrepresented in various leadership roles within business and greater society."

— Fatima Moosa



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200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS 2020

# BUSINESS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & TOURISM

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## KOKETSO MOLOKO, 35

Farmer: LMC Food Group

[@porklady](#)

The life of a farmer isn't an easy one, but Koketso Moloko has faced its challenges head on. Her business, LMC Food Group, is a force for positive change for the rural economy in the Moloto City area near Rustenburg in North West and she aims to continue developing the company. During her career Moloko has been profiled by *Living Land* on SABC 2, won the Making Moves entrepreneurship competition on SABC 1 and received the MEC award for top female farmer from the North West department of agriculture.

— Scott Dodds



## FARIRAI SANYIKA, 29

Founder and director: Gophari

[@Gophari](#)

As a chemical engineering graduate, Farirai Sanyika found her success as a travel entrepreneur a surprise — even to herself. Through travel blog Gophari, Sanyika showcases South Africa's hidden gems. After her first all-women group trip in 2018 to Mauritius, she's been proud to organise more group trips to give women a safe way to travel, and hopes her work will encourage others to use digital platforms to pursue their passions. "I'm driven to excel by my desire to be an example of it being possible and worthwhile to work on your passions and succeed," Sanyika says. To date, her only regret is not having started Gophari earlier.

— Shaazia Ebrahim



## SIYANDA MTHETHWA, 34

Founder: Kuloola

[Siyanda Mthethwa](#)

Siyanda Mthethwa is the founder of Kuloola, a delivery service making life a little easier for people living in rural areas. Through his startup, nClude, Mthethwa came up with a mapping project, which he then used to create the service — and in the process, to create employment for many of the people living in rural communities. Mthethwa says that being able to work towards improving the lives of people in his own community is a point of pride for him: he's able to hire and sustain employment for 15 young people, predominantly women.

— Fatima Moosa



## MPUMELELO MTINTSO, 31

Founder, marketing director, cyclist: BOOK IBHONI

[@mpumi\\_mtintso](#)

Mpumelelo Mtintso, founder and marketing director of Book iBhoni, developed a savvy and altruistic business model: he offers discounted bicycle tours in exchange for books, which are donated to schools and libraries across his community. Through this model, Mtintso has built a business, inspired healthy lifestyles through cycling, and given back to his community. "[I'd like to see] greater social impact, with job creation and the elevation of small businesses in communities like Soweto, [as well as] increased awareness around literacy for children and adults, along with the benefits of cycling and bicycles as a mode of transport and business," he says.

— Max Dylan Lazarus



## CLEO ANASTASIA JOHNSON, 28

Founder and curator: Nucleo

[@cleo\\_anastasia\\_johnson](#)

Cleo Johnson quit her well-paying 9-to-5 job in 2017 to start her hospitality consulting firm, Nucleo, and has put in the hard work and self care to ensure she hasn't had to look back since. Using her experience working with industry heavyweights like Marriott International, Radisson Blu and The One & Only, she's helped take local hotels from conception to the market. She believes business is about what you can do to lift others up: she supports the school feeding scheme, CRC Cares, and has started her own initiative, Adopt a Block.

— Rosie Goddard



## MAHLATSE MASHAO, 33

Owner and founder: Dipalesa Flowas

[@dipalesa\\_flowas](#)

Mahlatse Mashao is the owner and founder of Dipalesa Flowas, an online florist that offers intricate flower arrangements, luxury flowers, gifting and even bespoke picnics for events. She hopes to soon rival South Africa's biggest online florists. Mashao established her business with the help of the community of Twitter as initial customers, and she takes pride in the fact that her store is the first to deliver to all areas of Gauteng, including the province's townships. What makes this all so much more impressive is that she ran the business while she had another, full-time job.

— Scott Dodds





200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS 2020

# BUSINESS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & TOURISM

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## MAMELLO MATIKINCA, 32

Chief economist: First National Bank

[@MMatikinca](#)

**W**hen Mamello Matikinca became the chief economist at First National Bank at the age of 29, she became one of the youngest chief economists in South Africa's history. Now, three years later, and recently appointed as a member of the president's economic advisory council, her role has taken on some new considerations, particularly in light of Covid-19. She says, "I am fortunate to also be part of a group of renowned thought leaders who are thinking about what's next for the country as we emerge from this crisis and working towards solutions that will change the course of the country for the better."

— Max Dylan Lazarus



## PHILANI POTWANA, 32

Chief executive officer: FNB

[in](#) Philani Potwana

**B**orn in rural Eastern Cape to a single mother of three children, Philani Potwana has become one of the country's leading voices in the banking sector. He matriculated at the young age of 15 and studied information systems at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. At the age of 32, Potwana is FNB's youngest chief executive. He led the team that created cardless cash withdrawals. This was a game changer for the industry and led to FNB being named the most innovative bank at the BAI-Finacle Global Banking Innovation awards in 2012. He is interested in development, imparting financial management principles to consumers, and mentors learners in Alexandra, Johannesburg.

— Thando Maeko



## OLEBOGENG SENTSHO, 33

Chief Executive Officer (Simba Mgodi Mining Incubation Fund)

[@o\\_Butter](#)

**O**lebogeng Sentsho is passionate about the future of the mining industry in South Africa and the industry's potential to drive growth and development. She is mining economist by profession holds a LLB degree and an Msc. in Mining Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand. Sentsho is the Chief Executive Officer at The Simba Mgodi Mining Incubation Fund, a development fund that supports emerging entrepreneurs in mining and mining services. Her work in the mining sector has earned her numerous awards including inaugural "Outstanding woman in Mining Award" at the Youth in Mining Business awards in 2016 and more recently she is the Winner of the "Leaders of Tomorrow" Award at the 2019. Mining Indaba.

— Thando Maeko



## ROD TSHIDISO LESHABA, 30

Head: country and sovereign risk: Absa

[@rodshidiso](#) [@rodleshaba](#)

[f](#) Rod Tshidiso Leshaba

**B**eing appointed into the National Treasury Graduate Programme at the age of 19 after graduating from a previously disadvantaged university remains one of Rod Tshidiso Leshaba's proudest moments. Leshaba is now the head of Country and Sovereign Risk at Absa and has learnt that one needs more than just long working hours and academic excellence. "To be honest, I have worked very hard and strategically to avoid surprises in my career," he says. Helping others is dear to Leshaba: he hopes to be part of financing that provides capital to transformational sectors such as sports and arts.

— Fatima Moosa



## KESHIN GOVENDER, 35

Creative director, head of strategic initiatives: Siemens

[@KeshinGovender](#)

**B**erlin-based Keshin Govender's list of accomplishments are impressive enough on their own, but it's his drive to transform multinational conglomerate Siemens that makes him stand out. Through his job as creative director, head of strategic initiatives, he is hoping to lay the groundwork for a better future in which his daughter can grow up, as well as promoting the spirit of collective wellbeing and inventiveness to change the world.

— Scott Dodds



## HARMONY MOTHIBE, 32

Founder and operations director: BotsZA

[@harmonymothibe](#)

**H**armony Mothibe is the founder and operations director at tech company BotsZA. When he sees the products and services being used, it motivates him to keep working — and it's paying off.

— Shaazia Ebrahim



## MPHO JAN KUBEKA, 21

Machine learning engineer and founder of Kube Industries

[in](#) Mpho Jan Kubeka

**M**pho Kubeka is changing the world through technology. He's a Machine Learning Engineer and Founder of startup Kube Industries, and he's hoping to use technology to improve the lives of South Africans by incorporating it into as many aspects of daily life as possible. "Improving education, telecommunications, healthcare and more vital industries can have widespread positive impact", he says.

— Scott Dodds



Perhaps the most daunting stage of your life is the transition from your tertiary education into the role of a fully-fledged, employable young graduate, ready to begin a career that puts you on a path to achieving your dreams. Even more so young entrepreneurs whose transition comes in the form of starting a business from scratch or opting to use multiple revenue streams simultaneously to reach their career or financial goals. The current economic climate, and even that of before the introduction and complications of the COVID-19 pandemic, presents a myriad of challenges and obstacles to come between conceiving a business idea and actually developing it into a solid, sustainable source of income that one can rely on. Grace Govender, Nedbank's Head of New Business Development, spoke to us about these challenges, the art of entrepreneurship and how Nedbank is positioning itself to provide graduates and entrepreneurs with expertise and guidance during this critical time in their careers.

Govender is tasked with coordinating the strategies and their implementation for both the small-business and professional clients, and understands the needs and complications faced by those starting out.

*"Whether you're fresh in your career or thinking about your own business, you want to keep your costs to a minimum. But you need to think about how you build a portfolio of financial assets over the longer term. Think about how your income is likely to grow and choose financial partners that can grow with you, can offer you the guidance you need and can negotiate on your behalf when it comes to financing your first vehicle or home,"*

she explains, in reference to the option they offer new graduates – those under 30 with a four-year degree can get all the banking, rewards and lifestyle perks of their Professional Banking offering at a 50% reduced fee.

People who are starting their own business tend to know how they want to run it. Nedbank offers the banking expertise and support that not only helps get these startups off the ground but also establishes a banking relationship in which both parties can celebrate milestones and tackle the hurdles in the process. This support is vital when entrepreneurs are facing challenges they might not have experienced yet. Whether



Grace Govender, Nedbank's Head of New Business Development

it's managing multiple revenue streams or dealing with operational and client demands, having the required advisory and relationship banking from Nedbank not only takes the hassle out of day-to-day banking. It also helps business owners consider their options and make educated decisions moving forward. It's easy to develop a one-track mind running a new business, focusing on end goals or funding, but having a source of expertise to rely on takes some of the burden away from dealing with constant decision-making.

As Govender describes,

*"your dedicated relationship banker can unpack that, understand the needs and then present you with a set of options that will help you make the right choice at that point in time."*

Funding is one of the greatest challenges faced by entrepreneurs, especially in the current economic climate, locally and worldwide. According to Govender, while there is a stigma of conservatism when it comes to banks investing in small businesses, it's still certainly an option.

*We look for good and innovative ideas and the energy and know-how to execute them. Once they demonstrate the ability to derive even a modest profit and generate positive cash flow, then they would place themselves in an ideal position to acquire funding,"*

With this in mind, along with the sheer number of new entrepreneurs and businesses in search of funding, Nedbank developed the SimplyBiz platform: a free resource for business owners by business owners, as part of Nedbank's Banking and Beyond initiatives. SimplyBiz is a tool that provides networking opportunities, practical tools, expert advice and alternative funding options to help entrepreneurs either gain funding or develop their business to a state at which it can be funded. "Should they face a challenge or have a question, there are experts at hand offering advice that's not only theoretical, but relevant and practical," according to Govender. They're hoping to improve networking too, as the platform also gives access to

a community of business leaders that can share experiences and young entrepreneurs can seek advice from.

Nedbank is innovating and tailoring its offering continuously to meet the demands of young entrepreneurs. Offering the SimplyBiz platform can equip graduates with knowledge and support before they even begin building their business. No young entrepreneur is expected to know all the ins and outs of running a business, the Nedbank Essential Guide For Small-Business Owners is a free and infinitely valuable A-to-Z resource for those looking to try their hand at entrepreneurship.

As the old adage goes, time is money. The Nedbank Money app and their online banking platforms are designed to allow young professionals to do their personal and business banking in one place. Both the design and functionality are constantly innovating to make transaction and management processes more efficient, placing more power in the hands of the client.

One other way Nedbank is catering to young South African entrepreneurs is through their Startup Bundle. Cost is a critical factor in the early stages of a business, so keeping costs at a minimum is paramount.

*"The Startup Bundle offers the client zero monthly transactional fee for the first six months, 20 free transactions (including one ATM withdrawal per month) and SMS notifications, with all the bells and whistles including a dedicated relationship banker, and access to lending, savings and payment solutions,"*

It's their way of giving young businesspeople a transactional offering with some relief during the critical early phase of their entrepreneurial careers.

Considering the current state of the economy, especially in the midst of the pandemic, it stands to reason that many South Africans will be opting to start their own business as their main or and additional revenue stream. If necessity is the mother of invention, we may soon see invention and innovation resulting from bright young minds in the most uncertain of circumstances.

With the extent to which Nedbank is willing to not only cater to these young professionals but also freely provide them with the support and expertise to make educated decisions, it seems that the resources are established and waiting for a new age of entrepreneurs.

Developing a relationship with your bank comes from trust, convenience and, most importantly, expertise, and Nedbank is working constantly to ensure that this is part and parcel of their daily service.





## ASHRAF BOOLEY, 29

President: Impulse Cape Town

@ashraf\_booley

The person Ashraf Booley has become is a direct result of the challenges he's faced – and the resilience he's shown in overcoming them. Being an openly queer Muslim, alongside his experience with the The Gender Equity Unit at UWC, shaped this journey to his position as president of Impulse Cape Town. It's an HIV healthcare advocacy and support group, and the first Impulse on African soil, where he hopes to create a safe space for the local community to be able to discuss sexual and mental health.

— Scott Dodds



## PELONTLE MOSIMEGE, 26

Founder: She Brigade

@pelontle\_m

Pelontle Mosimege uses her platform, She Brigade podcast, to inform listeners about women in South Africa who are doing great things. Her podcast has hosted women entrepreneurs, corporate professionals and creatives to share their stories. She Brigade has been ranked among the top business podcasts in the country on Apple Podcasts, and Mosiege wants to continue to inspire women to success – whether that means occupying spaces in corporate companies and or becoming entrepreneurs. "I want to see more young women, especially, go for their dreams, believe in their voices and not let anything stand in their way," she says.

— Tshegofatso Mathe



## CHULUMANCO MIHLALI NKASELA, 20

Student and Spokesperson:

Black People's National Crisis Committee

@chulu\_nk

Chulumanco Mhlali Nkasele was elected to #UniteBehind's Organising Secretariat at age 18, with the mandate of managing a civil society coalition of 20 organisations. Young, self-assured and motivated, she continues to fight for justice two years later, vocally and visibly maintaining focus on the issues that others would prefer to ignore. She is currently studying a Bachelor of Health Science in Biomedical Sciences at CPUT, which she sees as part of her activism: "The impact that I want to see in South Africa's future through my work is a safer South Africa for queer folk, black women and black bodies."

— Max Dylan Lazarus



## KARABO MOKGONYANA, 23

African Youth Ambassador for Peace:  
African Union

@K\_Mokgonyana

At just 23, Karabo Mokgonyana is already embracing her role as a leader and change-maker. Since university – where she managed to balance full-time academics with a job, running a nonprofit organisation and advancing an international leadership career – the African Youth Ambassador for Peace has committed herself to the advancement of social justice and representation of marginalised groups. As a black woman, she has seen first hand the effects that poverty, sexual and gender-based violence, racism, economic disempowerment and corruption can have on people. It's the reason she refuses to rest while there's still so much work to do.

— Rosie Goddard



## KEABETSWE LETSHOLO, 33

Founder: Tag-A-Sister

Client support specialist: Sanlam

@Tag-ASister @TagASister1

@tag\_a\_sister

In 2016, Keabetswe Lesholo, from Hammanskraal in north Gauteng, founded Tag-A-Sister, which focuses on empowering women and young girls, especially those affected by teenage pregnancy and poverty-linked issues. The Adopt-A-Sister programme pairs girls with mentors to guide them. Tag-A-Sister has also established a virtual tutoring programme for mentees in grade 12. To date, the programme has worked with 40 girls. The aim of Tag-A-Sister is to inspire and motivate young women to reclaim their dreams, remain in school and not give up. Lesholo herself was a teenage mother. "What was anticipated to be my biggest failure has turned out to be my biggest success," she says.

— Theresa Mallinson



## CHAEI MYCROFT, 25

Ability activist and student

@chaelimycroft

Being in a wheelchair has shaped Chaeli Mycroft's life and turned her into an ability activist. She heads The Chaeli Campaign, which helps disabled children and their families by providing equipment and services, and lobbies society to become more inclusive. The campaign has improved the lives of thousands of families and helped to rewrite some rules, such as successfully lobbying for the Comrades Marathon to accept wheelchair athletes. Mycroft has been honoured with a string of global awards including the Nobel Peace Laureates' Medal for Social Activism.

— Lesley Stones





## MANDIMA QUNTA, 31

Entrepreneur: The Fam

@ndingu\_ndima Mandima Qunta

**M**andima Qunta specialises in bringing people together. It's gone beyond a profession – it's now a matter of pride. She creates safe spaces for thought-provoking discussions. Under her umbrella brand, The Fam, she has provided opportunities for various groups to mingle and participate in constructive dialogue. This includes the monthly show, Tint Talks, described as a "safe space for the queer body". The Fam also co-created the Le Grand Ball events, a showcase that flaunts Johannesburg's queer creatives.

— Luke Feltham



## KEITUMETSE FATIMATA MOUTLOATSE, 25

Founder & chairperson of the Black Womxn Caucus

@feminist\_sw

**K**eitumetse Fatimata Moutloatse is an honours student in social work at Wits University and chairperson and founder of the Black Womxn Caucus. Moutloatse and the Black Womxn Caucus led the #SandtonShutdown march to the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in 2019, demanding a contribution from the private sector towards the fight against GBV and femicide. Following the national lockdown, they've established the Crisis Of Care WhatsApp Helpline in response to increased demand for free psychosocial support. The helpline has trained and mobilised professionals including academics, social workers, psychologists, occupational therapists and community healthcare workers nationwide to provide community-based services.

— Afrika Bogatsu



## IAN MANGENGA, 26

Founder and designer: Digital Girl Africa

@ianafrika

**I**an Mangenga is a designer and the founder of digital hub Digital Girl Africa. She wants to see more women entrepreneurs running businesses online, more content created by women for women and women having an equal stake in the digital economy. She pushes that agenda by educating and connecting young African women in tech. Mangenga holds a BSc in geography and archaeology from the University of the Witwatersrand, and is pursuing honours in landscape architecture at the University of Cape Town. She finds the drive to excel in the need to exist.

— Jabulile Dlamini-Qwesha



## ALLAN VAN DER MEULEN, 24

Co-founder: Zlto app

@AllaVDM

**A**llan van der Meulen, who was born in the Cape Flats, wants to see people in his community living without poverty, able to pursue their dreams. To this end, Van der Meulen co-founded Zlto, an app that rewards young people in South Africa for volunteering; and in exchange they are rewarded with vouchers that they can use to buy essential services they need. In addition, the individuals who complete the tasks gain valuable work experience. Since the app was launched in 2016, it has assisted more than 25 000 youths.

— Tshegofatso Mathe



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## MPHO SEIPUBI, 27

Program coordinator and founder: Whose Stories Will We Hear?

@MphoSeipubi @\_mphoseipubi

**W**e're living in extraordinary times. One day we'll look back at this period as a defining moment in history. But some stories may not be told. Writer and editor Mpho Seipubi wants to capture those stories. Her project, *Whose Stories Will We Hear?*, documents the experiences of ordinary people navigating the Covid-19 pandemic. Seipubi has been committed to uplifting sometimes unheard voices for a long time. She has more than seven years of experience in outreach aimed at rural communities. She is also the editor of *Empower*, a free publication distributed to villages in the Northern Cape and the North West.

— Sarah Smit



## ZANELE MELISSA SIMANGO, 20

Student: University of Cape Town

@zanelesimango

**R**eflecting on recent years, Zanele Simango says: "My proudest moment was winning Most Outstanding Society in the Social Cluster for the work I did in Activate Wits, a student society striving to create a social and safe space for LGBTIAQ+ students."

I am a young, black, queer, female African scientist; you do not see a large number of us in the history books or among the names of the greatest. What pushes me to excel daily is knowing that one day a young black African girl will know that the sky is the limit because I showed her that it is possible."

— Max Dylan Lazarus





## FUNZANI MTEMBU, 29

Investment/economic analyst: Kaelo Naledi

@Funzani\_

**F**unzani Mtembu is an investment/economic analyst and activist advocating for ethical economic practices. Although her work concerns numbers, she's also interested in how those numbers affect people in society. She is a member of the Fallist movement and was active in mobilisation at her university. "I think about the circumstances black women live under a lot; the courage to do so much, while also building communities and families, is awe-inducing. The women who wake up every morning to make huge sacrifices so they can provide for their families remind me that I have the power to do more."

— Jabulile Dlamini-Qwesha



## JHONO BENNETT, 33

Architect: 1to1 - Agency of Engagement

@jhonobennett

**J**hono Bennett is one of the founders of 1to1 – Agency of Engagement, a nonprofit architectural organisation that aims to bring people closer together and to do away with apartheid spatial planning that deliberately kept sections of the society separate. As well as advocating for innovative and inclusive ways of creating buildings and neighbourhoods, Bennett is reading for his MPhil/PhD in architectural design at the University College London. "I believe in the power of our urban spaces to address patterns, and provide a platform to develop new and inclusive patterns of sharing, making and growing together as a nation," he says.

— Thando Maeko



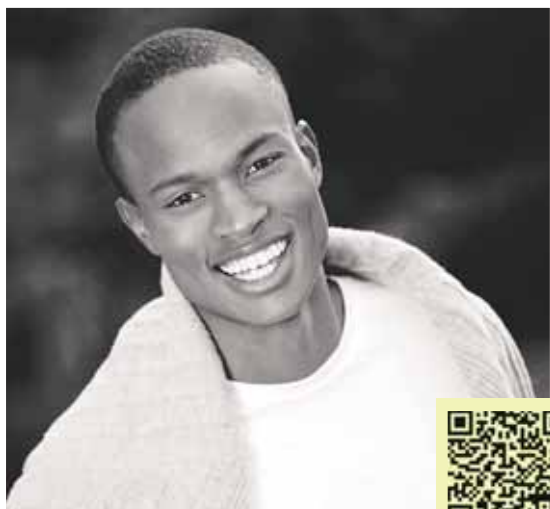
## RAMPHELE MAWELEWELE, 31

Office administrator & disability integration advocate: KG Maluleke Memorial Disability Integration Organization

@Ramphele2

**R**amphele Mawelewele's life changed in her matric year when a motor accident left her with paraplegia. That didn't stop her from enrolling for a food technology qualification, but she was unable to get her certificate because no company would accept her to get work experience because of her disability. She's now at the KG Maluleke Memorial Disability Integration Organisation. It's a non-profit organisation that advocates inclusive education by assisting physically-challenged learners move from specialised schools into traditional schools, helping with tuition and adjusting to a new learning environment. Mawelewele hopes to banish the barriers of disability to make South Africa a more inclusive place.

— Scott Dodds



## TSIETSI MOROBI, 32

Performer and drama teacher: Kids Haven Drama Group and Yunitiate NPC

@Tsi\_morobi Tsietsi Tsivo Morobi

**T**sietsi Morobi says he wants to see art become part of the school curriculum. He is a performer and drama teacher who sees art as a vehicle for social change, especially for those who were previously disadvantaged. Morobi studied a dramatic arts degree at the University of the Witwatersrand. He works with the Kids Haven Drama Group where he runs a weekly drama programme. "I want to use performance as a catalyst to building the youth holistically and to make it easily accessible to the youth," he says.

— Fatima Moosa



## BROWN LEKEKELA, 35

Counsellor, volunteer and founder: Diepsloot Victim lifeline known as Green Door

Brown Lekekela

**B**rown Lekekela is doing the work required to deal with gender-based violence where it's most needed. He runs the Green Door shelter in his back yard for women and children in the Diepsloot informal settlement in Johannesburg. He set it up in 2013, after volunteering as a trauma counsellor at the Diepsloot police station. He also volunteered at the Vuselela HIV organisation. His proudest moment was being selected as Lead SA Hero of the Month in January 2016.

— Shaazia Ebrahim



## ENRIQUE HERMANUS, 21

Pastor, programme manager and ward committee representative for education: El Shaddai Christian Church, Mould Empower Serve, The City of Cape Town

@reverend\_ricky Enrique Hermanus

**T**hroughout the Covid-19 pandemic Enrique Hermanus has partnered with nonprofit organisations, business and churches to lead a R1-million feeding scheme, providing children with food, sanitary products and educational material. He works to motivate fellow South Africans to embrace empathy and recognise the plight of those who are disadvantaged, while educating children through spirituality. "I don't want to alleviate poverty, I want to eradicate it," he says. Hermanus has organised countless litter clean-ups, formed chess clubs in impoverished schools and set up holiday and tutoring clubs for the children who need it.

— Scott Dodds





## MAKGATLA THEPA, 36

Procurement officer and social activist:  
Capricorn College for TVET

 @Makgatla

**M**akgatla Thepa-Lephale is a social activist renowned for founding the Pamelope Reading Club — an initiative that teaches children in rural Limpopo how to read and write. Over the years, she has raised enough money to upgrade the club premises from tin shack to brick structure, and has seen more children attending as a result. Passionate about the power of books, Makgatla wants to inspire young people to start reading movements in their villages and beyond, believing that a solid foundation produces innovative leaders who will use the knowledge they gain from books to better their lives and the lives of others.

— Rosie Goddard



## ALIA KAJEE, 30

Climate support programme technical advisor: GIZ

 @JustMissAlia

**J**ustice and equality are at the heart of what drives Alia Kajee. The technical advisor on climate change believes that there can never be environmental justice without social and economic justice. Kajee says the Covid-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated deep-rooted, systemic crises and social ills. Her work as a civil society activist has seen her behind a drive that has distributed food parcels, vouchers or money to people who most need it during this time without trampling on their dignity. She believes that it's important to stand up for others and support a just cause even if you stand to benefit nothing.

— Bongekile Macupe



## MUHAMMED CHOONARA, 23

Media, communications and marketing  
professional; volunteer

 @cde\_choonram

**23**-year-old Muhammed Choonara is dedicated to helping those who need it most. He's currently volunteering as the head of media, communications and marketing for the South African Muslim Covid-19 Response Task Team for the Johannesburg region, but he also runs a successful consultancy business. Choonara is heavily involved in social endeavours at the University of Pretoria and with the Muslim Students Association, and hopes to use his interest in politics, international relations and activism to break down boundaries across communities and reduce ethnic and racial divides.

— Scott Dodds



## PALESA MADI, 29

Attorney and acting deputy director:  
Centre for Applied Legal Studies

 @PalesaMadi1

**P**alesa Madi has had a busy few years: raising a three year old, co-editing and publishing a first-year law textbook, lecturing with said textbook, oh, and being appointed Acting Deputy Director at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies. She combines this prodigious output with a personal emphasis on self-reflection and mental health, something that translates to her human rights work: "I want to see a better functioning state and government, where human rights are equally protected and where state resources are used to serve the country and particularly those that are most vulnerable."

— Max Dylan Lazarus



## LORRAINE KHOZA, 23

Founder and chairperson: Lorraine Khoza Foundation

 @lorraine\_kh

**I**n the work that she does through her foundation, Lorraine Khoza aims to be a reliable advocate for marginalised groups and a champion for gender equality. Earlier this year, the Lorraine Khoza Foundation received a presidential honour for its contribution to the campaign against gender-based violence. "It came as a surprise because we had only been in existence for a few months," she says.

— Jabulile Dlamini-Qweshu



## ADVICE CHUMA, 27

Intern publicist: Empire Entertainment

 @AdviceCooper

**A**dvice Chuma is diving headfirst into his non-profit work: He's a founding member of Swakoteka Foundation, helping students from poor communities with applications for higher education, at the Thusong Youth Centre in Alexandra. Chuma is teaching computer skills to the unemployed, and he works with Hands of Wisdom, helping to source and facilitate donations to uplift the youth in the community. "I want to see young people give back to their communities through skills that they have," he says, elaborating on his passion for helping others.

— Scott Dodds



## NONCEDO MADUBEDUBE, 29

General Secretary: Equal Education

 @CedoMadubedube

**N**oncedo Madubedube is the general secretary at Equal Education, the membership-based movement striving for quality and equality in South Africa's education system. She's a queer feminist activist using her education qualification and experience to improve the standard of learning for all.

— Scott Dodds





## AKHONA LERATO XOTYENI, 23

Master's Candidate; Researcher; Youth Advisor and Activist on policies involving Human Rights and Climate Action: Stellenbosch University and South African Institute for International Affairs

[@akhona\\_xotyeni](#)

**23**-year-old master's student Akhona Lerato Xotyeni derives fulfillment from knowing that she's made a difference in someone's life. She campaigns for a future in which everyone can feel safe in South Africa, focusing primarily on climate action and human rights. Xotyeni works tirelessly to put herself into policy and decision-making spaces that lack the representation of young and vulnerable people, with emphasis on women, the LGBTQI community, people of colour and foreign nationals. She epitomises the idea that truly helping people is a skill you learn as a child, and one that you develop your entire life.

— Scott Dodds



## SHAAKIRA CHOHAN, 35

Architect and Urbanist

[@shaakira\\_chohan](#)

**A**rchitect and urbanist Shaakira Chohan says that one of the proudest moments in her career so far was leading the team that designed, erected and unveiled the statue of Nelson Mandela that's now in the Palestinian city of Ramallah. Being part of that team also allowed her to understand the power of making an impact on people's lives in unexpected ways without expectation of return. It is this ethos which inspires her work. Chohan said she wants to see more considered, human-centered environments in cities that provide safety, healing, opportunity and inspiration for their inhabitants.

— Fatima Moosa



## DR SIMONE DAHMS-VERSTER, 28

Assistant lecturer: University of Johannesburg

[@SimoneDahms](#)

**Dr** Simone Dahms-Verster holds a PhD in zoology, and plans to use her expertise to perform work that will improve the natural environment, so that her child and younger generations will live in a world with clean rivers and rich biodiversity. Her research centres on pollution in the country's water resources. As a lecturer, she aims to marry her passion for her work with her students' education. "Ultimately, they will be the custodians of a cleaner environment and a better future for all South Africans. My hope is that they pay it forward in turn," she says.

— Tshegofatso Mathe



## MOKGADI MOLOKO MABELA, 33

Director and Founder: Native Nosi

[@nativenosi](#)

**"I** want the youth to smash stereotypes and tread in spaces our parents would have never dreamt of treading," says Mokgadi Mabela, director and founder of Native Nosi, a company producing and selling honey, wax and organic and indigenous by-products. Mabela is a third-generation beekeeper. Her grandfather, the first bee-farmer in their family, used his savings to start a small beekeeping operation. Many years later Mabela continues the tradition in her own way, using the knowledge passed down from her grandfather and father. Mabela had to contend with the challenging modern honey market — but she has made a name for herself by producing superior honey of better value.

— Fatima Moosa



## ESETHU CENGA, 26

Co-founder: Rewoven

[Esethu Cenga](#)

**E**sethu Cenga is the co-founder of Rewoven, a textile recycling company that is about creating a circular economy in the clothing and textiles sector to build a more sustainable future for the industry. Taking significant risks after turning down a solid job offer, Cenga has been working to transform her dream from concept to reality, and exercising her agency as a person while doing something she loves. Her passion has a noble goal: "If we want to change entire systems, we need to make changes at the individual level."

— Scott Dodds



## PRESHANTHIE NAICKER-MANICK, 34

Deputy director at South Africa's department of environment, forestry and fisheries

[@PreshanthieN](#) [Preshanthie Naicker-Manick](#)

**P**reshanthie Naicker-Manick is the deputy director at the South African department of environment, forestry and fisheries. She's also got her hands full as a mother and as a master's candidate in environmental microbiology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Naicker-Manick believes it's her responsibility to serve South Africa through her knowledge and experience in the environmental and small business sector. Focusing on inclusive development for women, youth and those with disabilities in South African sectors gives her the drive to excel, and ensures her impact is enough to carry through generations.

— Scott Dodds





## REFILOE MATHIBE, 29

Civil Engineering Technologist: CLYF

[in](#) Refiloe Mathibe

**T**hanks to her mentors, Refiloe Mathibe learned early on that it was important to set and write down goals, and has been steadily working towards them ever since. "My biggest mistake was believing that getting a degree was all you needed to be successful, but I have learned that one has to be intentional in designing your own successes in life." Passionate about green buildings and infrastructure, waste management and renewable energy, Civil engineering technologist Mathibe is on a mission to leave the world in a better way than she found it while working towards a clean, healthy and green South Africa.

— Rosie Goddard



## RAMULIFHO PFANANANI, 30

Postdoctoral research fellow: University of Venda

[in](#) Pfananani Ramulifho [@Pfani\\_success](#)

**R**amulifho Pfananani says being the first from his family and village to complete a doctorate was a moment of immense pride. His PhD is in river management, he is the national vice-chairperson of the Young Water Professionals and he is a postdoctoral research fellow. He got his PhD in zoology from the University of Venda, and it was there that he's previously completed his honours and undergraduate degree in environmental sciences. With all his academic achievements, Pfananani is at his happiest and most fulfilled when he's able to help others.

— Fatima Moosa



## ATHENKOSI BABA, 27

YouLead co-ordinator

[f](#) Athenkosi Annex Baba

**A**thenkosi Baba is the youth programme co-ordinator at Project 90 by 2030, inspiring a future generation of community leaders and climate activists. He says: "I want to see the youth who are informed about climate change and leaders who are activists in their communities. Also, we are building leaders who can challenge our government to see that climate change is real and it's happening now." He has proven his passion to develop the capacities of the youth he engages with, dedicating almost every weekend of the year to running workshops, leading youth leadership hikes and running youth events.

— Max Dylan Lazarus



## KEKELETSO PULANE, 27

Cofounder and director: Ramtsilo

[@Ramtsilo](#)

**K**ekeletso Pulane is an extraordinary young woman and a disruptor of note. She invented a strong, durable, and fire resistant building material made from recycled plastic. What's more, these materials are much cheaper than their counterparts, helping countless people to be able to build their homes with safe, affordable materials. Kekeletso's presence in the construction industry serves as an aspirational tale for other young women who might have great ideas but are held back by society's notion of gender and industry. Her advice to them? "Be bold in pursuit of your goals regardless of how difficult it is."

— James Nash



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## MOELETJI MAPHETO, 27

CA(SA) Trainee, Founder:  
Ga-Mphahlele Home-Coming

[@gamphahleleh](#)

**M**oeletji Mapheto doesn't see growing up in Ga-Mphahlele in Limpopo as a disadvantage. Instead, Mapheto saw it as an opportunity: "Sometimes success is going back to the village and fixing it." Through her work with the rural community, Mapheto has helped build flushing toilets for a school in need and convert a classroom into a much-needed library. Her Ga-Mphahlele Home-Coming initiative brings together like-minded individuals looking to find solutions to the problems in rural communities. "I want the most forgotten parts of this country to be acknowledged and represented fairly and justly."

— Sarah Smit



## PHAKISO MASOOA, 24

Director: The Mentees Ark

[@phakisomasooa](#) [Phakiso Masooa](#)

**P**hakiso Masooa is the first person in his family to attend university. He is studying for a BA degree at the University of the Witwatersrand. Now he is helping other matriculants to achieve this goal. In 2017, Masooa co-founded The Mentees Ark, which offers mentorship and tutoring to increase the number of learners at public schools to qualify for tertiary studies. His belief in the power of education sustains his mission through many problems, including the Covid-19 pandemic and regulations to limit its spread. Since the lockdown The Mentees Ark has been offering e-learning lessons on WhatsApp for grade 12.

— Theresa Mallinson



## MAHLOGONOLO PHAHLAMOHLAKA, 27

Founder of the Help Matriculate Centre

[Mahlogonolo Phahlamohlaka](#)

**U**pliftment begins with education. This is the maxim by which Mahlogonolo Phahlamohlaka lives her life and drives her career. She is the founder of the Help Matriculate Centre, an organisation that upskills young residents in Tsimanyane Circuit, Limpopo Province. Her proudest moments in the organisation have come from hosting career days for children in rural areas who have struggled in school. Far from being a one-off occasion, she has continued to offer support to learners who need it most. By increasing literacy rates and instilling basic skills in learners from a young age, Phahlamohlaka believes she can facilitate job creation in the community.

— Luke Feltham



## MLAMULI NKOSINGPHILE HLATSHWAYO, 29

Lecturer: University of KwaZulu-Natal

[@MlamuliSA](#)

**M**lamuli Nkosingphile Hlatshwayo is involved in transforming the higher education sector. His academic record — graduating cum laude with his master's in social sciences and last year getting his PhD in education — has landed him at the University of KwaZulu-Natal as a lecturer, where he's making sense of and theorising the transformation challenges in the higher education system. He aims to contribute to this body of knowledge to recentre Africa and the Global South when it comes to knowledge production.

— Scott Dodds



## CHARMAINE MAPHUTHA, 26

Educator and philanthropist: Bopedi Hope Foundation

[Bopedi Hope Foundation](#)

**C**harmaine Maphutha established Bopedi Hope Foundation with two other women and together they provide school shoes, clothing, toiletries, sanitary towels and other necessities to girls in need. Their goals include providing free sanitary towels in all public spaces. Maphutha did a Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Johannesburg and she says that helps reach the school children she works with from a place of understanding. She believes that everyone deserves to live with dignity, irrespective of their financial circumstance. Her work at the Bopedi Hope Foundation has taught her to interact with people on a different level. "I also learnt that poverty can be a state of mind; the children that we interact with are full of life and have dreams, despite their socioeconomic status." That, in turn, inspires her to be the best that she can be.

— Jabulile Dlamini-Qwesha



## WILSON TSAKANE MONGWE, 29

Front office quantitative analyst: Standard Bank

[Wilson Mongwe](#)

**W**ilson Mongwe, who is completing his PhD in artificial intelligence at the University of Johannesburg, hopes his research will further Africa's position in the fourth industrial revolution. He is a front office quantitative analyst, which means he builds mathematical models that are used by derivative traders. Mongwe was surprised to find that there weren't many black professionals in his field, and has set out to solve this by being an example of success. And he won't let his hometown be left behind. He regularly visits Nkawkankwa in Limpopo to motivate high school learners to follow in his path.

— Sarah Smit





## SIZI MATTHEWS BOTSIME, 32

Education activist:  
Sizi Botsime Foundation / CISE

[in](#) Sizi Matthews Botsime

**E**ducation activist Sizi Matthews Botsime says he wants to see a South Africa that is diverse in every sphere: "A society in which people look, embrace and unite in their diversity ... that each person will be getting an opportunity without any bias." It is in his work that he strives to achieve this dream. He is the founder of the Sizi Botsime Foundation, an education initiative that focuses on empowering children living with disabilities, as well as their parents, while at the same time bridging the gap between abled and differently abled people.

— Fatima Moosa



## THANDO MKOYI, 27

Managing director: Eyentsatshane For the Little Ones Early Childhood Development Project

[f](#) Thando Mkhoyi

**T**handuxolo Mkoyi is managing director of Eyentsatshane For the Little Ones Early Childhood Development Project in Khayelitsha. It promotes reading, writing, puppetry and storytelling. "I'd like to see every child being able to read before they get to grade four," says Mkoyi, who believes storytelling, reading aloud and books help shape their learning. Mkoyi is deputy chairperson for the Literacy Association of South Africa's Western Cape branch and has been featured in the Activate! Heroes book. He's created training content and facilitated as a trainer. His stories have been published by youth programme *Nal'ibali* and broadcast on SABC radio stations.

— Jabulile Dlamini-Qweshwa



## NTOKOZO NDLOVU, 34

SANDF soldier and founder of The Web Foundation

[t](#) @NtokozoBooks [f](#) Ntokozo Edward

**W**hen he's not donning the uniform as a soldier of the South African National Defence Force, Ntokozo Ndlovu works with The Web Foundation, which supports, motivates and inspires children in rural schools to read, participate in sport and engage with art. His drive is to provide children with access to quality books and a sustainable development plan because Ndlovu believes in the value of reading and writing, learning and developing. He hopes his work can leave a legacy of goodwill and to make the world better than he found it.

— Scott Dodds



## BOITUMELO KATISI, 28

Commercial pilot: Aviation Development In Africa

[i](#) @tumi3bars\_katisi

**C**ommercial pilot Boitumelo Katisi got her pilot's license at the end of 2018 and became a recipient for the Outstanding Contribution to Aviation in South Africa award at the Civil Aviation Industry Awards a year later. On her birthday, she hosted the first aviation career expo ever in Soweto for over 1 000 kids, giving them an opportunity to gain exposure to aviation and the different careers in the field. "I want to see kids from previously disadvantaged backgrounds dreaming bigger than their circumstances and getting exposed to careers they think are out of their reach. Our youth deserve to follow their passion too, and not just certain career paths or jobs where the money is the only motivation and they are working for survival."

— Jabulile Dlamini-Qweshwa



## ZANDILE MKWANAZI, 29

Chief executive officer and chairwoman: GirlCode

[t](#) @zandy\_keeine

**T**he tech industry is still male-dominated and Zandile Mkwanaazi is working to increase the visibility of women in it through her nonprofit organisation, GirlCode. Combining her passions for women, technology and education, Mkwanaazi helps to provide historically disadvantaged women with skills in computer literacy, coding and design. GirlCode's mission is to create a network of women who can use those skills to create innovative and sustainable solutions where they live.

— Tshegofatso Mathe



## THANDOKAZI MASETI, 30

Lecturer & PhD candidate:  
University of Johannesburg

[i](#) @luthandokazi22

**T**handokazi Maseti says joining Wits University as one of the youngest lecturers in the department of family medicine and pursuing a career as a lecturer was a big surprise. An even bigger surprise was becoming a lecturer in a field not linked to the formal studies of her university years. Working in a space where she is not really expected to exist has pushed Maseti to success. "I want to see black women safe and happy, so I keep on waking up, doing a little to ensure we can live in a world where that is a possibility," she says.

— Fatima Moosa



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## MUKUNDI LAMBANI, 33

Founder: Ambani Africa

[@mukundil](#)

**M**ukundi Lambani believes that the foundation phase of education is crucial because "if you're behind by the time you're in a grade, you're not likely to ever catch up". She's the founder and director of Ambani Africa, an education technology company that teaches young learners mother-tongue fluency through augmented reality, an interactive experience of a real-world environment, making it a fun learning resource. Lambani is a project manager at the Goethe-Institut for the Creative Economies in Townships' project supporting entrepreneurs in Gauteng's townships. She also runs the all-female advertising agency, Brainbow, ranked seventh most effective agency internationally at the 2018 Global Mobile Marketing awards. And she is a board member of the Visual Arts Network South Africa.

— Thando Maeko



## MADRE LOUBSER, 29

Youth development and education co-ordinator:  
Cape Town Opera

[@madreloubser](#) [f](#) Madre Loubser

**"S**ometimes the most vital jobs aren't those in the spotlight." As the youth development and education co-ordinator at Cape Town Opera, the Western Cape representative on the National Arts Council, a private flute teacher, ad-hoc flautist and freelance music librarian, Madre Loubser quite clearly lives and breathes music, but it's the work she puts in when no one's watching that demonstrates her most admirable qualities. Loubser is passionate about music being recognised as an essential part of South African society, not only to inform us of our past but also to show us how we can grow together for a brighter future.

— Rosie Goddard



## RADZILANI WISDOM THIVHAFUNI, 24

Project manager:  
You are a Star community youth development

[@YouAreAStarCom2](#)

**S**ome stars shine brighter than others. Thivhafuni Wisdom Radzilani started You Are a Star to give young people in Vhulaudzi, a village in Limpopo, a space to improve their English language skills. You Are a Star is an after-school programme that runs spelling bee competitions that encourage learners to expand their vocabularies. In the wake of South Africa's deepening youth unemployment crisis, Radzilani hopes to empower young people by boosting their confidence. Radzilani has partnered up with Save the Children South Africa to run workshops on children's rights, the participation of young people in the economy and reproductive health rights.

— Sarah Smit



## SISEKO H KUMALO, 25

Academic and editor-in-chief, *Journal of Decolonising Disciplines*: University of Pretoria

[@prof\\_kumalo](#)

**S**iseko H Kumalo does not want to live a mediocre life, so he makes sure he is not complacent. He also works to give the world the tools to do better, to care for the marginalised and to think deeply about the disenfranchised. He founded the *Journal of Decolonising Disciplines*, an open-access publication that aims to investigate, develop and critique decolonising strategies. "My desire lies in facilitating the development of a language (a lexicography) that allows society to understand itself, so that it is best positioned to stem its bigoted, racialised and classist differentials," he says

— Tshagofatso Mathe



## DR NDUMISO VUSUMUZI MAZIBUKO, 34

Senior agricultural economist

[in](#) Ndumiso Mazibuko, Ph.D

[@ndutlt](#) [f](#) Ndumiso Vusumuzi Mazibuko

**S**enior agricultural economist Dr Ndumiso Vusumuzi Mazibuko believes patience is key to building a career you can be proud of. He was able to influence legislative policies that transformed the agricultural sector, promoting effective use of land and creating more household food security. Mazibuko has played a critical role in the execution of the statutory levy system that has helped the commercial agricultural sector generate funding for research, export markets and production. He championed the formulation of a national infrastructure plan for agro-logistics that formed part of the 18 Strategic Integrated Projects administered by the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission.

— Jabulile Dlamini-Qweshu



## SARAH MADINGWANA, 26

Co-founder and chief financial officer:  
Rudo Institute

[@sarahmadingwana](#)

**S**arah Madingwana is the co-founder of the Rudo Institute, a nonprofit higher education institution based in Daveyton township. She and her partner built the institute after seeing how inaccessible tertiary education was in the township. Madingwana hopes the institute will develop entrepreneurial leaders through business education. Education is important, Madingwana says, and educational qualifications lend credibility. She believes in a world in which everyone has equal access to affordable higher education.

— Shaazia Ebrahim





## 200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS 2020 EDUCATION

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### MPHO NKAKE, 21

Founder and ambassador:  
*Together We Can Succeed*

[Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [Facebook](#) @Mphonkake

**M**pho Nkake is only 21, but he's already making a big impact on the youth. He is the founder of Together We Can Succeed, an organisation that focuses on helping students apply for higher learning institutions, offers the advice of students from different universities and tutors students online during the Covid-19 pandemic. Nkake is also an ambassador for Respublica Student Living and for Voices Unite, and has partnered with Mkaay Beauty on a skincare range. He explains that success is a journey, and the level of success is only limited by how big your ambitions are.

— Scott Dodds



### ANZA TSHIPETANE, 21

Founder and chief executive:  
*Bright Young Leaders Initiative -BYLI*

[Instagram](#) @Anzatshipeti

**A**nza Tshipetane is the founder and chief executive of the Bright Young Leadership Initiative (BYLI), a nonprofit organisation founded to empower young people from disadvantaged communities. Its aim is to help them to realise their qualities and their ability to become changemakers in their communities. Tshipetane's organisation also aims to expose young people to different areas in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Winners of the initiative's Science and Innovation Challenge receive sponsorships to attend the London International Youth Science Forum, as well as the BYLI Rural School Innovation Camp, which is run in collaboration with the University of Venda.

— Max Dylan Lazarus



### ASANDA SIGIGABA, 29

Principal: LEAP Science and Maths School

[Instagram](#) [Twitter](#) @Asamhie

**T**o take on full responsibility for a school at the age of 28 would be a daunting task for anyone, but when LEAP Science and Maths School in Linbro Park achieved a 100% matric pass rate in her first year as principal, Asanda Sigigaba's decision to step into the role was vindicated. As an educator, Sigigaba tries to convey a message of tenacity and perseverance to her learners: "Your background is not a determining factor of where you'll end up in life. However, it can be a motivation for you to do everything possible to change your current and future reality."

— Max Dylan Lazarus



### SINAKEKELWE NKWANYANA, 28

PhD intern: Human Sciences Research Council

[Twitter](#) @skkhumba

**S**inakekelwe Nkwanyana has carved out an academic niche that she hopes may better inform how we understand masculinity in South Africa. Currently completing her PhD in public health at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, she dismisses the notion that men can be seen as a homogenous group — she's chosen instead to focus on the nuances of cultural norms and learnt behaviours. Nkwanyana has had the opportunity to further pursue her research passion as a PhD intern at the Human Sciences Research Council. Her efforts were picked up on the international stage and she was invited to present her work at a conference on decolonising men and masculinity studies at Brandon University, Canada in 2019.

— Luke Feltham



### NOSIPHO MNGOMEZULU, 32

Anthropology lecturer:  
*University of the Witwatersrand*

[Instagram](#) @offtherecord.fm

**I**n her research and teaching, Nosipho Mngomezulu strives to decolonise and transform academic approaches to projects with the aim of developing methods to better equip students for the challenges of the 21st century in Africa. As an anthropology lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand, Mngomezulu has for the past five semesters, worked to re-imagine the epistemic legacies of anthropology. Working with organisations in the Eastern Cape taught her that there is a wealth of generosity, creativity and grace, which is evident if one doesn't have a narrow vision of what knowledge is.

— Tshegofatso Mathe



### SICELO BHENGU, 33

Senior deputy headmaster: Southdowns College

[LinkedIn](#) Sicelo Bhengu

**S**icelo Bhengu's wish is for young people to take their education seriously. His belief in education as a tool to unlock one's potential was why he co-founded Linking Notes in 2011, a finishing school that helps young people improve their matric results. He also co-founded Catholic Youth Development, which fundraises to pay the registration fees of youths wishing to study at university. At 33, Bhengu is deputy headmaster at the prestigious Southdowns College. He is continuing with his own education, finishing his master's degree in leadership and policy education at the University of the Witwatersrand.

— Bongekile Macupe





## 200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS 2020 EDUCATION

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### ZWOLUGA MUTANGWA, 21

Assistant teacher: Final Solutions

[@FinalSolutions\\_](#)

**Z**woluga Mutangwa was born and raised in rural Tshidimbini in Limpopo, where he founded Helen Frutas n Vegetal, which started small but swiftly expanded. In 2018 Mutangwa collaborated with his friend Vusani Neguyuni to write Final Solutions: a mathematics guide for Grade 12 learners, aimed at students in rural areas, which has been used across provinces to aid teachers. In 2020 Mutangwa began working as an assistant teacher at Tshidimbini Secondary School, where he aims to directly impact rural students' understanding of mathematics and, as a result, their futures.

– James Nash



### XOLANE GRATITUDE NGOBOZANA, 35

Founder: Wattville Achievers

[@mrsoulful\\_x](#) [Mr. Soulful X](#)

**X**olane Ngobozana is the president of the Donate A School Bag campaign. The project gives school bags, sanitary towels, foods and clothes to disadvantaged learners and families. During the Covid-19 pandemic he has provided child-headed households with groceries and secondhand clothing. Ngobozana is also the founder of Viruz Empire Media group, which works to promote young and up-and-coming artists. One of his proudest moments is having had the courage to quit drugs. He hopes to influence and motivate others.

– Tshegofatso Mathe



### TSATSENG RANTSHO, 26

Candidate attorney and founder of Sgela 1st: Legal Aid South Africa

[@Tsatseng\\_R](#)

**D**aveyton local Tsatseng Rantsho is a candidate attorney at Legal Aid South Africa, an organisation committed to providing legal aid to those who cannot afford their own legal representation. This includes vulnerable groups such as women, children and those in rural areas. He's also founded a nonprofit group, Sgela 1st, a motivational speaking and youth development organisation, which aims to educate and encourage young learners about the importance of their academics in achieving their goals. "I believe that Sgela 1st should not only preach education but facilitate it as well," he says, explaining how his organisation provides practical support.

– Scott Dodds



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## PALESA LENGOLO, 33

Finance professional and author:  
Palengo Holdings

[Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) @pale\_lengolo

**P**alesa Lengolo is a finance whiz and author of the book *Stokvels: How They Can Make Your Money Work For You*, which was published last year. Lengolo is proud to be able to empower others through her work. With 10 years' experience in financial services, Lengolo founded Palengo Holdings hoping to change people's financial lives for the better. By improving financial education, Lengolo hopes to be part of the country's development. "The more financially literate people in the country, the higher the level of investment and development of our nation," she says.

– Shaazia Ebrahim



## ZAMA MTHUNZI, 27

Regional organiser: Equal Education

[Facebook](#) Zama Mthunzi

**Z**ama Mthunzi began his career in social justice activism at Khanya College in Johannesburg, where he designed and implemented reading programmes for youths from disadvantaged areas. The mathematical science graduate is now the regional organiser for civil society organisation Equal Education in Gauteng. In a country with more than 50% youth employment, Mthunzi believes in using education to uplift them. He says his work involves "trial and error" and he has learnt that social change requires both patience and commitment.

– Thando Maeko



## DR LERATO MOKOENA, 28

Lecturer: North West University

[Twitter](#) @LikopoLerato

**Dr** Lerato Mokoena is an academic, a researcher and is well on her way to becoming ordained as minister in the Maranatha Reformed Church of Christ. Dr Mokoena received both her honours and master's degrees in theology with specialisation in Old Testament studies cum laude from the University of Pretoria. Mokoena is currently the youngest member of the North West University's faculty of theology, where she teaches Hebrew. The future looks bright for Mokoena as she plans on presenting her research on land and social justice at an international conference in Ghana in October this year. Next year, she will be attending a teaching seminar in Jerusalem to present her research on land in the context of South Africa and Palestine.

– Thando Maeko



## TINYIKO SIMBINE, 29

Co-founder and chief financial officer: GirlCode

[Twitter](#) @Tinyiko\_Simbine

**G**irlCode co-founder Tinyiko Simbine works to help girls pursue careers in information and communications technology. She provides them with skills through GirlCode, which is a nationwide network of free, volunteer-led, weekend coding clubs designed for high school learners who want to have a strong foundation of digital literacy and basic programming skills. A programme helps girls and women with no computer skills through an introductory course to basic computer and internet literacy. "The more we scale up as an organisation the more we can increase our reach. This is just the beginning," she says.

– Thando Maeko



## ESIHLE LUPINDO, 22

Writer and poet: Freelance writer for Careers Magazine

[Twitter](#) @EsihleL [Instagram](#) @esihlel

**E**qual, accurate representation of black queer people is the force that drives the activism of writer and poet Esihle Lupindo. Lupindo completed his undergraduate and honours degrees in sociology at Rhodes University and is studying towards his masters. His research is aimed at merging the past with the present while contributing to the future of Black Queer scholarship. He's passionate about justice and has been published in *The Daily Vox* and *Destiny Careers magazine*.

– Thando Maeko



## LEBOHANG DAVID MOLAPO, 23

Chief executive & chairman: LD Molapo Foundation

[Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) @ldmolapo

**L**ebohang David Molapo has made it his mission to drive others to success. As founder and chairperson of the LD Molapo Foundation, he has established social initiatives to educate and advise youths to engage in further education, career development, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities. This includes motivational tours of schools and prisons, festive care donating food parcels and clothes to disability centres, and the foundation's Career Guidance Youth Expo Roadshow. He says: "By exposing learners to these opportunities we believe we help them to help themselves out of poverty."

– Max Dylan Lazarus



Scan the QR code on each winner with your phone camera to learn more about each winner.





## KATLEGO THWANE, 27

Teacher and founding chief executive:  
Atlegang Bana Foundation

 @kthwane   Katlego Thwane

Shaping the youth of tomorrow requires endless passion and dedication from individuals such as Katlego Thwane, teacher and founding chief executive of the Atlegang Bana Foundation. The organisation is dedicated to honouring children's curiosity and enriching and inspiring them to reach their fullest potential. Thwane has been recognised by LeadSA Heroes on e.tv, won The Young Community Shapers Award and was awarded the prize in the Education category at the SA Men Awards. Thwane derives satisfaction from seeing transformation in the youth and the promise of better standards of living for the children of tomorrow.

– Scott Dodds



## NKHENSANI MOGALE, 34

Lecturer: University of Pretoria, Faculty of Health Sciences, School of Medicine, Department of Anatomy

 @nkhensanimogale  Nkhensani Mogale (PhD)

Nkhensani Mogale began her career as a part-time lecturer at the University of Johannesburg and has consistently broken new ground ever since. Most recently, she was elected the honorary secretary of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa. Her continued presence in her field has been an inspiration to others pursuing a career in the sciences. "I want to make a positive impact in the lives of the students I have the pleasure of lecturing," says Mogale. "Knowing I get to be a small part of their journey makes me want to be a positive and memorable part of that journey."

– James Nash



## VUYO PAKADE, 26

Founder and chief executive: Foonda Technologies

 @vuyo\_pac

Vuyolwethu Pakade founded Foonda Technology Solutions to help make tertiary education more accessible for young South Africans. There are countless obstacles that impede the progress of learners, especially those from underprivileged backgrounds. In response to this problem, Pakade created the Foonda app, a digital platform that matches eligible students with tertiary education scholarships, bursaries and other sponsorships from around the world. Foonda recently received R2.1-million in funding from the Diageo Empowerment Fund, thanks to the app landing in the top two in the 2019 Diageo Social Tech Startup Challenge.

– James Nash

# Success of our next level graduates

THE DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY REMAINS AT THE FOREFRONT OF INNOVATION AND RESEARCH.

Geared towards improving lives and livelihoods, DUT's future-focused team assists students in the pursuit of an internationally recognised undergraduate or postgraduate qualification. DUT students are practically equipped for the working world by prioritising cutting-edge technology, training and research. The following six DUT graduates and our award-winning DUT Enactus team are living proof of the university's commitment to excellence in education.

### DUT'S ENACTUS TEAM

DUT Enactus team named first runner-up in the 2020 Enactus National Champions after participating in the first Enactus South Africa Virtual National Competition, themed, "LEAD CHANGE". The DUT Enactus teams' presentation focused on their agricultural project (Agribusiness Unit) to build sustainable greenhouses for agricultural purposes, addressing three social issues which are plastic pollution, food insecurities and water scarcity.



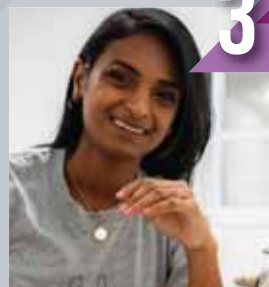
Mrs Lana Brady and Ms Nontokozo Ngcobo with the Enactus Team!



2

### GOMOLEMO MOHAPI

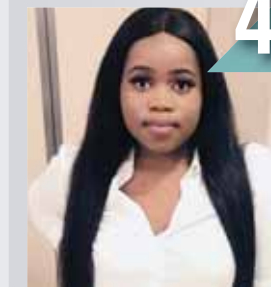
22 year old, Gomolemo Mohapi an Information Technology (IT) student at the Durban University of Technology, scored the opportunity of a lifetime when he was asked to join the world-renowned Microsoft team. Whilst completing his Advanced Diploma in IT at DUT, Mohapi was hired as a Programme Manager for the Microsoft (Seattle, Washington) team.



3

### BALINI NAIDOO

DUT alumna and fashion designer, Balini Naidoo, revolutionised the design industry when she started her own brand of braille designs. This Saldanha Bay based entrepreneur completed her Bachelor of Technology Degree in Fashion and Textile Design at DUT, and graduated in 2017 with Cum Laude.



4

### SITHUTHUKILE CHARMAINE MAKHANYA

22 year old, Sithuthukile Charmaine Makhanya a DUT student who recently completed a Bachelor of Health Sciences in Radiotherapy is driven by her goal of developing a cure for cancer. Makhanya graduated with Cum Laude and the esteemed Dean's Merit award, at DUT's Virtual Graduation ceremony on 10 June 2020.



5

### LIZWILENKOSI ZUMA

20 year old, 3<sup>rd</sup> year Mechanical Engineering student at DUT, Lizwilenkosi Zuma from Zakheleni Informal Settlement at Umlazi is a member of Isigqi Sobuntu Organisation (ISO), determined to fight poverty through education.



6

### THANDEKA MKHWANAZI

Known famously as "TDK MaCassette", or "Durban's gqom barbie" is setting a positive example for young artists across the globe. TDK first obtained her Diploma in Public Relations at DUT and went on to graduate with her BTech in Communications Management at DUT's 2020 Virtual Graduation ceremony held on 10 June 2020.



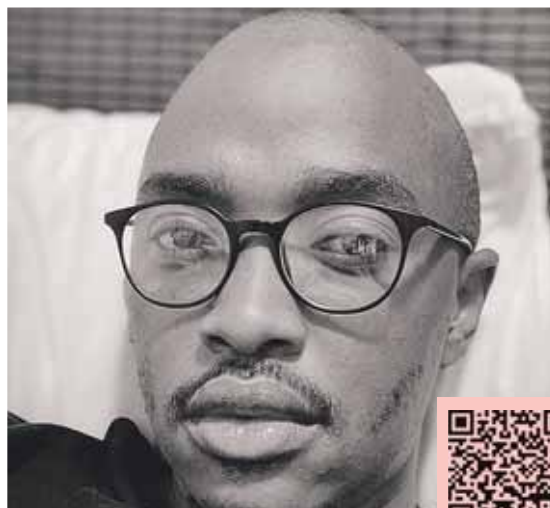
7

### NKANYISO DLAMINI

A 3<sup>rd</sup> year Accounting student and entrepreneur incubated under the DUT Midlands Entrepreneurship Centre and Student Desk Centre, was thrilled after being recognised for his achievements at the 2020 Moses Kotane Innovation Awards.

"Congratulations to our students, staff and alumni, for all the hard work and for pushing boundaries, despite the impacts of COVID-19." Professor S Moyo, DVC Research, Innovation & Engagement, DUT.





## MASIXOLE MAKWETU, 31

Youth development and education coordinator

 @mmakwetu

**A**s the youth development and education coordinator at the Cape Town Opera, Masixole Makwetu gives children from all backgrounds in the Western Cape a holistic introduction to opera. The programmes make the arts accessible to young talent and foster an environment that nurtures their creativity. For Makwetu, seeing the positive effect on learners, teachers and others makes the effort worthwhile. He wants the children to look at him and see how hard work pays off. Last year, Makwetu was invited to be an assistant director for Cape Town Opera's season of Orpheé et Eurydice. He also conducted the Langa Methodist Church Choir at the 2019 Glastonbury Festival. "I believe in working with intention because it makes you appreciate and value all the fruits you reap," he says.

– Jabulile Dlamini-Qwasha



## LEHLOHONOLO NTLATLAPO, 26

Medical doctor: Help Me Up Foundation

 @Hloni\_MD

**L**ehlohonolo Ntlatlapo is passionate about health education and youth development. He started the nonprofit organisation Help Me Up Foundation as a response to the plight of disadvantaged students who struggle to get into institutions of higher learning due to lack of access to information and funding. Coming from a poor socioeconomic background himself, he was able to further his studies through sponsorships, but knew that this possibility does not exist for all youths with similar backgrounds. His organisation aims to close this gap by helping youth to apply to institutions of higher learning and to find funding opportunities.

– Tshgofatso Mathe



## DR LWANDO MDLELENI, 31

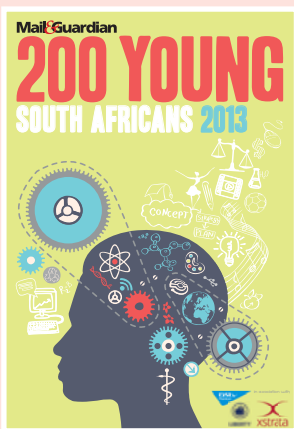
Researcher: social innovation and development: University of the Western Cape

 @lwandomdleleni

**S**enior researcher Dr Lwando Mdleleni is a specialist in social innovation and development at the University of the Western Cape. He's using his position to develop innovations to let the university better engage with local communities for inclusive development. He's particularly concerned with finding ways to help young black women achieve equality. He's worked for Bidvest as a business developer, and established an incubation programme to develop small black businesses. He was also a founding director of Zenzeleni, a community-owned wireless internet service in Mankosi in the Eastern Cape, providing high-speed internet access to people in economically disadvantaged areas.



– Lesley Stones

## THE HISTORY OF MG200YSA CELEBRATING 15 YEARS IN 2020



## NTSAKO MHLANGA, 21

Social entrepreneur: Learnergy

  ntsako\_mhlanga

**N**tsako Mhlanga is a social entrepreneur, educationist and ambassador for change. She's been making strides for learners through her work with the department of basic education, School Aid and Play Your Part by improving the quality of education for all. Mhlanga has represented students in Parliament, helped build libraries and organise mobile classrooms, worked on education documentaries and facilitated learning resources for schools that need it most. "When you feel like you do not have anything to offer, offer your time to your desired organisation and learn from them," she advises.

– Tshgofatso Mathe



## QINISANI QWABE, 25

Researcher: Mangosuthu University of Technology; Founder: Ubuntu AgriRenaissance

 @mr\_scruffie  @mr\_scruffie

 Qinisani Qwabe

**A**fter failing his matric in 2011, Qinisani Nhlakanipho has picked himself up and now focuses his energies on things that matter the most to him. He says he failed his matric because he could not find the right balance between his social life and his studies. But Nhlakanipho used his failure to change his life trajectory for the better. He worked to build himself up by reconditioning his mind to always strive for excellence. Now he works as a researcher in community engagement at the Mangosuthu University of Technology. He also founded the Ubuntu AgriRenaissance organisation in 2019, which focuses on knowledge and livelihoods development.

– Tshgofatso Mathe



# THE BENEFITS OF BEING A GEMS MEMBER

The **Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS)** offers a basket of benefits to its members of the public service and their families. As a Scheme that understands the needs of the South African family, over the years, GEMS has subsequently improved its benefits while keeping its contribution increases among the lowest in the industry.

GEMS offers comprehensive and affordable healthcare options to all public service employees and provides lower income earners with greater access to better healthcare. The Scheme takes pride in differentiating themselves through their product offering and as a Public Service employee, you may qualify for subsidy from your employer when you join GEMS, resulting in further savings to your pocket.

As a scheme that provides quality healthcare coverage to over 720 000 members and 1.8 million beneficiaries, the Scheme provides its members with peace of mind especially with products such as the Tanzanite One and Emerald Value options.

Tanzanite One, known as the most affordable of the Scheme's options for low-income earners. Members on the Tanzanite One option are provided full access to private and public facilities, awarding them much needed dignity. This option gives members comprehensive cover for both in-hospital and out-of-hospital benefits, a dedicated GP with unlimited consultations, access to a network of private and public hospitals as well Over-the-Counter medication. Members on this option who are on the level 1 to 5 income bracket may qualify for up to 100% employer subsidy.

On the other hand, the Emerald Value Option is the best performing option in the Scheme. Known to minimise members' exposure to out-of-pocket payments, providing ultimate peace of mind for network general GP consultations, acute prescribed medicine obtained at a network pharmacy and pathology tests performed at a preferred pathology laboratory.

Members on both options are required to adhere to the principles of coordinated care, meaning that they must nominate their own network GP, members should obtain specialist referrals and make use of hospitals on the GEMS Hospital Network.

GEMS is extremely agile and to support the COVID-19 pandemic, the Scheme will spend around R900 million in treatment and care for members who are affected by COVID-19. The Scheme wishes to encourage its members who show flu-like symptoms to get tested for COVID-19. Eligible public service employees are encouraged to plan ahead and explore the varied options best suited for them with one of South Africa's foremost and affordable schemes on <https://www.gems.gov.za/members>, 0860 00 4367, [enquiries@gems.gov.za](mailto:enquiries@gems.gov.za), or sms "JOIN" to 33165.





## VUKOSI MARIVATE, 34

Data scientist

[@vukosi](#)

**C**ovid-19 facts and figures have become a global preoccupation as the virus turns lives upside down. Finding reliable local statistics was difficult, so Dr Vukosi Marivate created a detailed database collating Covid-19 data and analysing it in dozens of useful ways. Marivate heads the Data Science for Social Impact Research Group (DSFSI) at Pretoria University, which turns copious data into useful facts for actions based on solid analysis. Their Covid-19 dashboard gives a full picture using accurate, current data that scientists, researchers and decision-makers are using. "Without this information, we don't know where we should be putting resources or offering support," he says.

— Lesley Stones



## PETRI REDELINGHUYS, 35

Founder: Say Siyabonga & Herenya Capital Advisors

[@TraderPetri](#)

**S**eeing things work motivates Petri Redelinghuys, founder of the local business platform Say Siyabonga. It was created to save local businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic by buying and selling vouchers for goods and services from them. Organisations today need to add value to those using their products or services or risk not surviving, says Redelinghuys, who also started brokerage firm Herenya Capital Advisors. He hopes to build an organisation that improves the lives of everyone connected to it. Watch this space. "If businesses, which are made up of people, focus on how they can improve the lives of the communities around them, we are in for a very exciting future," he says.

— Shaazia Ebrahim



## NDLOVU YOUTH CHOIR

Choir

[@ndlovuchoir](#) [@choirafrica](#)

**T**he Ndlovu Youth Choir made South Africa proud when they did so well on the TV show *America's Got Talent*. Then they addressed the serious issue of Covid-19, with a song called We've Got This in isiZulu and English. It is a fun way to deliver vital facts about limiting the spread of the disease in areas where information is scarce, such as their village of Moutse in Limpopo. The choir gives underprivileged youngsters a purpose and a chance to escape the poverty around them. For Mandela Day on July 18 they presented a live-streamed performance for charity and launched their new single, *We Will Rise*.

— Lesley Stones



## NOMHLE NGWENYA, 23

PhD candidate: University of Witwatersrand

[@nomhle\\_nomz](#)

**N**omhle Ngwenya, a PhD candidate at the University of Witwatersrand, already knows how she wants to change the world. Since the start of Covid-19, she's become interested in the negative economic effect of the pandemic on African countries. She is looking into green bonds — funding that finances projects that benefit the environment — as a tool to stimulate the economy, create jobs and counter environmental damage that affects everyone. "There's so much more to do, be and discover. Inventions and breakthroughs are at the tips of our fingers. Everyone is one idea away from making a difference," she says.

— Rosie Goddard



## DR LIONEL DE GOUVEIA, 32

Medical doctor

[@Lionel\\_dg](#)

**M**anguzi Hospital near Kosi Bay in KwaZulu-Natal has staff skilled in caring for Covid-19 patients, thanks to dedicated professionals such as Dr Lionel de Gouveia. It received its first case in March, when De Gouveia was planning and implementing its pandemic response strategy. "I had to write the protocols for the nurses and clinics," he says, because the concept of a pandemic was still novel at that point. He expanded the hospital's four-bed isolation unit to 52 beds, and ensured medical teams were trained to screen, test and manage Covid-19 patients, keep proper test results records and handle contact tracing.

— Lesley Stones



## ANGELA HARTWIG, 34

Medical doctor

**D**uring the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic, Angela Hartwig was the only doctor on duty at Adelaide Hospital in the Eastern Cape. Though pregnant, she continued to treat patients and assist nurses — giving direction from afar even after she tested positive for the virus — shortly before she gave birth. Now on maternity leave, she is very much still present, assisting telephonically wherever she can. "I want to not only inspire but empower people to bring change to their workplaces and communities, to know that everyone doing their part together can make a difference."

— Rosie Goddard



Scan the QR code on each winner with your phone camera to learn more about each winner.





## AHREN POSTHUMUS, 24

*Cyber security specialist; co-founder of tech start-ups Lockdown Bozza and Jobmatcher*

 @AhrenFullStop

**A**t 24, Ahren Posthumus is the co-founder of two tech platforms changing millions of lives. Posthumus co-founded Jobmatcher, an app that matches jobseekers with ad-hoc work. His Lockdown Bozza app shows what you can and can't do during the lockdown by location; it's used by more than 1.5-million South Africans. If you want to contribute meaningfully with solutions to problems that can impact peoples' lives, he says, South Africa is the place to be. "I would like to continue solving South African issues to help bring better value, prosperity and innovation to the lives of other South Africans."

– Shaazia Ebrahim



## EDWIN LEBALLO, 32

*Founder / Deputy Chairman: Professional Association of Clinical Associates of South Africa (PACASA)*

 Edwin Leballo

**E**dwin Leballo is the founder of the Professional Association of Clinical Associates of South Africa (PACASA), a formal representative body for members of this relatively new and vital profession. As Covid-19 arrived in South Africa, Edwin saw the toll the pandemic took on the collective psyche and took it upon himself to push for counselling to be a part of the Covid-19 conversation. "Counselling is a very important tool in resolving many social ills that our country is struggling with," he says. "Counselling is interactive with many institutions such as social development, police, housing and even judiciary, if used appropriately we will see its true value and outcome."

– James Nash

## ON BEHALF OF US ALL...



**THIS YEAR, A SPECIAL CATEGORY RECOGNISES CARE & COURAGE THAT SETS A PRECEDENT FOR REAL SOLIDARITY**

**S**ome time past the crisis point of Covid-19, it became clear that no-one was coming to save us: some world leaders handled the situation significantly better than others, and some authorities and experts made exemplary contributions to the fight against the disease. But there was no miracle cure on its way in the hands of a hero.

**INSTEAD, WE HAD EACH OTHER.**

In telling the stories of the ways in which the pandemic has touched South African lives, from the inspirational to those that couldn't end happily, we've been able to shine a light on the ways everyday actions have had far-reaching effects. And so, our ability to protect one another might be the ultimate lesson that we're left with after lockdown lifts, our case numbers reach zero, and our world becomes just "normal", without the "new".

In this extraordinary, surreal year, we couldn't neglect to mention the people whose persistent, down-to-earth efforts against Covid-19 have made all the difference. We're barely scratching the surface of all those who've lent their skills, time, talents and resolve to the cause, but those celebrated in this year's Frontliners category exemplify the exceptional lengths to which some have gone to keep others healthy, nourished – in all senses of the word – and hopeful. If necessity is the mother of invention, then a crisis seems to birth the kind of innovation that will live a long, fruitful life: on our pages alone we have a move towards better mental health care for medical professionals and patients alike, life-saving procedures directed over video chat, an app to navigate lockdown's levels, and data collection to inform significant decisions.

To every medical professional, essential worker, volunteer, and individual working to keep their community and country safe – we thank you.

May we all live and work to ensure that these tireless efforts are not in vain.

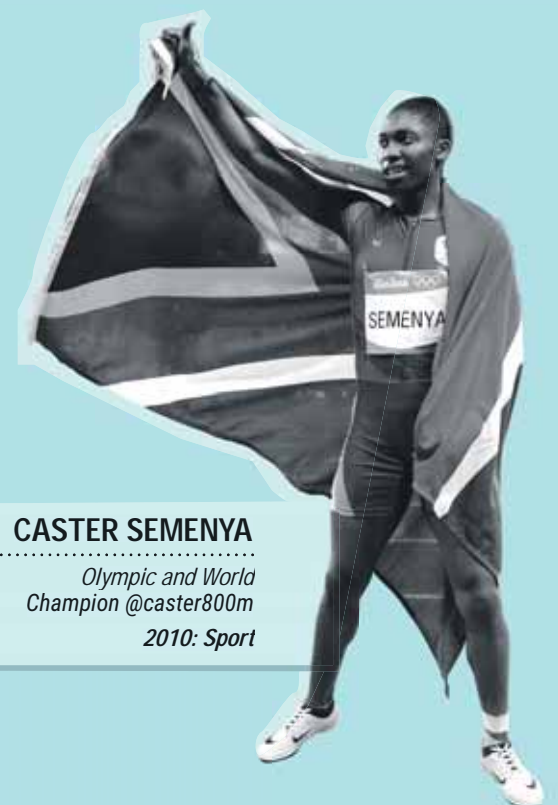
**Mail & Guardian** | [mg.co.za](https://mg.co.za)

## THE HISTORY OF MG200YSA RECOGNISING THE BEST IN THEIR FIELDS

**10+ WORLD CHAMPIONS**

**50+ NATIONAL LEADERS**

**100+ EXECUTIVES**



### CASTER SEMENYA

*Olympic and World  
Champion @caster800m  
2010: Sport*



# PRESS PLAY ON KAYA FM 95.9's REFRESHED LINEUP

*Tune in to the Home of the Afropolitan's Newly Refreshed Weekly Lineup for a Dose of Business Analysis, Current Affairs, Lifestyle and Music.*



**HOME OF THE  
AFROPOLITAN**



## **Midday Joy with Unathi**

**Mondays - Thursdays | 12h00 - 15h00**

Hosted by Unathi Nkayi – *Midday Joy with Unathi* is a dynamic intersection of arts, lifestyle and personal development. Join her for forward-thinking conversations and the best selection of soul, jazz, kwaito and hip hop.

## **Kaya Drive with Sizwe**

**Mondays - Thursdays | 15h00 - 18h00**

Sizwe Dhlomo is at the helm of this thought-provoking drive time show - carefully crafted with infotainment insights, current affairs and expertly curated music segments. In this extended time slot, *Kaya Drive with Sizwe* caters to a diverse audience of young and mature Afropolitans.



## **Kaya Bizz with Gugulethu Mfuphi**

**Mondays - Thursdays | 18h00 - 19h00**

*Kaya Bizz* provides entrepreneurial insights for businesses that are working towards increasing their revenue, branching out to new markets and grabbing a bigger share in their chosen categories. Gugulethu Mfuphi also covers financial wellness to serve Afropolitans' insatiable desire to achieve great things.

## **On the Agenda with Khaya Sithole**

**Mondays | 20h00 - 21h00**

Political conversations and debates about current affairs are an important part of our democracy. *On The Agenda with Khaya Sithole* centres these discussions by talking to politicians, analysts, business leaders, activists and other newsmakers. As a social commentator Khaya Sithole is well-placed to facilitate conversations on the politics of the country and beyond.







## MUKONDI KGOMO, 32

Co-founder and Managing Director:  
Think Creative Africa

@mukondi\_r Mukondi Ralushayi Kgomo

**C**reativity has the power to change the world and alleviate social ills, says co-founder and managing director of Think Creative Africa, Mukondi Kgomo. Think Creative Africa solves business problems through an African perspective. A current project tackles thinking around breast cancer by normalising regular self-examinations, and the business plans to tackle gender-based violence, unemployment and more. People are central to a successful company, Kgomo has learned: "It's the uncool work: the relationships you build and the way you consistently show up that will open doors for you now and in the long run." It's these traits that will ensure that you have no regrets, Kgomo says.

– Shaazia Ebrahim



## RUTENDO NYAMUDA, 29

Founder of a podcast production company;  
podcast host and producer: Tinzwe Media (Pty) Ltd

@roo10dough

**T**he founder of the podcast production company Tinzwe Media, and the host of In My 20s – a podcast for millennials navigating their journey of self-discovery – Rutendo Nyamuda has built up about seven years of experience in the media industry. She's interviewed some of the world's most influential people, from former public protector Thuli Madonsela to Ariana Huffington, an author and the co-founder of *Huffington Post*, and has produced work for *Forbes* and *Elle* magazines, *CNBC Africa* TV channel and the *SABC's Expresso* show. Nyamuda uses her podcast to discuss millennial angst and explore topics such as gender-based violence, privilege, xenophobia and depression.

– Rosie Goddard



## ANELISA TUSWA, 27

Business journalist: eTV News and Sports

@anelisa\_tuswa

**A**nelisa Tuswa is a business journalist at eTV. She also contributes at Metro FM and Radio2000, unpacking the biggest business news. Tuswa hopes to use her knowledge and expertise to educate South Africans about financial wellness, explaining that her work must have a positive effect on her community, otherwise she will be progressing alone. She emphasises the value of living a goal-driven lifestyle, being adaptable to change and to remembering your journey, because it's what makes you who you are in the future.

– Scott Dodds



## BUJI BIKWA, 32

Entertainer and broadcaster:  
Metro FM and Bigway Productions

@buji

**T**he self-proclaimed world's greatest super-sized entertainer, Buji Bikwa has been a presence on the airwaves, television and high-profile events since breaking through at YFM at the age of 21. How has he maintained this a decade later in the fast-evolving industry? "Learn to speak life to your dreams. Speak everything into existence," he says. "The world doesn't owe you anything, so stop being scared of being awesome. Live and serve." Bikwa wields his self-confidence like a weapon, and his diverse work, including running his own production company and working on national radio, is evidence of his talent.

– Max Dylan Lazarus



## MANDILUVE ZANE TITIZANA, 25

Cinematographer and photographer:  
Five Star Media

@zane\_f22

**P**hotographer and cinematographer Zane Titizana works at digital communication agency Five Star Media. He counts director Dean Blumberg and the agency's Daron Chatz among his mentors. This year, Titizana was nominated for a South African Film and Television award in the Best Youth Programme category. He would like his work to give township youth the confidence to chase their dreams, mostly in arts. What advice would he give his younger self? "That I should be more confident and believe in myself," Titizana says. He has developed this self-confidence as he has matured: his Twitter bio describes him as a "visual genius".

– Theresa Mallinson



## DINEO LUSENGA, 33

Television and film producer, and actress

@DineoLusenga

**A**ctress and TV and film producer Dineo Lusenga is driven by the need to create work that creates a positive social impact. Her first role was on *Intersexions*, a seminal TV show highlighting the crisscrossing of people's sexual encounters and the importance of being responsible. Hosting roles followed on talk show *Ek'se Lalala*, centred on conversations about the future of South Africa's youth, and *Living Land*, exposing young people to the world of agriculture. Lusenga has a BA in Dramatic Arts from the University of the Witwatersrand and an Acting For Film qualification from New York Film Academy. She hopes that her contributions to the television industry inspire others to follow their passion.

– Jabulile Dlamini-Qweshwa





## YUSUF OMAR, 31

Co-founder: *Hashtag Our Stories*

@hashtagourstories @YusfomarSA

@hashtagourstory

**I** feel a moral responsibility to amplify unheard voices. After training communities all over the world to tell stories themselves, I've seen too much to not help them share it." Together with his partner Sumaiya, Yusuf Omar founded Hashtag Our Stories in 2017. The platform empowers individuals to become video journalists, using their mobiles to shine a light on everything from police brutality to personal stories of struggle and hope. Hashtag Our Stories not only got investment from Snapchat, but hit one billion views in 2019, proving how powerful social media can be when used as a tool for good.

– Rosie Goddard



## NOMPUMELELO TSHABALALA, 32

Creative producer: *Ludonga Media*

@maphumi

**F**ilmmaker Nompumelelo Tshabalala wants South African films to dominate the box office, and she's working to make sure they do. At 32, she already has two awards to her credit: South Africa's Next Top Filmmaker Award in 2012 and an Afrinolly Best Picture Award in 2013. Tshabalala originally studied acting, but her real talent lies behind the camera. She's the creative producer at Ludonga Media; her skills include scriptwriting and content development, creation and management. Storytelling is her daily bread, and one speciality is covering sports, with shows such as a behind-the-scenes look at the Lions cricket team.

– Lesley Stones



## CHRISTIAAN OLWAGEN, 32

Film & theatre director

@christiaan\_olwagen

**D**riven by story, a need to create and a passion for equality within the film industry, Christiaan Olwagen is an award-winning director and screenwriter renowned for works that delight as much as they spark dialogue. His latest offerings speak for themselves. *Kanarie* is a coming-of-age war musical about a small-town boy doing his compulsory two-year military training in the South African Defence Force choir – and *Poppie Nongena*, based on the novel of the same name by prolific writer Elsa Joubert, which follows the journey of a black woman trying to keep her family together under apartheid.

– Rosie Goddard



## BESSIE LESABANE, 30

Rugby production manager: *SuperSport International*

@bezsi3

**B**essie Lesabane, currently the rugby production manager at *SuperSport*, is using her team management and broadcasting skills to bring quality entertainment to millions of South Africans. Her journey is one of perseverance, starting as a production runner for the 2011 Rugby World Cup, and working her way up to 2019's tournament, for which she travelled to Japan in the role of production manager. Lesabane's drive is powered by considering the legacy she is building for her child, her family and the community that raised her, hoping to build gender equity in her industry and to provide better opportunities for the next generation.

– Scott Dodds



## NEO BAEPI, 29

Photographer

@neobaepi

**W**ork by freelance photographer Neo Baepi has appeared on various local and international platforms, most recently to promote *Queen Sono*, a crime drama celebrated as the first original African production for Netflix. Baepi worked as a community manager before venturing out as a freelance photographer, and is determinedly persevering in this notoriously tough profession. They've worked for brands including Amstel, Woolworths and Stimorol, and one speciality is portraiture. Baepi is also a political and gender relations enthusiast, and as a transgender person wants to help create a South Africa where everyone is accepted equally.

– Lesley Stones



## NICKITA MAESELA, 25

Freelance journalist: *City Press, Media 24*

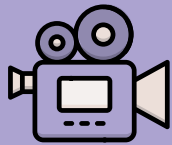
@youre.doing.amazing.saweeetie

@nodiggity\_za

**F**reelance journalist Nickita Maesela has found her niche in telling stories of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex and asexual or allied people to give them a voice. Maesela is a fellow for The Other Foundation, which works to ensure everyone is free to live a safe and dignified life and contribute to society equally. Her work highlights stories of queer activism and events in Southern Africa, the intersections of faith, gender and sexuality and for people who use art to find healing in a world that restricts their freedom.

– Lesley Stones





## 200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS 2020 FILM & MEDIA

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



### REITUMETSE MPHOLLE, 27

Head of research and development, Kaya FM;  
PhD candidate in media studies @ Wits

[@Reitu\\_Mpholle](#) [@Reitumetse\\_Mpholle](#)

**R**eitumetse Mpholle is head of research and development at Kaya FM, and one of the youngest managers ever appointed by the radio station. Her contributions helped Kaya FM to win Commercial Station of the Year at the 2019 and 2020 Radio Awards. Her current passion is to improve research focusing on black consumers, especially women and young people, to end the "hopelessly outdated" image the largely white advertising industry has of black consumers. "I have made it my personal goal to produce research insights that will inform the development of products and their promotion in a way that more closely meets the requirements of black consumers in their full diversity," she says.

– Lesley Stones



### SIHLE MTHEMBU, 28

Writer, podcaster and filmmaker

[@sihlemthembuza](#)

**D**urban-based writer, podcaster and filmmaker Sihle Mthembu is dedicated to telling stories of black South Africans. He's co-authored a book about the impact on kwaito on the generation who grew up with it, been nominated for *F is for Father*, his documentary on fatherhood and fatherlessness, and has his own podcast, *Interesting People*. He hopes to influence a future of more purposeful documentation of black life and culture, telling stories from ground zero of South African culture, so that generations to come have an extensive and creative archive on which to draw inspiration.

– Scott Dodds



### RUFARO SAMANGA, 25

Academic and writer: The University of the Witwatersrand

[@rufaro\\_samanga](#)

**A**cademic, writer and epidemiologist Rufaro Samanga can't turn a blind eye to injustice. In her writing, she stands up for others by covering topics such as feminism, public health, social justice, scientific innovation, entrepreneurship and education. "I count it a privilege to be able to tell the stories that are often neglected and cast aside," she says.

– Lesley Stones



### ALLEGRO DINKWANYANE, 30

Entrepreneur, philanthropist, founder and chief executive: Orgella Group

[@allegro\\_d](#)

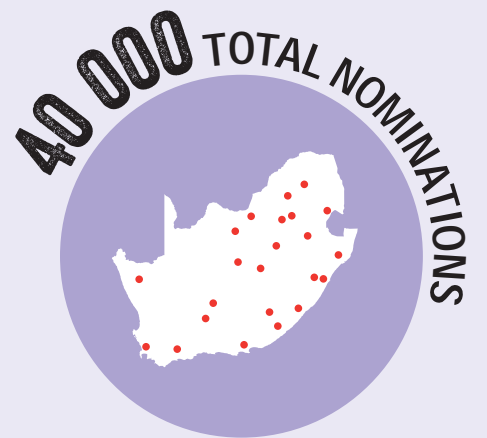
**J**ournalist and social media marketer Allegro Dinkwanyane aims to become a media mogul through her companies in the Orgella Group, which includes public relations and marketing services, an online entertainment magazine, and a charity that helps the homeless. She chiefly focuses on entertainment and lifestyle clients, corporate brands, artists and events, and was honoured in the 2017 Forbes Africa 30 Under 30 list. She's proud to have established a business that employs other young people and offers internships to students.

– Lesley Stones

THE HISTORY OF MG200YSA  
GROWING GREATER TOGETHER,  
EVERY YEAR

200 NAMES

1 COUNTRY  
INFINITE  
POSSIBILITIES



12  
CATEGORIES



Arts & Entertainment



Business,  
Entrepreneurship  
& Tourism



Civil Society



Environment



Education



Special Category:  
Editors' Choice  
of Covid-19 Frontliners



Film & Media



Health



Justice & Law



Politics & Government



Science & Technology



Sport





**NEO MAHLANGU, 28**  
*Fine artist and designer*



**PHUMLANI PIKOLI, 32**  
*Multi-disciplinary artist*



**MANILA VON TEEZ, 30**  
*Drag Artist and Designer:  
Manila von Teez and Haus  
of Vjorn*



**KELETSO MOPAI, 27**  
*Writer:  
BlackBird Books*



**UNOCEBO BUCIBO, 33**  
*Phd Candidate: University  
of Pretoria, Lecturer &  
Photographer*



**SINETHEMBA TWALO, 35**  
*Artist and curator:  
NGO - Nothing Gets  
Organised*



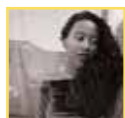
**LESEDI MAFURA, 25**  
*Author, poet, performer,  
radio news anchor and  
NPO founder*



**MUTINTA BBENKELE  
SIMELANE, 27**  
*Project Manager*



**AMI FAKU, 27**  
*Musician: Vth Season*



**NELISIWE NKOSI, 21**  
*Freelance photographer*



**REFILWE NKOMO, 35**  
*Director: Visual Arts Network  
of South Africa*



**MOAFRIKA WA MOKGATHI, 32**  
*Co-Founder and director:  
Hear My Voice*



**AYESHA MUKADAM, 32**  
*Social designer and  
storyteller*



**LEHLOHONOLO PEEGA, 24**  
*Founder and principal:  
Music Is Joy*



**VUMA IAN LEVIN, 33**  
*Guitarist, improvising  
musician, composer  
and teacher*



**RELEBOGILE MABOTJA, 34**  
*Executive producer*



**MTHO XULU, 33**  
*President: South African  
Chamber of Commerce  
and Industry*



**UZAIR ESSACK, 28**  
*Managing director and  
founder: CapeCrops*



**ADAM DUXBURY, 29**  
*CEO & Founder: Granadilla  
Chief of Staff: Yoco*



**RAJIV DAYA, 32**  
*Head of investments:  
Founders Factory Africa*



**VELANI VALENTINE  
MBOWENI, 28**  
*Entrepreneur, co-founder and  
chief executive: LULA*



**ZIZIPHO NTOBONGWANA, 26**  
*Founder and managing  
director: Sheba Feminine*



**PALESA MOLOI, 27**  
*Chief executive officer:  
ParkUpp*



**JARYD HERMANN, 26**  
*Founder: WECAST*



**KATLEGO LETSOALO, 30**  
*Monitoring and evaluation  
specialist: Minerals Council  
South Africa*



**KATLEHO PABALLO  
MAKUPU, 26**  
*Manager at EY Global  
Consulting & philanthropist*



**MUSA MALULEKA, 20**  
*Founder and owner:  
Disktjie*



**HOPE DITLHAKANYANE, 24**  
*Venture partner:  
MEST Africa*



**KOKETSO MOLOKO, 35**  
*Farmer: LMC Food Group*



**FARIRAI SANYIKA, 29**  
*Founder and director:  
Gophari*



**SIYANDA MTHETHWA, 34**  
*Founder: Kuloola*



**MPUMELELO MTINTSO, 31**  
*Founder, marketing director,  
cyclist: BOOK IBHONI*



**CLEO ANASTASIA  
JOHNSON, 28**  
*Founder and curator:  
Nucleo*



**MAHLATSE MASHAO, 33**  
*Owner and founder:  
Dipalesa Flowas*



**MAMELLO MATIKINCA, 32**  
*Chief economist:  
First National Bank*



**OLEBOGENG SENTSHO, 33**  
*Chief Executive Officer  
(Simba Mgodini Mining  
Incubation Fund)*



**KESHIN GOVENDER, 33**  
*Creative director, head of  
strategic initiatives: Siemens*



**HARMONY MOTHIBE, 32**  
*Founder and operations  
director: BotsZA*



**PHILANI POTWANA, 32**  
*Chief executive officer:  
FNB*



**ROD TSHIDISO LESHABA, 30**  
*Head: country and sovereign  
risk: Absa*



**MPHO JAN KUBEKA, 21**  
*Machine learning engineer  
and founder of  
Kube Industries*



**ASHRAF BOOLEY, 29**  
*President:  
Impulse Cape Town*



**PELONTLE MOSIMEGE, 26**  
*Founder: She Brigade*



**CHULUMANCO MIHLALI  
NKASELA, 20**  
*Student and Spokesperson:  
BPNC*



**KARABO MOKGONYANA, 23**  
*African Youth Ambassador  
for Peace: African Union*



**KEABETSWE LETSHOLO, 33**  
*Founder: Tag-A-Sister  
Client support specialist:  
Sanlam*



**CHAEI MYCROFT, 25**  
*Ability activist and student*



**MANDIMA QUNTA, 31**  
*Entrepreneur: The Fam*



**IAN MANGENGA, 26**  
*Founder and designer:  
Digital Girl Africa*



**MPHO SEIPUBI, 27**  
*Program coordinator and  
founder: Whose Stories Will  
We Hear?*



**KEITUMETSE FATIMATA  
MOUTLOATSE, 25**  
*Founder & chairperson of the  
Black Women Caucus*



**ALLAN VAN DER MEULEN, 24**  
*Co-founder: Zlto app*



**ZANELE MELISSA  
SIMANGO, 20**  
*Student:  
University of Cape Town*



**FUNZANI MTEMBU, 29**  
*Investment/economic  
analyst: Kaelo Naledi*



**JHONO BENNETT, 33**  
*Architect: 1to1 - Agency of  
Engagement*



**RAMPHELE MAWELEWELE, 31**  
*Office administrator and  
disability integration  
advocate: Kgomano*



**TSIETSI MOROBI, 32**  
*Performer and drama  
teacher: Kids Haven Drama  
Group and Younitiate NPC*



**BROWN LEKEKELA, 35**  
*Counsellor and founder:  
Diepsloot Victim lifeline  
known as Green Door*



**ENRIQUE HERMANUS, 21**  
*Pastor, programme manager  
and ward committee  
representative for education*



**MAKGATLA THEPA, 36**  
*Procurement officer and  
social activist:  
Capricorn College for TVET*



**MUHAMMED CHOONARA, 23**  
*Media, communications  
and marketing professional:  
volunteer*



**LORRAINE KHOZA, 23**  
*Founder and chairperson:  
Lorraine Khoza Foundation*



**ADVICE CHUMA, 27**  
*Intern publicist: Empire  
Entertainment*



**ALIA KAJEE, 30**  
*Climate Support Programme  
Technical Advisor: GIZ*



**PALESA MADI, 29**  
*Attorney and Acting Deputy  
Director: Centre for Applied  
Legal Studies*



**NONCEDO MADUBEDUBE, 29**  
*General Secretary:  
Equal Education*



**AKHONA LERATO XOTYENI, 23**  
*Master's Candidate:  
Researcher: Public Speaker;  
Youth Advisor and Activist*



**DR SIMONE  
DAHMS-VERSTER, 28**  
*Assistant lecturer:  
University of Johannesburg*



**ESETHU CENGA, 26**  
*Co-founder:  
Rewoven*



**SHAAKIRA CHOHAN, 35**  
*Architect and Urbanist*



**MOKGADI MOLOKO  
MABELA, 33**  
*Director and Founder:  
Native Nosi*



**PRESHANTHIE  
NAICKER-MANICK, 34**  
*Deputy director:  
Department of Environment,  
Forestry and Fisheries*



**REFILOE MATHIBE, 29**  
*Civil Engineering  
Technologist: CLYF*



**RAMULIFHO PFANANANI, 30**  
*Postdoctoral research fellow:  
University of Venda*



**ATHENKOSI BABA, 27**  
*YouLead co-ordinator*



**KEKELETSO PULANE, 27**  
*Cofounder and director:  
Ramtsilo*



**MOELETJI MAPHETO, 27**  
*CA(SA) Trainee, Founder:  
Ga-Mphahlele Home-Coming*



**PHAKISO MASOOA, 24**  
*Director:  
The Mentees Ark*



**MAHLOGONOLO  
PHAHLAMOHLAKA, 27**  
*Continuous improvement  
manager: Hollard Insurance*



**MLAMULI NKOSINGPHILE  
HLATSHWAYO, 29**  
*Lecturer: University of  
KwaZulu-Natal*



**CHARMAINE MAPHUTHA, 26**  
*Educator and philanthropist:  
Bopedi Hope Foundation*



**WILSON TSAKANE  
MONGWE, 29**  
*Front office quantitative  
analyst: Standard Bank*



**SIZI MATTHEWS  
BOTSIME, 32**  
*Education activist: Sizi  
Botsime Foundation / CISE*



**THANDO MKOYI, 27**  
*Managing director:  
Eyentsatshane For the  
Little Ones Early Childhood*



**NTOKOZO NDLOVU, 34**  
*SANDF soldier; and founder  
of The Web Foundation*



**BOITUMELO KATISI, 28**  
*Commercial pilot:  
Aviation Development  
In Africa*



**ZANDILE MKWANAZI, 29**  
*Chief executive officer and  
chairwoman: GirlCode*



**THANDOKAZI MASETI, 30**  
*Lecturer & PhD Candidate:  
University of Johannesburg*



**MUKUNDI LAMBANI, 33**  
*Founder:  
Ambani Africa*



**MADRE LOUBSER, 29**  
*Youth development and  
education co-ordinator:  
Cape Town Opera*



**RADZILANI WISDOM  
THIVHAFUNI, 24**  
*Project manager: You are a  
star community youth*



**SISEKO H KUMALO, 25**  
*Academic and editor-in-chief:  
University of Pretoria*



**DR NDUMISO VUSUMUZI  
MAZIBUKO, 34**  
*Senior agricultural  
economist*



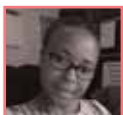
**SARAH MADINGWANA, 26**  
*Co-founder and chief  
financial officer:  
Rudo Institute*



**MPHO NKAKE, 21**  
*Founder and ambassador:  
Together we can succeed*



**ANZA TSHIPETANE, 21**  
*Founder and chief executive:  
Bright Young Leaders  
Initiative -BYLI*



**ASANDA SIGIGABA, 29**  
*Principal: LEAP Science and  
Maths School*



**SINAKEKELWE NKWANYANA, 28**  
*PhD intern: Human Sciences  
Research Council*



**NOSIPHO MNGOMEZULU, 32**  
*Anthropology lecturer:  
University of the  
Witwatersrand*



**SICELO BHENGU, 33**  
*Senior deputy headmaster:  
Southdowns College*



**ZWOLUGA MUTANGWA, 21**  
*Assistant teacher:  
Final Solutions*



**XOLANE GRATITUDE  
NGOBOZANA, 35**  
*Founder: Wattville Achievers*



**TSATSENG RANTSHO, 26**  
*Candidate attorney and  
founder of Sgela 1st:  
Legal Aid South Africa*

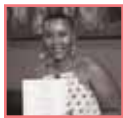


**PALESA LENGOLO, 33**  
*Finance professional and  
author: Palengo Holdings*



**ZAMA MTHUNZI, 27**  
*Regional organiser:  
Equal Education*





**DR LERATO MOKOENA, 28**  
*Lecturer: North West University*



**TINYIKO SIMBINE, 29**  
*Co-founder and chief financial officer: GirlCode*



**ESIHLE LUPINDO, 22**  
*Writer and poet: Freelance writer for Careers Magazine*



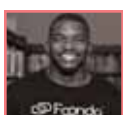
**LEBOHANG DAVID MOLAPO, 23**  
*Chief executive & chairman: LD Molapo Foundation*



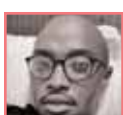
**KATLEGO THWANE, 27**  
*Teacher and founding chief executive: Atlegang Bana Foundation*



**NKHENSANI MOGALE, 34**  
*Lecturer: Faculty of Health Sciences, School of Medicine, Department of Anatomy*



**VUYO PAKADE, 26**  
*Founder and chief executive: Foonda Technologies*



**MASIXOLE MAKWETU, 31**  
*Youth development and education coordinator*



**LEHLOHONOLO NTLATLAPU, 26**  
*Medical doctor: Help Me Up Foundation*



**DR LWANDO MDELELENI, 31**  
*Researcher: social innovation and development*



**NTSAKO MHLANGA, 21**  
*Social entrepreneur*



**QINISANI QWABE, 25**  
*Researcher: Founder: Ubuntu AgriRenaissance*



**VUKOSI MARIVATE, 34**  
*Data scientist*



**PETRI REDELINGHUYS, 35**  
*Founder: Say Siyabonga & Herenya Capital Advisors*



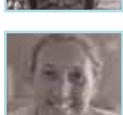
**NDLOVU YOUTH CHOIR**  
*Choir*



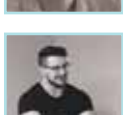
**NOMHLE NGWENYA, 23**  
*PhD candidate: University of Witwatersrand*



**DR LIONEL DE GOUVEIA, 32**  
*Medical doctor*



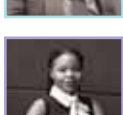
**ANGELA HARTWIG, 34**  
*Medical doctor*



**AHREN POSTHUMUS, 24**  
*Cyber security specialist: co-founder of Lockdown Bozza and Jobmatcher*



**EDWIN LEBALLO, 32**  
*Founder / Deputy Chairman: PACASA*



**MUKONDI KGOMO, 32**  
*Co-founder and Managing Director: Think Creative Africa*



**ANELISA TUSWA, 27**  
*Business journalist: eTV News and Sports*



**MANDILUVE ZANE TITIZANA, 25**  
*Cinematographer and photographer: Five Star Media*



**RUTENDO NYAMUDA, 29**  
*Founder of a podcast production company: podcast host and producer*



**BUJU BIKWA, 32**  
*Entertainer and broadcaster: Metro FM and Bigway Productions*



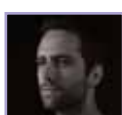
**DINEO LUSENGA, 33**  
*Television and Film Producer, and Actress*



**YUSUF OMAR, 31**  
*Co-founder: Hashtag Our Stories*



**NOMPUMELELO TSHABALALA, 32**  
*Creative producer: Ludonga Media*



**CHRISTIAAN OLWAGEN**  
*Film & theatre director*



**BESSIE LESABANE, 30**  
*Rugby production manager: SuperSport International*



**NEO BAEPI, 29**  
*Photographer*



**NICKITA MAESELA, 25**  
*Freelance journalist: City Press, Media 24*



**REITUMETSE MPHOLTE, 27**  
*Head of research and development, and PhD candidate in media studies*



**RUFARO SAMANGA, 25**  
*Academic and writer: The University of the Witwatersrand*



**SIHLE MTHEMBU, 28**  
*Writer, podcaster and filmmaker*



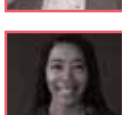
**ALLEGRO DINKWANYANE, 30**  
*Entrepreneur, philanthropist, founder and chief executive: Orgella Group*



**SIPHO NCUBE, 25**  
*Medical student and ambassador: Friendship Ambassadors Foundation*



**KATE LARA SOLOMONS, 25**  
*Internship Coordinator: Trauma Clinic Foundation*



**DR CHELSEA ZINDOGA, 27**  
*Medical Doctor and Humanitarian*



**CHANTAL VAN ZITTERS, 35**  
*General Practitioner: #One Health Care*



**JAMES VAN DUUREN, 26**  
*Deputy Secretary: People's Health Movement South Africa (PHM-SA)*



**DR JONATHAN MACAULEY, 31**  
*Medical doctor: Department of Health*



**GLORIA MTHAPO, 27**  
*Medical officer*



**AFSANA KAJEE, 34**  
*Medical scientist: National Health Laboratory*



**DR THOZAMA SIYOTULA, 34**  
*Medical doctor (paediatric surgery)*



**KEN MARK KABONGO, 25**  
*Physiotherapist and clinical educator*



**SIBONGILE MONGADI, 29**  
*Founder: Uku'hamba (Pty) Ltd*



**PHUMUDZO NDWAMBI, 33**  
*Surgeon*



**DR PHALE PHILLEMONT MACHACHA, 35**  
*Medical Doctor: Department of Health*



**DR COSNET LERATO RAMEITSE, 28**  
*Clinician scientist (MD) and PhD candidate: University of Cape Town*



**NHLANHLA MAFARAFARA, 35**  
*Pharmacist/pharmacy manager: Matlala District Hospital*



**CAROLINE PULE, 30**  
*Medical scientist: Division of Molecular Biology and Human Genetics*



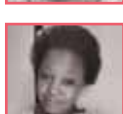
**HUZAIFAH KHAN, 30**  
*Pharmacy manager: Lenmed*



**KAPIL NARAIN, 24**  
*Student and chairperson of the Covid-19 Technical Working Group at FAMS*



**SANDIKA BABOOLAL, 34**  
*Glaucoma Fellow; Consultant ophthalmic surgeon, lecturer, researcher, PhD candidate*



**MALANGU BLOSE, 32**  
*PhD candidate (immunology): University of Witwatersrand*



**MELUSI DHLAMINI, 32**  
*Director of Clinical Services at Marie Stopes South Africa*



**ZAINAB KADER, 29**  
*Trauma counsellor: City of Cape Town*



**LEIGH-ANN CAREY, 32**  
*Communications officer: Massmart*



**TEBELLO MOTSHWANE, 30**  
*Managing Director: Sister In Law (Pty) Ltd*



**THAMI MALUSI, 28**  
*Associate attorney: Marler Clark LLP*



**THABANG POOLE, 31**  
*Advocate: Johannesburg Society of Advocates and SECTION27*



**SINAL GOVENDER, 31**  
*Lawyer: Pop Law*



**CLAIRE KEET POLLOCK, 34**  
*Venture designer and co-founder: Pop Law*



**THANDO GUMEDE, 27**  
*Feminist, pupil advocate and social entrepreneur*



**KEKETSO GIFT KGOMOSOTHO, 28**  
*Lawyer: Baker McKenzie*



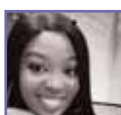
**STANLEY MALEMATJA, 28**  
*Attorney and sessional lecturer: Right2Protest Project*



**SALLY GANDAR, 36**  
*Head of advocacy and legal advisor: Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town*



**THATO MABE, 29**  
*Parliamentary monitoring fellow*



**KARABO KHAKHAU, 23**  
*Member of Provincial Legislature: Free State Democratic Alliance*



**KHOLEKILE MNISI, 29**  
*Digital content officer*



**KWARA KEKANA, 29**  
*Spokesperson for the MEC of health in Gauteng: Gauteng Department of Health*



**NONDUMISO MBAMBO, 30**  
*Development manager: Apolitical Academy*



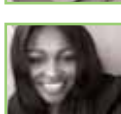
**DAVID KABWA, 23**  
*Commonwealth Youth Parliament prime minister, SRC president*



**LYNDESEY DUFF, 34**  
*Country manager: what3words*



**PALESA NOMBULA, 29**  
*Graduate data scientist and MSc astrophysics candidate: SARAO/UWC*



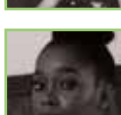
**DOREEN MOKOENA, 32**  
*Internet governance specialist: Domain Name Authority of South Africa*



**SULAIMAN SALEEM PATEL, 26**  
*Senior analyst in emerging technology: KPMG South Africa*



**TIYANI NGHONYAMA, 27**  
*Co-founder: Geekulcha*



**THULILE KHANYILE, 32**  
*Lecturer, scientist and social entrepreneur*



**THEMBISILE PATIENCE MAHLANGU, 30**  
*Lecturer & researcher: Durban University of Technology*



**KIMI CHAPELLE, 29**  
*Postdoctoral fellow: Evolutionary Studies Institute: University of the Witwatersrand*



**KENEUOE MALIEHE, 34**  
*Chief scientist: KaTZ Smart Pty Ltd*



**MONDLI MAGAGULA, 30**  
*Principal geologist and geotechnical engineer: Exxaro Resources*



**RUBY-ANNE BIRIN, 25**  
*DPhil archaeological science student: University of Oxford*



**KIMBERLEIGH ASHLEY TOMMY, 27**  
*PhD Candidate (Biological Anthropology)*



**SIWELA JEFFREY BALOYI, 31**  
*Science researcher: Mintek*



**MOAGABO RAGOASHA, 28**  
*Postdoctoral research fellow and lecturer: University of Cape Town*



**CEBISA MDEKAZI, 25**  
*Assistant director: integrated environment and conservation management*



**DR MZAMO SHOZI, 35**  
*Senior lecturer: University of KwaZulu-Natal*



**THAPELE NTHITE, 24**  
*Chief executive and co-founder: Bothale AI*



**SASHA HOFFMANN, 32**  
*Postdoc fellow*



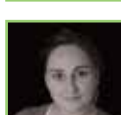
**TIM MITCHELL, 28**  
*Digital & innovation chief of staff: Deloitte Africa*



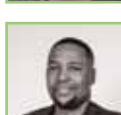
**KHANYA CHAMPION, 33**  
*Senior Manager: BCX*



**DR LEBO GAFANE-MATEMANE, 31**  
*Senior Lecturer and Researcher in Physiology: North-West University*



**STEPHANIE BAKER, 33**  
*Palaeo-Anthropologist Researcher and Principal Investigator: Drimolen Hominin Site*



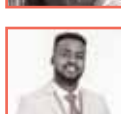
**CLIFFTON MASEDI, 33**  
*Postdoctoral Research Fellow: University of Limpopo - Materials Modelling Centre*



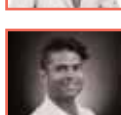
**SIKHOLIWE MOLETSHE, 21**  
*Student: University of the Free State*



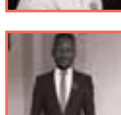
**SIPHELELE MQWASHELE, 25**  
*Community sports development coach and mentor: Sihamba Sonke*



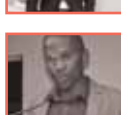
**KGOLAGANO RAKHUDU, 29**  
*Head of basketball operations: Royal Bafokeng Sports*



**THANDO LONGWE-SMIT, 19**  
*Student and tennis player: Liberty University*



**TSHIAMO RAMALEPA, 30**  
*Lecturer and coach: Tshwane University of Technology*



**LUTHANDO KAKA, 34**  
*Cyclist and operations director: Nelson Mandela Legacy Ride4Hope*





## SIPHO NCUBE, 25

Medical student and ambassador: Friendship Ambassadors Foundation (United Nations Department of Global Communications)

@noe\_cyph

**A**s a member of the International Federation of Medical Students Association and the Student National Medical Associations, medical student Sipho Ncube travelled to rural areas to assist in health education programmes whenever possible. She was selected as one of the 1 000 young leaders to attend the 23rd session in 2019 of the Youth Assembly, the flagship programme of the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation. Such was the impression she made that at the subsequent session she was chosen to lead a delegation of youth leaders from African countries.

– Luke Feltham



## CHANTAL VAN ZITTERS, 35

General Practitioner: #One Health Care

ONE healthcare

**Q**uality, affordable healthcare seems more important than ever. Chantal van Zitters is dedicated to bringing this standard of care to those who need it most. At 30, Van Zitters started her own practice. In only four years, she was able to grow the practice – situated on the Cape Flats – into a full-service medical centre. As she grew up in Blackheath on the Cape Flats, Van Zitters has seen South Africa's unequal healthcare system first-hand. "The quality of care depends on how much money you have. I would love to see a future where everyone has close to equal access and care."

– Sarah Smit



## KATE LARA SOLOMONS, 25

Internship Coordinator: Trauma Clinic Foundation

@oyveybae

**K**ate Solomons is the internship co-ordinator at the Trauma Clinic Foundation, which provides counselling for adolescents in underprivileged high schools. Her own life journey has helped Solomons in her counselling practice. One important lesson is that it's okay to ask for help. "Leadership is not about hiding behind the façade of faultlessness – it is about mutual support and learning," she says. "You cannot help others if you cannot help yourself." Solomons is pursuing her master's in clinical psychology; her research aims to produce a collaborative relationship between traditional health practitioners and primary healthcare workers in treating mental disorders.

– Theresa Mallinson



## JAMES VAN DUUREN, 26

Deputy Secretary: People's Health Movement South Africa (PHM-SA)

James van Duuren

**J**ames van Duuren would like to leave a positive mark on South Africa's healthcare system. As the deputy secretary for the People's Health Movement South Africa, Van Duuren is pushing for a strengthened primary healthcare approach, and greater community partnership. "I have learnt a great deal about the financial and administrative challenges of the NGO space," he says. "Shelved projects that I've tried to lead on have taught me that it is best to do a core set of activities to a high standard than getting caught up or overwhelmed by doing too much."

– Fatima Moosa



Scan the QR code on each winner with your phone camera to learn more about each winner.



## DR CHELSEA ZINDOGA, 27

Medical Doctor and Humanitarian: South Rand Hospital (Gauteng Department of Health) and the Thalitha Children's Trust

@chelseaxzindoga Chelsea Thalitha Zindoga

**W**hile most of us are doing our best to beat the pandemic from home, Dr Chelsea Zindoga, medical doctor and humanitarian, is making sure her patients have the right treatments and considered care. "I live for the moment I can discharge my patient back home to their family," she explains. She and her fellow healthcare workers face overwhelming odds. A champion of the thousands of babies abandoned in state hospitals each year, Zindoga founded the Thalitha Children's Trust. Her organisation saves these lives and ensures that the babies receive the special care they need for neurodevelopment in the crucial early stages.

– Scott Dodds



## DR JONATHAN MACAULEY, 31

Medical doctor: Department of Health

@dr\_johnny\_mac01

**Dr** Jonathan Macauley is a medical doctor and HIV clinician whose passion lies in healthcare administration. He currently serves in a rural sub-district in North West. While working in areas where people have very few resources, Macauley takes pride in providing exceptional healthcare to all his patients. Macauley is driven by the idea of social justice and helping people. Health inequities disproportionately affect the poor and the need to rectify this is something that drives his work. His ultimate dream is to ensure that people in the poorest rural areas enjoy uninterrupted access to quality health services.

– Fatima Moosa





## GLORIA MOTHAPO, 27

Medical officer

@drglo124

**Dr** Gloria Mothapo joined the Fees Must Fall movement when she was a member of the student representative council at the University of Witwatersrand. This was another movement — after the 1976 student uprising — that shook the higher education system across the country and forced leaders to listen and take notice of the plight of poor students. Today, she's fighting a different battle, as a medical officer at the frontline during the Covid-19 pandemic. Some of the words she lives by are: "It's important to fight for change in the very space you exist in. That's how you change the world."

— Bongekile Macupe



## AFSANA KAJEE, 34

Medical scientist: National Health Laboratory Services

Asfana Kajee

**A**fsana Kajee works for the National Health Laboratory Services — the largest diagnostic pathology service in South Africa that supports the national and provincial health departments in their healthcare delivery. Kajee hopes that her innovative research will translate into shorter diagnosis times for tuberculosis (TB) and optimum treatment for TB using novel drugs that expose our South African population to the least toxicity. Helping humanity through science means every contribution has value, and finding success in failure is one of her many positive traits.

— Scott Dodds



## DR THOZAMA SIYOTULA, 34

Medical doctor (paediatric surgery): Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital Cape Town; University of Cape Town South Africa

@ThozamaSiyotula

**T**hozama Siyotula is a medical doctor whose main focus is paediatric surgery. She is also the president of the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital surgical-skills training centre. Siyotula wants to see all children in South Africa, regardless of socioeconomic status, able to access surgical care. She says that, according to research by the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery, 5-million people lack access to safe, affordable surgical care. The majority of these people live in low-resource settings, where up to 50% of the population is children. Siyotula wants to achieve a vision of safe, affordable and timely surgical care for all children.

— Tshgofatso Mathe



## KEN MARK KABONGO, 25

Physiotherapist and clinical educator: South African Rugby Union (SA Schools), Boland Cavaliers Rugby Union, Ajax Cape Town Football Club and University of Cape Town

@waterfrontphysiotherapyclinic

**A**thletes expose themselves to a much higher risk of getting injured than the average couch potato. This is where Ken Kabongo comes in. At the age of 25, Kabongo opened a physiotherapy practice in Cape Town. Last year, he was chosen as the physiotherapist for the team representing South Africa School at the U18 International Rugby Series. He was also recently appointed as a clinical educator at the University of Cape Town. This, he says, has allowed him to mentor the next generation of physiotherapists.

— Sarah Smit



## SIBONGILE MONGADI, 29

Founder: Uku'hamba (Pty) Ltd

Sibongile Mongadi @LebogangSibong1

**S**ibongile Mongadi's work has the potential to greatly improve lives of amputees across South Africa. A passionate entrepreneur, she is the founder of Uku'hamba, a startup company that focuses on biotechnology and healthcare manufacturing. Utilising 3D printer and 3D scanning technologies, she has dedicated her career to developing prosthetic limbs that can be widely and cheaply manufactured. Her mission is to ensure prostheses are available to anyone in need. When the Covid-19 pandemic struck South Africa, she redirected her company's efforts to manufacturing safety equipment for frontline workers; she says that over 200 masks and shields have been 3D-printed.

— Luke Feltham



## PHUMUDZO NDWAMBI, 33

Surgeon

@drphum

**Dr** Phumudzo Ndwambi marvels at how women surgeons are taking up space with sheer force and doing a great job in a field that has long been conceived as a space in which men lead. She continues to thrive in the male-dominated field; this is evident in the leadership roles she has held, including being president of South African Society of Surgeons in Training, a position that has seen her representing trainee surgeons locally and in neighbouring countries. The loss of her mother to cancer has become the driving force behind Ndwambi's passion for her work.

— Bongekile Macupe





## DR PHALE PHILLEMONT MACHACHA, 35

Medical Doctor: Department of Health

[f](#) Kgole Phale Phillemon Machacha

**Dr** Phale Phillemon Machacha grew up as a sickly child. The lack of doctors in his hometown of Burgersfort in Limpopo meant that no one could detect what was wrong with him. He was later diagnosed with hydronephrosis, the swelling of a kidney because of a build-up of urine, and spent his childhood dreaming of finding a cure for his illness. Many years later, he is able to do what was not possible to him as a child: save patients from illnesses. Machacha takes pleasure in bringing new life into the world by delivering babies.

– Bongekile Macupe



## DR COSNET LERATO RAMETSE, 28

Clinician scientist (MD) and PhD candidate:  
University of Cape Town

[t](#) @LCosnet

**Dr** Cosnet Lerato Rametse is a clinician scientist and PhD candidate at the University of Cape Town (UCT). She was one of the first students to participate in UCT's highly successful clinician-scientists training programme, an opportunity that allowed her to both study medicine and engage in science and research. She has since published articles in peer-reviewed international journals, begun her PhD, and was awarded the 2020 Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) New Investigator Scholarship. Rametse's goal is to bring theory and real-world application closer together: "I would love to see the gap bridged between clinicians and scientists and scientific research work."

– Max Dylan Lazarus



## NHLANHLA MAFARAFARA, 35

Pharmacist/pharmacy manager:  
Matlala District Hospital

[f](#) Nhlanhla G. Mafarafara

**I**nspiring confidence in the public healthcare sector is a task that Nhlanhla Mafarafara has set himself. He's a pharmacist and pharmacy manager at Matlala District Hospital in Limpopo, and a strong believer in values-based leadership. In 2019 he served as acting chief executive at Helene Franz Hospital, and co-ordinated Vhembe district's Adopt-a-Clinic Project, in which community service pharmacists improve the quality of primary healthcare facilities. He wants more young black people to pursue excellence, and has coached more than 400 interns ahead of their pharmacy board examinations. He's also a motivational speaker and the author of two personal development books.

– Lesley Stones



## CAROLINE PULE, 30

Medical scientist: Stellenbosch University, Division of Molecular Biology and Human Genetics

[t](#) [f](#) [in](#) @CarolinePule [ig](#) @caroline\_pule

**C**aroline Pule, medical scientist at Stellenbosch University's Division of Molecular Biology and Human Genetics, researches the biology of drug-resistant tuberculosis. Currently she is volunteering to help researchers around the world fight Covid-19 through the CrowdFight initiative, helping the Mould Empower Serve charity organisation to feed people in need during the pandemic and is an ambassador for the South African National Tuberculosis Association. She's also the founder and chief executive of the Caroline Pule Science and Literacy Foundation, which has a number of initiatives, including book donations and science clubs.

– Scott Dodds



## HUZAIFAH KHAN, 30

Pharmacy manager: Lenmed

[t](#) @huzaifah\_khan

**"W**ith my work in vaccination, I would want to remove the doubts and misconceptions that lead to vaccine hesitancy," said Huzaifah Khan. The 30-year-old pharmacy manager is pursuing a master's degree in public health pharmacy and management. Khan is extremely passionate about his work in immunisation, which he believes is important for every child. Even though he currently works in the private healthcare sector, Khan is eager to give back to public health, hoping to embody Section 27 of the Constitution, which states that: "Every person has the right to have access to healthcare services, including reproductive healthcare."

– Fatima Moosa



## KAPIL NARAIN, 24

Student and chairperson of the Covid-19 Technical Working Group at FAMSA:  
Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine

[in](#) Kapil Narain

**K**apil Narain wants to build a community of medical professionals who comprehend patients' struggles beyond a biomedical vacuum, and improve South Africa's level of healthcare through research and advocacy. He's chairperson of the Covid-19 Technical Working Group at Federation of African Medical Students' Associations (Famsa). Narain launched a campaign to address stigma surrounding TB infection, coupled with a mini-symposium of specialists, free for all at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He was a recipient of the inaugural World Health Organisation's Change-Maker Scholarship, enabling him to attend the World Health Assembly and join universal health coverage and digital health advocacy groups.

– Jabulile Dlamini-Qweshu





## SANDIKA BABOOLAL, 34

Consultant ophthalmic surgeon, lecturer, researcher, PhD candidate; Glaucoma Fellow; University of KwaZulu Natal

[in](#) Sandika Baboolal

**S**andika Baboolal is a consultant ophthalmic surgeon, lecturer, and the first South African to be accepted into the Glaucoma Fellowship at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London. "Glaucoma is the leading cause of irreversible blindness globally and most severely affects those of African descent," Baboolal explains. "I was inspired to apply as a consultant in South Africa, treating advanced and complex glaucoma patients with limited options." Sandika's mentorship has helped many other young women of colour to enter into surgical specialisations. Upon her return from London, Baboolal wants to improve resources for surgical trainees and practise in the public sector.

— James Nash



## ZAINAB KADER, 29

Trauma counsellor: City of Cape Town

[ig](#) @ZainabKader

**"E**ven though the world is full of suffering, my work allows me to brighten someone's day by providing hope, meaning and insight." Trauma counsellor Zainab Kader works to destigmatise mental health, strengthen families and provide emotional support to young people. From focusing on family interventions in impoverished areas to providing counselling for those completing higher education, she's invested in building a brighter future for South Africa, reaffirming her own self-worth along the way.

— Rosie Goddard



## MALANGU BLOSE, 32

PhD candidate (immunology): University of Witwatersrand

[ig](#) @mablose\_2\_ [f](#) Malangu Blose

**M**alangu Blose is a PhD candidate at the University of the Witwatersrand and her research aims to give insight to vaccinating schedules for HIV-exposed individuals to ensure long-term vaccine-induced protection. She says, "It is my wish that our health system can get to a point where effective vaccines offering long-term protection are available. The world is currently fighting a pandemic and the search for SARS-Cov-2 vaccines is high at the moment, thus I hope that through our work, working together with other departments, South Africa as a country can be better equipped to improve the quality of life by improving immunity."

— Max Dylan Lazarus



## LEIGH-ANN CAREY, 32

Communications officer: Massmart

[tw](#) @leighanncarey

**L**eigh-Ann Carey has had a measurable effect in the past three years as a passionate advocate for women seeking abortions, especially those in impoverished areas. Her volunteer activities, which are as varied as her skills, include: helping people understand and overcome their fear of abortion, assisting those with no access to information about the administrative processes of abortions, speaking in public about abortion research in South Africa; and simply being a friend to those who are most in need of one. She has also directly and personally raised money for abortions. One of the things that drives Carey is being able to add value to someone's life and that has been the source of inspiration for the work she does.

— Bongekile Macupe



## MELUSI DHLAMINI, 32

Director of Clinical Services at Marie Stopes South Africa

[tw](#) @Melusi\_MD

**Dr** Melusi Dlamini is an experienced gynaecologist, obstetrician and abortion service provider, and an activist for sexual and reproductive health rights in South Africa. He views every one of the procedures performed under his expertise as a life saved from an illegal abortion. Under his leadership, developments are in place for Marie Stopes to offer an expanded range of services for women and to eventually introduce a trans healthcare service. He hopes to play a role in reforming the primary healthcare package to include safe, free medical abortion services.

— Afrika Bogatsu

### THE HISTORY OF MG200YSA IN GOOD COMPANY: A SELECTION OF PREVIOUS MG200YSA WINNERS

This list represents people, like those below, who are actively doing impactful work – and in some cases, becoming the voices of their generation.

#### 2006, POLITICS: BUTI MANAMELA

Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training  
[@ButiManamela](#)

#### 2007, EDUCATION: MAMOKGETHI PHAKENG

Vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town  
[@FabAcademic](#)

#### 2008, MEDIA: KATY KATAPODIS

Newsroom Afrika and Deputy Chair of SANEF  
[@KatyKatapodis](#)

#### 2009, ARTS & CULTURE: LAUREN BEUKES

Award-winning and internationally bestselling author  
[@laurenbeukes](#)

#### 2012, ENTREPRENEURSHIP: ALAN KNOTT-CRAIG JR

Entrepreneur in telecoms, media and tech  
[@alanknottcraig](#)

#### 2014, HEALTH: DR INDIRA GOVENDER

Medical doctor and specialist in Public Health Medicine  
[@indigoesround](#)

#### 2016, ARTS & CULTURE: LADY SKOLLIE

Artist  
[@LadySkollie](#)

#### 2018, MEDIA: SPHUMELELO SIBEKO

Head of Reality & Entertainment, M-Net  
[@SphumeleleSibeko](#)

#### 2019, JUSTICE & LAW: TUMI SOLE

Corporate Attorney and Founder of #CountryDuty  
[@tumisole](#)





## TEBELLO MOTSHWANE, 30

Managing Director: Sister In Law (Pty) Ltd

[@bellz\\_motshwane](#)

After personal and professional setbacks, including debt racked up while starting her business, Tebello Motshwane was worried she wouldn't make it. Fast forward to 2020, and she is now the founder and managing director of Sister In Law — a thriving platform dedicated to empowering women through legal education. The company, which has since expanded from South Africa to Lesotho and Botswana, improves the lives of women by educating them on everything from marriage contracts to the importance of a will. "The more I can empower younger women, the fewer families will be torn apart by legal issues."

— Rosie Goddard



## THAMI MALUSI, 28

Associate attorney: Marler Clark LLP

[@MalusiThami](#)

Thami Malusi has already worked on several prominent class action lawsuits, including representing gold miners who contracted silicosis, and more recently seeking compensation for victims of the 2017 listeriosis outbreak. It's the latter that led him to food safety law firm Marler Clark LLP in Seattle, where he is on secondment until the end of the year. He strives to address problems in South Africa such as racial economic disparities, land tenure for informal land right holders and corruption in government, and seeks to strengthen constitutionalism.

— Max Dylan Lazarus



## THABANG POOE, 31

Advocate: Johannesburg Society of Advocates and SECTION27

[@Thabee\\_p](#)

Thabang Pooe's parents were teachers and worked hard to send her to a good school. She learned early that she could harness her education to change her circumstances — and, hopefully, the world. After graduating from North-West University, where she was exposed to public interest law, Pooe got a fellowship with Section27 law centre. She applied in secret to become a clerk at the Constitutional Court for fear of not being accepted. But Pooe succeeded and clerked for Justice Mbuyiseli Madlanga. Her next step was to graduate from the University of California, Los Angeles, with an LLM. Her work focuses on equal education. She is a self-confident role model for young women from disadvantaged backgrounds.

— Rosie Goddard



## SINAL GOVENDER, 31

Lawyer: Pop Law

[@sinal\\_g](#)

"During a time of immense uncertainty and anxiety, I am on what I consider to be the best path for me to do the work I want, which I also feel is incredibly necessary right now," says Sinal Govender, founder and director of pop.law. Govender met her business partner through Instagram and together they launched their legal consultancy for freelancers, startups and SMEs on the first day of South Africa's national lockdown. "To see it thrive and help thousands of South African during an otherwise anxious time has been an unquantifiably proud moment for me," she says.

— Jabulile Dlamini-Qweshwa



## CLAIRE KEET POLLOCK, 34

Venture designer and co-founder: Pop Law

[@pop.law.sa](#)

Venture designer and co-founder Claire Keet Pollock wants to make legal services broadly accessible, because "access to justice is not something that should be reserved for just privileged, educated or wealthy South Africans". Her startup, pop.law, presents a bouquet of legal services that break down barriers making legal help unattainable to many South Africans, including cost and perception. Pollock describes her career as a series of surprises: "I had no idea I'd explore and run ventures across such a colourful range of industries. The common thread that weaves it all together is the use of design as a powerful tool to solve problems for people."

— Jabulile Dlamini-Qweshwa



## THANDO GUMEDE, 27

Feminist, pupil advocate and social entrepreneur: M-TETO Search Engine/ Pan African Bar Association of South Africa

[@ThandoG\\_MTeto](#) [Thando Gumedde ZA](#)

Thando Gumedde is a master's student at the University of Cape Town. She completed her LLB at the University of Witwatersrand and specialises in human rights law and social justice, with a focus on menstrual health and women, children, gender non-conforming and others rights to basic and higher education. Gumedde has dedicated the past three years to creating M-Teto, an app that addresses problems related to gender-based violence at schools. The M-Teto search engine is an educational tool that children can use to learn about all matters related to gender-based violence. It identifies high-risk children, schools and regions, informs children of their rights, has an in-app calling system, a directory and age-appropriate police reviews.

— Jabulile Dlamini-Qweshwa





## KEKETSO GIFT KGOMOSOTHO, 28

Lawyer: Baker McKenzie

[@keketso\\_k1](#)

**K**eketso Gift Kgomosotho has learned a lot from his failures; his successes are testament to this. The 28-year-old lawyer has, to date, addressed a United Nations conference on human rights, spoken on queer and gender-based violence at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and coached a national moot court team representing South Africa, which they won. He wants to hear more African voices in the drive to eradicate conditions of underdevelopment.

— Rosie Goddard



## STANLEY MALEMATJA, 28

Attorney and sessional lecturer: Right2Protest Project at Centre for Applied Legal Studies & University of Witwatersrand

[Stanley Malematja Opty](#)

**A**s an attorney at the Right2Protest Project, Stanley Malematja is committed to using the law to create positive change in the lives of the most marginalised people in South African society. This is achieved by providing legal assistance to community groups and protesters countrywide, running workshops on peaceful and legal protest methods, filing bail applications for arrested protesters, and referring matters to civil society organisations when cases go to trial. "Peaceful protest actions must be seen as an effective method of public participation, key to any democratic state, as opposed to being perceived as an anti-government movement," Malematja says.

— Max Dylan Lazarus



## SALLY GANDAR, 36

Head of advocacy and legal advisor: Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town

[@SallyGandar](#)

**"**I studied law, and was always interested in human rights and social justice, but I've moved into the advocacy space. That's been both surprising and refreshing — knowing that there are so many ways to use the law for good." Sally Gandar is head of advocacy and a legal advisor at Scalabrini Centre — an organisation that fosters the cultural, social and economic integration of migrants, refugees and South Africans into local society. Through her work, she hopes to build a kinder, more inclusive South Africa that respects diversity, whether in terms of queer people, refugees, migrants or asylum-seekers.

— Rosie Goddard

# SUSTAINABLE DESIGNERS

WEBSITE DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT

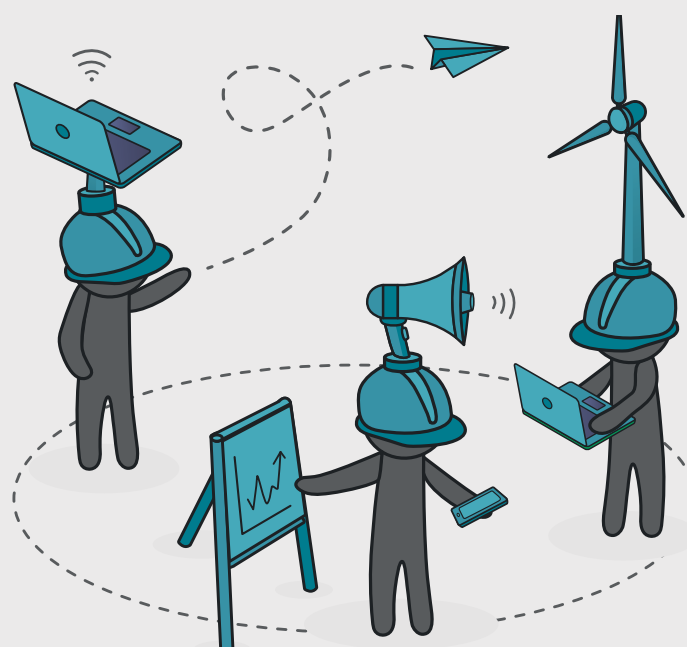
DIGITAL MARKETING

GRAPHIC DESIGN

BRANDING

THE  
ETHICAL  
AGENCY.

theethicalagency.co.za | @theethicalagency







## 200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS 2020 POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



### THATO MABE, 29

*Parliamentary monitoring fellow*

[@ThatoMaxwell](#)

**T**hato Mabe is ambitious, self-assured and driven, three valuable attributes for a young politician. He works as a Parliamentary Monitoring Fellow in Research and Policy, collaborating through the Victory Institute and Triangle Project, a partnership ensuring legal protection for LGBTI people in South Africa. He was also selected as one of three South African representatives at the 2019 Breaking Down Borders Africa Youth Summit. He says: "As a young queer man, I can empower other LGBTIQ leaders to fight for their rights and take up leadership positions in politics so that our agenda is heard in all spheres of government."

– Max Dylan Lazarus



### KARABO KHAKHAU, 23

*Member of Provincial Legislature:  
Free State Democratic Alliance*

[Karabo Lerato Khakhau](#)

**I**n 2019, 23-year-old Karabo Khakhau was the youngest person in South Africa to sign an oath of public office and sit in a provincial legislature. Gracious, determined and hard-working, she's constructed a worldview that proves wisdom doesn't always come with age. "Knowing that the sweat, tears and blood shed by my ancestors were not for nothing, drives me to excel. They were construction tools for a space that is open and big enough for me to just simply 'be'. So, waking up in the morning is a reminder that the baton has been passed over to me to expand the space for other young, black women."

– Rosie Goddard



### KHOLEKILE MNISI, 29

*Digital content officer: Africa Centre for  
Disease Control*

[@KholekileMnisi](#)

**A**s digital content officer at the Africa Centre for Disease Control, Kholekile Mnisi is in a strong position to direct conversations and draw focus to some of the most important issues affecting the continent. He's worked in marketing and communications, in diplomacy and as an activist. He explains: "I have made strategic career moves, with the sole purpose to impact communities through the passion I have for the work that I do." Asked what he'd tell his younger self, Mnisi says: "Poverty does not mean no prosperity, struggle does not mean no success, and scars can be forged into stars."

– Max Dylan Lazarus



### KWARA KEKANA, 29

*Spokesperson for the MEC of health in Gauteng:  
Gauteng Department of Health*

[@kwarakekana](#)

**K**wara Kekana is the spokesperson for the MEC of health in Gauteng. In the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, her job has been pretty hectic. "The job has been spectacularly stressful, but it's an absolute honour to serve the people of Gauteng," she says. Kekana might be currently serving on the frontlines of the pandemic, but she cut her teeth in many different spaces. She says it surprises her how well she has the ability to fit in and enjoy the different places she's found herself in, whether it's government, the heritage sector or the nongovernmental organisation space.

– Fatima Moosa



### NONDUMISO MBAMBO, 30

*Development manager:  
Apolitical Academy*

[@NondumisoMbambo](#)

**N**ondumiso Mbambo is a candidate attorney and developmental manager who works to cultivate the next generation of leaders. Her interest in social justice was piqued during her time in the Texas Legislative Programme, an internship that enabled her to work with the state's representatives. After completing her articles at the South African office of the international law firm, she became the first South African hire of Apolitical Foundation. There, she has focused on creating a programme for promising individuals who have an interest in politics and social justice.

– James Nash



### DAVID KABWA, 23

*Commonwealth Youth Parliament prime minister,  
University of Pretoria SRC president*

[@davekabwa](#) [@david\\_kabwa](#)

[David Kabwa](#)

**A**t just 23, David Kabwa is first ever African to become prime minister of the Commonwealth Youth Parliament, elected by an international cohort of young leaders, and the SRC president at University of Pretoria, where he ran as an independent. He's a man of endless ambition who values mentorship, aligning academics with passion and understanding the responsibility he has in each of his portfolios. Kabwa hopes to inspire those after him, mentoring students and regularly organising for them to accompany him to observe meetings conducted by the Portfolio Finance Committee at the Gauteng Provincial Legislature.

– Scott Dodds



# DIGITAL WORK. REAL EMPLOYMENT.

The future belongs to those who reimagine it. When Banele Hlengethwa was recruited by UJ's Process, Energy and Environment Technology Station (PEETS) as a fieldworker in conducting a survey on how Gauteng residents perceive the quality of their lives, He little knew that he would be finding new purpose and opportunity in his own. The app that he and the other recruits used is one of the university's most advanced, geolocating the fieldworkers, monitoring activity and responses with sophisticated tracking tools, and controlling quality through automated processes.

This Fourth Industrial revolution (4IR) technology that Banele Hlengethwa learnt to use enabled him to quickly rise in the project, eventually to become a supervisor. He then started Yenzokuhle Social Enterprise and Skills Village, with the aim of addressing community issues like crime and substance abuse. The result is that his 4IR expertise is now being put to work to offer new hope and opportunity for other young people.

4IR technology. At UJ, we're reimagining the future, and it's changing everyone's lives for the better.





## LYNDSEY DUFF, 34

Country manager: what3words

[@Duffington\\_Post](#)

Technology that saves lives by making it easy to find people even when there are no addresses can make a big difference in countries like South Africa, Lyndsey Duff believes. Duff is the country manager for what3words, a company that has divided the world into 3m squares and given each a name of three words. Those words pinpoint an exact spot so emergency services and others can reach people quickly. Duff is an avid promoter of South Africa and its opportunities. "I'm a big believer in applying your talents to help others, and in deploying clever technology to solve big problems with significant impact," she says.

– Lesley Stones



## PALESA NOMBULA, 29

Graduate data scientist and MSc astrophysics candidate: SARA0/UWC

[in Palesa Nombula](#)

Currently completing her master's degree in astrophysics, Palesa Nombula has shown how resilience and tenacity can push a person to achieve their goals. Despite not being accepted at one university, Nombula got in at another one and went ahead with a singular focus. She has subsequently received numerous distinctions, awards and a role in the biggest global project in radio astronomy, the Square Kilometre Array. She says: "To overcome the obstacles that come with being a black South African woman, who grew up in the townships cared for by a single parent, every day is an opportunity to represent my community in STEM [science, technology, engineering and maths] and to uplift my community."

– Max Dylan Lazarus



## DOREEN MOKOENA, 32

Internet governance specialist: Domain Name Authority of South Africa

[@Mokoenadee](#)

Bridging gender divides by creating an environment in which more women-led startups thrive is the force that drives internet governance specialist Doreen Mokoena. In her work, she administers the .za namespace and arms the end-user with compliance regulations to better navigate emerging technologies in digital forensics, business intelligence, policy and data privacy. Mokoena formed part of the South African delegation, alongside Deputy Minister Pinky Kekana of the department of digital technologies, at the 2019 Global Internet Governance Forum in Germany organised by the German government, an invitation she considers a career-defining moment. Here, she highlighted issues surrounding inclusion, cybersecurity and policy and regulations.

– Jabulile Dlamini-Qweshia



## SULAIMAN SALEEM PATEL, 26

Senior analyst in emerging technology: KPMG South Africa

[in Sulaiman Patel](#)

Sulaiman Patel says that being announced as one of the youngest-ever doctoral graduates in electronic engineering from University of KwaZulu-Natal counts as a proud but humbling moment. What made the moment more special was seeing how his achievements were inspiring and motivating his community. Patel doesn't just want to use what he knows to get ahead for himself. He wants to use what he knows to make a difference in the world. "I believe that technology is the greatest tool for uplifting our country, which has really been highlighted during the lockdown," he says.

– Fatima Moosa



## TIYANI NGHONYAMA, 27

Co-founder: Geekulcha

[@TiyaniTee](#)

Technology expert Tiyani Nghonyama is the co-founder of Geekulcha, which teaches technology to rural and under-privileged youth. Its various arms include Geekulcha Student Societies at 18 universities, and a database listing 14 000 talented young techies whom companies or the government can hire. Its VacWork programme teaches schoolkids to code, and another arm helps corporations such as IBM and Microsoft to develop products for young consumers. Nghonyama has been to Parliament three times to discuss his initiatives for improving service delivery through technology. In 2019 he was named IT Personality of the Year by the Institute of Information Technology Professionals SA.

– Lesley Stones



## THULILE KHANYILE, 32

Lecturer, scientist and social entrepreneur: University of the Witwatersrand & Nka'Thuto EduPropeller NPO

[2llyfuthi](#)

Thulile Khanyile has three aspects to her professional life: as a lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand, as a scientist doing research towards developing an HIV vaccine and as the co-founder and co-director of the Nka'Thuto EduPropeller. The nonprofit organisation works with primary and high school learners from grades 1 to 11 in townships and rural areas and aims to spark an interest in science, technology, engineering and maths careers. She attributes her success and ability to balance the different parts of her life to an "incredible support system in my family and friends that makes me believe that I have the potential to do more".

– Max Dylan Lazarus





## THEMBISILE PATIENCE MAHLANGU, 30

Lecturer and researcher:  
Durban University of Technology

[in](#) Thembisile Mahlangu

Researcher Thembisile Mahlangu develops materials for water treatment and disinfection. She is also a lecturer at the Durban University of Technology. "I want to see a solution that will bring socioeconomic benefits to South Africa. I also want to produce graduates that are problem-solvers and innovators," she says. By her own admission, Mahlangu finds success addictive. She pushes boundaries to bridge the innovation chasm and create products that can be commercialised. She also wants to be a role model for those she mentors at Nka'Thuto Edu Propeller, a nonprofit organisation that assists learners come up with STEMI [science, technology, engineering, maths and innovation] solutions to problems where they live.

– Jabulile Dlamini-Qwesha



## RUBY-ANNE BIRIN, 25

DPhil archaeological science student:  
University of Oxford

[in](#) @Rubys\_Travels

Ruby-Anne Birin hopes to use her work to establish a meaningful dialogue in people's modern lives. The 25-year-old is an archaeological science student. "We can develop a space to appreciate, understand and advocate for our heritage," she says. Birin says through excavations she has learnt how people in the past lived and how that has affected the present. "It is up to us to acknowledge when something is wrong and to respond positively by creating thoughtful and meaningful dialogue in a way that will create change," she says. It's this ideal that guides her. Birin says she is driven in her research by the desire to better understand South Africa's complicated, shared past.

– Fatima Moosa



## KIMI CHAPELLE, 29

Postdoctoral fellow: Evolutionary Studies Institute:  
University of the Witwatersrand

[in](#) @Kimi\_Chap

Postdoctoral fellow at the Evolutionary Studies Institute at the University of the Witwatersrand, Kimberley Chapelle wants to make palaeontology as accessible as possible to South Africans. In her ideal world, she'd be able to ask a child what their favourite dinosaur is and have them respond with "Massospondylus" or any other species. Chapelle believes that any contribution to science provides a helpful step towards a better understanding of the world. She adds: "Science is ever-changing, and although findings of today may be disproved or argued in the future, they will never be irrelevant." That's what challenges her to constantly evolve.

– Jabulile Dlamini-Qwesha



## KIMBERLEIGH ASHLEY TOMMY, 27

PhD Candidate (Biological Anthropology):  
Human Variation and Identification Research  
Unit, School of Anatomical Sciences, University  
of the Witwatersrand

[in](#) @kimtommy92

Kimberleigh Ashley Tommy is a biological anthropology PhD candidate with the Human Variation and Identification Research Unit at Wits University. Achieving her master's degree with distinction was a particularly significant moment for Tommy as she was a student who didn't seem to be on a path to "greatness" in her undergraduate degree. Tommy doesn't just want to achieve greatness for herself: she hopes that other young women who see her and the other incredible women of colour in palaeosciences are encouraged to pursue it as a career field in our fascinatingly fossil-rich country.

– Fatima Moosa



## KENEUOE MALIEHE, 34

Chief scientist: KaTZ Smart Pty Ltd

[in](#) Keneuo Maliehe

Keneuo Maliehe was awarded an Africa-Ireland Fellowship and subsequently recognised as an elite scholar by Maynooth University. She's now all set to enact real change in South Africa and Lesotho. As director of CAD Mapping and chief scientist at KaTZ Smart, Maliehe is in a leading position to accelerate development locally, describing the opportunity as one "to close the gap between the first world and the third world with regards to digital technologies, especially with access to space-based datasets, airborne datasets and indigenous geospatial tools".

– Max Dylan Lazarus



## MONDLI MAGAGULA, 30

Principal geologist and geotechnical engineer:  
Exxaro Resources

[in](#) @MondliMagagula

Part of a new generation of black professionals in the mining industry, Mondli Magagula is the principal geologist and geotechnical engineer for Exxaro Resources, one of South Africa's largest black-empowered resource companies, and the youngest head of department in its history. Magagula prides himself on ensuring things are done as efficiently as possible and emphasises the importance of learning, saying the most complex problems he has faced recently are solved using knowledge built in his first years of employment.

– Scott Dodds



## SIWELA JEFFREY BALOYI, 31

Science researcher: Mintek

[in](#) @BaloyiJeff

Science researcher Jeffrey Baloyi says it's his moral obligation to find innovative solutions that aid in reducing poverty, inequality and unemployment. Growing up in a village where there wasn't much in terms of inspiration, he never imagined that his work could play an important role in improving the quality of life for people around him. Baloyi admits that he hasn't always been this determined: en route to obtaining his master's degree, instances of hesitation led to him dropping out – but that didn't last long. Now, he aims to help eliminate fuel emissions and ensure that all South Africans have access to safe and clean water.

– Jabulile Dlamini-Qwesha





## MOAGABO RAGOASHA, 28

*Postdoctoral research fellow and lecturer:  
University of Cape Town and South African  
Environmental Observation Network*

[in](#) Moagabo Ragoasha

**A**s the first black South African woman to get a PhD in physical oceanography, Moagabo Ragoasha wants to use her position as a role model for young girls who doubt their dreams. Through her work as a postdoctoral lecturer, she has become passionate about the blue economy — an emerging concept for sustainable economic growth that preserves our oceans, while encouraging public participation in marine and coastal decision-making. “Ever since my parents passed on, I had to step up, not just for myself, but for my younger sisters — to serve as an inspiration for them to pursue their goals,” she says. “My success is their success.”

— Rosie Goddard



## SASHA HOFFMANN, 32

*Postdoc fellow*

[ig](#) @sasha\_sashie

**W**orking towards greater opportunities for a more diverse group of students to experience the joys of science is the dream of Sasha Hoffman, a postdoctoral fellow in the field of zoology. In her work, Hoffmann focuses on conservation and wildlife. She wants people to have a greater understanding of and respect for the animals in the world. Being part of this process is something that constantly amazes her. Working in science is something of a fast process and is constantly changing, but Hoffmann lives by the motto: “Take it slow — life is a journey, not a race. Enjoy where you are and appreciate every step.”

— Fatima Moosa



## CEBISA MDEKAZI, 25

*Assistant director: integrated environment  
and conservation management:  
Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site*

[ig](#) @Cebisa\_Mdekazi [in](#) Cebisa Mdekazi

**W**hen a group of international experts excavated dinosaur fossils from a site in the Eastern Cape, Cebisa Mdekazi was among them. She’s a palaeontologist, and an assistant director at the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site, ensuring that South Africa’s famous site runs according to strict global standards. “I love it because ultimately we are preserving a World Heritage site, which is a very good window into the evolution of humans,” she says. Mdekazi wants to bring more young black women into the science, and to encourage rural folk to be proud of the important historic sites on their doorsteps.

— Lesley Stones



## TIM MITCHELL, 28

*Digital & innovation chief of staff: Deloitte Africa*

[ig](#) [tw](#) @Headphase\_SA

**B**y harnessing the opportunities of the digital landscape, young South Africans have a platform to not only greatly accelerate their own development, but also make significant contributions to society at large. This firm belief drives the daily routine of Tim Mitchell, the chief of staff for digital and innovation at Deloitte Africa. He has worked with clients from across sub-Saharan Africa, helping them to formulate their digital strategies and leading various digital labs and workshops. Through his digital transformation projects, Mitchell hopes he can affect sustainable social upliftment in South Africa.

— Luke Feltham



## DR MZAMO SHOZI, 35

*Senior lecturer: University of KwaZulu-Natal*

[tw](#) @doc\_mza

**N**ot many people even know what catalysis and organometallic chemistry are. But Mzamo Shozi is an expert in the field, and his knowledge will help push us into a green energy future. His work involves the conversion of sugar alcohols found in plants to chemicals used in the fuel industry. In 2018, Shozi was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to spend time doing research at the University of California in the United States — a long way away from where he grew up in Umlazi, KwaZulu-Natal.

— Sarah Smit



## THAPELO NTHITE, 24

*Chief executive and co-founder: Botlhale AI*

[in](#) Thapelo Nthite

**T**hapelo Nthite, chief executive and co-founder of Botlhale AI, is spearheading the challenge to eliminate language as a barrier for basic digital services. “Only 18% of the South African population speaks English at home. It is clear that English is the primary language of instruction and trade, not of understanding! The issue is that almost all digital services are offered in English, making them inaccessible to the majority of the country.” With an ambitious goal, and no shortage of expertise, Nthite and Botlhale AI look set to provide increasingly valuable services to the majority of South Africans for years to come.

— Max Dylan Lazarus



## KHANYA CHAMPION, 33

*Senior Manager: BCX*

[in](#) Khanya Champion

**N**okukhanya Champion says she wants to see more female leaders in the telecommunications field. Now a senior manager at the BCX company, a subsidiary of the Telkom Group, Champion says that throughout her career she has always been the only black women engineer or one of two or three in a team. This situation resulted in her resilience and determination: not seeing many other black engineers in her field, Champion says she endeavoured to be that person. “I hope that young women can look at me and believe that they too can do it — they can also make it in a male-dominated industry.”

— Fatima Moosa





### **DR LEBO GAFANE-MATEMANÉ, 31**

*Senior Lecturer and Researcher in Physiology:  
North-West University*

 *Lebo Gafane-Matemané*

**L**ebo Gafane-Matemané's proudest moment to date was walking up on stage to receive her PhD at the age of 27. Because she comes from a poor background and struggled financially during her undergraduate years, she never thought she would reach a milestone like this. This senior lecturer and researcher in physiology has since dedicated her career to curbing and hopefully curing non-communicable diseases such as hypertension – one of the biggest public health issues worldwide. She also extols the importance of paying it forward in whatever way you can, and has been mentoring young women pursuing careers in science since 2015.

– Rosie Goddard



### **STEPHANIE BAKER, 33**

*Palaeo-Anthropologist Researcher and Principal Investigator: Drimolen Hominin Site*

 *@UjPalaeo*

**W**hen Stephanie Baker, principal Investigator at the Drimolen Hominin Site, announced this year that the oldest ever *Homo erectus* fossil had been discovered at the site, it caused a fundamental shift in our understanding of humanity's history. For Baker, though, the exciting consequence is a lot closer to home. "It was a momentous announcement that has long-reaching effects for the significance of South Africa. I know that this announcement will increase participation for our annual field schools at the site, which means I will be able to offer more scholarships for local students to attend, all costs covered."

– Max Dylan Lazarus



### **CLIFFTON MASEDI, 33**

*Postdoctoral Research Fellow:  
University of Limpopo - Materials Modelling Centre*

 *Masedi Clifton*

**D**evelopment is nothing without research, which is something that Clifton Masedi understands better than most as a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Limpopo's Materials Modelling Centre. Masedi emphasises the importance of energy storage, something he claims will be more vital than ever going forward. Consequently, his work is centred on understanding the technological limitations of – and proposing solutions to improve – the quality of batteries through computational modeling. As he explains: "The issues of load shedding, the discovery of electric vehicles and the latest technological developments require new and powerful batteries in the future."

– Scott Dodds

# Mintek leads research, development and innovation **utilising minerals to drive sustainable industry development and inclusive economic growth.**



**Mintek** develops a capable workforce to drive and support rigorous scientific research and technological development in pursuit of our mandate.



“ One of the largest, oldest, mineral and metallurgical technology institute in the world ”



**More than 40%** of SET staff with PhD & Masters degrees



Global presence in over **41 countries**



**102** discoveries / inventions  
**41** provisional RSA patents filed  
(Over the last eight years)



**224** active patents & design registrations (2008-2019)





A MESSAGE  
FROM OUR CEO

Vuyani  
Dayimani

ECPTA is honoured to congratulate the *Mail & Guardian's* 200 Young South Africans for their indelible mark in society. We take our hats off to the young movers and shakers who influence innovation and change to better South Africa within their respective spaces. Through your ability to excel in your chosen path, you give us hope that South Africa's future is in capable hands.

Through your success as showcased in the *Mail & Guardian's* 200 Young South Africans, we witness the immense potential of this country. We are inspired and filled with hope when we see young people taking opportunities and defying any odds stacked up against them to succeed. These young people who have shown tenacity and an ability to make positive contributions to society illustrate the strength of human capital of our country. When an opportunity to support these extraordinary people came in the form of acknowledging the dynamic and remarkable strides of young individuals, ECPTA was more than humbled.

As an agency that promotes tourism, one of the core offerings we at ECPTA boast about when showcasing the authentic experiences of the province and the country is people. Our strength as the tourism sector lies in people of diverse cultures. We pride ourselves in the dynamic, warm and friendly people that make up this beautiful country as a competitive advantage that helps the wheels of the tourism sector turn.

We are proud to be associated with the *Mail & Guardian's* 200 Young South Africans, in line with the work that we do. ECPTA backs numerous initiatives to assist young people to reach their full potential through initiatives like SMME development, training/mentorship on tourism business related programmes and upskilling of young people that are needed now more

than ever. ECPTA hopes that the myriad of influential people chosen this year will consider the massive potential of the tourism sector to create viable businesses that assist the tourism sector recovery and thereby contribute meaningfully to the economy and livelihoods of the EC.

Tourism is one of the fastest-growing sectors in South Africa and, according to SA Tourism, generates one in five jobs in the country. In addition to being a high job-creating force, the tourism sector offers opportunities for entrepreneurship and innovation.

We look forward with optimism to see the tourism sector bounce back from the current lull and when that happens, we encourage you to visit Eastern Cape, to witness natural beauty, adventure and rich history of its people.

The Eastern Cape is home to the Big 7 which comprise the rhino, leopard, lion, buffalo, elephant, southern right whale and great white shark. You will be spoilt for choice in one of our four National Parks: Mount Camdeboo, Zebra National Park, Garden Route National Park and Addo Elephant National Park. The Eastern Cape is also home to various world-class private nature reserves with some offering a unique beach and bush experiences. These are but a few of the attractions in the home of legends.

As we look forward to your visit, once again we extend our congratulations to all the chosen 200 influencers of this year. South Africa needs leadership with foresight and wisdom, and you are the chosen. Soar and Conquer.



Yours to Explore

SOMANY REASONS TO  
**explore**  
THE EASTERN CAPE

Birth and burial place of **Nelson Mandela**

**800km** of pristine coastline

Home of the **Big 7**

**Highest** Commercial Bungee Jump  
in the **world**

Home to **4 National Parks**

Home to the **Baviaanskloof World Heritage Site**

The Eastern Cape offers **5 of SA's 7 biomes**

Home of **authentic Xhosa culture**

# Yours to explore

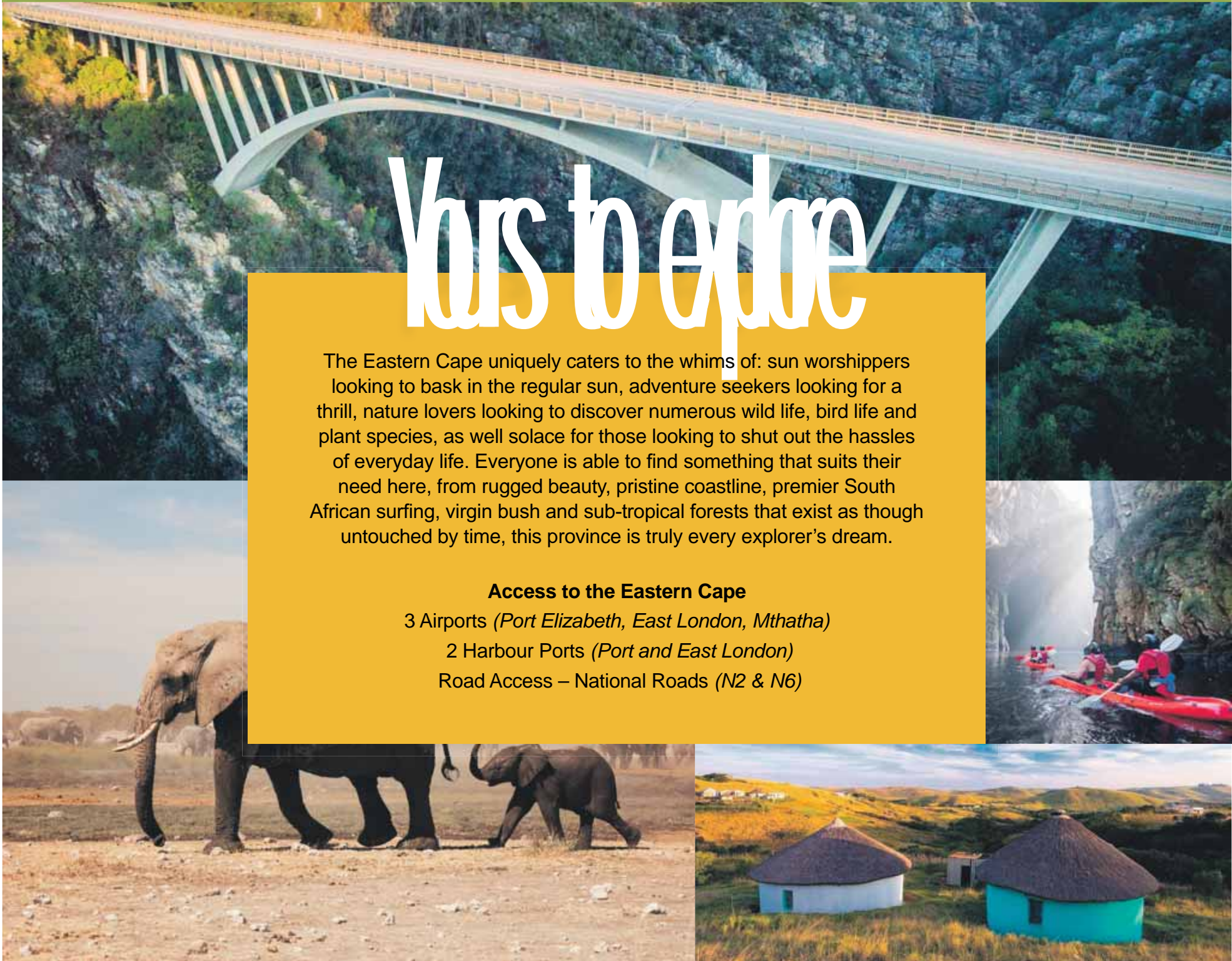
The Eastern Cape uniquely caters to the whims of: sun worshippers looking to bask in the regular sun, adventure seekers looking for a thrill, nature lovers looking to discover numerous wild life, bird life and plant species, as well solace for those looking to shut out the hassles of everyday life. Everyone is able to find something that suits their need here, from rugged beauty, pristine coastline, premier South African surfing, virgin bush and sub-tropical forests that exist as though untouched by time, this province is truly every explorer's dream.

## Access to the Eastern Cape

3 Airports (*Port Elizabeth, East London, Mthatha*)

2 Harbour Ports (*Port and East London*)

Road Access – National Roads (*N2 & N6*)





# WHY YOU SHOULD VISIT the Eastern Cape



Yours to Explore

Rich heritage and culture – The Eastern Cape offers a unique cultural and heritage experience and home to authentic Xhosa culture.

The Eastern Cape is positioned as the Adventure Province and offers a wide range of adventure activities. These range from mild to wild and the province is also home to the highest commercial bungee jump in the world, the Bloukrans Bridge. The bridge is Africa’s biggest bridge and stands proudly 216m above the Bloukrans River.

The Eastern Cape has over 800km of pristine coastline and is home to numerous Blue Flag beaches. The province is popular with international surfers and watersport enthusiasts and offers some of the best surfing spots in the world.

The Wild Coast is a rustic, rugged and untouched stretch of coastline boasting amazing hiking trails, village experiences, cliffs and waterfalls.

The Eastern Cape is home to the Big 7 which comprise the rhino, leopard, lion, buffalo, elephant, southern right whale and great white shark.

The Eastern Cape offers you 4 National Parks: Mount Camdeboo, Zebra National Park, Garden Route National Park and Addo Elephant National Park. The province is also home to various world-class private nature reserves with some offering a unique beach and bush experiences.

The Eastern Cape is the birth and the burial place of Nobel prize-winner and father of the nation, Nelson Mandela, and boasts the world class Mandela Museum in Mthatha.

The Eastern Cape is home to the Baviaanskloof Nature Reserve. The nature reserve has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The Baviaanskloof is just under 200km in length and is bounded by two mountain ranges.



Valley of Desolation

Qunu – Birth and burial place of Nelson Mandela

Jeffery’s Bay Supertubes (world renown surfing hot spot)

Addo Elephant National Park – Home to the Big 7

Hole in the Wall, Coffee Bay, Wild Coast

Baviaanskloof World Heritage Site

Garden Route, Camdeboo, Mountain Zebra and Addo Nation Parks

Campanile in Port Elizabeth

Donkin Reserve

Naude’s Nek Pass

Waterfall Bluff, Wild Coast

Big Pineapple – Bathurst

Owl House – Nieu Bethesda

Steve Biko Museum in King William’s Town

Nelson Mandela Museum in Mthatha

Adam’s Krantz viewpoint at Great Fish River Nature Reserve

Shark Rock Pier, Hobie Beach, Port Elizabeth

Tsitsikamma Adventure Region

Wild Coast

The Karoo Heartland



World-class Blue Flag Beaches

Baviaanskloof World Heritage Site

Big 7 Game Viewing

Nelson Mandela Museum

Annual Sardine Run spectacle

Authentic Xhosa culture

Ocean Safaris

Nelson Mandela Bay is the Bottle-nose dolphin capital of the world

Bloukrans Bridge: Bungee jump the world highest commercial bungee

Segway through the Tsitsikamma Forest

Zipline & treetop canopy tours

Whale watching, Township Tours

Urban Experiences, Karoo Food

Route 67, Nelson Mandela Bay

15 Provincial Nature Reserves

Bush experiences

Cross the Storms River Suspension Bridge

Hike the Otter Trail

Explore the Wild Coast and visit the iconic Hole in the Wall in Coffee Bay

Watersport Mecca – home to world renowned surfing spots

City tours – Slackpacking paradise, Nature & wildlife, River cruises, Historical and cultural tours





## SIKHOLIWE MDLETSCHE, 21

Student: University of the Free State

[@sikholiwe\\_sne](#) [f](#) Sikholiwe Sne Mdletshe

At just 21 Sikholiwe Mdletshe has already achieved so much; she's combined her academic career with her sports career and excels at both. This young student and athlete from the Free State just completed an accounting degree and is planning to pursue another degree to become a chartered accountant. Along with the academic points she's scored, Mdletshe is also a point-scorer on the court. She's currently the captain of the South African under-21 Netball Team, and says that obtaining her BComm while serving as captain was a particular moment of pride.

– Fatima Moosa



## SIPHELELE MQWASHELE, 25

Community sports development coach and mentor: Sihamba Sonke

[@28395siphelele](#) [f](#) Siphelele Sphee Mqwashela

Community sports development coach and mentor Siphelele Mqwashela leads young rugby players from the Eastern Cape by exemplifying that commitment opens doors. Rural students often don't get the same opportunities to be transformed by the sport as students in affluent urban areas. Mqwashela takes the time to nurture their talent. He was part of the team that started touch rugby in the Transkei village of Zithulele. They went from losing all their games at the national interprovincial touch tournament in 2012 to winning the tournament in 2017; Mqwashela was then selected to learn more about the sport in New Zealand.

– Jabulile Dlamini-Qwasha



## KGOLAGANO RAKHUDU, 29

Head of basketball operations: Royal Bafokeng Sports

[@kgolaganor](#) [in](#) [f](#) Kgolagano Rakhudu

Sometimes dropping everything and following your dreams is the right decision – just ask Kgolagano Rakhudu, he is the living evidence. After resigning from mining giant Implats, he has gone on to become the head of basketball operations of the Royal Bafokeng Junior NBA, an international collaboration with the National Basketball League, which is running a programme at 45 schools. Rakhudu is hoping to impart wisdom and life lessons through sport to give children a purpose and build the leaders of the future.

– Scott Dodds



## THANDO LONGWE-SMIT, 19

Student and tennis player: Liberty University

[@thando.longwesmit](#)

Thando Longwe-Smit started playing tennis at just five years old, and by the age of nine was already participating in tournaments. This first-year sports psychology student has gained many accolades and travelled internationally for his sport since he was 12. Representing South Africa on world stages has resulted in his proudest moments. In a recent interview with Sport Federation TV, Longwe-Smit said picking up a racquet felt natural, as he grew up watching his father play tennis. Tennis is his greatest passion and something he believes will be part of his life for a very long time.

– Bongekile Macupe



## TSHIAMO RAMALEPA, 30

Lecturer and coach: Tshwane University of Technology

[@tshiamo\\_zlatan](#) [f](#) Tshiamo Ramalepa

Besides having a full time job as a nursing lecturer at Tshwane University of Technology, supervising master's students and being part of a nursing research committee, Tshiamo Ramalepa still finds time for his other passion, which is managing a soccer academy and being a coach. Last year Ramalepa led 15 boys from the Brits Soccer Academy to Manchester, England, to participate in the English Super Cup. It was the first time the young soccer players had been on an airplane and also their first time outside the country. He counts this as one of his proudest moments.

– Bongekile Macupe



## LUTHANDO KAKA, 34

Cyclist and operations director: Nelson Mandela Legacy Ride4Hope

[@luthandokaka](#)

Top cyclist Luthando Kaka has been on an unswerving journey to success from the start. He began his career representing South Africa at the Youth Commonwealth Games in Australia only a year after taking up cycling. He's captained and co-founded professional cycling teams, sits on the board of Velokhaya Life Cycling Academy and is the operations director overseeing events at the Nelson Mandela Legacy Ride4Hope. In how Kaka chooses to solidify his legacy, he cites generosity as much as he does dedication. "One should work hard and remember every opportunity is a blessing and should be treated as such. But being generous is equally important; everything we receive is a result of someone giving us a chance," he says.

– Jabulile Dlamini-Qwasha





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