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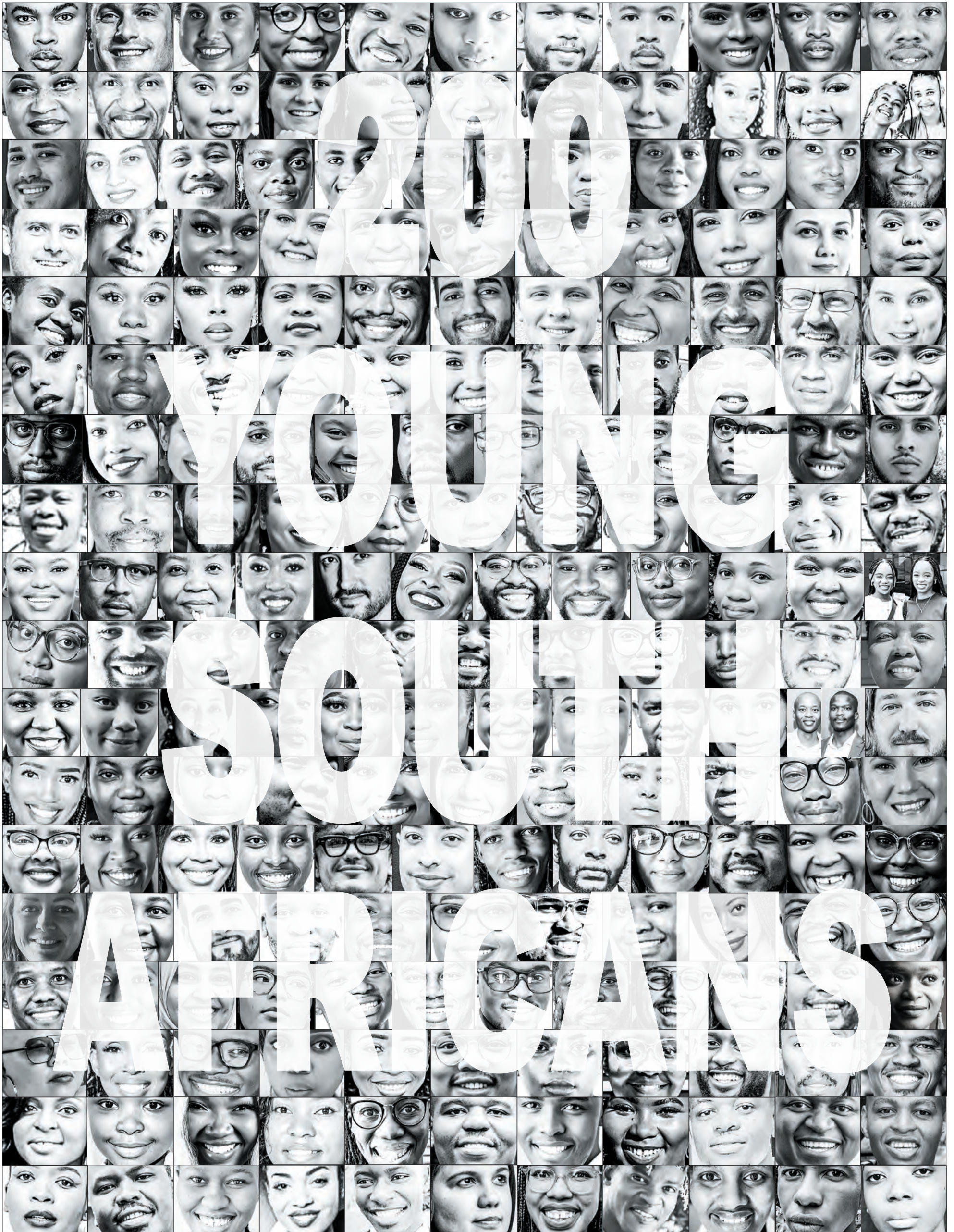
2023

200 YOUNG



AngloAmerican

SOUTH AFRICANS



Mzansi youth. The future is you.



I sometimes ask myself,
did my journey have to start like this?
Did our history need to be this way?
What made you rise and find
the courage to stand up?

As I reflect and think of your
sacrifices and lives lost.
I find myself just wanting to say:
“Thank you!” youth of 1976.
Thank you for looking forward.
For the vision you had and the path you paved for us.
You lead the change for us, the youth of 2023.

You believed in our potential.
You knew what we could bring
to the table of this nation, and now the world.
You knew that brilliance lives in us.
And that inventors and innovators
would stem from us.

Now we are leaders pioneering
our own future.
Securing the next generation’s future
just like you did for ours.

We salute the youth of 1976.

Here’s to the Mail and Guardian
Top 200 Young South Africans in 2023.

Together, we are shaping a better future.



Welcome to the *M&G's* 200

How much does the world of a young person born in the developed world change when their country reports a “good” growth figure (that’s anything above 2%)? I would hazard a guess that it doesn’t change much.

Their water will still run and be cholera-free, power remain secure but expensive, roads be maintained just as they were yesterday, their schools and universities funded, the buses and trains will arrive on time — unless you are in Paris, of course. Moving the nuts and bolts of their real economy and the socio-economic conditions of the lives of people in developed climes seems so much more difficult to the naked eye to improve much further. If anything, what’s clear is that growth in these places gets clogged up in their one-percenters, who now dream of trips to the moon and Mars and a workforce powered by AI-infused robots.

But in South Africa and for the rest of the continent — with its young populace — growth really shifts the dial as it visibly improves living standards. Achieving any significant level of it dramatically changes the lives of a young person, whether they live in Soweto, the slums in Nairobi or even the green suburbs of Sandton. This is all dependent on having a state that is accountable to its people. Blessed with such a situation, a bustling economy growing equitably results in more jobs, better education

outcomes, better security, better roads, better public transport and more funding for the arts. The list goes on and on.

If you forget our own depressing politics for just a second, South Africa has a growth potential that developed nations such as the UK and Canada only dream of — hence that hunger for our most skilled.

That is what I want this year’s cohort of *Mail & Guardian* 200 Young South Africans to hold on to at a time when confidence is low and everything around us seems to be collapsing. Your job is to help the country realise this potential that resides in its people and under their feet.

Institutions do fall, as we’ve seen over the past decade, but they can be rebuilt.

Why do institutions fail? Ask this of any South African and they will point to a flawed political system that has long been dominated by a single party that is seemingly unaccountable to anyone but their own structures. What are we to do? It seems we are so disillusioned and confidence-battered that we idly sit and watch our lives pass by or choose to leave the country.

But we can’t just sit by and watch a fate that we all know won’t bode well for future generations and hope that someone, anyone, stands up for all of us. We need the 200 visionaries we’ve singled out this year and the 3 500 that have been singled out over the past 18 years to stand up and lead our course correction.

There’s simply no other alternative, no other hero but you.

There’s a joke that *Mail & Guardian* Young South African alumnus, comedian and author Trevor Noah made about a period in our history when we were governed by former president Jacob Zuma that I’ve been thinking about for some time. In the joke, he speaks of the reaction of a few mainly white South Africans to the changes in the country after 1994, where their only thought was about getting the hell out of Africa. During the Zuma era, black South Africans were asking for the same emigration brochures.

Sadly, that feeling was true then and is clearly still being felt now. But we can’t give in

to this feeling of hopelessness, leaving market and political forces to decide our fate without our influence. I’d urge all young people to fight to release the inherent growth potential we have and literally change our lives.

Over the past 18 years, the *Mail & Guardian* has singled out visionary young South Africans excelling in their careers and having a positive effect on their respective sectors and communities. It’s something that we will continue to do for another 18 years. It serves as an important reminder of the good in our society no matter the hopelessness that we often feel.

Ron Derby
Editor-in-chief



How we choose the 200 Young South Africans

You will not find conventional celebrities among the *Mail & Guardian's* 200 Young South Africans. Our criteria are wide and include individual accomplishments with a matching ability to take a leading role in the nominee's field, peer and public recognition and a willingness to give back to society. At the beginning of every year, we open up the nominations process to the public through the website mg.co.za/200youngsouthafricans. This year

we received about 3 000 nominations from the public. Once nominations close, we go through the list thoroughly and shortlist potential finalists for each category based on the nominees' motivations. The finalists are sent questions and the profiles are written based on their answers and the motivation. Keep your ears to the ground and eyes open for the new crop of upcoming talent in the class of 2024 and be sure to nominate them.

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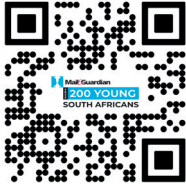
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Scan this QR code with your phone and it will take you to the main page of our special online 200 Young South Africans feature. The QR codes with all the winners will take you to their longer profiles covering their talents, careers and achievements



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ANGLO AMERICAN'S YOUNG SDG INNOVATORS

A scientist who champions sustainability

Itumeleng Mogatusi-Sekgota, (35)
Anglo American
Sustainability Integration and Impact Specialist

Sustainability might be a trendy catchphrase of the moment, but its real-world implications are the driving force behind Itumeleng Mogatusi-Sekgota's work and mission in life.

Mogatusi-Sekgota started her career in the mining industry working for Anglo American as a mine dewatering hydrogeologist — a role which has taken her far afield, including to Chile, where she had the opportunity to work in world-class mining operations managing groundwater.

Her work was focused on groundwater dewatering programmes, hydrogeological characterisation, groundwater exploration, modelling management and water security planning.

Her passion for sustainability work started when she was chosen to participate in the Brightest Young Mind Africa Programme in 2017. The programme connects young leaders and equips them with the skills, mindset and networks needed to create a sustainable impact across Africa.

In 2020, she was voted as the first runner-up in the 2020 UN Global Compact's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Pioneer Competition, recognised for her work in leading sustainability innovation and promoting collaboration that creates better livelihoods for host communities. The UN Global Compact is a voluntary initiative based on the global CEO commitment to implement universal sustainability principles and to take steps to support the UN goals. Each year, the UN Global Compact recognises a class of SDG Pioneers; these are business leaders working at any level of their company who are using business as a force for good to advance the 17 SDGs. Through their own company or by mobilising other businesses, they are helping to reach



one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while also contributing to business success. In 2022, Mogatusi-Sekgota was invited to be an advisor at the Zanzibar Groundwater Management Conference. This experience became a turning point and led to the co-founding of Hydrogeologists Without Borders Africa — an NGO that offers free specialised hydrogeological consulting services to Southern African Development

Community (SADC) countries.

In collaboration with the SADC Groundwater Institute, the organisation provides technical support to water planning ministries, empowering them to develop sustainable solutions for socioeconomic development around groundwater resources.

Mogatusi-Sekgota is a UN Global Compact Sustainable Development Goals Pioneer and has dedicated her efforts to pioneering sustainability practices in the mining and metals industry.

She has successfully led the work of integrating environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations into core mining processes and decision-making. Her dedication to sustainability integration has led her to mentor talented young professionals across various industries in South Africa through the UN Global Compact's Young SDG Innovation Accelerator programme. This initiative encourages businesses to set ambitious goals that focus on profit and prioritise the wellbeing of people and the planet.

Mogatusi-Sekgota envisions a South Africa where businesses bravely embrace their role as development agents, leveraging the power of capitalism to accelerate the National Development Plan 2030.

She believes that South Africa should utilise the available talent and technical expertise in decision-making institutions, especially for critical management of resources such as groundwater.

Mogatusi-Sekgota envisions a South Africa that is proudly African in its approach to legislation, governance and culture; one that creates a safe and secure environment where future generations can feel proud of their African heritage.

Mahlanza wants to change the world and raise the bar higher

Londeka Mahlanza-Langer (30)
Anglo American
Sustainability Performance & Reporting Specialist

Many young people want to change the world. Londeka Mahlanza has made it her calling. She's not only an advocate for ensuring that the mining industry benefits local communities and treads more lightly on the environment, but she's inspiring an entire generation of young women to reach for their dreams. Her leadership abilities were recognised when she was one of the 2019 Mail & Guardian Top 200 Young South Africans in the Environment category, based on her contributions towards enhancing and transforming environmental governance.

Mahlanza is one of Anglo American's Young SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Innovator programme alumni. This programme led by the UN Global Compact, activates future business leaders and change-makers to rethink their companies' business models. The programme provided her with tools and insights that continue to support her as a Sustainability Performance and Reporting Specialist.

"It's been incredible to see how the work we do within the business matches up to the objectives of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. It's shown me how we can tackle some of our complex challenges in an integrated way. What's critical is to have courageous leadership in place, as there is a real business case for operating sustainably that can unlock value for us and all our stakeholders," says Mahlanza.

Her journey is an inspirational one. Originally from the township of KwaNdengezi, outside Pinetown in KwaZulu-Natal, she has established herself as one of Anglo American's leading ESG (environmental, social and governance) practitioners. Her current responsibilities include delivering the business' annual sustainability report and coordinating the annual submissions to external ESG rankings and ratings

agencies, in which Anglo American continues to be a top performer. A key focus, and a personal passion, is to ensure that the company's drive towards carbon neutrality and responsible business practices have a direct and just benefit for the communities in which it operates.

"Our sustainable mining plan is one of our strategic tools for delivering on our Purpose of reimagining mining to improve people's lives. The UN SDG programme is an incredible aid for amplifying the ambitions of this plan. It shows how sustainability issues cut across all aspects of the business and helps us identify opportunities where the most impact can be made," she says.

Her stellar academic career saw her complete an MA at the University of Cape Town and a Master's in Nature Society and Environmental Governance at the University of Oxford, funded through the prestigious Chevening scholarship.

Today, she works tirelessly to get more young women into the mining industry, seeking opportunities to break down the deep-rooted structural, cultural, and socioeconomic barriers that prevent women from taking their seat at the decision-making table. One of those contributions is made through the initiatives that empower female leaders of tomorrow as a steering committee member in Anglo American's WoMine (Women in Mining) colleague network.

As a panellist at the Young Leaders Programme (at the Mining Indaba 2023), Mahlanza spoke about ways to continue attracting young people into the mining sector: "A big part of achieving this goal is through showcasing the full value chain of mining and all the exciting facets of this sector — upstream, operationally and downstream. This is a diverse industry where there is room for everyone and almost every conceivable

profession. A mining company can be a technology solutions provider, a multi-nutrient product supplier, and a social development partner.

"The African continent is rich in resources and equally rich in youth capital — progressing this sector is a critical part of the current socioeconomic climate and the future of young people. I'm excited to be in an



ENTERPRISE & SUPPLIER DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS LEADERS

Blazing a trail for women in the construction industry

Sanna Sebone (34)
Construction entrepreneur
Anglo American Zimele beneficiary

Sanna Sebone qualified as a quantity surveyor, but the spirit of entrepreneurship burned brightly within her, so she founded Sebongi Construction in 2018, with her own money.

The construction sector in South Africa is a notoriously difficult space for women, but Sebone is steadily claiming that space as her own. She started off with just two employees and now has 179.

The dedication and hard work have paid off. She was awarded her first construction project in 2019. In 2020 the business managed to secure an earthworks project in Bendel for a Covid-19 Health Facility, followed by a few other major projects to fully launch her business as a noticeable player in the civil and construction sector.

Her 100% female-owned construction company has rapidly become a force to be reckoned with in the Northern Cape.

But even with these successes, attracting new clients in a very competitive industry proved difficult, and this is where Anglo American Zimele's Enterprise and Supplier Development programme stepped in.

Through a structured programme at Anglo American's Sishen hub, Sebone's business received intensive training and support in the areas of financial management as well as marketing and growth strategies.

The nine-month mentorship and coaching sessions were rolled out and a comprehensive development plan was designed after a full assessment of the business. The sessions focused on the aims

and objectives of the development plan, and customer relations and marketing initiatives were managed through social media platforms and emails and strategies to identify and attract new market segments. Proper recording of financial transactions was made to better inform decision making.

Proof of the impact of the training can be seen in the financial performance of Sebongi Construction — a growth of 187% in revenue during the nine months of the programme.

For Sebone, two major contracts stand out. Her company partnered with a larger company on a mining project to build core yard and waste facilities that involved the construction of concrete columns, bases and slabs.

Then there is the 100MW solar tower project, in which Sebongi Construction partnered with an international company to build a huge tower.

"During phase 1 of the project we constructed the concrete foundation base, and then we assembled and installed the slide mechanism/platform that we used to construct the 210m high concrete tower. "I have many highlights from the project.

Just being part of the project was a triumph, but the best is that we completed the entire high-risk project with zero serious injuries and zero fatalities."



Paying it forward while building a successful career

Sharon Mashishi (27)
Entrepreneur
Anglo American Zimele beneficiary

Sharon Mashishi is not someone who thinks small. At just 27, Mashishi, a young woman from Mapela Ga-Chaba in the Mogalakwena region (Limpopo), owns two companies and employs more than 60 people. She started an aviation programme at her former school, Tlakana Primary School, and she donates shoes and jerseys to Tlakana as well as to Mmantutule High School, both in her hometown. She is also working towards realising her career dream of becoming a human resource generalist. She has obtained her national diploma in human resource management and is now working towards her advanced diploma.

Following her father's advice in 2016, Mashishi registered her first company, Bahlaping Mash Trading & Projects, which started manufacturing and supplying cable trestles and poles to one of Anglo American mines in Limpopo.

Her ambitious business move was done while completing her national human resource management diploma at Tshwane University of Technology.

Her journey was not easy, as she had to balance studies and business. The company had no accounting system in place, and worked on a six-month rather than an annual budget, without any succession plan.

Mashishi's break came after she set up a meeting with an SMME development manager at one of the Anglo American's mines. She took the advice to work with a technical partner so that she could learn and develop her business skills.

This led to a mentoring opportunity through Anglo American Zimele. This programme, sponsored by Anglo



American, operates business hubs that provide training space, mentorship and coaching programmes, computers and WiFi. They are staffed with business development teams.

The hubs focus on supporting SMMEs in areas including business acumen, strategic thinking, market orientation, leadership, project management and financial planning. Mashishi was also fortunate to be part of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) programme, which is currently assisting with her book-keeping processes.

In 2020, Zimele's support created the opportunity for Mashishi to enter a three-year joint venture contract with Enginet, an engineering firm, for pit reticulation services at Mogalakwena mine. Since securing this contract, the company has grown rapidly to 63 employees, 98% of whom are from Anglo American's host community in Mogalakwena.

Her consistency and hard work resulted in her becoming a director and 51% shareholder of another company, Bahlaping Enginet, which provides pit reticulation services at Mogalakwena mine. The company focuses on construction, civil, electrical, and mechanical construction and engineering services. It also provides products and services such as trusses, reflective poles and transport services.

Mashishi has obtained knowledge and skills through the supplier development programme. The programme afforded her the opportunity to re-engineer her business in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and develop an alternative model to drive its growth.

But her proudest achievements are the ones where she is paying it forward — like the aviation programme at Tlakana Primary School, which the learners completed in 2021, and donations of school shoes and jerseys to 40 learners at local schools.

ENTREPRENEURIAL DISRUPTORS

Rising from the ashes to build a lasting legacy

Zanele Matome (41)
Entrepreneur
Impact Finance Network

At 21, Zanele Matome dropped out of university to become an entrepreneur and start a construction company in Rustenburg. Within a few years, she was running a successful business. However, when her largest client was forced to close down, she lost everything overnight. “My three children and I had to move back in with my mother. I was flying high, but suddenly it was all gone,” she recalls. But you can’t keep a good entrepreneur down for long. Matome took the last of her money, asked her mom to look after her kids, and got on a plane to California’s Silicon Valley to pursue a tech start-up dream. She fought her way into every tech event she could find; eventually meeting with Uber executives who helped her with preparing pitches. When she ran out of money, she mopped floors at tech events, attended the events and then mopped the floors again. Today, she heads Welo, a thriving business that offers medicine delivery, at-home nursing services and outsourced services like medical assessments. Her clients include a large medical aid company, SANParks, Hitachi and a mining company. Initially pitched to people with medical aid who needed medicines delivered to their homes, she soon realised that blue collar workers were her key audience. “For someone to pick up their medicine from a public hospital means taking a day off work and queuing for hours. I never thought that would be a market, but people are happy to pay if we collect and deliver their medicine,” says Matome.



In the early days, she hired students to queue and collect medicine, which they then delivered by scooters. Then she joined Anglo American’s Impact Finance Network, which helps small companies scale and grow their business by getting them ready for impact investments. The network identifies businesses that have the potential to benefit from impact investment, prepares them for investment, and matches them with the right investors, with the ultimate aim of closing investment transactions to support economic, societal or environmental development. The biggest benefit of the Impact Finance Network programme was the mentoring support it provided when it came to hiring staff, offering advice about finances, and financial projections. “The finance part was important. To build a world-class company, you need to get your financial foundation in order,” she says. The network’s support also includes providing targeted technical assistance like business plan and financial model preparation, deal room structure review and pitch preparation or review, and matching and introductions with the right investors. Today, Matome has secured investment funding and is focused on building Welo into a legacy business that uses technology to give ordinary South Africans the convenience and accessibility of healthcare solutions and interventions. Welo already supports more than 400 indirect jobs as part of its network of healthcare professionals and drivers. “We got so much help from this programme. It gave us the building blocks to take our business to another level,” she says.

Automating protected farming to ensure jobs and food security

Joel van der Schyff (38)
Entrepreneur
Impact Finance Network

In this ever-changing and ever-growing world, the need to produce a lot of food is critical. Climate change, water scarcity and electricity constraints and an increasingly expanding population mean that farmers have to adapt to new methods of growing food. Joel van der Schyff and his business AgriLogiq are using technology to revolutionise farming. Agri-Logiq provides simple, reliable, poly-tunnel greenhouse climate control automation systems. The critical technology focuses on large-scale tunnel automation, allowing farmers to have full control over when and how their tunnels operate. In practical terms this means helping a 40-hectare blueberry farm automate its operations to get a correct set of data, resulting in a zero loss of product. It also means that 500 to 700 seasonal pickers have jobs. The technology means farmers can reduce their electricity usage by up to 80%, and use less water through micro-dosing crops rather than watering once a day and losing the run-off. Van der Schyff’s journey with food automation technology started in 2008 and he took the leap to work directly with farmers in 2020 when the Covid pandemic was at its height. While preparing to teach a class on entrepreneurship and raising capital, he reached out to investor friends to get a feel of the landscape, because the world had irrevocably changed with the pandemic. One investor casually mentioned that he was in the market to invest in agritech start-ups, and it just so happened that a friend of Joel’s was working on the AgriLogiq concept. “I bought into the company, and we started building and growing it. Our aim is to become a global company renowned for its technology solutions for protected agriculture.” Technology is at the heart of what AgriLogiq does, but it does not mean humans are left out of the equation.



“The future is hybrid farming, not the sci-fi stuff we see in movies, but having crops on the open field and in protected environments — think greenhouses and shade nets). Automation is the co-pilot to the farmer. It can aid in

making farming more efficient, producing more with less.” “As an example: a 100-hectare open field can be a 12-hectare closed farm. This means downscaling land, chemical and water usage and upscaling quantity and yield,” Van der Schyff explains. This contributes significantly to preserving our natural resources by being less damaging to nature and limiting deforestation. “Change needs to happen to ensure food security, but we also must make sure we are able to produce food in affordable quantities so that all the people in our country can benefit. Technology is the key to enabling this.” The rapid growth of AgriLogiq is due in no small part to the company taking part in Anglo American’s Impact Finance Network programme. This was Anglo’s first Impact Investment initiative and is designed to focus on identifying businesses with the potential to benefit from impact investment, preparing them for investment, and matching them with the right investors, with the ultimate aim of closing investment transactions. Impact investing is still an emerging form of investment and there are often barriers to be overcome. Although a business may have the potential to thrive, scale and deliver local benefits, entrepreneurs don’t always recognise that they are suitable for this kind of investment. Before taking part in this programme, AgriLogiq had three employees; now they have nine and are supporting a total of over 1 200 indirect jobs. They have built and implemented 25 greenhouse control systems since this intervention and have played a huge role in expanding job creation. This has happened within the space of just 12 months. Major contracts are also on the horizon. “The programme completely accelerated our growth. Without their deep technical knowledge and understanding of economics, we would not be where we are. They helped us refine our working model and I am deeply thankful for their support,” says Van der Schyff.

THE CHANGE MAKERS

Beating adversity and heartache to forge a new future

Itumeleng Mokobane (21)
Anglo American ICT Learnership Graduate

Meet Itumeleng Mokobane, a bright young lady from Ga-Raowele in Limpopo who chose to remain in her village to inspire the youth. Mokobane seized an opportunity to work as a technical support staff member, focusing on educating her former teachers about the use of technology as classrooms transform to modernisation. In grade eight she lost her mother, and without her father in her life, she found herself being the parent to her two little sisters, a responsibility she took very seriously. Moving around between uncles and aunts who gave them shelter, Itumeleng battled at school and failed grade 10. She was not discouraged and was fortunate to benefit from Anglo American's Education Programme, which offered extra lessons in maths and other subjects. With the help of a relentless mathematics teacher, her marks improved, and she was able to move beyond grade 11. "I was stressed because I was looking after my sisters and moved to a new school. I did not have time to study, but my maths teacher — a subject I hated — made me realise it was not all so bad. When my marks improved, which motivated me to keep doing well and keep improving." In her matric year, Mokobane applied to be part of the six-month Anglo American Google Sprint programme. The programme saw more than 150 grade 12 students from schools around Anglo American mining operations complete IT Support, UX/UI Design, project management, and data analytics courses. As a result of this, she decided to pursue ICT further and applied

at the end of her matric to the Anglo American ICT learnership programme. The ICT learnership programme is focused on developing technical ICT competencies alongside other professional capabilities. The learnership aims to give candidates certified skills and experience through on-the-job training, with the goal of ensuring they secure jobs in the ICT sector and breach the country's massive digital skills gap. The 12-month SETA-accredited learnership is managed through an Anglo American partnership by local development specialists Summit. Each student receives a monthly stipend, a device and data, and is allocated an employee mentor by Anglo American. At least 40% of their time is spent doing practical training. Mokobane embraced the ICT learnership and chose to remain in her community despite having a choice to go to university. She saved every cent she could from the stipend so that she could feed and clothe her siblings.



"The course was hard, coding is very hard, but I persevered. The course also teaches us about work ethics, how to communicate with colleagues, and how to handle problems. It taught me valuable life skills," she says. Upon completion of the 12-month ICT learnership, she accepted a job at Edunova, an Anglo American partner which works in the education sector in South Africa. Their aim is to focus on the effective use of Information and Communication Technologies in schools, primarily working with schools in disadvantaged communities across the country. Here she not only earns a salary but is able to plough back into her community. She works in technical support, focusing on educators in schools and teaching them how to use technology like computers, printers and projectors in their classrooms. "It is so satisfying. Most people don't get this lucky. I am face-to-face with my former teachers; being on the other side of the desk is good. I also realised that I love teaching people." And all the while, Mokobane is still saving every cent she can. In fact, so successful has this savings drive been that she was able to buy a plot of land in her village and is working towards building a house for her and her siblings on it. This year she also saved enough to buy a fridge, the first one the family has owned. As for her future ambitions? She wants to open her own business, teaching both young and old how to use technology. "Most people in my village are new to technology, and I am here to teach them. I will remain in my community to show other young people that they can achieve their dreams."

Shining bright, like a diamond in the sky

Bheki Ngema (37)
Entrepreneur and jewellery designer
De Beers Beneficiation programme

From observing his grandmother's reaction to a ring, to sitting metres from Kim Kardashian at a function, to opening the first black-owned flagship jewellery store — that's the meteoric rise of jeweller Bheki Ngema. Ngema grew up in Barberton watching his father trying to make something for himself and his family as an entrepreneur, and the lessons he learnt stuck. It was his dad's business lessons and values that guided Ngema's success as a pioneering jewellery designer in South Africa. He fought against all odds to open a high-end retail store, and while many malls turned him down, he finally opened BEN & Co Designs in Menlyn Mall early in 2021. The name was created from the first letters of each of his three names, Bhekithemba Ernest Ngema. He is one of the first black jewellery store retailers in South Africa. This obviously came with its challenges in terms of limited foot traffic from Covid restrictions, and keeping up with the rental, but he has recovered from it. His company is now a luxury brand that caters to middle-class and high-end buyers. Ngema was the overall winner of the 2008/09 De Beers Shining Light Awards. The Shining Light Awards (SLA) is a jewellery design and manufacture competition by De Beers Group to create opportunities for designers in its diamond producer partner countries South Africa, Botswana, Canada and Namibia, as part of the company's beneficiation focus. He has also been a judge and technical guide for the SLA competition since 2018/19.



All Shining Lights finalists receive opportunities to further their design skills, with the winners each receiving a one-year postgraduate scholarship at one of the world's leading jewellery design schools — the Politecnico di Milano in Milan, Italy. While it was the first of many awards, it was the thing that put him 100 steps ahead of his peers. "The exposure from this competition has elevated me to higher grounds; without it I would not be where I am today." In 2016, BEN & Co Designs won the Luxury Jewellery Brand award at the Luxury Lifestyle Awards in Dubai and received the prestigious Golden Crown, a 24-karat gold trophy custom-designed by renowned jeweller, Faraone Mennella. The most recent feather in Ngema's cap was being named the winner of the Nedbank Business Ignite award in 2019. He exports his creations to Dubai and has showcased them in Miami (US) and France. Ngema's jewellery designs take their inspiration from architecture, because that is the other love of his life. A spectacularly intricate diamond ring was created after he saw a spiral staircase and just thought, "why not?" to himself. He takes a fully hands-on approach when it comes to his jewellery. All his designs are custom-made in consultation with the client, and when he is not designing and making high-end white gold and diamond bracelets, rings and earrings, he applies his talents to beaded and semiprecious stone designs.

SOME QUESTIONS SEEK ANSWERS OTHERS SEEK CHANGE



THE CLASS OF 1976 FOUGHT SO THAT THE CLASS OF 2023 WOULD BE #FREETOASK



NOT?



200 Young South Africans 2023

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Ongama Mhlontlo

Composer and opera singer

His beautiful, expressive voice has taken tenor and composer Ongama Mhlontlo, 27, from Mthatha in the Eastern Cape to the stages of New York. He creates and performs original music, and he also teaches music. This year alone, his achievements include premiering his latest song cycle, *Stranger in New York*, at Don't Tell Mama club in New York, performing at Carnegie Hall with the Oratorio Society of New York and being the tenor soloist in Dietrich Buxtehude's *Membra Jesu Nostri* at Brick Presbyterian Church. He performed the lead role in Sarah Norcross Hough's world premiere of *Ulysses Missa* at the 2022 New York Theatre Festival. The University of Cape Town graduate, who also holds a master's in classical voice from the Manhattan School of Music, is passionate about sharing South Africa's unique stories with the opera world through his compositions, programming and teaching. "I have a vision for South Africa to become a cultural powerhouse on the global stage. As history has shown, thriving arts and culture industries are often the hallmark of prosperous societies." He says that as a performer in what is predominantly a Western art form, it is his duty to promote stories and music inspired by South Africa and the rest of the continent. Ongama says: "As an artist, what drives me to excel is my insatiable passion for storytelling. I believe that storytelling has the power to change the world and inspire others."



Tumelo Candice Modiselle

Storyteller, host and social entrepreneur

Tumelo Candice Modiselle is a woman who loves the arts. She describes herself as an actress, storyteller, host and social entrepreneur. Tumelo is the executive producer and host of *The Five Minute Call* on YouTube and is the founder and chief executive of Sellé Jewellery. The entertainment scene has always been part of her character. The 29-year-old recalls being seven years old and standing in the lounge in front of her mother and older sisters impersonating musicians and reading out the Lotto instructions as if she were a game show host. "They were my first and best audience to date," she says. Tumelo uses *The Five Minute Call Show* to create a space for emerging creatives. This is done through guest interviews and educational episodes



and promotes an attitude of diligence, discipline and respect in an industry that's often overlooked and undervalued. Her career as an actress includes being part of the leading cast of the first African Disney Plus Anthology, *Kizazi Moto: Generation Fire*, an animated science fiction anthology that draws on the continent's histories and cultures. She also worked on *Generations* and acted in Netflix's *Jiva*. Tumelo's career milestones as a presenter include hosting the first *Forbes* 30 under 30. As an entrepreneur she was a recipient of the Panache Woman of Wonder Awards.

Khanyi Mlaba

Editor and content manager, Global Citizen

You've never been too loud, in fact, you could be louder, is the advice Khanyi Mlaba, 29, would tell her younger self. As a journalist dedicated to placing underreported stories from Africa into the global spotlight, her fresh approach to covering stories led to being promoted from writer to editor and content manager for Southern and Eastern Africa at Global Citizen, an international education and advocacy organisation. She reported on the cholera outbreak in Malawi, covered the Tigray war in Ethiopia, and discrimination against African students in Ukraine. Khanyi spent the past year calling for justice for a group of African students trapped in Ukraine, which led to students from the Global Black Coalition being invited to speak at the United Nations office in Geneva, Switzerland. She has also spearheaded campaigns in Global Citizen to raise awareness about



human rights violations around the world and educate people on the role of civil society. She has become the face and co-producer of social media discussions on various platforms such as Twitter Spaces, Instagram Lives and LinkedIn Lives. Through her work Khanyi is shaping how to report on poverty and human rights violations. By working to address African issues with an African voice she is promoting an inclusive and multinational approach to issues in South Africa.



Zanele Potelwa

Presenter, MC, voiceover artist, actor, DJ and content creator

At 29, Zanele Potelwa is one of the youngest award-winning broadcasters in South Africa. She is a radio and television presenter at 5FM, on the lunch show, and SABC 1, on *Selimathunzi*, the longest-running magazine show in the country. Zanele, along with her producer and co-host, was nominated at the 2023 Radio Awards. She recently joined SABC Sport as a presenter for its new Netball World Cup show. Zanele has also hosted events such as the GenNext Awards, and describes herself as "one of the lucky MCs who is trusted by brands such as Disney, Spar and Sorbet to bring life to their events". Last year, she was a red carpet host for the South African Music Awards and the inaugural SA Amapiano Award and a black carpet host for the MetroFM Music Awards 2023. Zanele started The Zanele Potelwa Foundation, where she organises food and clothing drives, donates sanitary pads and supports young women in need. "I want to see South Africa as a safe place for women — femicide needs to end," she says. "I hope for more peace and understanding of each other and for that to be a big priority. There should be no room for racism, homophobia, transphobia and bigotry. South Africa should be a safe space for all and one that encourages the positive growth of its people."



Nkululeko Zilibokwe

Managing director

Triple Double Media managing director Nkululeko Zilibokwe would tell his younger self to trust the process. "This means letting go and having faith that things will eventually work out in their own time," says the 29-year-old, who founded the company in 2018. "For instance, trusting the process with my career means that while I am not exactly where I imagined being, I am working my way to getting there with every step." Triple Double Media specialises in public relations campaigns and talent management in the music and entertainment industries. His job at Triple Double Media involves developing a brand identity and service offering; building a team of professionals; securing clients and creating strategic partnerships. Nkululeko has gained valuable knowledge of the African show-



biz scene during his eight years as a journalist and in communications. Triple Double Media has worked with some of the biggest names and organisations in entertainment and film on the continent, such as DJ Cuppy, Dax, Gazza and Paradise. Nkululeko graduated from the Caxton Journalism School in 2015. In 2019, he was selected as one of 15 personalities in arts in Africa as part of the Talents Durban programme and was a Rising Star Awards semi-finalist in the Media and Advertising category last year.



Nontokozi Tshabalala

Multidisciplinary artist and co-founder of a design studio

Nontokozi Tshabalala, 29, is an award-winning multidisciplinary artist, poet, Afrofuturist, designer and co-founder of the Mam'Gobozi Design Factory. She says the core of what she does looks at navigating the world as a black South African woman and, more importantly, it's about creating endless possibilities within and beyond that context. Nontokozi holds a BA in graphic design from the University of Johannesburg and a master's in design from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Among her awards are the upcoming 2023 Röda Sten Konsthall exhibition (Sweden); exhibiting at the 2021 Göteborg International Biennial for Contemporary Art (GIBCA) Extended (Sweden); and winning the 2021 Loeries Young Creative Award. Nontokozi says she had the privilege



of being raised by her grandmother, uNomasonto Tshabalala, who always affirmed her. Nontokozi says her grandmother told her to "live a life of breaking records". These words encouraged her to look around and see what she could do differently — and to do it with a lot of courage. In 2019, Nontokozi developed Creative Joint Session: Creatives Shall Govern, an empowering initiative aimed at creating a space where artists can meet to discuss the different fields they are in.



Kiveshan Thumbiran

Lecturer in photography and digital media

Kiveshan "Jives" Thumbiran, 29, is a lecturer in photography and digital media at Stellenbosch University's visual art department who believes in encouraging students never to give up. As well as teaching and supervising students from first year to master's level, Kiveshan is a dynamic researcher using art practice-based methodologies. "I am performing research by making art," he explains. His mission is to transform and decolonise the tertiary education space through teaching and research. As a master's degree student he won the Excellence in Higher Education 2017 awards, hosted by iStore and ThinkAhead. The judges said: "He has taken a 'computer course' for media students and transformed that into a 'new media studies' course, in which he uses technology in an innovative way to teach art. He changed the course not only in terms of content but also in the way of teaching. While technology is used extensively to present the course, the focus is not on technology but on the learning content." Kiveshan aims to reshape South Africa by making art that breaks the boundaries of who is allowed to call themselves African. He is paving the way for the South African Indian-born diaspora to take part in the South African art scene through his teaching as a lecturer as well as his work as a practising artist.



Jane Mpholo

Multidisciplinary artist

Jane Mpholo, 34, is a multidisciplinary performance artist and audience development specialist at the Performing Arts Centre of the Free State. She wants to creating employment and help others make a career out of their art. Jane has been involved in skills training programmes and social inclusivity initiatives, especially concerning gender-based violence. Through her work, she has given voices to thousands of people and has established a broad social services assistance network for those in need. Her highlights as a multilingual writer include being selected as one of the top five playwrights nationally for the NATi Rising Stars Project for Upcoming Playwrights for her contemporary poetic script *The Dawn*, which debuted at the 2022 Suidoosterfees. Jane is the founder of Jane Mpholo Pty Ltd and co-director at Vukollective. As a strategist, she is remarkable at adapting to change and rethinking approaches. During the pandemic, she entered the digital space and added filmmaking to her resume. Among her film, theatre and altruistic nominations and awards, a notable mention is her three kykNET Fiesta nominations — being recognised by the Afrikaans arts industry as an English/Sotho artist creating cutting-edge work transcending language and culture. Jane is a pioneer and changemaker in the arts.





200 Young South Africans 2023

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Phupho Gumede K

Celebrity stylist and fashion creative director

Phupho Gumede K, 23, is an award-winning pan-African celebrity stylist, creative director and reality television star. His job entails putting together looks and building an image for public figures. He is a stylist for some of Africa's biggest celebrities such as Diamond Platnumz, 2Face Idibia, Khanyi Mbau, Zari the Boss Lady and Annie Idibia. Phupho boasts of being the first person to style 21 magazine covers before the age of 21, including *GQ* and *Glamour* magazines. He was involved in season one of *The Real Housewives of Durban* on Showmax and Bravo, where he drew in viewers with his larger-than-life personality. He contributed to the over-the-top image of the first series of Netflix's *Young Famous & African*. Phupho has been named head of wardrobe for the second season, making him the streaming service's youngest ever head of department. He was inducted into *Forbes Africa's* 30 Under 30 Class of 2022, giving him international recognition. "The young 'isiZulu queer' stylist from Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, has made it," *Forbes Africa* said of him. Phupho wants to help up-and-coming South Africans. "Everything we went through to break through in all our industries, we need to make sure to leave the door open, so they don't have the same struggles, and the ones in front of us must do the same. And that is the only way we will move forward as a society," he says.



Sibusisiwe Gugu Manqele

Writer, scholar, actress and social entrepreneur

Sibusisiwe Gugu Manqele wears many caps in the arts and entertainment industry. The 32-year-old writes scripts for television, is a sought-after voiceover artist on TV and radio and directs plays. She also writes papers on pressing matters related to her research in the arts and entertainment field, which she presents locally and internationally. And she writes and produces her own independent projects. Sibusisiwe's screen credits include writing for *Gomora* seasons one and two, *House of Zwide* season one, *Umkhokha* season two, and SABC 1's educational drama series, *Skeem Saam* season 11. She also independently produced a short film, *Questions*, which was screened in Paris at Communicating Multi-Modally: Research & Expressive Culture in May 2022. She had a lead role on *Intersexions* in 2013, and a feature role in *Saints and Sinners* on Mzansi Magic. Her current research projects are a documentary that will create employment opportunities for women, as well as an innovative project that looks at social cohesion in the entertainment industry. She was the keynote speaker at the inaugural annual Gibson Kente Lecture. Sibusisiwe has a valuable array of interests and skills that will pave the way for more young people in the academy and entertainment industry.



Mercia Wechoemang

Film producer, events and artists manager

Mercia Wechoemang, who was born in Kimberley, is a film producer, and events and artists manager at Wall of Arts Trading. Now 33, she started working at the age of 19 as a debt collector at a call centre and studied sports management. From these beginnings Mercia has gone on to become the first black female film producer to produce a documentary and shoot it in Kimberley. Called *The Spirit*, it celebrates the life and times of one of South Africa's best-known figures, Frances Baard, who was born in Kimberley and fought against the apartheid regime, taking part in the 1956 Women's March to the Union Buildings and participating in the drafting of the Freedom Charter. The documentary has won two international awards. Mercia's purpose in the arts and entertainment is



multifaceted, and one is to be behind the scenes creating magic and telling stories. She has created a space for artists in her hometown to get opportunities outside the Northern Cape and has shared information on funding, and on film gigs. Mercia believes that to succeed a person should find their purpose, fight for it, and focus on it. She says there is no short road to success and that only hard work, determination, discipline and working smart will lead to success.

Khetsiwe 'Doowap' Morgan

DJ, sound engineer and artist

Khetsiwe 'Doowap' Morgan, 33, a live mix, DJ, radio and TV host, sound engineer and performing artist, is a game-changer and innovator in the music and creative sector that has shaken the scene with her innovative hairstyles, bold outfits, eclectic music and inspiring world tours. Doowap is a proudly South African musical prodigy. She had her own show on YFM and was Ricky Rick's DJ for a few years touring around the country. She has performed at every major festival in South Africa as well as at international festivals such as Afropunk (Jozi and New York), Mysteryland (Netherlands), Soulection show at Brooklyn Mirage in New York, Boiler Room and Sole DXB in Dubai. Doowap's EP, *Mood Swings*, received great acclaim. She has also collaborated with brands such as Daily Paper, BMW, Hennessy, the NBA, Sole DXB and



Street Cred. After receiving a springboard diving scholarship to complete matric at Kingsmead in Rosebank, Johannesburg, Doowap joined Team SA and competed internationally for five years. This experience gave her a champion go-getter mentality. With her parents owning night clubs such as Morgans and Insomnia in the 1990s and early 2000s, which hosted DJs and artists that included Glen Lewis, Oskido and Boom Shaka, she fell in love with music at an early age.

Terry-Ann Adams

Author and disability rights advocate

Terry-Ann Adams, 30, is a writer and disability rights advocate. They are the author of two books, *Those Who Live In Cages* and *White Chalk*, a short story collection, both published by Jacana Media. Terry-Ann's work covers intersectional identity in the post-apartheid context with a special focus on feminism, race, disability and queer expression. "As a disabled person, I advocate for inclusive and equitable access for people with disabilities with a special focus on digital accessibility using my platform as an author." *Those Who Live In Cages* was longlisted for the Humanities and Social Sciences Awards (2021) and the *Sunday Times* Literary Awards (2021) and is critically acclaimed for its portrayal of coloured women and the community of Eldorado Park. *White Chalk* was awarded Best Fiction Short Stories at the HSS Awards (2023) and stories from the collection have been taught in universities in South Africa and the United States. It has been lauded for its portrayals of coloured identity, queer characters, and its depiction of disabled characters. As a person with albinism who is also autistic, Terry-Ann wants digital accessibility for disabled South Africans, and raises awareness of mental health, albinism and autism. They also use social media to raise awareness and speak on panels, locally and internationally.



Monthati Masebe

Music composer, pianist, actor, African indigenous music archivist

Monthati Masebe is a multi-talented artist who also runs Masebe Music | Konkara: (un) hidden art hives. They started their career at an early age — learning to play Alicia Keys' *Diary* by ear when they were 10 and holding concerts in their bedroom where people would pay R10 to attend. Now, at the age of 27, Monthati composes music for operas, orchestras and films. "The music is most times centred on my work as an archivist. With hundreds of thousands of instruments in the African continent, I cement my sound around amplifying our underrepresented art forms and working with digital music tech to create virtual exhibition spaces," they said. Monthati is also studying towards a PhD in composition at Duke University, North Carolina, in the US. They are a board member of the Indigenous African Music Project run by Southern African Music Rights Organisation and were one of 10 international composers to receive a fellowship with the Goethe-Institut and the Ensemble Recherche, a German classical music ensemble of nine soloists. Monthati's music has been performed by music ensembles in Boston, Sweden, Tokyo, Berlin and Birmingham in the United Kingdom. Monthati's interest goes beyond music to include South Africa having a green economy.



Weza Matomane

Chief executive and founder

Weza Matomane, 31, is the founder and chief executive of Bluecloud AI and WTG Media House. Over the past decade he has become one of South Africa's top voiceover artists and leads a team in delivering innovative digital campaigns for SABC1, Sasol, Sanral and Metro FM, among others. He has also opened up the industry for many young people by training and mentoring more than 600 aspiring voiceover artists from around the world through his online academy. He regularly hosts workshops to give South African youths the skills they need to work in the entertainment industry. Weza has helped establish a number of nonprofit companies, including Unplugged & Incharge and the South African Social Media Awards. Weza believes the digital age has many employment opportunities and aims to empower the youth by contributing to the establishment of an influencer economy and e-commerce revolution in South Africa through tech start-ups such as Bluecloud AI and DROPD. He believes this country has the potential to produce more leaders of the digital age and he envisions it as a "thriving nation with a higher number of highly skilled and educated youth that are ready to compete on the global stage".



Dahlia Maubane

Co-founder, photographer, creative director and arts facilitator

Photographer and multimedia designer Dahlia Maubane, 35, is a co-founder and creative director who helps women artists working in urban spaces. Her photographic series on informal hairstylists in downtown Johannesburg gained international recognition and awards, most notably the inaugural Market Photo Workshop Alumnus award in 2018. Dahlia was also a Loeries finalist in the social media category in 2020. Various iterations of *Woza Sisi* have been shown at the Joburg Photo Umbrella in 2014, in the Mahikeng city centre in 2017 and Lagos Photo festival, Nigeria, in 2018. Together with photographer Bongiviwe Phakathi and curator Fulufhelo Mobadi, she led the founding of the Woza Sisi Collective, a female-led organisation dedicated to increasing opportunities for black women artists interested in photography. Dahlia was the photographer in residence at the 2012 International Summer Academy of Fine Arts in Salzburg and participated in the inaugural Kampala Art Biennale in 2014. She has contributed to photo books for a number of contemporary photographers. Starting out with design work at the Market Photo Workshop in 2013, Dahlia mentors photographers from across the country. Notable publications that she has designed include Lusanda Ndita's *Indoda Entsundu*.





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 **African Bank**
Audacity to believe

African Bank: A story of Audacity

Audacity. It is defined as “the willingness to take surprisingly bold risks”. You will find it in every great achievement, from Nelson Mandela’s long walk to freedom, to a house that starts off as a dream and ends up as a home. Audacity is what allows the seemingly impossible to become possible.

In 1964, a group of audacious black business leaders gathered for the inaugural NAFCOC (the National African Federated Chambers of Commerce) meeting in Soweto. Among them were the founding chairperson of African Bank, Dr Sam Motsuenyane, and business legend Dr Richard Maponya. Eager to find a solution to the lack of funding available to black businesses at the time, they resolved to form their own bank. According to Dr Motsuenyane, it was then that some of the members insisted that, to keep the dream alive, they should begin the process of raising funds for their bank there and then.

“Some guys said ‘but when we leave from here, we are going to lose this idea of starting our own bank. Why don’t we look into our pockets, and take out any money that’s in the pockets, and put it on the table’. R70 was raised...”

R70. It isn’t much in today’s money. Back then, it was nowhere close to the R1 million needed to start a bank. In 1972, Dr Motsuenyane travelled to London to lobby Barclays to assist with training staff and to invest in the bank. Yet another audacious move. But it paid off. In 1975, African Bank was born. It had taken 10 years of hard graft and determination, but the dream had finally become a reality. A bank for the people, by the people, serving the people.

The path to success is never a straight road. There will be twists and turns, obstacles, and potholes. African Bank has faced many challenges in its quest to serve the people. But the vision held by our founders is a dream that has refused to die. Today, African Bank is a growing institution, constantly strengthening its capacity to partner with our communities and entrepreneurs on that path to prosperity.

The year 2022, in particular, was a momentous year for African Bank. It was the year in which we acquired Grindrod Bank, and the majority of Ubank’s assets and liabilities. The Grindrod Bank acquisition will accelerate the return to our original mandate, which was to help the underserved entrepreneurs of South Africa.

When Ubank ran into trouble, African Bank decided to pick up the baton and continue to provide essential financial services to mine workers and their families. The acquisition of the majority of Ubank’s assets and liabilities not only aligned with African Bank’s strategic vision, but it also underlined the founding philosophy that inspired our creation. “This deal fits into our strategy of building a scalable and sustainable bank with a compelling listable proposition,” says Sibongiseni Ngundze, our Chief Executive Officer for Consumer Banking.

“The vision of our founders, of ‘an African Bank for the people, by the people, serving the people’, demands that we strive to make a meaningful difference in our country and in the lives of those who contribute so much to our economy.”

It is a deal that will give former Ubank customers access to even more products and services, as well as a wider network of Branches. Though many banks have closed down their physical locations in favour of purely digital services, we know that our customers at times prefer face-to-face interaction when it comes to important financial decisions. As a result, we have bucked the trend and expanded our Branch network, taking African Bank to the people, wherever they may be.

The audacity to believe that you can realise your goals and dreams is the beating heart of the African Bank story. It is this bold energy that has allowed us to weather many storms and emerge stronger, wiser, and even more determined to fulfil our purpose of advancing lives. Throughout the years, so many of our customers have seen their lives changed for the better by the products we offer. Houses have been built and renovated. Children have graduated in front of proud parents. Small businesses have found the support they needed to grow. African Bank is a champion of the audacious, your partner in finding your true potential and making things happen.

Do you have the audacity to believe?

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 **African Bank**
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200 Young South Africans 2023 BUSINESS



Nicole Mountain

Lead, venture programmes and country stakeholder relations

Nicole Mountain, 27, is the lead for venture programmes and heads up building stakeholder relations at Ventures 54, a venture capital investment and business consulting firm that helps build sustainable relations between Africa's tech, startup, investment ecosystems and the rest of the world. She is responsible for mobilising deal flow across Southern Africa to tech-enabled early-stage businesses focused on health, climate, education and finance. She also manages an investor relations programme in the United Kingdom and Africa. To this end, she manages 50+ deal-flow partners and leads the sourcing, diligence and selection of high-growth companies. Nicole started her career in global corporate innovation at Barclays Africa, building venture communities between pan-African fintech entrepreneurs and stakeholders. She has also designed educational programmes to demystify venture financing for women in business. Nicole's resume boasts impressive achievements, which range from being hand-picked to attend the Oxford University Young Global Pioneers Fellowship to being invited by President Cyril Ramaphosa to attend the signing of the Startup Competition Amendment Act into law. She aims to achieve a better future for all across climate action, business and entrepreneurship and social innovation.



Thobile Nyawo

Founder and chief executive

Thobile Nyawo is the founder and chief executive of Isambane Energy and Nyawo Construction. She holds a national diploma in civil engineering and, for the past eight years, has gained experience in leadership and business in the construction, energy and connectivity sectors. The 28-year-old began Isambane Energy when load-shedding moved to higher levels and came up with a way to accommodate middle and lower income people. Her job at Nyawo Group encompasses a range of responsibilities that require her to balance strategic planning with operational execution. In 2019, Thobile received the Top Woman Entrepreneur in the Construction and Building Services Sector title at the Standard Bank Top Women Awards. The company was also a finalist in the Energy and Water Sector category at the 2020 SA Premier Business Awards. As a child, Thobile was fascinated by the construction projects in her community, which gave her a sense of excitement and possibility. She firmly believes in transformation and that by increasing opportunities for women in leadership and entrepreneurship, "we can unlock significant economic growth and drive positive social change". Of the future of South Africa she wants to see the country flourish, particularly in terms of economic growth and job creation.



Sifeziwe Ndlovu

Group chief financial officer

Sifeziwe Ndlovu is registered with the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants. She was appointed the chief financial officer of Tsys Capital Group before the age of 30. In essence, her job is to be the muscle that drives the body of the organisation. She provides the strategic direction of the entity's financial position, which entails managing the financial actions of the company, debt and reserves, as well as procurement. This entails analysing the company's financial strengths and weaknesses, risk management, corporate advisory and relationship management. Sifeziwe is a seasoned financial services professional, having trained at one of the big banks in South Africa. She led Tsys Capital Group to win the award for Best Financial Services Group South Africa 2023 in the Global Financial Market Review. Sifeziwe is determined to make a difference in the South African economy. She left a big corporation, because she felt she wasn't having a tangible effect on the lives of South Africans. Now she is working for a medium-sized private company that specialises in developing and financing small, micro and medium enterprises in South Africa. Not only is Sifeziwe giving back in the corporate space, she mentors young women who want to become chartered accountants and helps them with preparation for exams and navigating their articles.



Sthembiso Zwane

Founder and director

Sthembiso Zwane is the founder and director of GoGetta Africa, the first crowdfunding platform in South Africa. The 29-year-old heads the due diligence process for high-growth potential businesses on the African continent, ensuring investments are sound and properly vetted before they are listed on the platform. GoGetta seeks out high-growth businesses looking for funding, creating venture capital opportunities for investors. The company has raised more than R14 million in capital for the businesses on its platform, unlocking the potential of entrepreneurs. The company won the Leading Innovators in Section 12 Investments: South Africa, MEA Markets Business Awards in 2020. Sthembiso, who has a BCom in financial management, says the women in his childhood, his mother and grandmother, are a source of inspiration. "Seeing my single mother always going the extra mile to ensure that I had everything I needed. She would miss my swimming gala where I would set records and win medals because she was working. I work hard so I can be there for my family in a way that my mother was not able to be." Regarding South Africa's future, Sthembiso would like to see a country that has come together to enable the growth of small businesses and improve the economy.



Luke Kannemeyer

Managing director

Luke Kannemeyer, 35, is a founding member and now the managing director of SweepSouth, a technology platform connecting home service providers to prospective clients. He was the Allan Gray Orbis Fellow in 2006, Mandela Rhodes Scholar in 2011, and the Most Outstanding Postgraduate Leader at the University of Cape Town in 2012 while working on improving HIV treatment. He worked at the edtech startup Siyavula Education, where he wrote and edited free textbooks in natural science and maths used by thousands of learners in South Africa. SweepSouth has won awards for entrepreneurship. Luke has led the company to achieve the highest Fairwork score in South Africa in 2022. He recently co-authored a paper on maternity protections for domestic workers. Luke is a proponent for the rights of domestic workers in South Africa and on the continent. He is the lead author of SweepSouth's annual survey on the pay and treatment of domestic workers, which provides data on the state of domestic work in South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria, and on abuse and mental health. It is the largest survey of its kind in the world. Luke started SweepSouth with fewer than 40 providers and has grown it to more than 35 000 providers. It is now the largest home services platform on the continent.



Katleho Mahapa

Senior marketing manager

Katleho Mahapa is an accomplished professional with extensive experience in the automotive industry in South Africa. The 34-year-old is the national marketing manager at Hyundai Automotive South Africa, where she has played a key role in driving the company's growth and success. Katleho is an advocate for women's empowerment and gender equality in the workplace. She was selected to attend the High Potentials Leadership programme at Harvard Business School, in the United States, where she gained valuable insight and skills. Katleho, who has a BPhil Honours in marketing management and is enrolled for an MBA, is also involved in mentoring and coaching young professionals, helping to prepare the next generation of leaders. She has also been recognised by a number of organisations for her contributions to society. "I am a catalyst for change, challenging the status quo and breaking down barriers to build a brighter future," she says. "Despite facing adversity and pushing against the societal norms in my community, I've shown that success is achievable when we stay true to ourselves and pursue our passions with discipline, focus, and unwavering self-belief. I'm proud to have inspired others to follow their dreams."



Sandile Tshabalala

Co-founder and chief commercial officer

Sandile Tshabalala, 30, is the co-founder of Huruma Bantfu, a private company committed to co-creating conditions for human-centred upliftment and optimised outcomes for its clients and their communities. It aims to facilitate the commercialisation of socio-economic opportunities through innovative collaboration and cultivating social capital through inter-cultural insights, with core capabilities in corporate governance, philanthropy, citizenry and integration. Sandile has helped several state-owned enterprises improve their governance systems, such as the Public Investment Corporation, the Gauteng Enterprise Propeller and the Cape Agency for Sustainable Integrated Development in Rural Areas. He has also partnered with the Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship to assist more than 300 young township entrepreneurs through access to employment, education and entrepreneurship opportunities. He has worked with some of South Africa's biggest corporations to conceptualise social impact initiatives focused on the township economic landscape. Sandile recently curated the Aspen Network for Development Entrepreneurs Learning Labs in the three biggest townships in South Africa.



Gigi Ngcobo

Venture scale lead

Gigi Ngcobo, 27, the venture scale lead at Injini, is passionate about innovation and creating new technologies in South Africa. With more than five years of experience working with venture capitalists in the United States, and as a venture builder and accelerator in South Africa, Gigi has gained experience in creating and scaling new technologies. At Injini, she ensures ed-tech startup founders scale their businesses so more children have access to quality education. Her love for entrepreneurship is evident in that she founded an NGO at the age of 16 that taught students in underprivileged communities about ethical leadership. While studying at the African Leadership Academy she also started a company advocating for the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community. Gigi's outstanding work has earned her recognition in the past as a deputy mayor of Pietermaritzburg. She founded the Imbali Youth Pioneers, an NGO dedicated to leadership development in the townships of Pietermaritzburg. Gigi was a Mastercard Foundation Scholar, receiving a full scholarship to Michigan State University in the United States. While there, she created the MSU African Business Symposium, which explored innovation and venture capital in Africa.





200 Young South Africans 2023 BUSINESS



Garreth van Vuuren

Founder and chief executive

Garreth van Vuuren, 32, has more than 15 years of experience leading teams, businesses and projects. He started the marketing agency RAPT Creative just before the world went into Covid-19 lockdowns. When it did, instead of marking time as others did, he forged ahead with his strategy for growing the company. He recruited a diverse, talented team, who produce marketable solutions that captivate the imagination. The company achieved 100% revenue growth year-on-year during 2020 and 2021 and now, in its fourth year, is chasing a target of more than R100 million. The agency was awarded *Financial Mail* Advertising Agency of the Year 2022. Garreth says the



company's success is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the whole team. He walks the talk when it came to the phrase "people are our most valuable resource". He says: "I'm proud of the agency we have built and the incredible people that we work with, but I know there's always more to learn and room to grow." Garreth has a marketing degree from the IMM Graduate School in Johannesburg and a postgraduate qualification in business management."



Lethogonolo Motseeng

Founder and owner

Lethogonolo Motseeng, 35, is the owner and founder of Moja Chicken and Shandis Footwear. He started Moja Chicken from scratch, using his savings, after he was retrenched. In less than two years he was already franchising the business, employing more than 40 people, and had nine stores up and running. Six months ago, he started Shandis Footwear. Coming from a village in rural North West and not having tertiary education has not stopped him setting up two successful businesses. It is not surprising that Lethogonolo is the entrepreneur and businessman he is today. When he was 11 years old in grade five, he started selling sweets at school and when



he was about 16 he started to work at the local public phones and spaza shops every day after school. Lethogonolo's advice to entrepreneurs is, "Be patient, be resilient, and always understand that life is not fair for anyone, you just have to make the best out of it." He aims to inspire and empower the youth, especially those from rural areas and townships, because of the lack of opportunities and resources in those places.



Lekau Sehoana

Founder and chief executive

When he was a child, Lekau Sehoana made his first pair of sneakers out of recycled materials. He went on to build a business empire on a lifestyle sneaker brand called Drip, which has grown to be recognised not only nationally but internationally. From opening the first Drip store in 2020, Lekau now leads a team of 300 people and has 25 brick-and-mortar stores, as well as an online store. Drip is listed as number 65 on Africa's Top 100 Most Admired Brands and is at number two in South Africa. He is inspired by American business magnate, inventor and investor Steve Jobs, who once said that those people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do. The 34-year-old has a NQF



Level Three in civil engineering. Lekau, who is also a designer, leads a team of creatives who develop a product strategy and new products. The proudly South African designer attributes his success to three things: the ability to take advantage of social media for marketing, the ability to manage the cash inflows and to recognise talent in people who can take his business and brand further.



Alex Forsyth-Thompson

Founder and chief executive

Alex Forsyth-Thompson watched his father build his own business and constantly innovate to stay ahead of the pack. Now he wants to leave a legacy as someone who added value to and innovated in the South African business world. The 35-year-old has gone a long way to achieving that as founder and chief executive of Float, a market-leading payments fintech start-up that is changing the way people do payments in South Africa. The Stellenbosch Business School graduate is responsible for the vision and strategic direction of the company, and oversees other functions, such as sales, business development, partnerships and product development. Alex



lists among his achievements being chairperson of the Junior Board at Alexander Forbes and winning the Gold Award in recognition of service to the group for launching an innovation. He was head and co-founder of Alexander Forbes: Stokvel Investments, which was named by Moneyweb.co.za as one of the 10 most innovative financial products launched in 2015. He was also on the *Destiny Man* "Power of 40" list in 2017.



Ntobeko Thokozisile Mafu

Founder and managing director

Ntobeko Thokozisile Mafu is the managing director of Madame Clucks Alot, a company she started from scratch. It is a sustainable poultry and crop farm that specialises in agricultural skills training and development to enhance people's livelihoods. The 22-year-old is responsible for the daily work, developing and implementing organisational goals and values, and thinking of ways to create revenue streams that are mutually beneficial for the company and the customer. At the age of 19 Ntobeko wrote a self-help book titled *Letters to Whoever Needs to Hear This*, about growing up in an abusive home, teenage pregnancy, substance abuse and finding a way to rise above it all by finding a purpose



in life. "Pain shaped me but I'm the most joyful person I know," she says. "I'm driven by circumstance, ambition and empathy." She has completed an advanced diploma in human resources management from Durban University of Technology, training in broiler production and is a community of practice member in entrepreneurship development. Not only is Ntobeko feeding the community she's from, she's also recruited people and given them jobs.



Keneilwe Neo Raphesu

Director

Growing up in rural Limpopo, farming on communal land without any equipment, funding or support, Keneilwe Neo Raphesu wanted to improve the lot of farmers. She took over her father's farm in 2020 and in 2021 she started her own agricultural consulting businesses, Mogalemon and KR Farming Enterprise. The 26-year-old manages the farm and handles animal health issues and sales. She also trains employees, draws up business plans and contacts and mentors others. Keneilwe has a Bachelor of Arts degree in labour relations and psychology from North-West University and has an advanced qualification in animal production from Tshwane University of Technology. She has been featured in



Farmer's Weekly, *Stock Magazine*, *African Farming* and on the television programmes *Carte Blanche* and *Food for Mzansi*. Keneilwe was named Emerging Farmer of the Year 2021 and has been nominated for Livestock Farmer of the Year and Young Farmer of the Year by the South African Agricultural Awards and Female Farmer of the Year by the department of agriculture. Keneilwe would like to see more female farmers and see the agricultural sector reduce youth unemployment.



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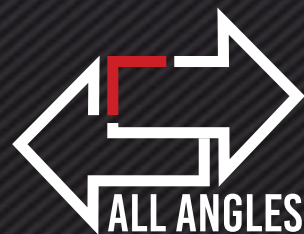
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Jessica Lawrence

Senior attorney and programme manager

Jessica Lawrence, 32, a senior attorney, is the programme manager of the environmental rights programme at Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR). She has participated in impact litigation and strategic advocacy to address systemic issues with South Africa's asylum system and xenophobia. Jessica has litigated cases that have changed the lives of her clients and the broader migrant community. She was the head of the LHR's labour unit prior to leading the Johannesburg Law Clinic, where she started strategic litigation to create legal protection for precarious workers. She holds an LLB and an LLM in human rights law and constitutional development. Jessica has represented the LHR in Geneva during the 2022 negotiations on a legally binding United Nations treaty on business and human rights. She has mentored many young people who now work in the civil society sector. She is inspired by a line from *The Wretched of the Earth*, by Frantz Fanon: "Each generation must, out of relative obscurity, discover its mission, fulfil it, or betray it." She says people must decide whether they will accept that mission or turn away from it. "I see my mission as a continuation of the struggle of our past: the achievement of social justice, equality, equity and a society that is free from all forms of oppression."



Jubilee Nhlovo Rivombo

Liaison officer

Jubilee Nhlovo Rivombo is the liaison officer for the National Child and Youth Care Workers' Association. Her job is to ensure that youth forums run in the nine provinces. She organises, executes and facilitates youth forums and coordinates activities. For the past 12 years, Jubilee has built stakeholder relationships to ensure that youth are involved in advocacy work. To achieve this, she monitors and evaluates work to ensure the quality of the programmes are exemplary and adjusts the goals if necessary. The 25-year-old has numerous awards under her belt, including the Young Women Peacebuilders' Award presented to her last year. Jubilee's activism is recognised nationally and she forms part of international advocacy as well. She is among a few young people representing South Africa in the Brics forum and often joins United Nations consultation meetings and Commonwealth forums representing South Africa and Africa. She has consulted on the National Development Plan, the National Action Plan and, internationally, the Woman, Peace and Security Focal Points. But her achievements come with a price. She would advise her younger self "to take the precious moments in". With all the travelling Jubilee does she would also advise her to spend time with family and that it is not to be taken for granted.



Koinonia Baloyi

Founding director

Koinonia Baloyi, 32, is the founding director of the NGO Girls With Wings, which distributes sanitary pads to homeless women. She says there is a drive in South Africa to end period poverty to keep girls in school but underprivileged women are overlooked and the NGO wants to address this gap. What started with the small idea of buying one extra pack of pads for one woman in need each month has, in seven years, grown into supporting 500 women and is creating employment opportunities for homeless women. Koinonia's work includes the strategic and operational management of the organisation, advocacy and building relationships with partners, businesses, donors and other stakeholders. She organises promotions and events and raises funds. She even ran the London marathon in 2017 and the Cape Town marathon in 2018 to raise funds and advocate for Girls With Wings. Koinonia has been recognised for her work. In 2020, she was selected for the 100 Shining South African Stars for philanthropy and for the Mandela Washington Fellowship for civic leadership in 2023. In 2022, Koinonia launched another Girls With Wings project — its own range of sanitary pads. Homeless women label and package the pads and the profit made from the sale of these pads goes towards paying the women.



Roland Postma

Managing director

Roland Postma, 27, is the managing director of the non-profit organisation Young Urbanists South Africa. Roland, who has an honours degree in regional and urban planning from the University of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia, works to empower young people in urban areas to shape their cities and towns. This entails working with officials, the private sector and others to devise solutions and programmes that make cities more livable, inclusive and walkable. Roland has created a platform that encourages and empowers young people to become active citizens who make positive changes. As part of his work, he organises advocacy events that have raised awareness about critical issues such as urban planning and sustainability to undo apartheid spatial planning and to facilitate policy reforms. Among his achievements is his work in promoting youth participation in decision-making processes related to urban planning and development in Cape Town. He has, for example, facilitated discussions between young people, the City of Cape Town and the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa. He is inspired by the words of Gustavo Petro, the former mayor of Bogotá, Colombia, who said a developed country is not a place where the poor have cars; it's one where the rich use public transport.



Lindiwe Johnson

Senior analyst

Lindiwe Johnson, 32, is a senior analyst for green economy skills development at the nonprofit organisation GreenCape. Her work entails identifying and mitigating critical barriers to future green economy skills, unlocking the potential for growth and investment across institutional sectors. The nonprofit works at the interface between business, government and academia to facilitate cross-sectoral insight into barriers and opportunities, as well as identifying skills gaps in the renewable energy industry to address skills development needs and potential growth in green economy industries. Lindiwe's responsibilities include capacity building and awareness campaigns. She works with communities, women and youth in rural and urban areas in the Eastern, Northern and Western Cape



to improve knowledge about climate change; enable them to take an active role in policy and decision-making processes at local, regional and national levels; and to work collaboratively on the ground to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation projects. Lindiwe, who has a postgraduate diploma in sustainable development and a BA in development and environmental studies from Stellenbosch University, says she is a dreamer and these dreams have allowed her to live with curiosity, a lust for learning and to take risks.



Chevano Keano Frans

Managing director

Chevano Keano Frans is the founder and managing director of Chev's Kitchen Community Organisation in Athlone on the Cape Flats. The 24-year-old's job is to ensure that there are enough funds to run the day-to-day operations, that there is no wasteful expenditure and that the long-term and short-term objectives are met. The idea of Chev's Kitchen began in 2020, when the harsh Covid-19 lockdown regulations kicked in. People were left helpless and without food security because of widespread job losses and closure of institutions and places of employment. It is because of this turn of events that he used his travelling fare to make and distribute sandwiches to the children of Kewtown in Athlone. Chevano fed this community out of his family home. In 2021, he registered Chev's Kitchen as a nonprofit organisation. He says the memory of having to stand in a queue at a community kitchen to get food for himself and his family spurred him on. Chevano, who is completing his final semester of a bachelor's degree in business administration, represented his organisation at a change-makers conference in New York in 2022. He now runs an after-school programme at the local community centre where there is art and dance and the children are assisted with improving their numeracy and literacy skills.



Sibusiso Bokveldt

Policy adviser

Sibusiso Bokveldt, 25, is a policy adviser at Global Citizen, an international organisation that aims to end extreme poverty and promote social justice and equity through education, communications, advocacy, campaigning and the media. His job involves researching and analysing policy issues related to health, education, gender equality, climate change and more. Sibusiso works with global leaders and policymakers to advocate for policy change. This includes developing advocacy campaigns, participating in lobbying efforts and organising events to mobilise public support. He also collaborates with partners to develop policy proposals and recommendations. The 25-year-old is doing his LLB through the University of South Africa (final year), has received numerous awards, including Africa's Top 100 Brightest Young Minds, and has been selected for various programmes such as the Study of the US Institute's Global Young Leaders Programme on civic engagement and policy development at the University of Washington. He is also the founder of the iSibusiso Sports Foundation, which deals with everything sport in underprivileged areas. Sibusiso is driven to excel, especially in the civic space, by his commitment to social justice, equality and human rights.



Gaopalelwe Phalaetsile

Founder and digital campaign manager

In February this year, Abortion Support South Africa, which was founded by Gaopalelwe Phalaetsile in 2016, launched a telemedical service that provides first-trimester terminations, in collaboration with pharmacies, to ensure women can have safe abortions at the affordable rate of R180 for the medication. The organisation runs a referral service that puts women in contact with safe abortion clinics online. Gaopalelwe provides strategic leadership in the day-to-day running of Abortion Support South Africa, gives guidance to the team on ensuring its model works for South Africa and liaises with funders and potential funders. The 32-year-old is focused on solutions rather than problems. The mother of two has been championing safe abortions since she went public about surviving an unsafe abortion in 2009. Gaopalelwe takes her inspiration from her grandmother, who stood up for her when a man, who had been preying on her as a child, complained she had been disrespectful by swearing at him. "My grandmother told him she allowed me to swear at all men who made sexual gestures to me. She was a feminist in her own right and, while she didn't know the term, she stood for the values of feminism." Gaopalelwe is also a digital campaigns manager at Oxfam South Africa, in charge of digital storytelling and campaigning.





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Itumeleng Moeti

Managing director, partnerships and stakeholders relations executive

Itumeleng Moeti, 34, is a founding member of Winrainbow Lions NPO, a nonprofit organisation dedicated to addressing socio-economic problems in Polokwane. People in the city face poverty, substance abuse and lack of infrastructure. Itumeleng and other active young citizens established the Westernburg Community Hub to create economic value with societal benefits. The initiative encompasses food security, education, enterprise development, skills training and community engagement. Itumeleng serves on various nonprofit boards and pursues accreditation as a social entrepreneur through the GIBS Social Entrepreneurship Programme. With experience in PR, marketing, raising sponsorships, dissemination of knowledge and innovative means of communication, including radio, print and social media, she participates in local and national forums where members can exchange ideas, be informed about topical issues and create business opportunities. She plays an active role in publicising the barriers to success that still exist as well as the opportunities available for women. Through strategic partnerships with sponsors, other nonprofit organisations, leading companies, and business schools, Itumeleng participates in events and opportunities to address the needs and challenges of people living in disadvantaged areas.



Nolwazi Mdunge

Founder; finance business partner

In 2022, the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants named Nolwazi Mdunge the top of 35 under 35 chartered accountants in the country and she was also awarded the Non Profit Company Executive of the Year by the Association for the Advancement of Black Accountants of Southern Africa. As a finance business partner at Mondi, she offers financial consultation to decision-makers and assesses the feasibility of new revenue streams, managing a R250 million budget. At the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the 29-year-old founded the Little Miss Sunshine Foundation, a nonprofit company aiming to promote early childhood development, and women empowerment, and address some of the social ills in South Africa. Its first project was donating food vouchers and parcels to more than 500 families together with Rise Against Hunger, an international organisation that co-ordinates the distribution of food. Among the Little Miss Sunshine Foundation's other projects are those donating shoes to primary schools, giving a year's supply of sanitary pads to two high schools and assisting university students. Nolwazi is driven by the need to "make an impact in society and address the social ills faced in communities. Leaving people in a better condition than I found them is rewarding and motivates me to keep assisting where I can."



Sarah Shezi

Estate manager

Sarah Shezi, 30, is an estate manager at Cushman & Wakefield | Broll, managing the Gauteng real estate portfolio of a client in the banking sector. She manages a mix of office, warehouse and retail spaces. She is responsible for the overall co-ordination of external stakeholders, including the clients, tenants, landlords and their consultants and contractors, as well as internal delivery partners. Her work involves stakeholder co-ordination, oversight, administration, relationship management, quality management, reporting and communication. Sarah is a director and the president of the Institute of Real Estate Managers, South African Gauteng Chapter, an international organisation that aims to professionalise property and asset management. She was nominated for the Women's Property



Network 2019 Young Achiever of the Year award and was an institute of Real Estate Managers 2019 30 under 30 young achiever. Sarah, who has a passion for professional education and entry-level employment development, devotes time to student mentorship. She aims to provide information to young people about getting into the real estate profession. Sarah is also a student mentor with Excel@Uni and lectures at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Kutloano Malahlela

Founder and president

At just 19 years old, Kutloano Malahlela is the founder and president of The Eye of Hope Community Development Organisation. His regular tasks include staff development; leadership and management; programme management and development; event planning; policy formulation and implementation; monitoring and evaluation. Kutloano is also responsible for ensuring that all the members of the organisation, especially the office bearers, are held accountable for their work. "A big part of my job is to make sure that all our goals are achieved by delegating roles and responsibilities to other members of the organisation." He says the best part of his job is "inspiring greatness and unleashing the potential of those who regard themselves as juniors". Kutloano received a certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Performance In Rural and Township Entrepreneurship in 2021. He is in third year at the University of Johannesburg, studying for a BA in community development and leadership. He is a volunteer champion and stakeholder at the university's Community Engagement Unit and a member of the Faculty of Humanities Student Representative Forum. Kutloano was on the University of Johannesburg Faculty of Humanities Dean's Honours Roll for Top Academic Achievers in 2022.



Lonwabo Makapela

Doctoral candidate and PhD fellow; Fulbright visiting researcher

Lonwabo Makapela is a doctoral candidate at the University of Pretoria. She is studying hair bias against black women and how that affects their identity and personal and professional outcomes. Makapela, 31, is studying at Vanderbilt University in the US through the Fulbright Visiting Scholars programme and is spending the 2022-2023 academic year in Nashville. Her first international submission, a theory paper she co-authored about hair bias towards black women, was accepted for the Academy of Management 2023 international conference and voted one of the best papers at the event. In addition to this, Lonwabo and her co-authors have three empirical data sets to test their theories in work settings. One study is experimental, while the second examines black women on the S&P 500 board of directors and the third surveys black and white women employees. Her supervisor describes her as "blazing a trail toward more equality for black women worldwide". She is a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society. Lonwabo would like to see a South Africa where all people are treated with dignity and are valued members of society. In addition, she would like people in positions of power ensure that all young people are given opportunities that genuinely, sustainably benefit them.



Palesa Phake

Founder

Palesa Phake, 26, is the founder of Set In Motion, where she advocates for children to be taught the importance of consent, body safety and boundaries. She does this through educational videos and content posted on social media, to make parents and all caregivers of children understand what childhood sexual abuse is and how to lessen the risk of a child being exposed to it, how to identify it, and what to do if it were to happen to a child. Palesa has succeeded in overcoming the odds — she grew up in a small town, with no parents and was raised by her brother, who was only 21 at the time. Palesa has an honours degree in economics, was a 2020 Miss South Africa top 15 semi-finalist and has worked in the private banking division at Investec in the United Kingdom. In 2022, she founded Propel Advisory, a business consulting company specialising in startups and scale-ups. She has participated in talks on radio station such as Cliff Central where she was interviewed in a podcast concerning childhood sexual abuse. Palesa's goal is to write a children's book on the subject. Her vision is to have consent and body safety as part of the curriculum in schools as a start to perpetuate a culture of consent in South Africa. "Our youth has a wealth of potential and many are eager to see it materialise," she says.



S'thokoza Nhleko

Marketing head: Anglo-speaking sub-Saharan countries

S'thokoza Nhleko, 34, is an accomplished marketer with more than 15 years of experience managing high-performing teams in various industries. She joined Bayer in 2019 as head of marketing and has made a significant contribution to the company's growth and success. Under her leadership, Bayer has launched innovative marketing campaigns that have helped to increase brand awareness and market share. Her ability to think creatively, develop and implement effective marketing strategies, and build strong relationships with stakeholders, has enabled her to achieve outstanding results. Her duties include category development; managing budgets; leading a team; setting performance indicators; overseeing the execution of marketing plans; collaborating with stakeholders and managing relationships with external partners. "I must also understand consumer and customer trends to achieve category and brand objectives while inspiring high performance and professional growth among my team," she says. She has also implemented initiatives designed to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion, including mentorship programs for women and minorities. What drives S'thokoza to excel is being a positive role model for young girls.



Jackson Tshabalala

Engagement manager

Jackson Tshabalala, 30, says he wants to play a part in opening avenues for young Africans to rise and take their place on the world stage. "I imagine how the little I do can influence the lives of those who come after me, and that drives me," he says. As the engagement manager for Leva Foundation, Jackson is a future-oriented thinker who believes that young South Africans have a crucial role to play in the world and that education and access to resources are key. He has exceptional leadership skills. Heading up HQ staff members and regional coordinators around the country with more than 200 coding ambassadors on the ground, he has helped the Tangible Africa project work with 100 000 learners and train 20 000 teachers in South Africa and in other African and European countries. Tangible Africa introduces coding concepts without the use of computers. Jackson pitched the Tangible Africa project at the Africa Union Commission and Partners Innovating Education in Africa (2022) programme in Tunisia, winning second place. He heads to Ireland this year to lead a training programme for teachers and learners. Completing his postgraduate studies at Henley Business School, Jackson's wish for South Africa is to see a drastically reduced youth unemployment rate and higher investment in youth entrepreneurship.





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Musa 'Mack' Shabangu

Petitions analyst

Musa "Mack" Shabangu, 29, is a petitions analyst and policy committee member at the Gauteng provincial legislature and a master's candidate in public policy at the University of the Witwatersrand. Mack believes democracy and good governance is important to reshape the lived experiences of marginalised people. She is part of a cohort that developed the Legislature E-petitions portal that enables the public to submit their service delivery requests for intervention and resolution by the Gauteng provincial legislature. She supports members in the petitions standing committee in resolving petitions. Making an impression on the global stage, Mack was a judge for the Queens Commonwealth Essay Competition in 2021. She encourages young people to be involved in model legislature to learn about parliamentary



processes and set them up as leaders of the future. She assists them to write speeches for model legislature parliamentary debates. Through the citizen responsibility campaign, she contacted more than 5 000 first-time voters in Gauteng to encourage them to vote. She has developed a campaign, #IncreaseUniversitySpace, that has already collected more than 4 700 signatures. Mack is working to develop an AI application that simplifies legislation to make it more accessible for all South Africans.

Nicolas Tinashe Mlambo

Co-founder and chairperson

Nicolas Tinashe Mlambo, 22, is the co-founder and chairperson of Grind Club Motive Africa, a registered nonprofit organisation, which has been operating for the past four years. This organisation helps grade 12 learners by bridging the gap between high school and university. Learners are assisted with career guidance, bursary and college and university applications, as well as sharing knowledge that helps them with their studies. Since its inception, Grind Club has grown and sees a rise each year in the number of learners it works with. In total it has reached close to 2 000 learners from high schools around South Africa. The organisation makes use of technology and social media to work with the learners. Grind Club



also takes on board volunteers each year, all of whom are university students. Through volunteering for the organisation they develop marketable skills and experience, which they can add to their CVs to demonstrate their participation outside of academics. The idea of the Grind Club was born during his high school journey, when Nicolas wished he had positive role models and a mentor to guide him in his teenage years. Nicolas has a BA in law from North-West University and participated in the Aspire Leaders Program at the Aspire Institute, Harvard University.

Thembaletu Seyisi

Candidate attorney

Thembaletu Seyisi, a candidate attorney at Cluver Markotter Inc, describes his job as "diving deep" to come up with legal solutions, as well as advising individuals, communities, entrepreneurs, small-to-medium enterprises and corporates in all spheres of business. From 2018 to July 2021, he was a board member at Salesian Life Choices, a nonprofit organisation that aims to disrupt inequality through investing in youth. In that role, he was responsible for ensuring good governance and accountability, among other things. The 23-year-old Thembaletu co-ordinates the #Action4Inclusion campaign, a Stellenbosch University crowdfunding effort aimed at alleviating student debt for the "missing middle" students. He is also an ambassador at the Centre For Social Justice, which promotes social justice scholarship, awareness and



collaboration to ensure reform in the academic field and in society. His submissions to parliament show his commitment to a South Africa based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights. Thembaletu has written several opinion articles for news platforms, including the *Mail & Guardian*, focusing on issues such as leadership and social justice. In 2022, he was among News24's 30 Young Mandelas. At 21, became the self-published author of a book titled *21 Life Lessons @ 21*.

Zakhe Khuzwayo

Founder and president

At the age of 26, Zakhe Khuzwayo is the founder and president of The Men Carve, which focuses on the issues young people need to address concerning gender. While the main focus is on men, about 40% of participants in its events are women. The organisation's goal is to fight gender-based violence in creative and innovative ways by cultivating healthy attitudes in the youth of South Africa. Zakhe also leads a food parcel programme that helps students with no bursaries and who have problems accessing funding and visits schools to help matriculants with university and college applications. He has spoken at community events. Zakhe completed his advanced diploma in business and information management at Durban



University of Technology in 2022 and is studying for an advanced diploma. He was Student of the Year at the DUT Community Engagement Showcasing, Pitching and Excellence Awards 2022 and was nominated for a 2022 Vuna Leadership Academy Award in the category Community Engagement Student Champion. "Because I was raised in a household without a father figure, I learned what it means to be a man on the streets. This led me to believe being a man means being dominant, being emotionless and not asking for help. I have a mission to change the world."

Nozizwe Elizabeth Sampu

Project manager

Nozizwe Elizabeth Sampu, 25, is the founder of Reach Out N, a nonprofit organisation that assists the needy with clothes, food parcels, school uniforms, blankets and toiletries. The aim is to reduce poverty and make sure children in deprived areas are well taken care of. Nozizwe hosts events and works tirelessly doing home visits (door to door) and by responding to the cry of the needy and assisting without hesitation. She remembers her mother, and role model, fondly. "I loved how my mom took care of others in our church and community. My mom wouldn't mind waking up early in the morning and preparing big pots with lots of food to serve the needy. Even at Sunday school, she would buy us all gifts and make us feel special. Some of my friends would be motivated to come



to church," she says. Through the work Nozizwe does, needy families are able to go to bed with something to eat and also have clothes to wear. South Africa really needs more young people like her. Nozizwe is passionate about making sure street children attend school and are given free training. "We also need health clinics in all communities so that people can get medication," she says. She deserves to be recognised for the hard work she does to assist those in need.

Mihlali Mzima

Social investments specialist

In her job as social investment specialist at Tshikululu Social Investments, Mhlali Mzima, 26, has designed and implemented a number of projects that have had a national impact, including the GBVF Response Fund, which strives for a South Africa free from violence directed at women, children and LGBTQIA+ persons. She primarily drives the strategy design, implementation and management of social investments across multiple clients who collectively put more than R600 million a year into corporate social investment (CSI) programmes. Mhlali works on programmes focused on gender-based violence, education, community strengthening, capacity building and youth development. Between 2020 and 2022, during the Covid-19 pandemic, she managed more



than R120 million of client CSI investments into higher education and addressing gender-based violence. "In my work, I have learned that it is only through strategic collaboration, deliberate investment, improved anticipatory capability and multi-sectoral and systemic intervention that we can maximise the power of social investments today for a better future," she says. In 2022, Mhlali was named among the Top 12 Women in CSI by CSR News and won the Tshikululu Social Investments CEO Award for Excellence.



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¹(Mar, 2023). 'SAP research reveals top tech skills challenges for African organisations'. Retrieved from SAP.



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¹ 1 (Mar, 2023). 'Digital Africa: Technological transformation for jobs'. Retrieved from The World Bank.

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200 Young South Africans 2023 EDUCATION



Rukshana Parker

Lecturer

Rukshana Parker, 30, is a law lecturer at Stellenbosch University. She creates a positive and engaging learning environment that inspires critical thinking through open discussion and collaboration and by breaking down complex legal information into manageable parts with practical examples. This encourages independent thinking and challenges students to question and analyse their learning. Her student evaluations reflect that she always goes the extra mile to help them. She provides students with career advice and holds mock interviews to prepare them for the actual interview. Rukshana is doing her PhD at the University of Cape Town. Rukshana has also done extensive research on organised crime in South Africa, focusing on drugs, gangs and assassinations. Because of her work, she was elected as the secretariat for an international drug commission headed by former heads of state. Her research has been the basis of several podcasts, news articles and radio interviews and was presented at the 14th United Nations Crime Congress. She also worked on projects to help people in gang-ridden areas on the Cape Flats to build resilience in their communities. In her spare time, she teaches at Brandvlei Correctional Centre, hoping that imparting essential skills to inmates will reduce recidivism rates.



Rishen Roopchund

Lecturer

Rishen Roopchund, 32, completed his chemical engineering studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He began his master's in 2015 and completed it in record time (with distinction) while working at Eskom. Rishen left Eskom in 2018 to pursue his PhD while at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. He then worked as an engineering consultant before joining the University of Johannesburg as a New Generation of Academics Programme lecturer in 2020. Rishen has four work focuses: teaching, research, administration and leadership. His research areas are the valorisation of industrial wastes into green construction materials and the bioremediation of oil and diesel spills in soil. Rishen is pursuing a postgraduate diploma in higher education. He supervises undergraduates, honours students and is co-supervising a master's student. Rishen is a peer reviewer for international journals and the International Conference on Innovations in Science, Engineering and Technology, and serves on several committees in the department and the faculty. Rishen facilitated community programmes to support a women's and children's shelter. This year, he initiated a student mentorship programme. He also participates in outreach programmes to promote STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) careers.



Loquitur Maka

Institutional researcher

Loquitur Maka is an institutional researcher at the Centre for Teaching and Learning at the University of the Free State. Her job entails assisting with conceptualisation, planning, analysing and reporting on student engagement and success research. She also conducts descriptive and inferential statistical as well as qualitative analyses. She holds workshops, presentations and seminars, and mentors and trains other staff members at the centre. The 28-year-old has a PhD in sustainable agriculture and served as a board member of the South African Forum for Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services. Loquitur says that having been a scout made her who she is today. "Still today I say the scout promise: 'On my honour I promise that I will do my best, to do my duty to God, and my country, to help other people at all times, and to obey the scout law.'" She has previously worked (among other jobs) as a lecturer at Cape Peninsula University of Technology and an educator at Soneike High School in Cape Town. She is a highly valued facilitator at the Young African Leaders initiative. Loquitur continues to disseminate knowledge through her educational YouTube channel, providing lessons to high school science learners, tips to emerging researchers and how-to guides to university students.



Noluxolo Gcaza

Associate professor

Noluxolo Gcaza, 32, holds a PhD in information technology and is an associate professor at Nelson Mandela University. She is a programme coordinator and lecturer for the postgraduate diploma in cybersecurity, a new accredited course, and supervises postgraduate research. Noluxolo is also a member of the Centre for Research in Information and Cyber Security. She serves as an independent non-executive director for the South African Banking Risk Information Centre. Noluxolo has also received numerous awards. In all her pursuits, she is driven by the mission of cultivating a cyber-secure culture in South Africa. She became increasingly concerned about the prevalence of cyberbullying and exposure to inappropriate content among children and the youth, which can have long-term effects on mental health and well-being. Motivated by her desire to make a positive change, she took action and founded The Cyberculture Foundation, a nonprofit that promotes responsible internet use and digital wellness among children and youth. The foundation offers digital citizenship training, digital wellness education, a digital mentorship programme, community workshops, as well as research and advocacy. She hopes that in five years there will be advancements in technology to improve online safety.



Marcia Ramodike

Director and founder

Marcia Ramodike is a 26-year-old award-winning author, a final-year student in forensic science, and the founder of Evelyn50 publishing company. She has achieved this despite having lost her mother at the age of 17 and having to take care of herself and her siblings. Marcia wrote a book which she sold to make money to support herself and her siblings. She then enrolled at the University of the Free State but dropped out in her third year of her law degree because of financial constraints and depression. She moved to Pretoria and stayed with friends, moving from one place to another. Despite being homeless she never gave up on her dreams. She registered with the University of South Africa and is now in her final semester of her forensic science and technology degree. In just a year Evelyn50 publishing company has published 14 books and has partnered with the *Daily Sun*, Rise FM and other stations. She has also featured on TV and radio. Evelyn50 is a unique concept. It writes books for clients who have amazing stories to tell but don't know how to write them. The company also publishes manuscripts. So far, Evelyn50 has hired four young people and hopes to hire more people. The company also does book reviews with magazines, newspapers and radio stations, and has mentorships.



Nicola Vermooten

Managing director

Nicola Vermooten, 34, is the managing director of AccessEd, a multi-national public benefit organisation that believes higher education should be accessible to all young people regardless of socioeconomic background and upbringing. She is registered as an independent industrial psychologist with the Health Professions Council of South Africa. Nicola has authored several peer-reviewed journal articles (h-index 5) and shared her research findings at conferences both nationally and internationally. Given the lean nature of AccessEd, Nicola is involved in all aspects of the organisation — strategic and operational. The organisation's main objective is to launch and scale up university access programmes that promote access to higher education among young people from underserved communities. To ensure its long-term sustainability, AccessEd contracts with universities, doctoral academies and scholarship groups on the organisation's research-based curricula programmes and postgraduate development programme. AccessEd was previously registered as a charity in England and Wales. Given the successful expansion of the AccessEd ZA Programme under Nicola's leadership, the UK board decided to rehome AccessEd to South Africa with her at the helm.



Makgalake Pabalelo Radingoana

Senior lecturer

Makgalake Pabalelo Radingoana, 33, is a senior lecturer at the University of South Africa (Unisa). She has a PhD in environmental and water sciences from the University of the Western Cape and a master's in geography and environmental sciences from the University of Limpopo. Besides having to instil knowledge in students, she has to remain relevant and keep up to date with developments in her field. This is displayed by the fact that she has published five academic papers in accredited journals and earned Unisa's Women in Research award in 2021. Makgalake also attends conferences, which enables her to share her work with possible collaborators in her field. She has supervised seven honours students to completion, has one MSc student close to completion, and added two PhDs and two MScs to the current cohort of students. Makgalake says her all-time motivator was her paternal grandmother, Hlapogadi Ntobeng. "She would give words of encouragement and always stated, 'Thuto ke bophelo'. Although she is no longer with us, these words still visit me whenever I think of her. I am grateful for her lessons and they continue to light the fire for me." Makgalake hopes that in five years' time South Africa is not divided, there are no political mishaps and that gender-based violence and crime does not occur.



Andrea Angelique Erasmus

Founder

Andrea Angelique Erasmus, 33, is the founder of The ASE Foundation, which provides career guidance, upliftment and strategic direction to assist pupils, students, young professionals and adults from all walks of life. Andrea says she didn't have role models growing up or see a lot of chartered accountants in the area where she lived. "Through all my failures and successes, I told myself I would one day become the mentor I had needed." And that was when her idea of The ASE Foundation was born. Her aim was to make a difference in at least one person's life. She has done more than that. The person who nominated her for the 200 Young South Africans awards had just become a father, was struggling with his second year of Bcom accounting, and was studying at home online because of Covid-19. "I am now working at one of the big four firms," he says. "My dream of becoming a chartered accountant was reborn because of The ASE Foundation." Andrea meets her mentees every quarter and makes them document the goals they would like to achieve within each quarter, up to a year. They then go through each goal and break down how these can be achieved. She is a chartered accountant registered with the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants and is also the general manager for finance at Bayport Financial Services.





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Tebogo Clemence Molepo

Primary school teacher

Tebogo Molepo, 32, works at Mautswi Primary School in Polokwane, Limpopo, teaching languages and commercial subjects, as well as coding and robotics. He regularly holds activities that give pupils core skills, such as spelling bees and reading clubs, as well as chess, drama and public speaking events. He is responsible for the information and communication technologies integration teacher development workshops at his school and helps to monitor and mentor his colleagues. He promotes e-learning in schools by incorporating teaching and learning with technology. Tebogo runs coding sessions for teachers and pupils at both Mautswi Primary School and community schools in the area and every Saturday he holds catch-up sessions with matric learners to motivate them to study. He runs community projects such



as cleaning up and recycling litter. He encourages people to adopt the 4Rs — reuse, recycle, reduce and reclaim. As well as winning several awards, including that of the Sunday World Unsung Heroes in 2022, he has been selected for the Mandela Washington Fellowship leadership programme in the US for 2023. What drives him to excel is trying to change lives through education. “I want to make a huge impact on all of the learners who I am teaching,” he says.



Dineo Phumo

Founder, coordinator and tutor

Dineo Phumo, 33, is a coordinator and tutor at Barack Omari, an organisation she founded. It provides after-school extra lessons for grades R to nine learners in semi-rural areas. Schools in these areas generally don't have science and IT labs. The purpose is to build their understanding of schoolwork. One of the ways to achieve this is by introducing them to digital learning platforms such as YouTube where their school projects (grades five to nine) for technology and natural sciences can be learnt virtually. For the younger learners (grades R to four), the introduction to digital learning provides them with active learning, life skills, and access to more material to learn from. Dineo has a BA Humanities in psychology and has received awards for her leadership, including the Presidential Award from the Nelson Mandela Foundation. She



is pushed to excellence by her memory of her grandmother, who raised 10 children without any formal education. “It is a lifetime of memories of watching her design and make anything from fabric, from a napkin to a wedding dress. My mind will forever be blown by that,” says Dineo. Through Barack Omari, she helps the learners through tutorials to prepare them for life beyond school because almost everything is now digitised.



Siphakeme Njabulo Mthabela

English teacher

Siphakeme Mthabela, 27, is an English teacher at Hilton College in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands. “My job entails a range of responsibilities that require passion, creativity and commitment to educating boys. I need to be flexible and responsive to the changing needs of the English department.” His job requires being confident in information technology and IT-integrated English teaching. He offers extra classes and tutorials to assist township and rural learners. Siphakeme served as an academic officer at Student Express South Africa in 2015 and 2016, a nonprofit organisation that works to provide quality education and bridge the gap between the basic and higher education sectors. He has taught English as a foreign language to Asian children. In 2022, he was nominated for an International Education Award for Young Teacher of the Year, an International Excellence Award for Best Education Adviser and the Pacific International Award for Excellence in Education. Siphakeme says growing up with a disadvantaged background has motivated him and driven him to excel. “My background has fostered a strong work ethic, determination and resilience, which propels me to succeed in various areas of my life. As a result of my background, I have a deep understanding of the struggles of others, including my learners.”



Mpho Gift Digashu

Senior education specialist (e-education)

Mpho Digashu is a 28-year-old senior education specialist, making him among the youngest in the country in this job. His responsibilities include helping educators in Waterberg district in Limpopo integrate technology in their teaching to enhance learning and to ensure that there is inclusivity and differentiated teaching. He conducts workshops for his colleagues and other educators; promotes information and communication technologies in communities; collaborates with social partners with the same goals and monitors and supports schools in Waterberg through visits and virtual meetings. He also makes sure teachers and schools have resources. Mpho is the author of the book *Finding Me Now*, published in 2018. He runs an organisation named after the book. He is also a motivational speaker, a coding and robotics master trainer and a volunteer with several other organisations, including the Waterberg Welfare Society. He has won provincial and national teaching awards and has been selected as one of the Young African Leaders to represent the country in the Mandela Washington Fellowship 2023. He wants to see a South Africa that retains people with talent, prioritises education for all children and ensures that barriers do not affect the kind of education a learner receives.



Takalani Nemarumane-Tshabalala

Senior lecturer

Takalani Nemarumane-Tshabalala, 35, is a senior lecturer and programme manager at the University of Johannesburg. She has a bachelor's degree in management services, a master's degree in operations management and PhD in engineering management. Her research focus has been social and environmental impact and cleaner production. Part of her work at the university is to supervise research for postgraduate, master's and doctoral students. She helps young students to become credible and solid researchers. She has published many research papers and written book chapters during her 10-year career as an academic. Takalani is the founder of the Operations Management for Small Businesses Short Learning Programme, which helps township and rural



businesses owners. More than 120 students have graduated from the programme. She has also developed a programme aimed at aligning technology and innovation in the adult and further education sector. She trained the owners of 120 informal small businesses in Johannesburg on skills in business sustainability. Takalani is passionate about improving the skills of underprivileged people and providing an alternative for skills development for the poor.



Zandile Moruthanyane

Research coordinator

Mitigating the risk of food scarcity and encouraging social cohesion and sustainability by teaching small-scale and smart farming is what drives Zandile Moruthanyane, 26. She recalls coming home from school one day and finding no maize meal in the container, and this has motivated her in her work as a research coordinator at the University of Johannesburg's Centre for Ecological Intelligence. Zandile's role in the department involves driving food systems, including traditional farming, hydroponic and aquaponic farming projects. She also oversees multidisciplinary projects in the fields of agriculture, entrepreneurship, water and energy. On a daily basis, she supervises the work of Tshwane University of Technology diploma students in crop production.



Zandile is a mentor for work-integrated learning students from various institutions of higher learning, assisting them to gain practical experience towards their qualification requirements. She also manages the university's hydroponic and aquaponic gardens, donating the produce to students on various campuses. Zandile emphasises working with people because “nothing can be done only by you. A support system is essential to human existence.”



Dintle Nkosi

Founder and innovation and social impact leader

Innovation and social impact leader Dintle Nkosi, 34, is passionate about education and helping young people prepare and plan for their futures. She has self-funded multiple career guidance initiatives in her community and has been running her nonprofit, Thuto Thusa, since 2020. She is the creator of an initiative called Career Day by Thuto Thusa, a career guidance YouTube channel. Career Day shares the educational and career journeys of young professionals from all walks of life in an engaging animated format that captures the attention of young viewers. In other words, Career Day brings young professionals into the homes and schools of young South Africans through their social media platforms. Through Career Day she also offers students access to free career aptitude tests. As a firm believer in “knowledge is power”, Dintle is



concerned most by the inequalities over access to information around career guidance and higher education. Her mission is to make education and information accessible to all, whether it is getting into the right university or choosing a career path. Dintle believes that career guidance is the key to creating the shift in our country regarding unemployment and poverty. What makes Dintle special is her tenacity and commitment to ensuring that young people know they have choices.



Karthi Pillay

Principal

Karthi Pillay, 34, is the first non-Catholic principal at Acudeo College in Soshanguve. He strongly believes in youth leadership and in giving every child an equal opportunity because they have the ability to change the future. He is also a maths teacher. Karthi believes that all his students should be equipped with critical thinking and problem-solving skills. His enthusiastic nature in teaching allows him to be a much-loved educator when in the classroom. In his job as principal, Karthi has counselled many young people, giving them a second opportunity. He is an avid believer that education needs to build children and not break them. This has enabled many of his preparatory school learners to move into high school confidently. He is also aware that education has changed and so should teachers and classroom environments. Consequently, he encourages all his staff to have a happy, safe and conducive learning environment where pupils can thrive and enjoy school. Karthi reminds everyone that children are all different and that diversity should be embraced and positively reinforced. He leads by example and is a hands-on leader. Karthi demonstrates all the qualities of a great educator and continues to show forward-thinking and 21st-century teaching strategies.





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Fhulufhelo Muvhali

Founder

It has been just over three years since Fhulufhelo Muvhali, 20, matriculated, yet this changemaker has made a huge difference in the lives of many learners through her Child Upliftment Corner Foundation. The nonprofit organisation is aimed at improving mother-tongue language proficiency, ensuring that primary schools in rural areas of Thohoyandou have access to reading material. In her matric year, Fhulufhelo was awarded a bronze in the De Beers English Olympiad. She was disheartened by the low participation of children from her school and discovered her mission. She volunteered for the Bright Young Leaders Initiative, an organisation that focuses on science, technology, engineering and maths. Fhulufhelo helped learners enter the competition and donated study guides, laptops and calculators. Being a two-time winner at the Eskom Science Expo for Young Scientists, she was invited to be a judge and mentor learners. In 2021 she became a World Literacy Foundation ambassador and an outreach volunteer for Global Changemakers. Fhulufhelo also graduated from the Trevor Noah Education Changemakers programme, cohort two, and returned to her home to partner with the Nelson Mandela Foundation, Literacy4life and the Limpopo department of education to build a literacy hub.



Ziyabukwa Nyala

Graduate intern

Ziyabukwa Nyala, 24, is a community builder who helps underprivileged children with their academic endeavours. After being a community engagement leader at her alma mater, Rhodes University, Ziyabukwa became a graduate intern tutor as well as an MCom student at the University of the Witwatersrand. She is also an adviser for PPS Insurance. She works with small businesses to help them with the problems they face. Ziyabukwa comes up with innovative solutions to help businesses achieve their goals. She also does office visits to help the businesses hands-on. "I really enjoy my job because it gives me joy when the businesses are doing well and growing and employing more people, thus helping with the country's current unemployment crisis," she says. Ziyabukwa says learning new skills and sharing these is important as knowledge is power and will open more doors of opportunities. She encourages others to be motivated to help people who are less fortunate and have a positive effect on their lives. She led a partnership with Amakhala Game Reserve to teach learners environmental awareness and identify those struggling with schoolwork and encouraged them to sign up for a "backup" initiative. She says: "If you have the courage to begin, then you have the courage to succeed."



Gift Wezzie Somakwabe

Internal audit associate, YouTuber and founder

Gift Wezzie Somakwabe, 26, wants to make a difference in the lives of others through education, teaching and mentoring. She is a prolific YouTuber, the founder of a non-profit organisation and an internal audit associate at PwC. Gift was selected as the Young Internal Auditor of the Year 2022 by the Institute of Internal Auditors. She continues to inspire many with her commitment to sharing her experiences and insights through her YouTube channel, which is a valuable resource for anyone interested in pursuing a career in internal auditing. It also addresses various difficulties young people may face in their lives — whether it's how to deal with the stress of studies, how to choose a career path or matters that are related to finances, such as investing and financial management. She started LearnWithGift, to tutor and assist students with cover letters, CVs and interview preparation. Gift encourages young people to pursue their dreams and never be afraid to embrace education and grow. "What drives me to success is knowing that my work and achievements are not only for myself but for the next person watching me and needing that motivation to keep going," she says. Her innovation and willingness to share her knowledge and experience is a testament to her generosity and dedication.



Lindelwa Mahlalela

Founder and chief executive

Lindelwa Mahlalela, 23, is the founder and chief executive of LeeConnect, which helps high school learners with university and college funding scheme applications. She has assisted thousands of learners with CV writing and interview skills and has helped them to achieve great matric results. She was in the Africa's Brightest Young Minds Top 200 and in the Gordon Institute of Business' Science Festival of Ideas Top 10. Lindelwa, who has a diploma in sustainable development from Stellenbosch University, says she has always had an entrepreneurial mindset. "My mom and grandmother supported me throughout — I sold ice cream at 15 years old. That taught me people skills and money management." She wants South Africa to empower entrepreneurs and implement new strategies in the education sector, such as making resources and information more accessible. "We are in the fourth industrial revolution but there is a learner in KwaZulu-Natal who doesn't know what an email address is. We need to believe in equality and work towards creating a country that empowers learners and teachers." Her advice to young people is: "Try until you get it right. Don't wait for the perfect time, create it. We tend to want to give up when things don't go our way but trying until we get it right unleashes the potential that we have."



Zithulele Nkosinathi Tshabalala

Senior lecturer in human anatomy

Zithulele Nkosinathi Tshabalala, 35, is a senior lecturer in human anatomy at the Nelson Mandela University. Completing his PhD in 2019 from the University of Pretoria, his academic journey began as a technical assistant and advanced to teaching anatomy within the health science faculty. This exposure gave him a range of knowledge on teaching health sciences students and how to best align knowledge, in preparation for the interdisciplinary nature of their careers, for the best care of their patients. Zithulele's move to Mandela University was influenced by the new medical school in Missionvale township, which was an opportunity to serve the community by training primary healthcare-oriented doctors. Creating an academic environment of inclusion and social awareness is a critical focus for Zithulele. He was the first anatomist at the university and was at the forefront of starting the human anatomy section. As acting HOD, he guides his 14 members in the fields of human anatomy, integrated pathology, medical biochemistry, pharmacology and physiology. Zithulele believes giving students access to resources will not only help them excel in their studies but also reveal clinically relevant resources, exposing them to all aspects of understanding the human body using virtual dissection tables, AR and VR.



Didintle Kole

Sales agent

Didintle Kole, 24, is a sales agent at First Federal Investments, where she runs direct marketing and sales through phone calls. The 24-year-old holds a national diploma in public relations and communication as well as an advanced diploma in communication management, both from the University of Johannesburg, completed in 2021 and 2022, respectively. She was on the university's Faculty of Humanities Dean's List in 2020 and was part of the UJenius club in 2021, a vice-chancellor's initiative to acknowledge outstanding academic performances by undergraduate students. One of the most significant projects Didintle has run is The Postgrad Jumpstart, a campaign that sought to combat the job-scarcity mentality in undergraduate students as they prepared themselves for life after graduation. She organised a two-day webinar where speakers from different industries speak about their journeys and insights with students. This project was run for two months, with informative content shared on the initiative's Instagram page. "I want to see South Africa grow into a nation that grooms young people to be conscious of the kind of society they want to build and have the next generations live in," Didintle says.



Zondi Nate

Lecturer

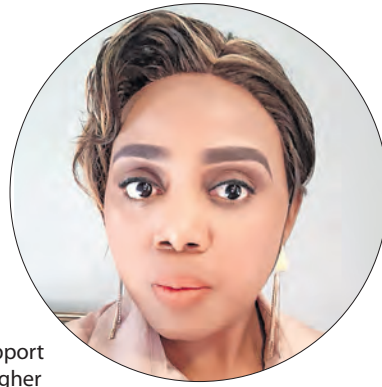
Zondi Nate, a chemistry lecturer and researcher at the Vaal University of Technology, teaches engineering chemistry to first-year students and analytical chemistry to postgraduate students. His job also involves supervising postgraduate students. Zondi's research focuses on developing diagnostic tools for neglected tropical diseases and synthesis strategies for nanomaterials used in wastewater treatment. He has published 15 peer-reviewed research articles and contributed to three book chapters. The 29-year-old University of KwaZulu-Natal graduate immerses himself in programmes that promote quality and equal education. Since 2016, he has helped high school learners from disadvantaged schools with facilities for chemistry and physics experiments. Zondi is a mentor and a judge at the Eskom Expo for Young Scientists. He aims to open a laboratory that will focus on developing diagnostic tools for tropical diseases. The lab will also teach chemistry, nanotechnology and research methodology to assist learners from underprivileged areas with science practicals. "I believe that we can use science to solve our everyday challenges such as access to clean water and good healthcare facilities. I want a South Africa where geographical location, social and economic status does not determine the quality of education that you will receive."



Thandiwe Sithole

Senior lecturer

Thandiwe Sithole, 31, is a senior lecturer in the department of chemistry at the University of Johannesburg, where she equips, develops and nurtures young minds seeking mentorship, skills and knowledge. Thandiwe is involved in raising STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) awareness among previously disadvantaged South Africans through community upliftment and youth empowerment projects. She wants to promote women in science by transferring skills and knowledge she acquired through her academic career. She has contributed to nurturing girls by providing support to excel in their studies and assisting them to gain access to higher education and complete their degrees. Thandiwe has demonstrated the ability to build human capacity and mentor women to close the gender inequality gap in the representation of women in STEM. Her research investigates possible solutions to eradicate problems associated with environmental pollution and wastewater remediation, driven by the United Nations' sustainable development goals for environmental sustainability. Beyond chemical engineering, Thandiwe's research further involves the circular economy and she is pursuing an MBA at the University of Suffolk in the United Kingdom.





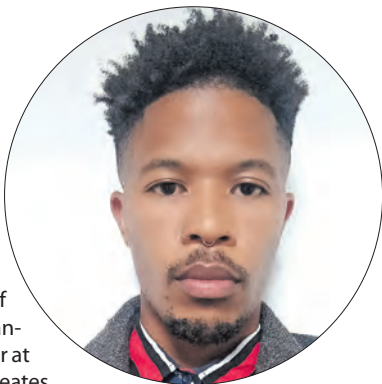
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Avuzwa-Kagiso Ngubo

Vice-president

Avuzwa-Kagiso Ngubo, 26, is the vice-president of World Merit South Africa, which aims to ensure learners have resources, information and opportunities. It also connects them with professionals in their field of interest. He has reached more than 3 000 youngsters in the country through Young Men's Talk, which tackles issues such as hygiene, consent, sexuality, gender-based violence and discrimination, as well as the Career Day held in rural areas and townships. Part of his duties at World Merit is to supervise and train the brand management team. Avuzwa-Kagiso is also a human rights educator at Africa Unite where he teaches people about their rights and creates a bridge between local people and refugees through skill sharing. He is an educator-turned-mentor at Siyazingisa Primary School in Gugulethu, Cape Town, where he assists with early childhood development. Avuzwa-Kagiso fosters six former learners from Cape Town townships who come from child-headed households. In addition, he is a volunteer at Keric, helping bridge the communication gap between Slovaks and Africans; advancing equal, quality education for all and facilitating cultural exchange. He says he was a troubled kid who didn't fit in but that changed when a teacher invested her time in him, which led to his passion for educating and mentoring youths.



Mthobisi Ndaba

Post-doctoral research fellow

At the age of 30, Mthobisi Ndaba has completed his PhD and written three books. He tutored and lectured at the University of the Witwatersrand before recently joining the University of Johannesburg as a postdoctoral fellow. He primarily conducts research in the fields of higher education and teaching and learning. He is part of a team conducting a study on epistemic disruptions at four universities in South Africa. This entails data collection, organising and analysis and knowledge dissemination in the form of writing for publications and giving seminars and conference presentations. It also involves research supervision. Mthobisi runs a successful publishing company focused on inspiring young black writers who would otherwise not be able to put their work out there. He has a large social media following and inspires youths through podcasts, YouTube channels, Instagram and Facebook videos, and live chats on topics about subjects such as education, mental health and well-being. Mthobisi says what drives him to excel is the desire to inspire others to do and be better. "From my time in high school, I learned that my academic excellence made many young people in my school and community look up to me. I decided that my drive to excel should be to help others, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds like myself."



Ronewa Khakhu

Student councillor

Ronewa Khakhu, 21, is a student councillor at the University of Pretoria Law Clinic. She consults vulnerable and indigent clients, answers their queries and ensures they have access to legal representation without incurring fees. She also works for the Willmore Youth Foundation, a nonprofit organisation working to ensure that youths make wise career and lifestyle choices. As well as doing an LLB at the University of Pretoria, Ronewa recently graduated from the E-commerce Capacity Development Programme, which aims to increase women's participation and success in online business. She was selected from 500 entrepreneur applications globally by the Africa Women Innovation & Entrepreneurship Forum in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation. Ronewa made it to the Law Faculty Dean's Merit List Award 2022. "There is a difference between earning to make a living and living to make a difference," she says, something she has clearly taken to heart in her work, fulfilling her dream of playing a role in helping people get access to justice. She would like to see the school subject life orientation put more emphasis on helping pupils to navigate their lives and make career choices in line with workforce demands in South Africa and their interests.



Simthembile Sibhayi

Programmes manager

Simthembile Sibhayi, 31, is the programme manager at The Unlimited Child, where he oversees 3 830 early childhood development (ECD) centres that accommodate more than a million children nationally and in Zimbabwe and Lesotho. "I research and develop innovative means of assisting practitioners and children to advance in their ability to use technological tools in the daily teaching and learning process," he says. His passion for education management and community development is evident through his work in rural and peri-urban areas with low-income households where he managed the implementation of sustainable educational programmes in ECD centres. Simthembile helps ensure the centres are not only conducive learning environments but also viable micro-enterprises. He recently facilitated the implementation of an information and communication technology intervention for ECD centres in informal mining communities in Limpopo, Northern Cape and Mpumalanga. It saw the distribution of 350 tablets and the training of 668 people in the use of technology for teaching and learning. He believes every child should have equal access to advanced means of learning at an early age. He holds a master's in community development from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and is enrolling for a PhD in education.



Matubatsi Motsoeneng

Founder, facilitator and moderator

Matubatsi Motsoeneng, 32, is a facilitator, moderator and founder of Feme, a digital platform that seeks to empower and connect women in South Africa. The platform provides a space for women to share information and access resources that enable them to pursue their personal and professional goals. What makes Matubatsi and the Feme platform special is the focus on empowering women, particularly in a country where gender-based violence is rife and women often face significant difficulties and barriers to success. Matubatsi's vision and leadership have enabled the Feme platform to become a resource for women across South Africa, providing them with the tools and support they need to achieve their goals. Under Matubatsi's leadership, the Feme platform has grown its user base and expanded its services. The platform also provides access to training and mentorship opportunities, as well as job listings and career resources. Matubatsi and the Feme platform will continue to play an important role in shaping the South Africa of the future. By empowering women and providing them with the resources and support they need to succeed, the platform is helping to create a more equitable and prosperous society for all.



Mbongeni Allan Magubane

Deputy headmaster

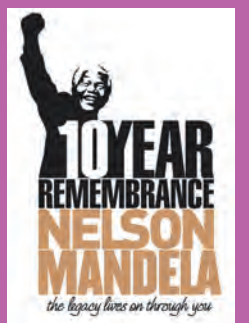
Mbongeni Allan Magubane, 34, is deputy headmaster for transformation and community engagement at St John's College. Since arriving at the elite school in 2018, he has lived up to the tall order. He advocates for changing old ways of thinking in South Africa's academic community, working to make institutions more inclusive, responsive and caring. In the matter of the racial slur uttered during a hockey game between Michaelhouse and St John's in 2022, Mbongeni was an instrumental part of a St John's that ensured that accountability was the order of the day. Mbongeni's philosophy stems from the understanding that culture determines what we allow or preclude in society and that can make the world better for the marginalised. "Those with decision-making power have to use that power to make the world as small as possible for racists, sexists and all bigots," he says. Mbongeni is responsible to the head for the development of a schoolwide strategic plan, practices, policies, programmes and materials that create a culture that embraces diversity, equity and belonging. His job is the central driver of transformation at all the schools within St John's College. Mbongeni is a member of the campus senior management team and executive.



Photo: Getty Images

'It is normally invidious to single out individuals. But today, 16 June, is the day on which we South Africans commemorate the contribution of our youth to the achievement of democracy, and rededicate ourselves to creating a just society.'

Nelson Mandela, upon being awarded the freedom of Cardiff, Wales, 16 June 1998





NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
OUR YOUTH. OUR FUTURE.

Accelerating youth economic emancipation for a sustainable future.

The NYDA was established primarily to address challenges faced by the nation's youth and this is guided by the vision of building "a credible, capable, inclusive and activist development agency that is responsive to the plight of South Africa's youth".

The NYDA continuously accelerates service delivery and has the aim of reaching out to young people across the country, particularly previously marginalised groups like young women, youth with disabilities, members of the LGBTQIA+ community and youth residing in deep rural areas and townships.

It is on that basis that, the NYDA linked its programmes to the following Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) outcomes:

- Transform the economy to serve the people through decent youth employment and youth entrepreneurship.
- Advance social transformation through the National Youth Service

The NYDA has created an enabling environment to promote the full participation of youth with disabilities and young women in all NYDA programs and the agency aims to assist young persons with disabilities through linking them to products and services of the

NYDA as well as government at large beyond only setting targets but building an inclusive ecosystem for vulnerable youth to thrive.

The amendment of the NYDA Act is currently before Parliament and at an advanced stage. Such legislation is crucial, in the context of our slow moving economic growth, resources constraints, and poor outlook. Therefore, the NYDA needs to forge meaningful partnerships with government, civil society organisations, business organisations, and development partners, in the quest to achieve common objectives.

The NYDA has rationalized its work and has a renewed focus towards youth entrepreneurship, the creation and facilitation of jobs as well as the coordination of the National Youth Services Programme across all sectors of government and society.

The Agency aims to adopt a more sectoral approach to job placements, which will include



working closer with the private sector, civil society and industry at regional level and focusing on the recruitment needs of business as well as ensuring that young people have the skill set to meet industry demands.

The NYDA looks forward to South Africa assuming the Chair of BRICS in 2023 and will position itself as a strong youth development agency, not just on the Continent, but also globally when South Africa hosts the BRICS Youth Summit in July 2023.

The NYDA has for the purposes of BRICS submitted the establishment of a BRICS Youth Secretariat for endorsement by young people, the Ministers of Youth of the BLOC and the Heads of State. This is an opportunity for the Youth Secretariat to become a structure of BRICS like the New Development Bank and the BRICS Business Council as well as for the structure to be headquartered in South Africa which can unlock benefits across employment, education, skills and research.

For Youth Day 2023, the NYDA plans to move away from the hosting of mass based rallies towards hosting a large career and opportunities expo for young people in order for them to receive access to information, knowledge and real life opportunities. This is informed by the changing nature of youth development work. The

opportunities expo will incorporate Higher Education Institutions, Private and Public sector opportunities, as well as opportunities provided by civil society organisations. Various masterclasses will be hosted with industry experts to expose young people to modern day industries. The Youth Day commemoration weekend will also allow for young people in the arts to be exposed to various platforms for them to showcase their work and understand how best to create a career within the creative industry.

The NYDA is working on high priority sectors for a skills revolution in the automotive industry, oceans economy and creative arts sectors.

The agency has developed a concept for the placement of 250 000 young people in the National Youth Service across the civil society and the public sector in meaningful work that impacts not only on a young person, their communities but also the nation, building on the first cohort of 50 000 youth who have graduated through the NYS.

"By paying close attention to where young people are directing their efforts, and what barriers they encounter, the Agency will continue to see how to meet them where they are" - Executive Chairperson of the NYDA, Ms Asanda Luwaca



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200 Young South Africans 2023

ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Zintle Ramano

Founder and managing director

Zintle Ramano, 28, is an entrepreneur who believes that the future is digital. She founded the Black African and Beautiful (BAAB) Media Group, a 100% black and woman-owned business, in 2018. The digital marketing company generates traffic in more than 27 countries on four continents. The firm's aim is to assist its users to understand the importance of digitisation to elevate and professionalise their brand through digital marketing. The company has done pro-bono and commissioned work with various companies. It is also the official digital media sponsor for the Women's Economic Assembly, a multi-stakeholder platform for deliberate action, which was co-signed by President Ramaphosa. Zintle has two diplomas in hospitality management, a BA in global business management and attended an entrepreneurship programme at the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs. When she was a child she travelled all over the world with her mother, who made sure she kept a travel journal. "I revisit those journals and that has spurred me to achieve and know that we are not limited to the borders and walls of where we come from." Zintle became a mother recently, and this has driven her to excel. She aims to be an innovator and leader in the digitisation of the world.



Tumelo Makgakga

Managing director

Tumelo Makgakga, 30, is an entrepreneur, chartered accountant and a registered auditor and tax practitioner. He is one of the youngest members of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants task group for the implementation of quality management standards. In July 2020, Tumelo took a leap of faith, right in the middle of the Covid pandemic, and resigned from his management position at a Big Four accounting firm to start his own company. FirstPlace Assurance & Advisory specialises in working with small, micro and medium enterprises (SMMEs). Many SMMEs are struggling to get good financial coaching and support, often because they cannot afford decent accounting services. Being a qualified chartered accountant with years of experience and having been exposed to working with JSE-listed and multinational companies and with his love of business, Tumelo knew that this is a problem he is well equipped to tackle. Tumelo's vision is to see businesses grow to reduce the rate of SMME failures, ultimately reducing the unemployment rate in the country. Tumelo now employs other young professionals and, together with his team, are helping many SMMEs with financial coaching, compliance, and migration from manual processing of records to digital and cloud-based accounting tools.



S'negugu Hadebe

Founder and chief executive

Fourth-generation farmer S'negugu Hadebe is changing the face of farming. The 29-year-old is the founder and chief executive of Imbewu Farmers, an agribusiness dedicated to sustainable development, especially among small-scale rural farmers. Imbewu supplies fresh produce to supermarkets, local restaurants, residents, street vendors, maize millers and B&Bs. The organisation offers a unique opportunity to other farmers by selling their products through its markets. S'negugu was a top 10 finalist for the Nestlé Needs Youth 2022 agripreneur competition and she and Imbewu were selected to be part of the University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business venture launch 2022 cohort. She graduated from The London Academy of Professional Training, from which she received a scholarship to study agribusiness, as well as a programme endorsed by the United States embassy in South Africa and Arizona State University in partnership with the Africa Women Innovation and Entrepreneurship Forum. S'negugu is an activist who runs literacy programmes in her community and is a World Literacy Foundation ambassador. "I would tell my younger self, 'Some people are going to throw dirt at you and some people are going to throw flowers at you. Let it all be a garden that you grow from.'"



Leslie Brenton Naidoo

Chief executive

At 27, Leslie Brenton Naidoo is the chief executive of Brengen Energy, a niche marketing, distribution and management advisory firm in the fuel and petroleum sector, with branches in Zambia and Botswana. It focuses on the sourcing and distribution of petroleum products. In addition, it provides business development; strategic, concept and infrastructure development planning; integrated supply-chain development; energy studies; business plans and financial modelling. It also runs management development courses focused on the oil and gas sector. Brengen Energy does community work and assists underprivileged students. "We at Brengen Energy pride ourselves on creating more job opportunities in our rural areas. We have a great group of individuals who are focused on achieving the goal of taking over the roles of oil majors ... to bring in fuel at a lower rate and supply end users which include mines, farmers and truck stops," says Leslie, who is the youngest South African to hold a fuel wholesale licence and have a petroleum company. In five years, he would like South Africa to be run by "great individuals who are able to drive the country forward without being dependent on foreign investors. We need to build up our own people."



Zinhle Novazi

Director and tax and fiduciary specialist

Zinhle Novazi, 28, is a director of the Heavy Chef Foundation nonprofit, an attorney of the high court and a tax and fiduciary specialist at Investec. Heavy Chef aims to inspire, equip and enable entrepreneurs to thrive and run profitable businesses that employ people, improving the lives of many South Africans. Zinhle has a master's degree in technology, media and telecoms from the Queen Mary University of London and is completing a master's in taxation law. Together with the board of directors, she is responsible for setting out the strategic direction of Heavy Chef and developing plans to achieve its goal of making entrepreneurship equitable and accessible. This involves assessing market trends and opportunities, identifying strategic partners, potential risks and challenges, and also making decisions about investments and resource allocation. Zinhle curates shared learning experiences for Heavy Chef's community of 35 000+ entrepreneurs. She is also a master of ceremony for the organisation's monthly master classes where she puts disruptors, iconoclasts, creatives, visionaries, start-uppers, influencers and innovators in the Heavy Chef hot seat and explores their secret recipes and special ingredients for success. As a speaker, Zinhle talks about entrepreneurship, innovation and developments in technology and data privacy.



Kiara Ramklass

Founder and chief executive

Kiara Ramklass, 28, has a decade of experience in entrepreneurship and music education. She is the founder and director of Marimba Jam, a social enterprise focusing on bridging the gaps in education inequality in South Africa through increased access to African music education programmes. She is motivated to ensure every child has the opportunity to experience the benefits of African music education and gain important life skills that contribute towards their holistic development and success after school. Marimba Jam has trained more than 1 200 schoolchildren over the past five years. This year, it is teaching 450 learners every week. Marimba Jam has created employment for more than 70 university students and graduates as part-time teachers and performers. It employs six full-time staff. The company has a nonprofit arm, Marimba Jam Cares. Building on its success in Cape Town, it recently opened a branch in Johannesburg. As a 2022 Mandela Washington Fellow, Kiara plans to replicate Marimba Jam's hub model in South Africa's cities and expand into the rest of Africa. Marimba Jam has received several awards, including the Number One Youth-Owned Business at the Western Cape Entrepreneurship Recognition Awards; first prize at the Investec StartUp School Africa and the Billion Acts of Peace Award.



Khonaz Stuurman

Co-founder

Twenty-three-year-old Khonaz Stuurman is the co-founder of the first-ever personal productivity application in the country, FlowSpace. It aims to help people and teams achieve their goals and to be more efficient. His vision is to grow the product into a household name and contribute to the tech industry in South Africa. "With life coaching and other supportive services built into the experience we offer a holistic solution that addresses both personal and professional needs. Just like how solutions like smartwatches have saved people from dire health-threatening situations, FlowSpace will contribute its part toward creating a society of mentally healthy and capable individuals through the power of technology," he says. Khonaz's main job is managing the marketing and ensuring customer satisfaction, so that the features built into the app are what people want and need. He works with the development team to ensure features are aligned with a company's vision and goals and meet the needs of the target audience. FlowSpace was accepted into the Engenesis Venture Building Start-Up Program, a global venture builder based in Sydney, Australia. "I believe that the key to building a better future for all lies in empowering individuals to take responsibility for their own growth and success," Khonaz says.



Bongiwe Thela

Founder and director

Bongiwe Thela, 26, has been running her business, Toda Products, since she was a student, when she started selling water at events. The company has gone from strength to strength and now specialises in products ranging from personal protective equipment to corporate clothing and gifts; mechanical and electrical equipment; mining equipment and consumables. She expanded into the engineering space when she saw a gap in the mining market and realised there was a shortage of experienced women who understood mining and could supply quality products and services. "Today, it proves that, as a young, black girl, it is possible if you believe and work hard," she says of the success of her business. Bongiwe aspires to grow the company nationally and internationally and employ more young people. Toda Products has been featured in several publications as well as on SABC 1. Bongiwe says growing up an only child and a loner "made me be strong and stand up for myself and my own life. It taught me to get things done." She would advise her younger self: "Don't fear as fear can hold one back. Be bold and courageous. Grab every opportunity with both hands." Bongiwe would like to see "a united South Africa, a fair South Africa where everyone gets equal opportunities."





200 Young South Africans 2023 ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Michael van der Linde

Co-founder and chief product officer

Michael van der Linde, 33, is the co-founder and chief product officer at Tracto, which helps parents support their children through emotional and behavioural challenges, such as anxiety, depression, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and autism. The entrepreneur, who has a Bachelor of Commerce in market research, sociology, business strategy and entrepreneurship from Stellenbosch University, started his first business as a student when he co-founded OKGO wines, followed by Nucleus Stellenbosch. Michael has worked in aerospace, health-tech and the internet of things. He is also co-founder and chief product officer at Augmental Technologies, a health-tech startup that supports caregivers of neurodiverse children. "Learn more about the power of self-compassion, be authentically you, and remember to play. Life is not all work," is the advice Michael would give to his younger self. He would like to see more initiatives that inspire hope in all South Africans. "I believe hope is a powerful tool to mobilise change." Michael's sports achievements as a youngster and his single mother's tenacity saw him awarded a sports bursary at Paul Roos Gymnasium in Stellenbosch. "This single event provided a sense of hope that I could take control of my own journey."



Collen Mphabantshi

Head of platform safety

Entrepreneur and business professional Collen Mphabantshi is head of platform safety at Uber for sub-Saharan Africa. He is responsible for rider and driver safety across the region, partnering with Europe, the Middle East, Africa and global safety teams to launch new products and features. "I provide project management and key partner alignment on initiatives to ensure they are connected to the larger business goals; ensuring projects are accurately defined, prioritised and have quantifiable goals and baseline data. I supervise safety metrics, analyse the data and take on issues identified from the data analysis to improve safety policies, processes and products," says Collen, 32, who has a BSc honours in computer science from the University of Pretoria, a post-graduate certificate in project management from Regenesys Business School and various cyber-security and forensic certifications. Collen has also launched and run business ventures including The Banchi Group, a tech startup that provides IT services to small and medium enterprises; Leafy Mall, an online multi-vendor marketplace for local farmers and LyfBit App, a tech innovation aimed at enhancing access to healthcare. "I keep myself going through by solving complex problems that improve other people's lives in a significant way."



Nozipho Soka

Director

Nozipho Soka, 35, is a farmer and entrepreneur, who works to contribute towards food security, poverty alleviation and building healthy communities. She is the founder and managing director of Rea Jala Veggies and director of Dee-Y Farming. Rea Jala Veggies produces quality vegetables. Nozipho and her family also run the dairy farm started by her mother, which supplies Ayrshire milk to Woolworths. She has a foundation that teaches children at orphanages and schools how to plant trees. She has plans to host schoolchildren on day trips to their family farm, where they will get first-hand exposure to a mixed farm, to encourage more children to pursue agriculture as a career. Nozipho, who has an MBA from the University of the Witwatersrand, completed the Africa Agriculture Qualification with GIBS Business School and AGCO, as a top achiever. She was selected as one of five South African finalists in the Womenpreneur Pitch-a-ton competition by Access Bank. "The statistics around food security are very concerning. 20.4% (about 7.8 million) South Africans are said to be food insecure, with this number expected to grow exponentially over the coming years. Any contribution I can make towards mitigating this drives me on a daily basis," Nozipho says.



Maambele Khosa

Founder and director

Maambele Khosa, 27, is the founder and director of SheCab, a women's transportation company. Maambele is committed to the unique challenges that women face when it comes to getting around, and is committed to addressing these challenges through innovative solutions. The SheCab team prioritises safety and security above all else, and ensures that their passengers feel comfortable and confident. SheCab provides ride-hailing, shuttle and corporate transportation services. While overseeing all aspects of the business, including operations, marketing, talent acquisition, and product development, Maambele is also actively involved in driving clients on weekends and early mornings to stay connected with the experiences of the team. She is completing her master's degree in science and technology at Stellenbosch University. She has a BSc in geoinformatics and information systems management and a postgraduate diploma in marketing from the same institution. What would she like South Africa to look like in five years? "I envision a future where we fully embrace entrepreneurship and innovation as drivers of economic growth and job creation. I believe that it is crucial for our government and private sector leaders to prioritise investment in these areas," she says.



Banesa Molauoa Tseki & Anesu Mbizvo

Founders and co-owners

Banesa Molauoa Tseki, 34, and Anesu Mbizvo, 31, are the co-owners and founders of The Nest Space, the first black and female-run yoga and wellness centre in Johannesburg. Mindfulness was something they got to taste at a very early age because their parents made the conscious decision to expose their daughters to alternative concepts of healing and wellness. They have created a space for people to heal through meditation, reiki, sound healing, moon ceremonies and hypnotherapy. The Nest Space has a yoga studio, an alternative healing therapy room, a vegan café with zero waste, and is as African as it gets because these concepts originated from the continent, Anesu explains. During the Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns they were forced to close their doors but successfully ran their businesses online while keeping all 10 staff members employed. They have since opened up a yoga teacher training school and to date have trained just under 80 yoga teachers of colour. "We continue to advocate for the radical healing and self-care of people of colour through various missions," says Banesa. "The Nest is built around the values of inclusivity, simplicity, fair representation, freedom of self, connection, community, harmony, self-celebration and self-expression," adds Anesu.



Thulani Masebenza

Co-founder and chief executive

Thulani Masebenza, 28, is the co-founder and chief executive of Moya Money, a fintech startup whose mission is to make self-employment sustainable in Africa by making it easier for businesses to manage and pay freelancers. Since launching in September last year, it has signed up more than 10 businesses as clients who have a network of more than 7 500 freelancers. Moya Money was the first South African startup to participate in the Tenity F10 Global Fintech Accelerator Programme, an incubation and fundraising programme in Spain in 2021-22. Thulani helped Moya Money raise \$300 000 in its first round of investment. The company was recently selected as one of 29 top emerging startups across the continent to be part of the MultiChoice Africa Accelerator programme in March 2023. In 2019, Thulani co-founded Young Aspiring Thinkers, a nonprofit that exposes learners in township high schools to careers through a mentor model. It has reached more than 2 000 learners, has 150 mentors on its database and has projects with Oracle, Trevor Noah Foundation and Cornell University in the US. Thulani has been invited to pitch on behalf of Young Aspiring Thinkers by the ChangeNow Summit in Colombia (2020) and Paris (2022) after being nominated as one of the top 1 000 impact solutions in education.



Kwazini Zulu

Founder

Kwazini Zulu, 28, is the founder of Kulisha Consulting and Take-A-Bite Biscuits. He started the biscuit brand in a bid to support his family, having grown up watching his grandmother sell iziqeda (flavoured ice blocks) from their kitchen, which generated sufficient income for the family to live on. The biscuit brand grew and he now oversees the operation that produces and supplies quality biscuit and candy products to sales agents, general dealers and commercial stores in KwaZulu-Natal, such as Spar, Pick n Pay Express and FreshStop. Through his implementation agency, Kulisha Consulting, he works with various organisations to maximise ambitious young people's strategic value and unlock opportunities through enterprise development, skills training and personal development. He employs students and wannabe entrepreneurs, which gives them the opportunity to gain the necessary experience and skills to pursue their own businesses. In partnership with the TLT Foundation, a global philanthropic organisation, Kwazini teaches personal and leadership skills to underprivileged youth. He also hosts small groups at his home to help them navigate the difficulties of growing up below the poverty line.



Nicholas Bush

Director and founder

Nicholas Bush, 34, is a serial entrepreneur with a primary focus on the beverages and manufacturing sectors. He holds various positions across multiple organisations, including founder of Drifter Brewing Company and Cape Evergreen Cannabis Farm and Under the Table Cannabis Club (a consultancy that facilitates a digital cannabis club) and is the director of Bature Brewery in Nigeria, a fast-growing beer brand. Nicholas is also involved in nonprofit organisations the Market Garden Initiative and Soup-a-Heroes, which provided more than two million meals during the Covid-19 pandemic. He has a successful track record of equity raises for several businesses at different stages of growth and is a firm believer in pushing individuals to exceed their perceived boundaries and reach their fullest potential. Nicholas is also an adventure enthusiast and enjoys paragliding, sailing, rock climbing, flying planes and cold-water swimming. "Our innovative strategies, commitment to quality, and community-centred initiatives have positioned us as refreshing change-makers in the sector," he says. Nicholas has designed and built breweries that have gone on to win prestigious awards, including Zwakala Brewery in Limpopo and Devil's Club Brewery in Alaska.





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Johan van Rooyen & Willem Wouter Dreyer

Founders

Johan van Rooyen and Willem Wouter Dreyer are the founders of All Green Fresh Farming based in Potchefstroom. They have spent the past two and a half years developing an indoor vertical farming system that allows one to grow fresh produce such as high-quality microgreens, leafy greens and edible flowers year-round regardless of weather conditions — without any pesticides or fertilisers and using less than 10% of the water used in conventional agriculture. Through their innovative work they have managed to increase yields and enhance sustainable farming. Johan and



Willem have a distinguished record of innovation and leadership in the agricultural industry. Because of their entrepreneurial spirit and love of agriculture, they have built a successful company. Willem and Johan, both 23, have a BCom in economics and international trade from North-West University.



Nomagugu Mbongwa

Founder and director

Nomagugu Mbongwa, 33, is the founder and director of Lushka, a leading adult toy shop. She started an adult wellness company in 2017 to address and educate people about sexuality and developed and created products to address adult wellness issues. By combining education and the products, she created an income opportunity for 15 women who sell the products. She has grown the business in the retail market, with a presence in the likes of Medirite, Luvland,



Transpharm, Takealot and Makro. She has managed to scale up a business around an issue that people are shy to talk about but have problems with — and resolves those problems. Nomagugu advocates sexual health and wellbeing to promote adult wellness as a noncontroversial topic. She has ensured the brand is clean and marketable in family-friendly spaces.



Rhulani Shivambu

Pharmacist, entrepreneur

Rhulani Shivambu, 35, is a pharmacist with Life Long Healthcare and is focused on providing a comprehensive healthcare service in rural areas. To provide an urban pharmaceutical experience to underprivileged people, Rhulani collaborates with a multidisciplinary team of medical professionals and interested persons from the area. His entry into retail pharmacy led him to complete an MBA, because he realised the importance of business as a powerful tool to benefit and uplift vulnerable communities. Rhulani has opened five pharmacies — in Tembisa, Northwest, Moloto and Norkem — ensuring that healthcare



is accessible and affordable to people living in these areas. He has also created employment for more than 50 people. Rhulani is studying towards a post-grad diploma in public health with the aim of creating a sustainable future and equity in health care. "Seeing the significance of the small changes I affected in these communities motivated me to want to see other individuals and communities experience the same, if not better," he says.



Shepherd Mandla Mkhize

Managing director

Shepherd Mandla Mkhize, 28, the managing director of Linkage Brands, founded Room Mobile Hair Salon in 2018, when he realised there was a huge gap in the informal hair salon market. Inspired by his mother, who was a hairdresser, Shepherd has started Room Mobile Hair Salon branches in Cape Town, Gauteng, Durban, Nelspruit, Gqeberha and Bloemfontein. The aim of the mobile hair salon is to provide women with connections to leading hairdressers to do people's hair in an affordable and safe way in the convenience of their home, while creating sustainable jobs and formalising the



hair salon market. Through his entrepreneurship Shepherd has created more than 300 hairdresser jobs for women. All of the hairdressers are certified and go through a rigorous hiring process. All prospective hairdressers are interviewed in person and trained in-house. "One of our hairstylists is able to send their daughter to university because of the income they make from our platform," Shepherd says.



CSIR's young researchers touching lives through innovation

They enhance our methods for extracting minerals, planning our cities and maintaining cybersecurity



Dr Zubeida Dawood in the Virtual Cybersecurity Operations Centre at the CSIR. The Centre offers specialized cybersecurity services such as event monitoring, event handling, security analysis, and synchronized management of devices, networks and applications to maintain security and compliance for clients.

Keeping our information safe

Dr Zubeida Dawood (33) leads the CSIR's research in information and cybersecurity, which concerns the governance, privacy and trust elements of cybersecurity. Dawood deals with matters of national security, managing projects with sensitive information or developing tailored strategies for both local and international clients. Some projects have direct benefits for businesses in South Africa, such as her work on a software toolkit that will support organisations to comply with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act 4 of 2013) to help manage consent by customers and clients.

She holds a BSc in Computer Science, BSc Honours in Computer Science, Msc in Computer Science and a PhD in Computer Science from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. "A common misconception is that one needs to be extraordinarily smart or a genius to become a cybersecurity researcher," says Dawood modestly.

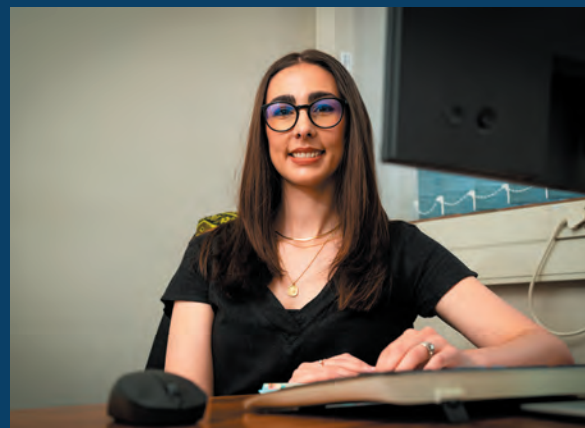


The CSIR's Zamaswazi Nkosi holding a drill core sample to be analysed in a rock strength testing machine

Addressing our mining challenges

Zamaswazi Nkosi (31) has always been fascinated by the idea of designing and constructing structures that can withstand the forces of nature and support human activity. Nkosi grew up believing that she would find her footing in the civil engineering field someday. However, as she progressed through her education, she found herself drawn more toward the study of geology and Earth sciences and realised that her love for science, data analysis and environmental issues aligned better with a career in geoscience. In her role as a geoscientist at the CSIR, Nkosi focuses on rock engineering, geology, and geophysics.

She is passionate about using her abilities to resolve problems in the mining sector. She believes that geoscientists must be able to adapt to and adopt new technologies, methods, processes and discoveries. "I contribute to the development and use of high-resolution geophysical tools such as 3D and 2D ground-penetrating radar and explore their applicability in addressing practical challenges," she says. Nkosi studied mathematics, physical science, geography, engineering graphics and design in high school, which enabled her to enrol in engineering studies at university level. She holds a BSc (Geology), BSc (Hons) (Geology) and MSc (Geology) from the University of the Witwatersrand.



Senior Researcher Amy Pieterse presenting research on the greenbook, a CSIR developed planning support system

Sustainable urban planning

Amy Pieterse (32) is an urban planner and senior researcher in the CSIR's urban and regional dynamic research group. She is playing a leading role in the GreenBook (greenbook.co.za), a planning support system that the CSIR developed and launched in 2019. The core team works on projects that roll the GreenBook out to local government, in a bid to support this tier of government's ability to undertake long-term planning that is cognisant of climate change, hazards and vulnerabilities. GreenBook stakeholders include the South African national government, the insurance industry and non-profit organisations.

She holds a Bachelor and a Master's in Town and Regional Planning from the University of Pretoria. She completed the latter in 2020, then embarked on a six-month research programme at the Technical University of Berlin, where she developed a PhD proposal as part of the Global Centre of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability. She subsequently began working on her PhD at the University of Pretoria's Department of Town and Regional Planning.



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Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



CSIR
Touching lives through innovation



Shaping a Sustainable Future

Vodacom reflects on its efforts and commitment to fostering **inclusion, preserving the planet and creating digital societies** for a brighter future.

Vodacom stands at the intersection of technology and sustainable change, committed to empowering society while preserving our planet.

We see the transformative potential of technology as an essential enabler for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

In our journey to embed purpose within the organisation, our objective is to ensure that the potential offered by digital connectivity is fully harnessed through responsible leadership that is driven by innovation, high ethical standards and the quest to preserve the planet.

We're committed to doing things the right way, demonstrating that good business and doing good can be the same thing, thereby shaping a sustainable future.

All numbers are based on FY22 published results for Vodacom in South Africa

Luyanda Lindelwa Ndlela
Senior researcher

Luyanda Lindelwa Ndlela, 34, is has a background in micro-biology and has done most of her research in this field, looking at technologies and innovative solutions in the water sector and bioremediation. Her PhD focused on the remediation of toxic cyanobacteria and the resulting ecotoxicity. She has authored 10 publications and has been a part of numerous projects through the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, where she is employed as a senior researcher. Luyanda has a strong inclination for tangible life improvements through science and this need for developing others has manifested in her involvement in community development as well. She serves as a board member for Thembalitsha Foundation, a nonprofit organisation that has educare centres, skills training centres, support for expectant mothers and mobile toy libraries. It serves people in underprivileged areas in the Western Cape and Eastern Cape. Her passion led to her being recognised as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Persons in 2020 by the JCI in South Africa. Luyanda has made her mark as an emerging researcher, having presented her work at local and international conferences, and having received a number of award at local and international conferences.



Marc Sherratt
Managing director

Marc Sherratt, 33, started his practice, Marc Sherratt, Sustainability Architects (MSSA), in January 2017. He has grown his practice into an industry leader that has completed some of the most pioneering green buildings in South Africa. MSSA designed the first triple net zero building for the categories of carbon (no carbon emissions in building operations), ecology (regenerating the landscape at the site) and water (water used is from renewable sources) in South Africa, independently certified by the Green Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA). They also built the first GBCSA-certified net positive construction waste project for the country, which used more than 60 tonnes of waste that would have gone to landfill in its construction. Marc has become a thought leader in the construction industry and was invited to be part of the faculty of the GBCSA, where he teaches the net zero accredited professional programme. He was also asked to be part of the technical team updating the New Build Green Star SA tool, which over the past decade has become the best practice standard for green buildings in Africa. He has been appointed by the Presidential Infrastructure Coordination Council to design the government's first net zero carbon operational building, a design for a clinic that will be used across the country.



Samantha de Villiers
Attorney

Samantha de Villiers, 34, is an attorney at Ndlovu de Villiers Attorneys, a firm she and her partner, Sibonelo Ndlovu, started in 2018 to foster a new generation of environmental lawyers and provide opportunities for women in this field, particularly black women. Samantha specialises in a small niche of environmental law relating to protected areas. The legislation is complex but important to give effect to the constitutional right to the protection of the environment for current and future generations. She is a member of the national stewardship legal reference group and is the only private attorney requested to participate in the technical working group for stewardship in South Africa. Samantha has also played an integral role in the establishment of the KwaZulu-Natal protected areas declaration task team, which is the first of its kind in South Africa. It is rolling out a pilot project in the province to create a streamlined process for the declaration of protected areas, thereby directly informing the development of regulations for South Africa in this area of law. Samantha has worked on more than 150 protected areas and has secured the statutory protection of hundreds of thousands of hectares of land. She nurtures and builds team spirit among her colleagues through her collaborative, active and engaging style.



Awodwa Magingi
Geohydrologist

Awodwa Magingi, 30, is a geohydrologist with the department of water and sanitation. Her work involves the development of policies, strategies and guidelines for assessment planning and management of groundwater resources in South Africa. It involves promoting the conjunctive use of both surface water and groundwater and linking that to the changing climate. This includes assisting municipalities and other water service providers to operate, maintain and manage the groundwater resources in their area in a sustainable manner. Awodwa, who has a master's in geohydrology from the University of the Free State, says it is her background that has driven her to excel. "It has always been my dream to improve where I come from, which is a rural area that seems to be forgotten at times; 29 years into freedom and that place still doesn't have any water reticulation system, old people still fetch water from the river." In 2018, she was registered as a professional earth scientist. Outside office hours, Awodwa volunteered for World Merit South Africa as the director of marketing and membership and was promoted to vice-president. Her advocacy work is also visible through her recent work with the Groundwater Young Professionals Committee for Southern Africa with the Groundwater Management Institute.



Phathutshedzo Mudau
Managing director

Phathutshedzo Mudau, 30, is the founder and managing director of Dziphathu Green Tech. This is a waste management company that focuses on collecting plastics and biomass waste and then converting into useful and valuable products. The main objective of this initiative is to free the environment from waste material such as plastics and biomass waste. The company makes products such as bricks, brooms, chairs and tables. Phathutshedzo teaches other people how to process waste and sell the products. He is part of the Indalo Inclusive beneficiary and he is one of 26 climate change innovation champions named by Indalo and published by the *Mail & Guardian*. The young innovator has contributed much in reducing deforestation by using biochar and biomass products to produce charcoal briquettes to cook and braai. He has also reduced land and water pollution by preventing plastic waste from reaching rivers and oceans, which can affect aqua-life. His contribution has been recognised by the department of forestry, fisheries and the environment, through the Driving Force for Change for Youth award. Phathutshedzo is the brand ambassador at Vhembe Biosphere Reserve. He has learnt that innovation does not require any degree; one needs to look at the problems and come up with the solutions.



Bakang Mputle
Doctoral researcher

Bakang Mputle, 27, is an environmental activist scholar, whose work is anchored on the two United Nations sustainable development goals — education and climate action. His academic and research interests lie in environmental humanities, climate justice transition and political ecology. He has done an ethnographic study on the reclaimers (waste pickers) in the City of Johannesburg, who have a vital role in the waste management and recycling systems of the city. This work has informed conversations and policy discussions with the city, Pikitup and other stakeholders. Bakang champions education for sustainable development and has done a study of how education for sustainable development is articulated in the South African curriculum assessment policy statements. He is reading for a PhD in climate justice at Stellenbosch University and is co-authoring a book with people at the Joint Education Trust, an independent, nonprofit organisation that works with the government, the private sector, international development agencies and education institutions. Another of Bakang's passions is fine art — check Instagram for his work. He also uses the arts and photography as mediums within and outside academia for communicating environmental issues.



Tatenda Wayne Muponde
Attorney

Tatenda Wayne Muponde, 28, is an attorney at the Centre for Environmental Rights. She works in the mining programme and her job entails litigating and advocating for environmental and climate justice in South Africa by ensuring that the rights of people living in mining-affected communities are upheld and they enjoy their right to a healthy environment. This means holding the state accountable for decisions that are detrimental to the environment and people's lives, holding mining companies that are not in compliance with environmental laws and their licences accountable and ensuring that the state adequately implements its duty to monitor and enforce compliance with environmental laws. Of the climate change crisis and the need to transition from fossil fuels to a low-carbon economy in a just and equitable way, Tatenda says: "In the next five years, I want to see South Africa led by vigilant leaders who will not put profit before people and the planet and leaders who are not afraid to make tough decisions for the benefit of the people." Tatenda also started her own YouTube channel, which focuses on raising awareness on the environment by advocating for environmental and climate justice as well as issues around wellness and finding balance in life for young professionals.



Siqhamo Yamkela Ntola
Senior lecturer

Environmental activist and academic Siqhamo Yamkela Ntola, 34, is a senior lecturer at the University of South Africa in environmental and international law. He focuses on the international law of the sea and the relationship African states have with this branch of law. Siqhamo participated in the working group to prepare for the intergovernmental negotiating committee to end plastic pollution as a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's plastic pollution task team. He is also the co-founder of the African Ocean Governance Institute, a nonprofit company that develops and disseminates insights on law and policy matters pertaining to Africa's maritime domain. Siqhamo was previously the water and environment portfolio manager for the Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse (Outa). While working at Outa he exposed overexpenditure and underdelivery by the department of water and sanitation on its bucket eradication programme. Siqhamo also successfully advocated for the prosecution of directors of Aurora Empowerment Systems for environmental damage from acid mine water in their Grootvlei gold mine. He also assisted with oral and written submissions for the South African Human Rights Commission's inquiry into the sewage problem in the Vaal River.



Inclusion for all

Ensuring that everyone has access
to the benefits of a digital society





R111
million
invested on CSI
in South Africa



R4.5
million
invested in training
GBV survivors in
South Africa



Over **1.6 million**
cumulative learners are
registered users on Vodacom's
e-school platform



2.1 million Mum & Baby
users in South Africa



over **390 000** teachers
have been trained in
92 training centres to date



8.3 million registered
users on NXT LVL

All numbers are based on FY22 published results for Vodacom in South Africa



Planet

Creating a sustainable future
50% reduction in our scope 1 and 2
GHG emissions by 2025





Vodacom South Africa’s Midrand campus is being fitted with solar photovoltaic panels which will **generate about 10.8GWh per year** of its own clean energy

67% reduction in single-use plastic since FY17

75% general waste recycled since FY17



Since 2011, the ARC processed **>2.8 million** devices which were either repaired, reused, refurbished or returned and a total of **>340 000** devices were recycled and disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner



Invested **R50.5 million** in efficiency initiatives

Annual energy savings of **9.1GWh**



1.49 energy intensity (MWh per terabyte of data)

0.64 mtCO₂e GHG emissions per terabyte of data, down 14.8%

For our base stations, initiatives include Raptor technology, operating at **7 313** base stations in South Africa, which can realise energy savings by monitoring operating conditions and automatically switching off air-conditioning



IoT connections enabled carbon savings of **1.6 mtCO₂e¹**

76% reduction in water consumption in South Africa since 2017



All numbers are based on FY22 published results for Vodacom in South Africa



Digital Society

Enabling digital societies
Connecting people, things and
digitalising critical sectors



In 2018, Vodacom pledged to invest R50 billion over five years to drive digital inclusion in South Africa. 100% of the total pledged amount was spent by 2023



14 million stock updates by 3 260 public health facilities since 2014

Number of rural network sites in South Africa 2 784

Extended discounted bundle offers to 2 000 of South Africa’s most vulnerable towns, suburbs and villages



South Africa reduced the 1GB bundle cost by 62% since 2018



22 million unique ConnectU visitors and 14 million sessions initiated each month



R13 billion in airtime advance to 10.5 million customers

9 182 commercial and 30 111 residential electricity smart meters

26.2 million smart devices on our network, up 13.1%



Number of customers
45.4 million

Coverage in SA

- 2G sites **99.9%**
- 3G sites **99.9%**
- 4G sites **97.9%**
- 5G sites **13.5%**



Advanced over **R185 million** in funding to over 330 SMEs via VodaLend



Over **80 million** transacted by over 2 000 merchants in a VodaTrade cashless solution pilot

67 432 active citizenship engagement users

R5.1 billion spent with 2 038 QSE and EME suppliers

>160 00 smart metering solutions

We paid over **R1.6 billion** yearly payments to SME suppliers

Supported the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development



Solidarity Fund to disperse **600 000** e-vouchers valued at R402 million to **80 000** small-scale farmers in South Africa

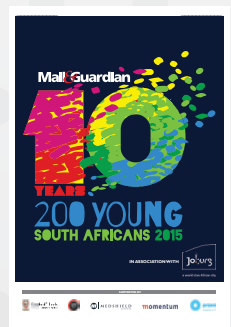
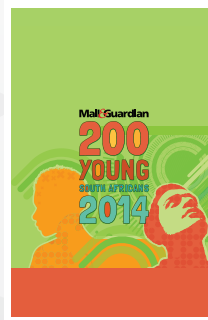
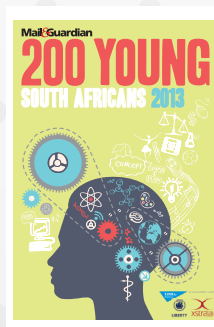
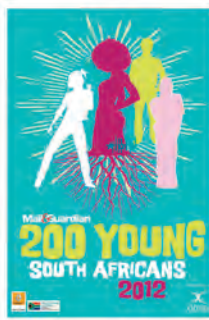
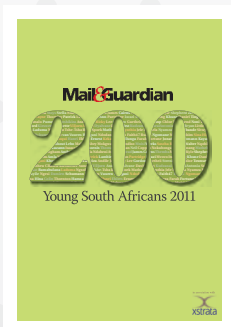
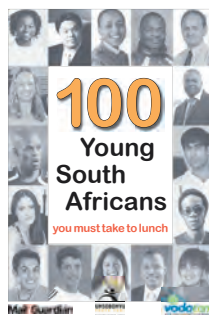
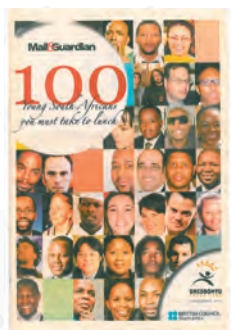


All numbers are based on FY22 published results for Vodacom in South Africa



Further together

CELEBRATING SOUTH AFRICAN VISIONARIES





EVERY STORY HAS A JOURNEY



We are proud of yours

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Mail & Guardian

**200 YOUNG
SOUTH AFRICANS**



200 Young South Africans 2023 FILM & MEDIA

NETFLIX

Philisiwe Twijnstra

Scriptwriter and acting university lecturer

Philisiwe Twijnstra, 35, is a scriptwriting and acting lecturer at the Durban University of Technology. Her teaching focuses on writing for television, film and theatre, as well as theatre acting and analysing theatre text. Apart from being a diverse and imaginative writer, Philisiwe is also a great collaborator. She is gifted in coordinating creative projects and encouraging artists of all backgrounds and has received various awards, including the Fringe Award for Best Digital Experience Play and the Good Theatre Award for Best Performer, as well as being the 2023 recipient of AWP/N/Ghana Playwright Academia Theatre Residency. Philisiwe has a master's degree in creative writing from Rhodes University and a digital platform dedicated to reviewing and holding open discussions about African literature. She has toured multiple cities, nationally and internationally, for her theatre and scriptwriting. Philisiwe participates in the literary sphere in South Africa, and continually makes it a point to uplift others. "I believe that young girls, boys, and young queer people should have a better experience of being creatives. I want to contribute to a safer space for art, create authentic work, and develop myself by developing others. To live in a world filled with passion and art," she says.



Phumzile Sitole

Actor

Phumzile Sitole, 33, is an actor, writer and voice-over artist and has performed in theatre, television and film around the world. One of her first big roles was playing Diatta Ndoye in the third and fourth seasons of *Star Trek: Discovery*. As a young girl, Phumzile was a keen dancer and loved putting on shows for friends and family over the weekends. "The first time I did a performance on stage — I will never forget the feeling of waiting in the wings. I still feel that bubble of excitement — few things make me feel so alive," she says. Best known for her recurring role as Akers in the series *Orange is the New Black*, she also played Sharise in *The Good Fight*, another recurring character. In 2019, she appeared in a smaller guest role in an episode of *Elementary* alongside James Frain, and in 2020, she had a part in an episode of the crime series *Bull*. Phumzile's milestones include being accepted to do her master's in acting at Columbia University in the City of New York. Working on international series gave her the opportunity of being on mind-blowing sets such as the spaceships of *Star Trek: Discovery* and the break rooms of *Orange is the New Black*. Working under banners such as CBS, Netflix and Nat Geo are further feathers in her cap. "Your imagination is one of your strongest tools," she says.



Carol Hobbs

Television and radio personality

Media personality, philanthropist and entrepreneur Carol Hobbs, 35, who works at Rise FM and You FM, raises awareness about critical social issues such as poverty, inequality and gender-based violence. In her 18 years in the radio industry she has created and presented content, and has worked on morning and afternoon drive and chat shows. She has used her voice to advocate for marginalised people and to amplify their stories, shedding light on their struggles and promoting empathy and understanding among her audiences. Through her media engagements, Carol has fostered encouraged conversations, and initiated debates, challenging societal norms and promoting inclusivity. She has established successful businesses that have provided jobs for numerous individuals, thereby driving social change through economic empowerment. Through her collaboration with various organisations, government bodies and NGOs, Carol has helped to push social change at a systemic level. She has been involved in policy advocacy, community development and social innovation, working towards creating a more just and equitable society. Carol says what drives her to excel is people. "I find it fascinating how we think. How we interact and be able to understand the human mind of different ages."



Mamakhoa Gail Motloutung

Managing director

Gail Motloutung is a transformational speaker and author. The 30-year-old is the managing director at House of Yadah Publications and has written several books, including *Believe You Can*, *Born for a Greater Purpose Journal* and *Daddy, I'm Yours*. She is the founder of the Girl with a Purpose Foundation, a South African nonprofit organisation that empowers, equips and inspires young women. She facilitates writer's workshops once every two months to help and guide those hoping to publish their books. She also runs a casting agency for young, upcoming actors and filmmakers. Gail holds a degree in theology and a diploma in entrepreneurship from the Vaal University of Technology. A recipient of a 2016 Esther Woman in the Kingdom Award, a 2019 True Shine Award, a 2020 Women of Stature Award and a 2020 Extraordinary Women Award, Gail was also a Mrs South Africa semifinalist in 2018. Last year, she launched a television show on DStv, which she hosts and produces, called *Book Shelf*. The purpose of this show is to empower self-published authors to get their books out there and also encourage reading and writing. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Gail plans to fulfil her life motto: "If you can see the invisible, you can do the impossible."



Kuda Jemba

Director, writer and editor

When Kuda Jemba was eight, the poster of the first *Fast and Furious* movie caught his eye and he snuck into the cinema. "Seeing those cars racing with the neon lights underneath and the adrenaline from the nitrous oxide changed the trajectory of my life and I knew that whatever they were doing to bring that movie to the big screen was something I wanted to be involved in," he says. Now 30 and a director, writer and editor for *Chopped* and *Screwed*, Kuda manages a film's creative vision through the whole process from the inception of an idea to its completion and final delivery. He is involved in all stages of the filmmaking process from coming up with the concept and guiding the actors and technical crew to perform and capture the vision for the screen, to working with editors, colourists and sound and music departments to assemble the project. Kuda has directed music videos for some of South Africa's biggest artists such as Amanda Black, KO, Bigstar Johnson, Ma-E, DJ Ganyani, and DJ Switch and worked with big brands such as the MTV Base, Cotton Fest, Capitec and Mzansi Magic. Last year, he directed a reality show, *Life With Kelly Khumalo*, singer, songwriter, actress and dancer and the lover of football player Senzo Meyiwa when he was murdered in 2014.



Lola Aikins

Director of animated films

Lola Aikins, 27, is one of the very few black women working as a director of animated films in South Africa. Working at The Hidden Hand Studios, Lola does it all — she writes, directs and animates on all her projects. Her short film project *Naledi* has gained considerable traction in the animation community in South Africa and abroad. The teaser trailer for *Naledi* premiered at Comic Con Africa in 2022 to a standing ovation. In her films, Lola focuses on authentic African aesthetics and telling stories that South Africans can relate to but also have universal appeal. She is transforming the animation film industry by employing predominantly black youth in her projects. This is a way for artists to get more experience in drawing digitally using animation software. So far she has employed more than 20 people through her projects. Another initiative Lola has undertaken to help expand the animation community is through her group LOBA, where she and her colleagues hold monthly Come Draw With US events, friendly sketching tournaments and panel talks by industry experts and up-and-coming artists in the local animation industry. "We have so much talent and a wealth of stories — I wish to see more representation in our media," she says.



Lindo Myeni

Community manager

Lindo Myeni, 29, is a community manager for Clockwork Media where he implements social media and communication campaigns to align with marketing strategies. He quick gained recognition for providing engaging text, images and video content for social media accounts for a number of successful campaigns that have gone on to win awards, including from NextGen. He has also won awards as an influencer. Lindo is known for responding to comments and customer queries in a highly professional, timely manner and running campaigns that are shaping the world and changing people's lives. After completing his national diploma in contact centre management at the Tshwane University of Technology, he specialised in social media marketing at Red and Yellow and is currently doing a digital marketing course. He also runs an online recruitment centre called @TrendingJobs where he assists graduates to be able to see and apply for job opportunities in their field in one place. What advice would he give to his younger self? "I would go back to my younger self and tell him to never listen to anyone who says you can't do something and always believe in yourself. Always keep your head up, no matter what happens along your journey. Persevere," he says.



Mvelisi Mvandaba

Casting director

In 2019, actor and producer Mvelisi Mvandaba combined his love of the entertainment industry and business acumen to open Monate Casting Directors, South Africa's first 100% black and youth-run casting studio. Since then, Mvandaba, 28, has cast various projects for the local and international markets, seeing thousands of talented people find the right project. He has worked with some of the biggest networks and channels around the world, including Netflix, NBC Universal, DreamWorks Animation and Showmax. His passion, however, lies in independent scripts and working with young directors to bring their visions to life. Independent projects he has cast have gone on to have successful premieres at the Durban International Film Festival, Sundance, African Film Festival New York and more. Mvelisi believes in equal opportunity casting and challenges the gender and racial norms that are typically assigned to characters. He would like to effect change in an industry that is "still dominated by outdated practices which lean into bias. I want every young black child to see the work I do and see that it's possible to break through and be a star in this field." When he was cast in his first feature film, Mvelisi realised that being successful was not limited to law and medicine. "Being creative and following your dreams was a possibility."





200 Young South Africans 2023 FILM & MEDIA



Parusha Partab

Group strategy director

Parusha Partab, 35, is group strategy director at Wunderman Thompson, one of South Africa's largest marketing firms. She leads the digital strategy for the group, manages key accounts and delivers effective strategies for major global brands such as The Coca-Cola Company, The BMW Group and Standard Bank. She has written articles on digital transformation, customer experience and brand strategy and spoken at numerous industry events and conferences. Parusha advocates for representation and inclusion through her strategic work, speaking engagements and published writing. "Sharing my experiences and insights can help others in the industry to learn and grow," Parusha says. She has held multiple senior and executive positions across Africa. She devotes many personal hours to growing young, diverse talent for the industry in South Africa, serving as a member of the Women's Charter and on the IAB's Transformation Council. In 2022, Parusha was highly commended at the Global Women in Marketing for the Strategy Planner of the Year Award. "I often share this story about travelling to India and looking up at a billboard and, for the first time, seeing an Indian woman on a billboard. At that moment, I was struck with such awe and a deep understanding of why representation and inclusivity matter."



Tshegofatso Magolego

Investigative journalist and producer

Tshegofatso Magolego is a social justice champion, inclusion and diversity advocate, author and investigative journalist with more than seven years of experience. He has lent his skills to companies such as ANN7, eNCA and eTV. The 28-year-old is an investigative journalist and producer at SABC News, where he aims to highlight injustices faced by minority groups and hold those in authority accountable. In the past four years, Tshegofatso has produced more than 40 documentaries for investigative programmes, including *Special Assignment* on SABC News and *Checkpoint* on eNCA. One of his most-watched documentaries was a programme on transgender medical rights, where he exposed the injustice faced by transgender people in South Africa when they try to get basic healthcare in public hospitals. He did this by going undercover as a trans person in five hospitals. In 2022, Tshegofatso wrote a children's book, *Sipho's Pink Dress*, which seeks to educate children about gender identities and roles and curb the bullying of those considered to be different in schools. The bullying he went through in school, because of his sexuality and gender identity, was Tshegofatso's motivation to go into journalism and media. "I wanted to use journalism as a tool to foster strong global discourse and change narratives."



Pat Mahlangu

Founder and chief executive

Pat Mahlangu, 32, is the founder and chief executive of Pat on Brands and Lerato Agency. He is driven by the desire to challenge the norm and to rise above challenges. In addition to starting his own advertising agency, Pat launched the Youth Owned Brand Awards in 2022 to celebrate the amazing work done by newcomers in the industry. With an MCom in business management, Pat was also an advisory board member at Tshwane University of Technology in 2020, a former education council member at the Interactive Advertising Bureau and a committee member at the Advertising Media Association of Southern Africa. He has lectured at the University of Johannesburg, Vega School and Boston Media House. His job entails coming up with the overall strategic direction of a business and mobilising resources for the company. Pat represents the company on a public platform, pitches to clients, assembles teams to work on projects and creates an environment that will enable them to flourish. What would he like South Africa to look like in five years? "I would like to see the youth being given the space to lead the country. The youth will infuse positive energy and come up with fresh ideas. The Gini coefficient should be reduced so that the gap between the rich and the poor is not so vast," he says.



Sibongile Machika

Commissioning editor

As commissioning editor at Jonathan Ball Publishers, Sibongile Machika's job involves seeking out South Africa's voices of tomorrow and those with untold stories, and giving them a platform to express themselves. She has published under Maverick451, the book publishing arm of the *Daily Maverick*, and top companies including one of the world's big five publishers, Pan Macmillan. The 32-year-old is experienced in manuscript development, copywriting, programme management, marketing and communication strategy. Her publications include *Days of Zondo* by Ferial Haffajee, *As You Like It: Vol II: The Gerald Kraak Anthology*, *A Family Affair* by Sue Nyathi and *The Inheritors* by Eve Fairbanks. Sibongile, who holds a BA honours in journalism and media studies from the University of the Witwatersrand and a BIS: Publishing from the University of Pretoria, honed her skills in journalism, media and publishing over the years she was a presenter at Tuks FM. Sibongile has been a reporter and photographer for *Wits Vuvuzela* and hosts panel discussions at book launches. She is working on a YouTube channel to inform and teach those interested in publishing. Sibongile was selected for a Frankfurt fellowship in 2022 but had to decline after accepting a job at Jonathan Ball Publishers.



Simmi Areff

Founder

Simmi Areff, 35, strives to create spaces for people of colour to share their stories, in their own voices, on platforms that they control. He founded POC Podcasts/All Ears Network (the company is in the middle of a rebrand) with that mission in mind and has grown a network of diverse, intriguing and entertaining podcasts across different genres, such as *Bioscope Brasse* and *Open Wide Say Ah* (a sex-positive podcast). The self-taught podcast pioneer and comedian started with his own show called *Lesser Known Somebodies* seven years ago. Simmi makes podcasting more accessible to his communities by training and by curating podcasts led by other hosts. He is part of an African Union Fellowship, through which he interacts with talented people on the continent to find new spaces, voices and stories to share through the medium of podcasting. Simmi has spent time working with international clients, as well as local businesses, to help them in their podcast journey. He shares his knowledge by teaching creators how to build their content and offering mentorship, guidance and tools to creators to make great content. Simmi was an African Union Media Fellowship recipient for its first-ever cohort for 2022-23 and won a South African Comedy Award for Best Podcast in 2021.



Timothy Rangongo

Editor-in-chief

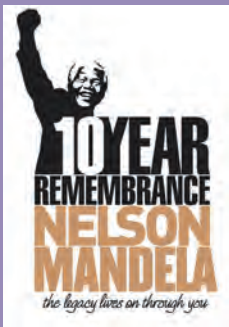
Timothy Rangongo is an award-winning financial journalist and editor-in-chief of *MoneyMarketing*. At 30, he is one of the youngest black editors of a business publication. Timothy, who has a BCom in economics and law, a postgraduate diploma in media management and a certificate in financial journalism, started his career with an internship at *Finweek*, after which he joined the inaugural team of *Business Insider South Africa*. He won an Editorial Innovation Award from Media24 and was named Best Newcomer at the Sanlam Financial Journalist of the Year Awards. At *MoneyMarketing*, he has launched special projects focusing on marginalised people in the finance sector, such as profiling women in financial services for Women's Month. Timothy is committed to promoting diversity and representation in the industry. He understands the importance of offering opportunities and mentoring to underrepresented groups, especially as an African and gay financial journalist in a predominantly white, male-dominated industry. "I would advise my younger self to prioritise pursuing my passions and to remain focused on them despite any distractions or naysayers. I would also encourage my younger self to view failures as learning opportunities and to persist in chasing my dreams," Timothy says.



Photo: Getty Images

'You jolted the nation from its slumber, and rejected the slave education that the apartheid regime had implemented, with the hope of making blacks accept their slavery. You changed the course of history, and accelerated the downfall of the apartheid system.'

Nelson Mandela, Youth Day, 16 June 1996





McCafé

As a lifestyle coffee brand, we offer more than just great tasting coffee. We also ensure that our coffee beans are responsibly sourced. We have proudly partnered with the Rainforest Alliance, which helps train farmers about the importance of growing coffee beans in a more sustainable way to preserve the land for generations to come. This puts us on course to reach our goal of sourcing 100% more sustainable coffee globally.

Empowering youth, transforming healthcare: Youth Health Africa's impact

The impact our youth are making in healthcare and public health is crucial for combating youth unemployment



As The Aurum Institute celebrates its 25th anniversary, we want to highlight the innovative work of Youth Health Africa (YHA), which has been a vital part of our commitment to creating a healthier world for future generations.

YHA started as a small project within The Aurum Institute, focusing on improving healthcare facilities in Gauteng and attracting young people to HIV prevention and treatment. Our dedicated team – mostly youth and women – has grown from 12 members in 2020 to over 40, and all of them are under 35 years old.

Since 2020, YHA has empowered over 4 000 young individuals across South Africa. We're proud to provide employment opportunities, valuable skills and practical experience through our youth work experience programme. This not only helps young people but also supports our overstretched public healthcare system.

To address the challenges faced by South African youth, we have expanded our activities. In addition to healthcare roles, we have introduced a smart farming initiative, in which youth manage Aquaponics units in their communities. This sustainable farming method uses fish waste to nourish plants, and allows our youth to farm in areas with limited resources and space. Since the initiative was launched, we have been able to donate healthy, high-quality produce to chronic patients in healthcare facilities.

The impact our youth are making in healthcare and public health is crucial for combating youth unemployment and for community development. As we look to the future, we aim to grow and expand our reach nationally and globally.

On The Aurum Institute's 25th anniversary, let's recognise the remarkable achievements of YHA, reflecting our commitment to support young individuals and build a healthier future for generations to come.



**Youth
Health
Africa**

Employable | Empowered | Healthy



200 Young South Africans 2023 HEALTH



Nyeleti Precious Mabaso

Speech-language pathologist

Nyeleti Precious Mabaso is a speech-language pathologist who is working towards her master's at Stellenbosch University. She joined a white-dominated profession with the vision of bringing inclusivity and innovation to it. Nyeleti, 23, advocates for the African epistemology and the development of indigenous language-assessment tests for black people in South Africa. As part of this, she participated in Stellenbosch University's transformation phase to include indigenous languages on campus. Nyeleti's groundbreaking research focused on adapting the Multilingual Assessment Instrument for Narratives to Tshivenda. This saw her being invited as a speaker by the test developers at ZAS Linguistics in Berlin, Germany, in 2021. She is a recipient of the AB Clemons Award for the best research project in South Africa, given by the South African Speech-Language and Hearing Association, and was awarded a scholarship by the National Research Foundation to pilot this study on bilingual Tshivenda- and English-speaking children. She is a volunteer researcher and clinical expert at The Early Care Foundation, helping to manage children with special needs, and pioneered an early childhood intervention programme that helped over 200 neonates and children at Themba Hospital in Mpumalanga.



Omishka Hirachund

Medical doctor

Omishka Hirachund, 27, is a medical doctor and works for the #KeReady project funded by the DGMT and KfW. #KeReady is a free healthcare initiative for the youth where mobile units go into underdeveloped, rural areas to promote primary healthcare. The #KeReady initiative serves to make healthcare accessible, affordable, and relatable to the youth. Omishka wishes for South Africa to be a safer place for children and women. "The gender-based violence rates and the repercussions of the violence on our society and healthcare systems are devastating. I would like South Africans to remember who we are and what we fought so hard for — equality." She says the healthcare system falls short in a number of vital areas. It should support primary healthcare initiatives, ensure equitable access to healthcare for all South Africans, minimise discrimination against people living with HIV and provide more accessible, acceptable obstetric healthcare to pregnant women. Omishka works in eThekweni and the Umgungundlovu district in KwaZulu-Natal and the mobile clinics are used to teach the youth on how to empower themselves in making educated decisions when it comes to their health. She is particularly enthusiastic about preventing gender-based violence and promoting menstrual hygiene.



Tshepang Mahlatsi

Founder and candidate attorney

As the founder of a student-led nonprofit organisation, Next Chapter, Tshepang Mahlatsi, 28, has undertaken several initiatives to promote mental health awareness at schools, churches and student accommodation. Tshepang is a law graduate from the University of the Free State (UFS), but he has dedicated most of his university years to promoting mental health on and outside of the campus. He is also undertaking his articles as a candidate attorney this year with Legal Aid. With his Next Chapter team, Tshepang has participated in dialogues on the available mental health services through print, radio and social media platforms. Through Next Chapter, Tshepang collaborated with the Free State department of health on outreach campaigns targeting young people. Tshepang is part of the movement of changing the narrative of mental health being a taboo topic among many black people. He says mental health affects anyone, regardless of race, religion, wealth or social status. He participates in mental health policy debates, such as the UFS mental health policy. As a researcher and research participant, he is involved in various research projects examining student well-being. He has also been invited to share his experience on mental health destigmatisation.



Samkelisiwe Nyamathe

Medical doctor and research clinician

Samkelisiwe Nyamathe, 31, is a medical doctor and research clinician at Desmond Tutu TB Centre. "People who can access health and operate at their best have the potential to change their situation," she says. "An unhealthy, unhappy nation will not be able to change our state of poverty and inequality." Samkelisiwe's work as a research clinician entails clinical assessment of children who are enrolled in research studies focusing on lung health and paediatric tuberculosis. She started as a clinician in a TB prevention trial, a randomised controlled trial assessing the possible efficacy of Levofloxacin in the prevention of children and adolescents acquiring multi-drug resistant TB. She is working on research that looks at the effects of TB and other lung diseases on the lung health of children and how this affects them as they grow up. Samkelisiwe believes in the power of mentorship and has been working with the Womandla Foundation since 2020, where she works with students from Langa township, Cape Town in collaboration with the University of Cape Town. She also leads an NGO, Alakhe, focusing on promoting skills development in disadvantaged areas. Samkelisiwe is a trailblazer who is using her experience in public health care to transform communities and health systems.



Leonard Muhango

Medical officer, orthopaedic surgery

As a medical officer in orthopaedic surgery at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital, 28-year-old Leonard Muhango's long list of duties include managing orthopaedic trauma patients, doing operations and ward rounds and seeing patients in the outpatient clinic. He also teaches medical students at the University of the Witwatersrand and does presentations at the Wits orthopaedic department. Leonard participates in projects at township schools and is often invited to schools and churches to talk about health. When he was an undergraduate, he co-founded Wits Wrap it Up Medical Society, and is still an executive committee member tutoring there and was instrumental in establishing the society at Sefako Makgatho Health Science University. He is a co-founder of Wits Marrow, a student nonprofit that aims to improve the survival chances of people with leukaemia. Leonard runs revision sessions for first-year medical students on weekends and after hours and also mentors students at Ernest Oppenheimer residence. "I was humbled and honoured to have an award named after me — the Leonard Muhango Award. This is the class award for the Wits final year, given to students who always went out of their way to do the best for their class and everyone else," he says.



Andisiwe Candice Sehoma

Advocacy adviser

Andisiwe Candice Sehoma, 30, started working at Doctors Without Borders in 2017 as an intern. She has gone on to become an advocacy adviser on issues to do with access to medicines in South Africa. Part of her job is to push for people to have affordable medicine, diagnostics and vaccines through fighting for the adoption of policies, laws and practices that safeguard public health. "My expertise looks at the intersections between intellectual property, medical innovation, human rights and access to medicines," she says. She takes on pharmaceutical corporations, bureaucratic regulatory bodies and the government to ensure people can get the healthcare they need at an affordable price. Her work ranges from advocating for more local manufacturing capacity in South Africa and lobbying the government to change its patent laws to negotiating with big pharma to drop their prices and doing presentations for the World Health Organisation. Andisiwe, who has a BA in health sciences and social services and an honours degree in development studies, is regularly called on by the government, civil society and organisations to explain the intricacies of access to medicines. She also founded an NGO in Alexandra, Johannesburg, to build pit latrines.



Asanda Mkulisi

Medical scientist

Asanda Mkulisi, 34, is a medical scientist in the epidemiology department of the National Institute for Occupational Health. As part of her job she conducts medical checks in Johannesburg occupational clinics to identify and evaluate the health needs of women in the workplace as well as health risk assessment and occupational risk exposure profiles. Asanda, who holds a master's in public health from the University of Johannesburg, a certificate in occupational health from the University of Bergen, Norway, and is pursuing a PhD in public health at the University of the Witwatersrand, is passionate about education and supervises Master of Public Health students at the University of Johannesburg. Asanda also does charity work, supporting youths in rural areas and informal settlements in Johannesburg by providing clothes to those who need them and assisting them with university entry applications and accommodation. She also helps occupational nurses with job placement and mentoring during their studies. "It is our duty as people sharing life in this world to make our future better because the future is not only ours. The next generation should be proud of us one day when they look back and find out how hard we worked to make the world a better place," Asanda says.



Carel Masemola

Optometry lecturer

Carel Masemola, 34, who has worked as an optometrist in both the public and private sectors for more than 13 years, is an optometry lecturer and clinical supervisor at the University of the Free State. He is committed to public health and community engagement in both academic and clinical settings. He is involved in the training of undergraduate optometrists, as well as the development of clinical skills that help prevent blindness. He facilitates eye health programmes as part of his responsibilities at the university, in collaboration with NGOs and private donors, which provide eye examinations and spectacles prescriptions as well as treatment of eye conditions in rural areas. He is involved in community projects conducting vision screenings in homes for older people. He also works with health establishments in the Free State to provide services in the Xhariep district. Carel, who has a string of academic qualifications, is working on his PhD in public health at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. His research interests include mental health and eye health promotion in primary healthcare settings. Carel seeks to promote social justice, human dignity and opportunities for the underprivileged to receive eye care, while helping aspiring optometrists to be globally competitive graduates with the skills necessary to address social issues.





200 Young South Africans 2023 HEALTH



Ané Orchard

Academic

Ané Orchard, 33, who has a PhD in pharmacy, teaches clinical pharmacy to students at the University of the Witwatersrand, undertakes research in clinical pharmacy, pharmaceutical microbiology, medicinal chemistry and pharmacy education, and participates in global events, including being a judge in an undergraduate global awards competition. She trains pharmacy students in point-of-care screening techniques and counselling and organises events where students provide screening, for example for blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol, to the public. Any participant with an abnormal value is referred for further treatment, decreasing incidence of stroke and heart attacks. This is offered free because Ané organises sponsorship from pharmaceutical companies. She also participates in May Measurement Month, a global initiative aimed at raising awareness of high blood pressure. She has published 22 articles and 42 conference outputs. She was selected as an African Academy of Sciences affiliate member, won a Distinguished Teacher Award at the Conference of the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences and was the largest contributor to May Measurement Month in South Africa last year. Ané would like to see a South Africa where there is improved access to health and fair education.



Faye Jackson

Occupational therapy lecturer

Occupational therapist Faye Jackson, 32, is a lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand. She has a special interest in children with concussion. She has been awarded a PhD scholarship, in collaboration with Loughborough University in the United Kingdom, to improve how concussions are dealt with among the youth in South Africa. A concussion is a debilitating condition that can have a lifelong effect, including difficulties with sleep, concentration, emotions and school tasks. Faye's passion for making a difference in the lives of the youth has led her to develop a model of care for concussion management and returning to school in a safe, controlled and monitored manner. The aim is for this to be applied, administered and available at any level of healthcare, including to sports coaches and community leaders. The limited care available is not available at public healthcare level, so this is sorely needed and will be life-changing. Faye has been involved in programmes to assist students in the transition from school to university and the co-ordination of year courses. "As a lecturer on a practical course, I have the privilege to accompany students to hospitals and community settings. I guide students while they provide occupational therapy. Teaching while providing services to clients in need truly is an exceptional experience."



Odwa Mkiva

Pharmacist, health advocate, digital campaigns fellow

Pharmacist and health advocate Odwa Mkiva, 25, is dedicated to global health equity. Growing up in rural South Africa, she is well aware of the difficulties faced by marginalised people when it comes to accessing quality healthcare. The experience she gained during her bachelor's degree in pharmacy from Rhodes University, her internship and work in public health hospitals has given her firsthand knowledge of the realities of the healthcare system. Odwa is part of the final cohort of the BeyGood x Global Citizen fellowship programme, where she serves as a digital campaign fellow for the organisation. Her enthusiasm for public healthcare, gender equality and quality education is reflected in her volunteer work with nonprofit organisations such as Slum2School Africa, where she is a medical support volunteer. Odwa is a participant in the Aspire Leaders Programme 2023, founded at Harvard University in the United States. "My passion for global health equity is at the forefront of my work, where I strive to address health inequalities by providing the best pharmaceutical care and by incorporating African languages in patient counselling to bridge language barriers. I recognise the importance of cultural sensitivity and linguistic diversity in healthcare delivery," Odwa says.



Jarrod Zamparini

Consultant physician and lecturer

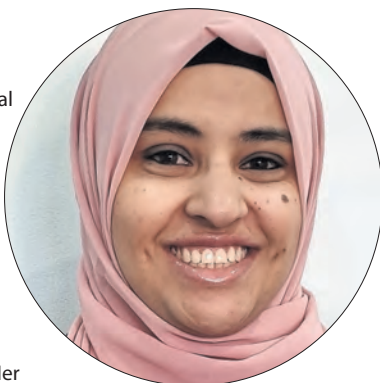
Since qualifying as a specialist physician, Jarrod Zamparini has dedicated his career to pioneering an obstetric medicine unit at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, the first and only unit of its kind in South Africa. "As the physician lead for the unit, I diagnose and treat medical problems that complicate pregnancy ... I work with obstetricians and physicians to reduce maternal mortality by providing specialised care," the 34-year-old says. This unit continues to grow, providing inpatient and outpatient management to pregnant women with medical diseases. Jarrod is committed to establishing obstetric medicine as a recognised subspecialty in South Africa through the Colleges of Medicine. Jarrod is one of the co-founders of the Society of Obstetric Medicine South Africa, which aims to reduce maternal mortality at a national level. The society provides academic support and training and establishes guidelines for managing medical problems during pregnancy. "I am motivated by a desire to make a positive impact on maternal health in South Africa — by improving maternal health we improve health for all. I believe that it is also our responsibility to bring others up with us; excellence is contagious — by striving for excellence we are all driven to perform at a high level and put others before ourselves," Jarrod says.



Tasneem Hassem

Research psychologist and lecturer

Tasneem Hassem, 32, is a psychologist whose speciality is mental health access, focusing on marginalised groups. When she started working, she soon realised that volunteer counsellors could not diagnose and intervene effectively. To help alleviate this problem Tasneem developed an open-access, online screening tool for South Africa that is culturally valid and in use at mddsa.co.za. The tool, which has proved effective, is continuously being tested by the South African Depression and Anxiety Group and the South African Mental Health Federation. Tasneem is credited with the development of the first set of guidelines for the online screening of mental health locally and internationally. Her ground-breaking work on online depression screening has led to further partnerships. She is the Gauteng lead on the South African leg of the Africa All Life Study, which is multi-country research looking at the development of young adults with regard to socio-demographic and health indicators. "What drives me to excel is knowing that the knowledge I have, and gain, comes with a responsibility. This is to share my knowledge. Specifically, I am committed to making an impact in society by ensuring equal access to mental healthcare in South Africa. No health without mental health," Tasneem says.



Khanyisa Mapipa

Attorney

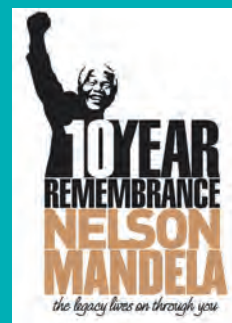
Khanyisa Mapipa, 32, is a human rights lawyer and activist in the Health Rights Programme at Section27. Her job is to facilitate access to healthcare services. Her focus areas include oncology, reproductive justice, migrant health and emergency medical services. "I use the law to protect, promote and advance access to healthcare services. This sometimes includes working alongside the government to find solutions by making submissions that inform policies and draft legislation," she says. Khanyisa conducts workshops on sexual reproductive health rights in the Eastern Cape, conducts investigations into the treatment of women seeking abortions and institutes legal proceedings on behalf of women who have been denied access to safe and lawful abortion services. She has worked to eliminate the radiation oncology backlog in the public healthcare sector in Gauteng. Khanyisa, who is pursuing her LLM in Human Rights through the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, volunteers for the youth-run nonprofit organisation Fun Learning for Youth. She is a Mandela Washington Fellow and an alumnus of the Foundation for International Understanding Through Students at the University of Washington in the United States.



Photo: Mary Benson/Getty Images

'Herein lies a profound lesson for young South Africans. For the moral of your own achievements is that, with application, determination and discipline, we can all rise to positions of responsibility. Today the doors of learning are wide open, and young South Africans from all communities should take up the challenge.'

Nelson Mandela, 75th anniversary of the Reserve Bank, 1996



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200 Young South Africans 2023 JUSTICE



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Magwashagwasha Jan Sello Langa

Advocate

Magwashagwasha Jan Sello Langa, 34, an advocate with the Johannesburg Society of Advocates (Rivonia Group of Advocates), did his articles of clerkship at one of the big five law firms in South Africa. He was a judge's clerk at the Johannesburg high court for Judge Kathree Setiloane and also assisted a number of other senior and acting judges during his stint there. Since his admission as an advocate, he has had a number of reported judgments, the first of these being in less than four months of practising as an advocate. These judgments are important because they either changed the law or contributed significantly to the country's jurisprudence.

"We have the tools to be a great nation, such as the Constitution and other legislation. What we lack is the political willpower to shun mediocrity and kill the biggest cancer we face as a nation, corruption. I would like to see the spirit of pride in being a South African revived," he says. Jan is a brilliant legal mind who has appeared in the courts on matters of public interest and those that have warranted being recorded as reportable and law-changing cases. He is currently involved in a constitutional labour matter that could widen the scope of paternity, adoption and commissioning parental leave if successful.



Jaimin Patel

Candidate attorney

Jaimin Patel, 26, is a candidate attorney with Lopes Attorneys. He is a young individual who is defying the odds. He completed his degree at the University of Johannesburg, Lopes Attorneys took a chance on him, and he has proved to be their top achiever. Being a candidate attorney entails being prepared to learn. He says that being a candidate attorney is to recognise that there's always room for growth and improvement. Most important is the recognition that what you learned in university won't prepare you to practically apply the law. Jaimin was part of the team that achieved the Specialist Law Firm of the Year award at the African Legal Awards and was recognised as a top performer in 2022. He is working with his managing director on a cross-border dispute totalling more than R200 million. "Time is so finite, there's so much to do and see, but using that time to create an inclusive change for all is essential for change. Be patient with yourself, and be impatient with positive change," he says.

From being denied opportunities to proving that a shut door is merely an opportunity to knock elsewhere, Jaimin epitomises a young individual who is hungry for transformative change. He would like to see increased job security for all people and unwavering support for brand South Africa.



Mulalo Mbadi

Business analyst intern

Mulalo Mbadi, 22, is a business analyst intern at Cura, a risk, governance and compliance management software company where she provided customised governance, risk and compliance (GRC) management advice to clients to support their strategic goals and anticipate and meet evolving GRC and regulatory compliance requirements. Having matriculated at the age of 16, she completed her LLB degree with 15 distinctions at the age of 20. What makes this most impressive was that she did not have access to study equipment such as a laptop and textbooks and used her cellphone to write exams, attend classes, conduct legal research and yet graduate in record time. This achievement led to being selected as one of the top 100 most employable graduates in South Africa (2022). Other youths can benefit from the example of

young go-getters like Mulalo and not be discouraged and work hard to improve their circumstances. Her story can inspire many young girls to believe in themselves. "I would like to see a South Africa that is not plagued by gender-based violence. I grew up exposed to GBV and wish that one day South Africa would be a country where women can feel safe to walk around, wear what they want, be alone in their homes and be in a relationship without fear of potentially being murdered," she says.



Zama Chonco

Head legal: commercial property finance

Zama Chonco, 35, leads a small diverse team of hard-working legal professionals who support the Absa Commercial Property Finance (CPF) business to meet its ambitious growth and revenue targets. "My desire is to find solutions, achieve my goals, and leave the spaces I occupy better than I found them," she says. Zama manages and mitigates legal risk in respect of CPF transactions across the African continent. This entails continuously enhancing deal implementation processes and documentation, leveraging technology to automate processes, creating efficiencies that give the team flexibility and capacity to find creative solutions to business problems without introducing additional legal implementation risk. Zama's action and vision bring a young voice and fresh perspective, resolving problems in the legal space. She has spearheaded initiatives, leveraging bank systems and technological enhancement, resulting in the creation of automated loan templates for more efficient implementation, bringing about consistency and speed of execution (successfully meeting increasing demands). Zama also sponsors the U13 netball team at Mpumelelo Primary School in KwaZulu-Natal and mentors and sponsors some of the players. She works for female empowerment and cultural change.



Thandiwe Nhlapho

Corporate attorney and senior associate

Corporate attorney and senior associate at Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, Thandiwe Nhlapho, 30, is a young South African driving the country's inclusive, equal and sustainable future through her legal expertise. "Growing up as an overachiever and very competitive at school was a way to conceal my lack of financial resources and exposure," she says. Despite her challenging background from a small township in the Vaal, Thandiwe is inspirational to the youth, particularly those with little to no access to opportunities. She has an impressive track record of servant leadership. At Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, she has been allocated an additional job of facilitating a training programme for junior lawyers. She has participated in educational programmes in various institutions and publishes

legal articles to ensure that the law is freely and equally accessible. Thandiwe is a second-year PhD student at the University of the Witwatersrand. The body of work encapsulated in her dissertation seeks to overcome legislative over-regulation and red tape for businesses, particularly for small, medium and micro enterprises. She is a nonexecutive director of a nonprofit focused on combatting HIV and youth unemployment. Thandiwe was selected to participate in the International Lawyers for Africa flagship programme in London.



Khululiwe Bhengu

Senior attorney

Khululiwe Bhengu, 31, is a senior attorney at the Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa. "I would like to see a South Africa where poverty is not criminalised and poor people are not rendered invisible. I would like South Africa to look like a safe place for young girls and women," she says. Khululiwe, who grew up in Orange Farm township, has spent about a decade helping people who are financially excluded from legal services in her pursuit of justice for the homeless in Johannesburg. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, she continued working with vulnerable people. Khululiwe has forged links with people living in inner-city buildings to assess their needs and respond effectively through litigation or advocacy. Her achievements in this area include saving

the home of 107 waste reclaimers facing eviction by a private landowner in Midrand, successfully fighting the eviction of informal traders in the Johannesburg Prasa transport terminal as well as advocating for various issues affecting indigent people such as informal trade, waste reclaiming and housing rights. Most recently, Khululiwe focuses her efforts on ensuring emergency accommodation centres are fit for occupation by children and older people.



Christy Chitengu

Candidate attorney

Christy Chitengu, 24, is a candidate attorney at Power and Associates specialising in constitutional litigation and human rights. At the age of 23, she was a law clerk to Steven Arnold Majiedt at the constitutional court. Christy was born in South Africa to undocumented foreign parents, a predicament that placed her at risk of being stateless because she was neither legally a South African citizen nor a Zimbabwean. She is the applicant in ongoing litigation against the department of home affairs to enforce her citizenship provided by the South African Citizenship Act. Despite facing these difficulties, Christy obtained BA(Law) and LLB degrees and is pursuing her LLM on migration and displacement. In 2022, she was awarded the Mandela Rhodes scholarship for postgraduate study. Christy intends to establish a strategic litigation migrant rights practice where she can contribute to decreasing anti-migrant sentiment in South Africa. She has also worked at Section 27 and Lawyers for Human Rights. Through her work in public interest organisations, public speaking, research, her YouTube channel and writing newspaper articles, Christy has advocated for migrant rights and enabled access to information for migrants and refugees to be empowered to advocate for themselves in the absence of legal representation.



Cayle Lupton

Senior lecturer

Cayle Lupton is a senior lecturer in law at the University of Johannesburg. By the age of 27, he had obtained his LLB, LLM and LLD degrees from the same university. He also has a certificate in Trade Finance Compliance from the London Institute of Banking and Finance. A leading academic, he aims to contribute to the resolution of specific legal problems in a way that can be easily digested and understood. "This enables my research to be of practical value," he says. Cayle is also an attorney of the high court of South Africa and a certified anti-money laundering specialist. Some of his achievements include contributing numerous academic papers to law journals locally and internationally, presenting academic papers at various conferences, representing large governmental and nongovernmental institutions while in legal

practice and publishing articles on key legal issues in the area of banking law. On a pro bono basis, he provided legal advice to the Boys' Brigade of South Africa. On a personal level, Cayle takes pride in his role as husband and father, and as a mentor to many individuals seeking career advice. He demonstrates his commitment to people's upliftment by participating in and organising community activities and events, especially for the activities of his church.





200 Young South Africans 2023
JUSTICE



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Bonolo Kumalo
Advocate

Bonolo Kumalo, 26, is an advocate of the high court of South Africa. She was recognised as being among the Top Achievers in 2017 by the University of the Western Cape, and for voluntary work in the Street Law programme. Bonolo completed her LLM in alternative dispute resolution at Stellenbosch University in just one year, 2019. She is a good litigant who specialises in human rights cases. Working alongside the South African Refugee Led-Network as well as being a member of the Global Strategic Litigation Council For Refugee Rights (Zolberg Institute, The New School), her job is to litigate for the voiceless and marginalised, in particular refugees, migrants and asylum seekers. Bonolo runs her own practice, where she specialises in general civil litigation, labour law, medical malpractice, cyber law, family law, access to information, human rights law, and constitutional law. "We have the best Constitution in the world, however, we lack in implementation. The justice system needs order, and our government — executive and parliamentary — needs order. If we have all of those, all branches below would be flawless. [We would have] less corruption, employed youth and job opportunities, good court practices and justice for all, good healthcare and less crime," says Bonolo.



Sanan Mirzoyev
Advocate (pupil)

Most of Sanan Mirzoyev's career has focused on public and constitutional law and human rights. He served as a law clerk to Justices Johann van der Westhuizen, Ronnie Bosielo and Boissie Mbha at the constitutional court in 2016. While undertaking articles at a law firm in Pretoria, Sanan, 32, was awarded a Chevening Scholarship to pursue an LLM at the University of Cambridge. There, he was one of six graduates to receive a Pegasus Scholarship, allowing him to work with barristers in London on high-profile cases. When he returned to South Africa, Sanan was appointed as a law researcher to Justice Yvonne Mokgoro during the state inquiry into the National Prosecuting Authority. His efforts landed him a forum with the president. He was then given the responsibility of leading the UK's regional anti-corruption programme in Southern Africa. He has presented sessions at United Nations events to law enforcement across the region. He also represented the UK government at the UN General Assembly Special Sessions. Sanan wants to play his part in bringing about change in South Africa. In 2022, he was admitted as an advocate. He has since advised on policy relating to financial crimes on behalf of civil society in South Africa and abroad. Sanan is completing his pupillage at the Pan African Bar Association of South Africa.



Mbali Khumalo
Director

Mbali Khumalo, 34, is a director in Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr's finance and banking practice. There are only a handful of black women with her skill set in South Africa. Her expertise extends to finance and debt capital markets and covers a range of transactions including acquisition finance, structured trade commodity finance, leverage finance, medium-term note programmes, inward listings and standalone bond transactions. She has represented investment banks, development finance institutions, borrowers and issuers. Mbali started as a candidate attorney at Bowman Gilfillan in 2013. She was appointed as a senior associate in 2017. She spent a year at a law firm in New York as an attorney in its banking and finance department. Mbali joined Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr as a director in 2021. Her main job is to take the overall responsibility for drafting transaction documents, project management, negotiations of the transaction documents, and supervision of others working on the transaction. She has advised on a range of transactions with a growing focus on real estate finance, structured trade commodity finance and acquisition finance. She has an exceptional command of South African law in general banking and finance transactions and of legal considerations for cross-border transactions in multiple jurisdictions.



Mbekezeli Benjamin
Legal researcher and advocacy officer

Mbekezeli Benjamin, 31, a legal researcher and advocacy officer, is a leading voice on issues relating to the judiciary in South Africa. Through research and analysis over the past three years at the civil society organisation Judges Matter, he has guided the public in understanding how the judiciary functions and how the public can hold judges accountable. His work on the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) has helped demystify the process of appointing judges. The JSC is set to adopt new criteria based on Mbekezeli's work. He also worked for leading organisations such as Seri, where his work on the right to housing was recognised in important judgments such as *Rula Techno v Mahlangu*, where the land claims court reversed an eviction of urban farm workers. He also worked for the Equal Education Law Centre and was instrumental in the constitutional court's *AB v Pridwin* judgment, which recognised that children in private schools deserve their right to education to be protected. Mbekezeli led the Equal Education Law Centre's team in its submissions before the United Nations treaty body on civil and political rights, which resulted in the UN recognising the right to protest for children in the General Comment to Article 21 of the UN Convention on Civil and Political Rights, a major piece of international law.



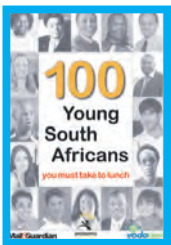
Mail & Guardian

200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS

18 years of young South Africans



2006



2007



2008



2009



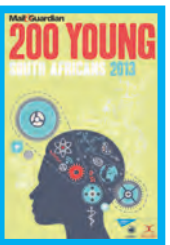
2010



2011



2012



2013



2014

The Mail & Guardian
3 500 young visionaries



2015



2016



2017



2018



2019



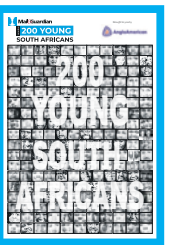
2020



2021



2022



2023

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200 Young South Africans 2023

MINING & MANUFACTURING



AngloAmerican

Rorisang Gomolemo Thage

Lecturer

Rorisang Gomolemo Thage, 27, is a lecturer at the University of South Africa (Unisa) in the department of mining engineering and a member of the medical law and biotechnology flagship at the university. The objective of this flagship is to provide solutions to legal problems in the fields of biotechnology and medical law. She completed her BTech in mineral resources management at the University of Johannesburg, MTech in mine planning at Unisa, and is a PhD candidate. Rorisang is the first lecturer appointed in mine surveying in the department of mining engineering at Unisa, where her research is on open pit mine planning. Rorisang heads the mine surveying section of the department and acted briefly as the head of department. She is serving in the governing council in the capacity of the co-opted member of the education committee of the Institute of Mine Surveyors of South Africa. Rorisang is also a sangoma and launched her herbal shop, Nkgono Kgosigadi, in Midrand with the aim of changing the narrative on African traditional medicines. She is eager to contribute to matters of African spirituality, especially the accessibility of traditional herbal products in urban areas. "I value strong ethical standards primarily because they are the determining factors to stay on track," she says.



Sephela Makete Thema

Mine manager (operations)

Sephela Makete Thema, 32, is the operations manager at Sibanye Stillwater and responsible for a mine with more than 1 000 employees and contractors. He was 2022's TransUnion Rising Stars Awards winner in the mining and minerals category and has been selected to represent Sibanye Stillwater as part of the United Nations sustainable development goals innovation acceleration programme for 2023. Sephela has a BSc in mining engineering from the University of the Witwatersrand, a postgraduate diploma (business administration) from the University of Pretoria, and postgraduate certificates in mining law and entrepreneurship from Wits University and Harvard Business School, respectively. He is a member of the Southern Africa Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM) and the Association of Mine Managers of South Africa, serves on the committee of SAIMM Young Professionals and is the chairperson of the Witwatersrand University Mining Engineers Association branch in North West. Sephela is a mentor and coach to a culturally diverse group of young professionals in the mining industry. He also helps at a grassroots level, for example, raising funds to renovate an old church to preserve the heritage of the community and regularly gives talks at schools and churches to young people to motivate them.



Pogiso Glen Mthimunya

Digital value chain lead

Pogiso Mthimunya, 33, is an industrial engineer and MBA candidate at the University of Cape Town. He is the digital value chain head at Exxaro Resources. "I lead the business to be competitive in the future by implementing innovative business practices today," he says. He has developed technology roadmaps for the core business and services sectors to transform Exxaro into a fully digital operation by the end of 2027. The aim is to use the mine as a digital transformation beacon for the sector in South Africa to enable it to compete with the best by collaborating with peer companies around the world to keep the industry up to date with the latest technological developments. Pogiso is leading the digital transformation through innovative technologies and practices at the beneficiation complex, the Grooteeluk mine in Lephalale, Limpopo. He has developed a digital strategy to make mining safer, more efficient and more productive. His focus is on enhancing the safety of mines through systems for collision avoidance and fatigue monitoring technologies, proven successful at Grooteeluk. He believes South Africa can become the gateway for investment into Africa and the global south, as it has become known for its entrepreneurial spirit, friendliness with other countries, and ease of doing business.



Nsuku (Nxumalo) Chanakira

Principal hydrologist

Nsuku Nxumalo Chanakira, 28, is a principal hydrologist at Thungela Resources. She holds an MSc in water science, policy, and management from the University of Oxford. She also has a BSc honours in hydrogeology and a BSc in environmental and engineering geology from the University of Pretoria. She has more than five years of experience in environmental and water management in the development and mining sectors. Nsuku's job entails leading the Thungela water management department by driving the effective implementation of the company's water management strategy by providing technical advice at 10 active and closed coal mining sites. She also does research and stays up to date on water management, purification and treatment technologies with the aim of introducing new approaches and technologies to Thungela's sites. In essence, her job is to solve water problems and develop innovative strategies to improve mine water management. Nsuku is a proponent of responsible water management and youth empowerment. She is the national vice-lead for Young Water Professionals South Africa. She has also previously served as a member of the Young Scientific Programme Committee for World Water Week in Sweden. Nsuku believes in the power of mentorship and is a mentor herself.



Nokwazi Mbele

Project manager

Nokwazi Mbele, 31, is a senior project manager at Hesto Harnesses, a manufacturing industry based in Stanger, Kwa-Zulu-Natal. Hesto Harnesses assembles and supplies automotive wiring harnesses and instrumentation clusters to original equipment from vehicle manufacturers. Nokwazi launches and leads projects to supply wiring harnesses for new vehicle models. It starts from engineering schematics to analysing and then designing the manufacturing processes, which then leads to assembly. Nokwazi led the team that recently won a bid with Ford, which resulted in Hesto Harnesses building a new plant and employing an additional 4 000 workers. She holds a diploma in electrical engineering from the Durban University of Technology and is enrolled at the same university for her BTech. She also holds a certificate in project management. As improving education is one of her ambitions, she assists learners at a primary school in the iLembe district. After meeting President Cyril Ramaphosa at the launch of the new plant at Hesto Harnesses, she was invited to business forums, lunches and indabas. Nokwazi owns a property in Mpangani, near the University of Zululand, and provides accommodation for 15 students and is keen to build more private residences for students.



Matsobane Nong

Lecturer

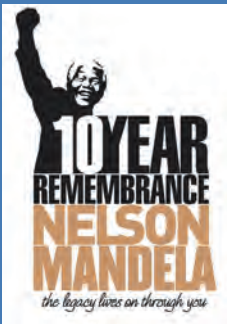
Matsobane Nong, 32, is a lecturer in the School of Mining Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand. She graduated with a MSc in mining engineering in 2020. In 2017 and 2022, she was awarded two prestigious grants, the Mining Qualifications Authority grant and the New Generations of Academics Programme grant by the department of higher education and training to pursue her PhD. Having grown up in rural Limpopo, Matsobane understands the effect of poverty and the lack of information on the development of children. Her philanthropic spirit has ensured she gives back by serving the communities from which she comes and those around her. Since 2018, she has been an executive committee member of the Wits University Mining Engineers Association, where she helps raise funds for financially needy mining engineering students. Matsobane speaks at career exhibitions in rural areas to motivate learners to pursue their passions and talents and to achieve their full potential. She is a solution-driven entrepreneur at heart and believes the youth are the shapers and drivers of the economy. For this reason she co-owns a bakery in rural Limpopo that sells bread at half the price of mainstream bakeries and employs two people.



Photo: Stephen Jaffe/Getty Images

‘There can be no process more important for the future of South Africa than the realisation of the potential of our youth. Freedom would be hollow if it did not bring about their liberation from the heavy weight that restrained their energy, dampened their enthusiasm for life and cast an angry shadow on their self-esteem.’

Nelson Mandela, President's Award ceremony, 1994



Supporting the next generation of South Africa's young leaders

In the heart of South Africa lies a vibrant tapestry of dreams, hopes and potential of its youth. Among its many wonders, its greatest strength lies in the resilient spirit of its young people. Young people possess an extraordinary capacity to shape the future and drive positive change in their communities and the world at large. As Anglo American, we believe that our collective responsibility is to support their development and unlock their limitless potential.

Every young person holds within them a unique blend of talents, ideas and aspirations. They are the seeds of greatness, waiting to blossom with the right nourishment and encouragement. By providing them with the necessary resources, education and opportunities, we can empower them to become catalysts for transformation.

But we are acutely aware of the myriad challenges that young people face, demanding our immediate and collective attention as a society. The high rates of unemployment, inadequate access to quality education and limited opportunities significantly impede their progress. Our unwavering dedication should be directed towards eradicating these obstacles and empowering our young people to flourish and thrive.

When we invest in the development of young people in South Africa, we are sowing the seeds of progress that will yield a bountiful harvest for generations to come. By supporting their dreams, we uplift individuals and ignite a chain reaction of positive change. A single empowered youth has the potential to inspire their peers, uplift their families, transform their communities and ultimately contribute to the betterment of society. We have always sought to make a positive difference.

Since the 1960s, we have been one of South Africa's most significant supporters of young people's development through various social investment initiatives — the improvement of thousands of urban and rural schools across South Africa, supporting the establishment of higher education institutions of learning, establishing the most sought-after scholarship and graduate programmes and, more recently, investing more than R1 billion by 2027 to improve educational outcomes in South Africa.

Building on our longstanding contribution to South Africa, Anglo American is committed to supporting the development of young people in South Africa. Our partnership with the *Mail & Guardian* is one of many ways we support the development of the next generation of South Africa's leaders. Together, let us cultivate a culture of action and optimism where the youth of South Africa can shape a brighter future for themselves and generations to come.

Nolitha Fakude

Chairman of Anglo American's management board in South Africa
June 2023





200 Young South Africans 2023

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

Jake Romani Backhouse

Youth policy committee member

Jake Romani Backhouse is a youth policymaker and political activist who works as the director of politics and government at So We Vote, a nonprofit organisation seeking to increase youth voter turnout and to bring political education to young South Africans. At only 18, Jake has achieved a lot in the youth advocacy space as a youth policy committee member at the South Africa Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA). He was involved in South Africa's Youth Statement to COP27 as a facilitator, and is a junior councillor for the City of Cape Town and a member of the South African Brics Youth Association. Jake is involved in South Africa's climate mitigation project and worked closely with the Presidential Climate Commission as an SAIIA member in bringing about the just energy transition and investment plan. He is a member of the Chatham House Youth working group where he works on issues such as climate change, socio-economic development, geopolitical and European Union-African Union relations. He believes in the development and upskilling of young people in Africa. Jake aspires to be a diplomat for South Africa and he aims to strengthen relations between South Africa and global superpowers but also to form strategic partnerships that will benefit African nations.



Inam Kula

Political activist and leader

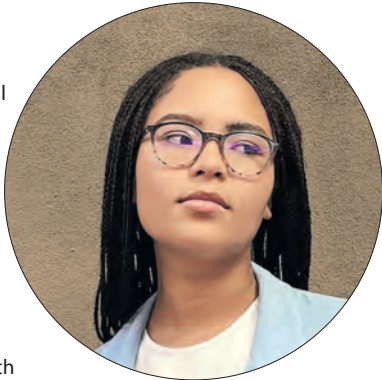
Inam Kula, 30, is a political activist and leader with the country's third-largest political organisation, the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF). She was branch organiser of the organisation's student wing, the EFF students command (EFFSC) during her time at the University of Witwatersrand. She was central in advancing students' interests in this institution, later forming part of those who were instrumental to the #FeesMustFall uprising of 2015. In 2019, Inam was elected as the treasurer general of the EFFSC's national body and made a sizable contribution not only to the financial management of the organisation, but to its growth in all aspects. This was recognised and she was promoted and elected as a member of the provincial command team of the EFF in the Western Cape. Inam also heads all provincial disciplinary issues. In her work life, Inam is one of the few young, black women candidate architects in South Africa. She is employed by the department of public works where she plays a critical part in overseeing the assets of the government. "My role as an architect essentially is to shape society through the design of spaces and places. As an architect and planner, I try to implement positive spatial practices that create conducive conditions for people to exist in," she says.



Tara Roos

Head of youth policy

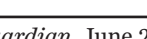
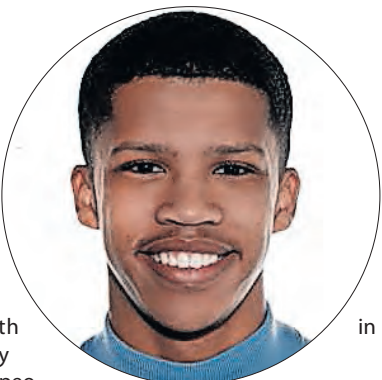
Tara Roos is the head of youth policy at We Are Tomorrow Global Partnership and the Youth Policy Committee for the South African Institute of International Affairs, where she works on the development of documents such as the South African Youth Climate Plan and the Global Youth Climate Agenda. The 19-year-old was a part of the South African Young Leaders cohort in 2022 and helped write the South African Young Leaders Declaration. Her dedication to climate justice and gender equality is evident in her work, and she was a finalist in the South African young leaders research symposium for her research paper on how consumer behaviour can combat the climate crisis. Tara has represented South Africa on a national and international stage as a government youth delegate at various conferences such as the United Nations Climate Change Conferences — COP26 and COP27 — and The World Science Forum. She is also a member of the Chatham House Young African Leaders programme. Tara aims to bridge the gap between the youth and the government and the decisions that are being made. "I am driven to excel because I know that we have to work twice as hard as others just to be taken seriously, to overcome the stereotypes, and to be seen as an equal," she says.



Curtleigh Alaart

Student youth activist

Curtleigh Alaart, 21, is a youth activist and student at the University of Pretoria, studying public management and international relations. He was awarded the LU-Africa scholarship to attend Leiden University in the Netherlands, where he is studying international relations and diplomacy. Curtleigh has been selected as the South African delegate to attend the youth-G20 summit in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India, in August. Curtleigh will represent the Shared Future: Youth Governance and Democracy project where he will create policy proposals with other delegates to boost the number of young people in government and policymaking positions. Curtleigh's involvement in youth advocacy involves being a Youth Policy Committee member at the South African Institute for International Affairs, where he coordinates events and initiatives that promote the United Nations' sustainable development goals. He was selected to deliver a presentation at the Development Studies Association's 2022 conference hosted by the University College of London, titled Africa's Future Financial Sector Potential in Correlation to its Resources Ownership. This presentation questioned to what extent sub-Saharan Africa's financial framework is conducive for economic growth.



Luvuyo Jalisa

Senior policy specialist

Luvuyo Jalisa, 29, is one of the youngest policy specialists at the department of water and sanitation. His job includes water and sanitation services research, public policy development, coordination, implementation and assessment; water management; development facilitation; report writing; project management and planning; and monitoring and evaluation. Luvuyo has worked in reviewing the national norms and standards for drinking water, water and sanitation sector policy on climate change, the review of the National Water Act, the Water Services Act, policy research on groundwater management in South Africa, and he was a lead developer of the protocol for policy development at the department. Luvuyo is leading the development of the water and sanitation services policy on privately owned land, in which he seeks to develop a framework for municipalities to enable them to provide water and sanitation services to people living on privately owned land. He holds an MA in anthropology and a PhD in development studies from the University of Johannesburg. Luvuyo is the first and only South African who has completed his PhD by combining evidence mapping and systematic review methodology. He sits on various reference groups and steering committees, providing his expertise in water and sanitation.



Khethokuhle Siboniso Sibisi

Councillor

Khethokuhle Siboniso Sibisi, 29, a councillor at eThekweni municipality, was born in Pietermaritzburg and matriculated from Maritzburg College. He has a BSc in applied mathematics and economics from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. At the age of 24, he was elected to serve as a PR councillor in eThekweni municipality. In only his third year as a councillor, Khethokuhle was elected to lead a team of the Democratic Alliance councillors in the economic development committee. In 2021, he was re-elected as a councillor in the city and now serves in the municipal public accounts committee. In 2022, he was selected for the Mandela Washington Fellowship and spent six weeks at Michigan State University in the United States studying civic engagement. He was then asked to work for a month at the Capitol in Washington DC in the office of Senator Chris Coons. Here, he worked on a bill that speaks to the digital transformation of the African continent. Khethokuhle was invited by US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken to discuss the Biden administration's US-Africa strategy. Khethokuhle also had a one-on-one meet and greet with Senator Cory Booker in his office. With his reputation and international relations growing rapidly, Khethokuhle is set to play a key role in the US-Africa relations.



Ayabulela Dlakavu

Programme manager

Ayabulela Dlakavu, 29, is the programme manager of Twende Mbele, a multilateral peer-learning initiative involving South Africa, Benin, Uganda, Kenya, Niger and Ghana. The aim of this programme is to build and sustain strong public sector performance monitoring and evaluation systems, and mutually learn from the process. He is also a lecturer, researcher and analyst of public policy, foreign policy, international organisation, global and regional peace and security, political economy and international development. Ayabulela holds a PhD in political science and a certificate in Chinese politics and diplomacy, Brics cooperation and global governance. He has written and co-authored articles for national and international journals. Ayabulela has contributed to the development of the national monitoring and evaluation policies of Lesotho, Namibia and Malawi, and the development of national and sector evaluation plans in Botswana and Uganda. He provides political analysis on various radio platforms and writes media opinion articles on South Africa's political economy. Ayabulela has written and coordinated international research publications and policy briefs with the German Institute for Development Evaluation and the Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results-Anglophone Africa.



Tshepo Moloi

Economic analyst

Tshepo Moloi, 31, is an economic analyst at the parliamentary budget office in Cape Town. His main responsibilities include providing research and analysis on the macroeconomic situation, fiscal policy, and other policies in support of MPs to fulfil their oversight role over the executive. Prior to joining parliament, he worked as an economist at the Bureau for Economic Research, the South African Reserve Bank and the treasury. Not many economists, let alone at Tshepo's age, have had the privilege to work for institutions that are at the heart of South Africa's macroeconomic policy. Tshepo's insights on economic affairs have been featured on various national media platforms such as Power FM, eNCA, Lesedi FM, News 24, SA FM, Newz Room Afrika, Radio 702, CNBC Africa as well as Business Day TV. Tshepo holds a MCom in economics from the University of the Free State as well as a master's in public administration and international development from the University of York (United Kingdom). His dissertation has been published in both local and international journals, such as the South African *Journal of Economics* and *Plos One*. Tshepo's commitment towards serving his community has earned him numerous awards and accolades, including the University of the Free State's chancellor's distinguished alumni award.





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200 Young South Africans 2023

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Ngwantshabu Bridget Mkhondo

Founder and managing director

As a startup founder of BW & Daughter farms, Ngwantshabu Bridget Mkhondo's job entails raising funds for the business, stakeholder engagement and sourcing materials and farming inputs such as seeds, fertiliser and pesticides. The 33-year-old is also responsible for managing the day-to-day operations, activities, employees and contractors. Ngwantshabu holds a master's degree in chemistry after working for the University of Pretoria for five years. She returned to her home village and started the business. The farm produces and sells vegetables in the rural Sekhukhune district, in Limpopo. In 2022, she was selected by the National Youth Development Agency as one of the four youths to participate in an exchange programme hosted by the University of São Paulo's Luiz de Queiroz College of Agriculture.



Ngwantshabu has shown the ability to go after what she wants despite the difficulties she faces in her endeavours. She believes the development of agriculture as a business can create opportunities for those in rural areas. She would like to see a South Africa where young graduates from townships and rural areas are not afraid to take risks by venturing into entrepreneurship, creating the much-needed employment opportunities for themselves and others.



Lindelani Donald Maraganedzha

Founder and chief executive

Lindelani Donald Maraganedzha, 30, is the founder and chief executive of Delta Racklers Farm near Thohoyandou in Limpopo, which he started in 2016. Lindelani completed his degree in environmental sciences with honours at the University of Venda, and has directed numerous projects to raise environmental awareness and promote agriculture — including inviting all his friends to learn more about how to use the agriculture system to protect and preserve the environment. He was one of the students who started the Universal Greening Organisation to raise awareness about environmental concerns in the Vhembe district. Through this he gained skills and knowledge about how to reduce environmental degradation. Delta Racklers grows fruit and vegetables, which it supplies to traders and local residents. He promotes people growing food at home or if they have access to land to address food insecurity and provide healthy food. His desire is to make farming fashionable among young people. Lindelani's job entails being involved in the management and cultivation of crops, as well as maintaining the health of the land. He also manages finances and does the marketing and sales for the business. Students studying agronomy also do their field-work at the farm. Lindelani has received a number of entrepreneurial awards.



Noluthando Sithole

Programme co-ordinator

Noluthando Sithole, 29, is a co-founder of Children of Success, a nonprofit organisation that aims to alleviate poverty by reducing the plight of pregnant teenagers and increasing financial literacy levels of people living in rural areas and townships. She has worked as an auditor at multinationals in South Africa and the United States. It is this experience that enables Noluthando to make a valuable contribution as a programme coordinator at Children of Success. In addition to developing and implementing strategies that aid the financial health and growth of the organisation, she spearheads the organisation's financial education initiatives. Noluthando's organisation provides workshops and seminars for teenagers and has reached more than 7 000 people to date. She has implemented programmes that promote early adulthood development, life skills and mentorship, which have enabled children to achieve their full potential. Additionally, Noluthando has partnered with other organisations and individuals to address poverty and inequality in the region. She has demonstrated leadership, innovation and dedication, which has earned her the respect of her peers and the broader community. Children of Success's commitment to dignity and empowerment of youth is remarkable because it is self-funded.



Kelly Slingers

Founding pilot

Kelly Slingers is the founder, and also the pilot, behind The Plane Project Foundation. The 30-year-old has her South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) private pilots' licence and is studying towards her law degree. Her job entails delivering aid to under-served people all over Southern Africa. She identifies the areas that are in need of aid, finds the necessary resources and creates flight plans for each mission. Her job also involves securing sponsors for the flights and relief aid, as well as coordinating with local organisations to ensure that the aid is distributed effectively. Since August 2020, the foundation has flown essential supplies, including menstrual hygiene products for women, to more than a million people. Kelly was recognised by the SACAA as a 2022 Young Trailblazer in Aviation. Her drive to excel comes from a desire to make a meaningful difference in the world and to leave a lasting legacy that she can be proud of. Kelly has worked hard to build partnerships with organisations such as the Gift of the Givers, which has allowed her to expand the reach of her work to people who are too often overlooked and forgotten. She has used her career in aviation to spread hope to young women and previously disenfranchised people aspiring to work in aviation.



Asanda Apleni

Facilities and community outreach manager

Asanda Apleni, 34, who has a master's in agricultural economics, is a founding director and facilities and community outreach manager of Kidlinks Small Farm Incubator in the Eastern Cape. She has spent her adult life working to improve the lives and livelihoods of rural farmers. Asanda has been a farmer field schools approach facilitator since 2015. This is a group-based educational learning approach where farmers learn from each other and share information and skills, and identify problems and find solutions. She trains people in organic farming, because chemicals, pesticides and insecticides are detrimental to our health and that of the environment. And it is a sustainable alternative to the high-input, capital-intensive conventional commercial farming. She also teaches the importance of nutrition and to understand environmental, animal and human wellbeing. "I facilitate them to a point where they are sustainable and can sell their produce in the shops," she says. This year, Asanda started helping people set up home and school gardens. She also works with Gompo Farmers' Association. Asanda was previously the farmer field schools facilitator for the Livelihood, Agroecology, Nutrition, and Development project and Agricultural and Rural Development Research Institute at the University of Fort Hare.



Tetelo Mashishi

Founder and chief executive

Tetelo Mashishi is a 29-year-old attorney who, in 2021, founded People Planet Community, a nonprofit organisation aimed at delivering sustainable improvements to rural areas in Limpopo. Tetelo grew up in Ga-Mashishi village, Limpopo, and understands the problems people face there. In line with the United Nations' sustainable development goal four (ensure inclusive and equitable quality education), Tetelo and the team have provided school uniforms to more than 80 learners and have donated toys and books to three early childhood development centres. More than 40 newborn baby starter packs have been given to teenage mothers. Tetelo is also dedicated to ensuring that everyone living with disabilities has social grants. In this regard, Tetelo and the team have assisted more than 20 families to register for birth certificates and identity documents at the home affairs department, as well as assisting those families with social grant registrations. Over the past 12 months, particular focus has been on clean water and sanitation (sustainable development goal six: ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation). Tetelo and her team have provided 14 families with 2 400-litre water tanks and basic sanitation to three families.



Sharon Rapetswa

Managing director

Sharon Rapetswa, 35, has spent many years making a difference to people's lives in the rural areas of Limpopo. This was sparked by her growing up in a poor village with other children who came to school hungry or had to miss school because they had to help their parents at the farms as harvest pickers. She has started multiple social enterprises, among them the Triple Shine Foundation in 2016, where she is the managing director. A few years ago she received a scholarship to study in the United States. On her return she saved money with some peers to establish the company. The 35-year-old hires unemployed rural women and youth as her soap factory workers and as sales agents. Sharon is also the director of Eco Soap Bank, a hygiene products recycling nonprofit organisation. She was the winner of the Unilever and Global Alliance Africa Innovation Exchange Challenge, which focused on reducing plastic usage in consumer goods. Previously she started the New Dawn Foundation in partnership with the department of basic education, establishing a spelling bee and creating a board game that incorporates vocabulary words from the national curriculum. Sharon Consulting, which was licensed in 2016, works with small businesses and startups on marketing, branding agents, corporate gifting and business plans.



Khayelihle Nkabinde

Founder and chief executive

Khayelihle Nkabinde, 26, is the founder and chief executive of Dream Big Stay Humble. He says, "I was raised by my late grandfather, who was passionate about assisting and uplifting people through providing food, education and sport development. When I saw him doing all of this youth development and how people's lives would change I knew that if you are good to people and assist them in achieving their own greatness, then you will be able to achieve yours." This inspired him to make a difference in people's lives. Through his projects and programmes, he helps empower youth from underprivileged backgrounds. Khayelihle, who matriculated from Port Shepstone High School, is responsible for handling the day-to-day duties of the organisation. He also oversees the entire structure of the organisation, from volunteers to team members on the ground. He communicates with potential donors and sponsors to run the seminars and workshops, which occur either monthly or annually. A few examples include Youth Day, Women Making Moves, the School Shoe campaign and coding campaigns. Khayelihle has been recognised for his work, receiving the Sports Development Award from the Indian Consulate and the Kofi Kulcha Uprising Social Entrepreneur Award.





200 Young South Africans 2023

SPORT

Raedene Lucas

Chairperson and youth coordinator

Raedene Lucas, 27, has excelled in many aspects of the sport industry, including academia, as an athlete, a sport massage therapist and as a sport-for-development practitioner, using sport as a vehicle to drive societal change. She was a high-performance artistic gymnast for 10 years representing the Western Cape. Raedene completed her BA in sport science at the University of the Western Cape and continued with her postgraduate in sport for development. Raedene was awarded the Dean's Merit List Award for the Top Achiever in the Faculty of Community and Health Sciences (2018). She also completed a certificate in massage for sport and fitness and is the founder and director of Raecover Sport Massage, an organisation dedicated to the injury prevention and the recovery of athletes. She is a master's candidate investigating the feasibility of introducing gymnastics as an official competitive sport code for persons with disabilities in South Africa. Raedene is a research assistant to the Unesco Chair for Sport, Development, Peace and Olympic Education at the University of the Western Cape (Interdisciplinary Centre for Sport Science and Development). She is also serving as the chairperson for the Youth Network for Sport for Development and Peace.



Ebrahim Lambat

Chief financial officer

Ebrahim Lambat, 34, served on the Central Gauteng Lions cricket board as a director and vice-president. He was the youngest member of the board and was elected to the board for a second term with the most votes. He provided oversight on matters relating to business strategy, commercial operations, marketing strategy, organisational transformation, governance, finances, cricket-related matters and compliance. He served as the chair of board committees such as finances, audit and Club Council. Ebrahim was appointed to the board at a volatile juncture while the organisation was in a transitory phase. He played an integral role in redefining the vision and strategy of the company as well as giving birth to a new constitution and ensured that good governance became part of the organisation's culture. Ebrahim is involved in an international humanitarian organisation. He holds a directorship at Nabataan Investments, which is a vehicle that was created to facilitate pension, medical aid, and other support for religious leaders who are not receiving assistance. Ebrahim is also the chief financial officer for Dynamic Control, Reutech Solutions and Dynateq International, all subsidiaries of Reunert, where he has increased the profitability of the business, creating agility (scalability of resources) and developing the company.



Busisiwe Cindy Masango-Steenkamp

Esports athlete

Busisiwe Cindy Masango-Steenkamp, 27, is setting out to change the status quo. She is a Fifa player for the South African esports team Goliath Gaming — being one of the few women signed to a pro-gaming team in the country — as well as the founder of Bring the Ball (BTB), a football webpage started in 2021 with a focus on women's soccer in Africa. Busisiwe is on a mission to get more women involved in the game. She is helping teams with logos and getting sponsorships, as well as helping inform women about soccer trials happening in their area. They post articles on the website, while Busisiwe also does podcasts and videos to spread the news and updates. She co-hosted Play Fifa Like A Girl, a women-only workshop to provide a safe space for girls and women to learn about Fifa, improve their game and build a sense of community among women in a male-dominated field. "A woman playing soccer for Fifa was seen as wrong. I was judged and perceived as a strange girl growing up, especially when there were Fifa tournaments in the community [Midrand and Tembisa]," Busisiwe says. "I would like South Africa to be a prosperous and inclusive nation with a thriving economy, high-quality education and healthcare systems, efficient infrastructure and equal opportunities for all citizens."



Athi Mayinje

Founder, sports programme manager, coach and professional athlete

Athi Mayinje, 27, is a professional rugby player, a coach and founder of the nonprofit organisation Love Sport Africa. "I would like every child in every corner of this great country to have access to and participation in a uniformed and consistent sporting programme both at school and in their community, especially at the fundamental development ages," he says. Athi shares his love for the game by mentoring young athletes from disadvantaged backgrounds. When he's not playing for the Eastern Province Kings, he coaches rugby through his organisation, Rugby 4 Women Empowerment, for various ages and across Gqeberha. Athi believes in nurturing young talent and using rugby as a vehicle to holistically develop and empower girls and boys. The programme focuses on three components — quality uniform coaching, literacy and career guidance, and psycho-social support — and is aimed at adolescents and young adults. The programme produced a number of U16 and U18 EP provincial woman rugby players within its first six months. A go-getter of note, Athi assists in seeking employment opportunities and skills development for some of the organisation's beneficiaries. He believes sport is a vehicle to bring about social change.



Celine Abrahams

Content lead

Celine Abrahams is a gifted sport storyteller. She also runs the all-women newsroom at *Gsport4girls*, a news website to promote girls and women athletes in sport. The team delivers an average of 120 stories a month, and plays a pivotal role in closing the visibility gap, while ensuring increased mainstream media coverage of women's sport. The 26-year-old believes in Gsport's vision and executes her multi-dimensional job as the content and sponsor relations lead. Since 2019, this determined young leader has developed a host of skills that will stand her in good stead in the media industry. Thanks to capacity-building initiatives by the South African Media Innovation Programme and hands-on training at Gsport, Celine has built an impressive portfolio of work. Earlier this year, Celine covered her first World Cup when she joined the global media providing coverage of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup, hosted on African soil for the first time. She also participated in gathering global media for the first in-person #GsportGlobal gathering, in Gqeberha on 18 February, to close the gap between Africa and the rest of the world. In 2023, The Year of Women's Sport in South Africa, Celine deserves recognition for her efforts to advance women's sport.



Janesh Ganda

Medical doctor (sports and exercise medicine)

Janesh Ganda, 33, completed his medical undergraduate degree in 2012 and his master's in sports and exercise medicine in 2022. His thesis assessed the training load and the injury data of the 2019 Junior Springbok team as they prepared for the Junior World Cup in Argentina. The aim of this was to assess how training load data in rugby can be used to reduce injury rates in this age group and better understand injury prevention. Janesh is embarking on his PhD, assessing a more comprehensive tool to return rugby players back to play after a concussion. Janesh is the team doctor for the Springbok Sevens (Commonwealth Games 2022, gold; HSBC World Circuit 2022, silver). He was appointed the Western Cape chair of the South African Sports Medicine Association and is part of the executive committee looking to drive the sports medicine speciality in South Africa through the open access of information and organising webinars and events in the fraternity. Janesh previously worked as the team doctor for the Springbok Women (National Women's Rugby 2018), SA U20 (2019–2021) and SA U18 (2019–2021) teams. This has contributed to his knowledge of the different variables contributing to injury in male and female rugby players, as well as in different age groups.

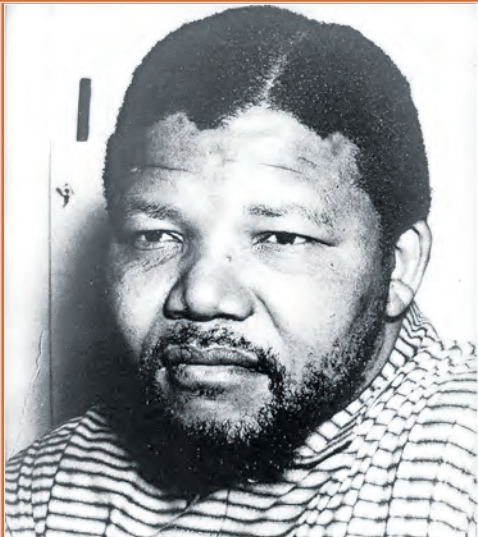
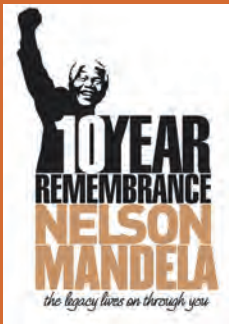


Photo: Sven Simon/Getty Images

'The future belongs to our youth. As some of us near the end of our political careers, younger people must take over. They must seek and cherish the most basic condition for peace, namely unity in our diversity, and find lasting ways to that goal.'

Nelson Mandela



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YES Youth who are driving the nation forward.

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CHULUMANCO LONWABO NOMTYALA



is a trailblazing developer and creator of **Soft 4IR Apps**, an app streamlining housing subsidy applications. Lonwabo aims to partner with municipalities, empowering individuals to access housing grants conveniently. His vision is to bring convenience and knowledge to those in need.



SABELO THABETHE



is a **fintech entrepreneur post-YES**. Through the programme, he found purpose and financial relief, gaining programming skills and crucial work experience. He launched Zaka Manager, a fintech startup focused on addressing personal spending habits. He credits the programme for instilling confidence and essential business skills, positioning him for success in the industry.

BRYAN MPOSULA



started off as a youth placed at YES implementation partner, IT Varsity (sponsored by Liquid Telecoms). Because of the valuable skills and confidence gained through the programme, he is now a **business integration arch associate at a big four consulting firm**.

SHAUN TSHIFIWA NEMUKULA



started his career as a drone youth at the YES Ulusha Hub in Alexandra. **He now works in the Netherlands for an innovation leader in the semiconductor industry**. He is a system integration engineer, using the best of what he learnt from his YES programme to excel in this new position as he builds and manufactures machines and tools we use daily.

KGOMOTSO SEKHU



was an unemployed mathematics graduate before finding work through the YES programme. Starting as a trainee at Nedbank, she worked her way up to become a **business intelligence data analyst**, transforming her life. With newfound stability, she built a home for her family, inspiring others through her journey.

THOBANI MAY



has had a transformative journey from struggle to success, fuelled by his participation in the YES programme. Now **the owner of Eco Char**, a charcoal production company focused on environmental restoration, Eco Char employs five people and contributes to uplifting its community.

HOPE SIKWARI



is a YES alumna is currently working as a **senior digital service agent at Famous Brands**. Despite hard economic circumstances, Hope took full advantage of the YES x Famous Brands programme and emerged as the star of her cohort. Through YES and Famous Brands, Hope was not only able to make a meaningful contribution to her family's wellbeing, but develop a promising career path for herself.

KOLOBE CHABA



uprooted his life from Limpopo and moved to Stellenbosch to work as a chemical engineering YES Youth at CSIR. Kolobe is currently **working as a researcher at CSIR** while he furthers his education at University of Cape Town.

THATO KHUBEKA



was unemployed during the COVID-19 pandemic, while her father, the breadwinner, had been retrenched. After being unemployed for two years, she was able to get a job at a Foschini store through TFG's YES programme. As the sole breadwinner in her family, Thato persevered beyond her struggles, and through her hard work and dedication she is now the **head of the infant's department at the JET store in Sandton city**.

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For more information:

✉ corporatesupport@yes4youth.co.za
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KALLEN NELSON



broke the cycle of unemployment when she was selected as part of Multichoice's YES programme. Having started in an entry-level position, Kallen has used the hard and soft skills gained during the programme to secure a permanent role as a **junior travel consultant at Multichoice**.



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Edward Khomotso Nkadimeng

Research scientist and post-doctoral candidate

What sets Edward Khomotso Nkadimeng, 30, apart is his ability to bridge the gap between academia and industry. He has a keen understanding of how to apply cutting-edge research to real-world problems, which is essential for success in any industry. Edward's work has already garnered attention from industry leaders and has been featured in government press releases and National Research Foundation profile interviews. Edward's work can revolutionise the way we approach technology and innovation. He is involved in technology transfer projects for the Technology and Innovation Platform (TIP) at iThemba LABS. TIP is aimed at establishing expertise in radiation detectors for accelerator-based sciences and expanding its applications outside of the nuclear and particle physics community. Edward taught students from all academic levels at School of Physics, University of the Witwatersrand, and co-supervising postgraduate students in the framework of the Atlas Experiment, the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Switzerland. He says increased investment in research and development is critical, whether from the private sector or the government. Furthermore access to technology and digital infrastructure must be improved, particularly in underserved areas.



Katekani Shingange

Scientist

Katekani Shingange, 33, is a materials science researcher working in the nanotechnology space, with a focus on the development of smart sensors for food quality monitoring. "Everyone should have access to food that is safe, nourishing and satisfies their preferences and dietary requirements," she says. Katekani has published 18 papers in peer-reviewed journals. Her academic journey has been recognised in various ways — she was part of the young scientists chosen to attend the Lindau Meeting 2019 in Germany of Nobel Laureates and outstanding young scientists. She was awarded the South African Women in Science 2019 Tata doctoral award. Katekani received the best doctoral studentship award from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in 2020. The following year she was selected as a role model in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) by Inspiring50SA. She is also the chairperson of Women in Physics in South Africa, which aims to ensure women contribute towards building a knowledge-based economy by strengthening the human capital development pipeline through activities that attract females into physics-related careers. Katekani inspires young women coming from disadvantaged backgrounds and schools to pursue and explore STEM-related fields.



Amilah Costandius

Sector lead for an insurance firm and co-founder of a tech business

Amilah Costandius, 33, is one of the Deloitte Africa sector leaders for insurance and investment management and spearheads innovations in this industry to boost financial inclusion, education and efficacy for this sector to improve the livelihood of South Africans and Africans. In addition to her full-time job, she also co-founded health tech business Hearl, which uses artificial intelligence (AI) to reduce inefficiencies in the cancer treatment cycle by augmenting oncologists and allowing more South Africans to be treated. "My role entails working with my brilliant team to design the products and run projects to improve our AI, our front end and integrations, as well as running the operations and finance of the business," she says. Hearl aims to address the shortage of oncologists by automating contouring, a task that typically takes an oncologist three hours to do, giving them more time to treat patients. In South Africa, there are more than 1 400 cancer patients per oncologist. Three hours saved, per patient, allows more lives to be saved. This is what motivated Amilah and her co-founders to build Hearl and turn it into a profitable business. Hearl has been recognised as one of the leading health tech startups in South Africa and Amilah was a finalist at the 2022 Global Women in Tech Excellence Awards hosted in the United Kingdom.



Busiswa Ndaba

Researcher

Busiswa Ndaba, 32, who holds a PhD in chemical engineering, leads a research group at the Agricultural Research Council that focuses on the development of nanofertilisers — smart fertilisers — for high-efficiency crop growth. Her research entails developing nanostructured materials, as well as renewable energy production such as biofuels. "This nanotechnology approach is an innovative way to address the socio-economic challenges that the world faces, thereby contributing to sustainable development goals, such as zero hunger and climate action," Busiswa says. Part of her job is to nurture young researchers and publicise their knowledge by publishing and presenting their research work on competitive platforms. Her group is funded by the National Research Foundation and an international grant involving a consortium of established researchers abroad. "It is exciting to see women taking up spaces, moving to greater heights, and getting their voices heard through science and innovation. As a mentor and a mentee, I am also inspired by seeing women succeeding in all walks of life, be it academia or life in general. Hence, most of the postgrad students I mentor are women," she says. Among her accolades is receiving the L'Oréal-Unesco For Women in Science award, South African category, in 2019.



Poornima Ramburrun

Lecturer

Poornima Ramburrun, 32, is a lecturer in pharmaceutical chemistry at the University of the Witwatersrand. Her research at the Wits Advanced Drug Delivery Platform focuses on developing systems and bioinspired materials for peripheral nerve regeneration and infectious disease treatment. She supervises postgraduate students, providing guidance and mentorship as they undertake their lab-based research. "Through my work, I am able to support the academic goals of young minds and help them grow into budding South African pharmaceutical scientists," she says. Poornima's work has produced four patents — in South Africa, the United States, Europe and China — for her artificial peripheral nerve repair innovations, which eliminate the need for donor tissues and are a game-changing development for patient recovery. This stems from her PhD thesis, which won first prize in the Gauteng Accelerator Programme Biosciences 2022 Award. Her research output includes nine papers and two book chapters and she has also contributed to the knowledge advancement and human capacity development of six postgraduate students. She wants to see more women in leadership positions the fields of maths, science, technology and engineering.



Avashlin Moodley

Principal artificial intelligence specialist

Avashlin Moodley, 32, who holds an MIT Big Data Science degree (cum laude) from the University of Pretoria, is a principal artificial intelligence (AI) specialist at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). "My main focus at the CSIR is providing technical leadership to the artificial intelligence and the extended reality research group. This allows me to engage with some brilliant young people who I can develop and grow while being creative and building innovative solutions that leverage data and AI techniques," he says. Avashlin has spent the past decade leading projects and building solutions in various sectors including gaming, research and development, mining and telecommunications. He is an organiser of the Deep Learning IndabaX South Africa event, which aims to grow machine learning and AI skills in South Africa. Avashlin has built multidisciplinary teams to tackle problems and deliver solutions in complex environments in organisations such as the CSIR, Anglo American and Vodacom. In 2021, his team won the Vodacom CEO Award for the TOBi Chatbot and he was placed third in the Vodacom Group Hackathon Vodapay Challenge. He was the product owner responsible for releasing a Vodacom-first Zulu chatbot.



Isaac Nape

Lecturer and researcher

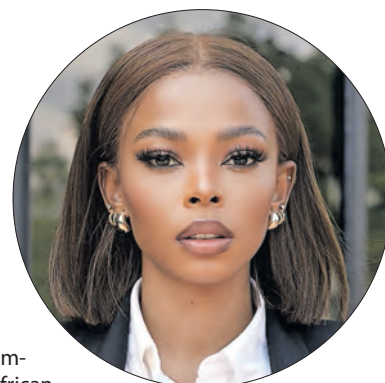
Isaac Nape has been recognised internationally for his groundbreaking quantum science and for his leading role in quantum technologies in South Africa. At only 29, he has won 15 awards for his science and innovation, including international awards from major optical societies, and has represented South Africa at the Global Young Scientists Summit, a collection of the brightest young minds on the planet. His work has been featured in top journals and made international news, covering topics such as breaking new encryption codes using quantum light, novel quantum imaging with entangled photons and new ways to get quantum light down the optical fibre. His work has paved a way to convert science into technology for a better future for South Africans. This year, Isaac received the Emerging Leader Award (R1 million) from the South African Quantum Initiative and a competitive grant from the department of science and innovation to continue his research in developing quantum technologies. In addition he helps to make popular science among the youth by spending his free time at schools to inspire the next generation of scientists. Isaac would like to see South Africa become a hub for knowledge and technology development in the world.



Iman Mkwana

Director

Iman Mkwana, 32, is committed to making her mark in the energy space by furthering the development and implementation of systems that are green, community friendly and sustainable. She is the co-director of Matleng Energy Solutions, which specialises in energy advice, sustainable housing, gas and environmentally friendly renewable solutions. Iman has sustainable projects in the private and public sectors and has received awards for human capital development, advisory services, empowerment of women and youth and contributing to sustainability. She has represented the company at industry conferences and events such as the Nordic-African Business Summit in Norway. She has shown her business acumen in the development of the Matleng portfolio, contributing to its financial growth through the acquisition of clients in both the private and public sector. To better equip herself in her field, she went back to university to study electrical engineering and hopes to register for her PhD in energy studies at the University of the Witwatersrand in 2024. Iman holds a postgraduate diploma in business administration and an MBA. Her vision is to contribute to stabilising transmission and distribution of energy so that all South Africans have access to energy through both alternative and conventional sources.





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Zubeida Casmod Dawood

Research group leader: information and cyber-security centre

At the age of 33, Zubeida Dawood is an experienced cyber-security specialist and research group leader at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research's Information and Cyber-security Centre. Zubeida, who holds a doctorate in computer science from the University of Cape Town, does cutting-edge research while managing a team of about 15 people. She wants to address the cyber-skills shortage to boost the economy and to transform the lives of disadvantaged South Africans. Zubeida leads the cyber-security Learning Factory project, which aims to equip students with skills to get them "workforce ready". This project is specifically targeted at developing the youth and unskilled individuals. Zubeida mentors and coaches several interns, work-integrated learning trainees and full-time employees. She lectures computer science to post-graduate students at the Tshwane University of Technology on a part-time basis and has written for more than 25 peer-reviewed publications. "If we want to get to the next level and achieve things we need to be okay with being uncomfortable and with not knowing all the answers. I told myself this throughout the duration of my undergraduate and postgraduate studies. I am still eager to tackle the unknown and excited about what the future holds," she says.



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Thabe Mothabane

Management consultant, senior associate

The journey of Thabe Mothabane, 34, from a senior officer in the South African National Defence Force, with the rank of major in the South African Military Health Services, to a PhD candidate in digital transformation and now a successful management consultant is testament to his determination and resilience as well as his goal of having a positive effect on the world and inspiring young people to pursue their dreams. His thesis focuses on creating a business model framework for digital transformation adoption, analysing how new business models are established and how value is generated in various sectors. Thabe's work in PwC South Africa's technology advisory department helps businesses leverage the latest technologies to achieve their goals and drive growth. He has helped numerous clients transform their operations, increase efficiency and achieve long-term success. Thabe is pursuing his DPhil in digital transformation at the University of Johannesburg. Thabe has been a dedicated mentor to many young people, sharing his knowledge and experience with them, and encouraging them to believe in themselves and their abilities. He says, "Pursue your passions and interests. Don't be afraid to explore your interests and try new things, even if they don't fit the expectations of others."



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Mogale Diagile Modisane

Engineering and technical support group

Mogale Diagile Modisane, 31, leads the engineering and technical support group (renewable global business unit) at Engie. The unit is responsible for supporting the business development function in getting grid-scale solar, wind and hybrid projects from ideation to bid readiness to financial close (ready for construction). Mogale networks with a multitude of stakeholders such as Eskom, contractors, technical consultants and original equipment manufacturers to ensure that projects are designed and implemented to the highest technical standards possible. He is a vibrant leader, contributing to solving the energy challenges, exploring opportunities and initiating debates from the youth perspective on national and international platforms. Mogale is in the Global



Future Energy Leaders programme at the World Energy Council and a member of the South African National Energy Association's Youth Task Team focused on climate change in the region. In 2022, he was in the top three for the South African National Energy Association Youth Award. Modisane leads the team of innovators at Augmental Tech to create an app (www.tracto.app) that empowers parents of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, anxiety, depression and related disorders.

Joseph Lumbahe

Manager and lead AI engineer, co-founder and chief technology officer

Joseph Lumbahe, 32, is the manager and lead artificial intelligence (AI) engineer at Aizatron Group and the co-founder and chief technology officer at Bus54. As well as heading the AI department at Aizatron, and training a team of engineers, he oversees the understanding of customers' needs. At Bus54, a mobility technology platform with a digital infrastructure that aggregates intercity bus transportation on all 54 African countries, he is responsible for setting the technology strategy, overseeing product development, managing technical teams and ensuring the organisation remains innovative and competitive in the ever-evolving technology landscape. Joseph has an electrical and computer engineering degree from the University of Cape Town, a computer science and information systems degree from the University of the Western



Cape, an MSc in financial engineering and an MSc in computer science from the University of East London in the United Kingdom. He won the Rising Star Award at the Africa Tech Festival Awards in 2022 and was selected as a 2023 Obama Leader, participating in a growing network of changemakers driving positive change on the continent and around the world. The advice he would give to his younger self is, "Time is the most valuable asset that one can have — do not waste it."



Nabeel Seedat

PhD student researcher

Nabeel Seedat, 28, is an artificial intelligence (AI) expert. He has worked in academic research publishing numerous papers in leading AI conferences as well as in the industry delivering real AI products. A PhD student researcher at the University of Cambridge, Nabeel is reimagining how technology can improve people's lives, specifically improving healthcare delivery. His research has built tools to improve the safety and trustworthiness of AI tools to help doctors make better decisions. Over the past few years, he worked as a machine learning engineer at Multichoice (SA) and Shutterstock (US) building innovative AI systems that serve millions daily. Prior to his time in industry, Nabeel received a merit scholarship to pursue a master's in AI at Cornell University. There he worked with Microsoft on an AI system to help people



with visual impairments to use social media content. He completed a master's at the University of the Witwatersrand, where he won a National Research Foundation grant to develop a low-cost solution using AI to automate the diagnosis of Parkinson's disease for low-resource healthcare settings. He has also developed an affordable robotic prosthetic hand for amputees. "South Africa should be at the forefront of AI development rather than mere consumers," he says.



Rich Sibusiso Hlatshwayo

Chief executive and founder

Rich Sibusiso Hlatshwayo, 27, is a technologist who is making significant contributions to people's lives in South Africa. "I have always been curious about the world and enjoy exploring new ideas and challenging myself to improve," he says. One of his notable projects is the MoovMe chatbot, which helps first-time car buyers select their best-suited car based on personality, lifestyle and budget. He also scaled up the Naledi NLP engine through Botlhale.ai Hackathon, which can now translate sign language into speech and text by using computer vision. Rich is also the founder of Me2You, a meal kit delivery service in South Africa that empowers local businesses and reduces food waste by sourcing fresh ingredients from farmers, partnering with supermarkets, and donating excess



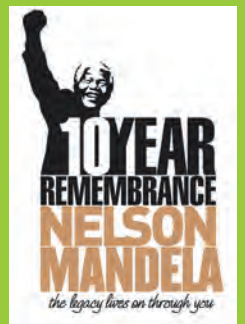
food to those in need through the Amaqhawe programme. The app has been a success, providing an easy and sustainable solution. Rich won the Sita Hackathon 2022 and a special ministerial award in 2022 with Me2You. He is quickly gaining recognition in the technology industry. An entrepreneur and senior development and operations engineer, his achievements speak for themselves. He has won 27 hackathons, including the Centre for Public Service Innovation special ministerial award and the Sita GovTech Hackathon.



Photo: David Turnley/Getty Images

'The struggle for true and universal human emancipation still lies ahead of the children, youth and future generations of our planet.'

Nelson Mandela, New York University, 2002





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Vhuthu Nefale

Software developer in cybersecurity

Vhuthu Nefale, 32, a University of Pretoria, University of Johannesburg and Harvard graduate, has been involved in various innovations and technology developments with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), among other organisations. One of the outstanding works that Vhuthu has taken a lead in is the development of a CSIR virtual security operations centre. It is a platform that allows the CSIR to provide security operations capabilities for its clients virtually or remotely, which is a critical part of any organisation's security management system to actively monitor security events, including escalation of events to incidents and incident response. The centre helps many private and public sector organisations with cost saving for operating a system while providing an opportunity of information sharing to improve monitoring and response. Vhuthu played a critical role in the rolling out of the virtual security operations centre, from the strategic development to the onboarding of clients. He hosts different organisations, public and private, at the virtual security operations centre where he takes them through different technologies. Vhuthu also provides security consultation to other organisations, including the City of Johannesburg, the State Security Agency and the University of Venda.



Sandile Cele

Scientist

Sandile Cele's research output has helped put South Africa at the forefront of Covid-19 research. Sandile, 35, is a scientist at the Aurum Institute and previously worked for the Africa Health Research Institute in KwaZulu-Natal. From 2020, he led some of the South African and global research response to the coronavirus, including the studies that were the first to isolate and characterise the Beta and Omicron variants. These findings helped to inform the government's policy regarding Covid-19 vaccines. Sandile led the study that described how variants can evolve in sub-Saharan Africa. His work has been published as two first-author papers in the academic journal *Nature*, and one as first author in *Cell Host & Microbes* journal. While most research groups use pseudostyle SARS-CoV-2 for their research, Sandile also developed a method to isolate live viruses from infected individuals. The isolated Beta and Omicron variants were shared with universities and research institutes globally for research purposes. In March last year, he was awarded a special ministerial award at the seventh Batho Pele excellence awards for his contribution to Covid-19 research. In September 2022, Sandile received a certificate (best scientist) of recognition by the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry at its 166th annual gala dinner.



Zime Nosipho Nxumalo

Chief executive and founder

Zime Nosipho Nxumalo, 20, is the founder and owner of Zime Wezwe Creatives, a software development company under the guidance of Innobiz DUT (Durban University of Technology). The company is spearheading the challenge of alleviating corruption and facilitating transparency in the real estate transaction process through the use of blockchain technology. This has the potential to disrupt the real estate industry through its ability to foster transparency, and lower transaction fees and time. As a second-year bachelor in information and communications technology student at the DUT, at the age of 19, Zime was invited to deliver a lecture on industry-disruptive technologies to final-year master's students at Northpark University of Chicago. She also represented Africa at the Winter Global Masters School programme at the University of Missouri, US, based on a trilateral agreement between Aschaffenburg University of Applied Sciences and the Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences (SeAMK), Finland. Zime was selected as DUT's Huawei Campus Ambassador for 2022 and was the recipient of Innobiz's Most Improved Business of the Year award. She was on the Durban International Convention Centre stage with industry leaders as a panellist at the 2022 DUT Indaba on government procurement policies.



Weliswa Kunene

Executive director and chairperson

Weliswa Kunene, 26, is a community development enthusiast and an advocate for more women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). She leads the University of KwaZulu-Natal's outreach programme, Mini-habitat Planet Workshop, that targets high school pupils in KwaDabeka, Durban, as well as the townships of Clermont and KwaMashu. As a young black woman who grew up in the township of KwaDabeka, her advocacy to see more young women in STEM is one of her ways of giving back to her community and bridging the gender gap. Through this initiative, she raises awareness in township high schools about careers for women and girls in science and provides information about various fields of study in this sphere. The United Nations sustainable development goals are addressed by tackling issues of poverty, quality education and awareness of global issues such as climate change and gender equality. Weliswa has received many accolades and has been recognised for her work. She was awarded first place in University of KwaZulu-Natal's 2022 Inspiring Impact Challenge, which is a testament to her enthusiasm for serving and empowering others. Weliswa has a BSc in biochemistry and microbiology, a BMedSci Honours in medical microbiology and a BPharm.



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Eugenia Dinniella Mbazo

Travel content creator

Eugenia Dinniella Mbazo, 30, is a travel content creator for Dinnyluv93 Explores. Her spirit of adventure is captivating. She promotes domestic travel through social media by documenting her travel experiences to inspire people to explore. She won the 2022 South African Social Media Awards best travel content creator award. As a travel content creator, her job is to captivate audiences with compelling and informative content about various travel destinations in and outside the country, experiences, and advice. This multifaceted position entails produc-



ing written social media posts, videos and travel photography, all aimed at inspiring others to explore. She also curates personalised travel itineraries by carefully considering people's interests, time and budget. Another responsibility involves collaborating with travel and lifestyle brands. By establishing partnerships, Eugenia creates tailor-made content that aligns with their marketing objectives and appeals to their target audience.



Brian Modipa

Chef and restaurateur

Brian Modipa, 30, is an example of passion and perseverance. He started a restaurant in Vosloorus in the middle of a pandemic, and made it a success. The Burger Yard sells burgers and fries instead of "normal township food" such as kota, shisa nyama and vetkoek and quickly became a popular spot in Kathorus. Brian believes in working with other entrepreneurs, sharing his knowledge and helping others. He is an inspiration to everyone who dreams of achieving their dreams with limited resources. Brian's success shows that you



don't have to leave the township to achieve your goals and that it's okay to pave your own path. Brian is passionate about sharing his knowledge with new chefs and encourages them to ask questions. He also helps other entrepreneurs by sharing his experiences. He believes that there's enough space at the table for everyone to eat and would like Vosloorus to be known for great quality food, which is evident in all the meals he puts out.



Penelope Tshilwane

Entrepreneur and founder

Penelope Tshilwane, 30, is the founder of Traveluxescapes, a company that encourages travel across Africa. "I remember every time I saw a plane fly over, I would wonder where it is headed and who the people on the plane were. I would take the map out and pin my predictions," says Penelope. She is enthusiastic about empowering travel among black people, especially black women who are scared to travel on their own. Traveluxescapes has also tapped into the international market, promoting African countries as destinations of choice. She debunks myths about Africa by sharing positive travel stories, whether it is on a safari trip deep in the Serengeti, bearing witness to Ghana's harrowing past or an educational trip to ancient Egypt. Traveluxescapes has hosted trips in Tanzania, Zanzibar, South Africa, Ghana and Egypt. Penelope's mantra is "connect the African diaspora through travel".



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Tholakele Maureen Mthembu

Hotelier, junior assistant general manager

Tholakele Maureen Mthembu, 24, comes from a leadership background. She is an alumnus of the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls. When she arrived at the School of Tourism and Hospitality, she was a top achiever, earning her a scholarship with the City Lodge Hotel Group. She has a master's in tourism and hospitality from the University of Johannesburg. She was recognised for her friendly demeanour and work ethic and was given the position of food and beverage supervisor for a City Lodge flagship hotel, the Courtyard Hotel



Waterfall City. Tholakele was remarkable in her ability to start a department from the ground up. She went on to become an assistant food and beverage manager for the group at the age of 23. Tholakele is currently a junior assistant general manager. She also researches different market trends and applies them to the operation. Tholakele is a trailblazer and tutors learners in her spare time.



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The year 2023 marks the 10th remembrance year of Nelson Mandela. This anniversary presents an opportunity for our country to introspect as we evaluate the gains and losses over the last decade, and ask ourselves: what does this moment call for?

Madiba's vision was for a democratic and free South Africa where all live harmoniously and enjoy equal opportunities. Yet, over a third of our people are unemployed, we endure a debilitating energy crisis, a leadership crisis and extreme poverty and inequality are rife. We live in fear of each other, of crime, of assault and all kinds of violence.

Through partnerships with various organisations and key stakeholders, the Nelson Mandela Foundation continues the work of our founder to contribute to a just and equitable society. On this 10th remembrance year of Nelson Mandela, may we all remember that the legacy lives through us.



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Living the legacy



200 Young South Africans 2023 EDITOR'S PICKS



Ndabenhle Ntshangase & Lwanda Shabalala

Co-founders

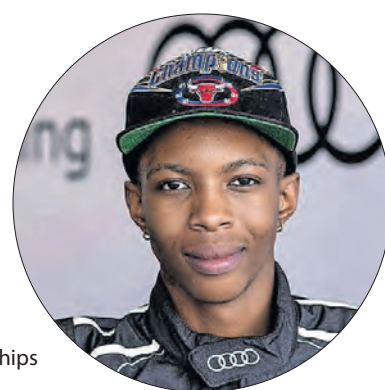
Ndabenhle Ntshangase and Lwanda Shabalala, both 25, are the co-founders of the startup AirStudent Travel. The idea was born when they were students and realised that people clubbing together to buy groceries in bulk to get better prices could be applied to air travel, according to the technology magazine *Gadget*. They are able to negotiate preferential deals with airlines. But AirStudent doesn't only cater for students; it caters for people who use technology and social connectedness, and this includes everyone from business people to government groups looking for a better deal. "Social media and peer pressure significantly influences their travel decisions. They're not brand loyal: they want the best price," says Lwanda. "To understand and service this market, we must lean heavily on technology, which will open up access to the tourism industry even more." Ndabenhle, who is AirStudent's chief executive, and Lwanda, chief operations officer, work with a team of out-of-the-box thinkers and want to expand their services to include accommodation and car hire. They aim to give travellers affordable access to a range of travel solutions, including accommodation and car hire.



Kwanda Mokoena

Racing driver

Kwanda Mokoena is a professional racing driver and, at the age of 19, already has wins behind his name, including the SA Endurance Racing championship, which makes him the youngest driver to win this trophy. Kwanda began karting at seven. The following year, he started racing in the regional and national championships, and in the 2013 season he scored two national championship podiums. In 2015, he won the regional junior class championship and a second overall ranking in the 2016 national championships. He competed in the extremely competitive Rotax African Championships in 2016. The following season he won the Rock National Championship and the regional championship, opening the door to compete internationally. In 2018 came the World Karting Championship in Italy. Kwanda then moved into tin top racing. That year he raced a GT4 Audi R8 in the SA Endurance Series. Kwanda will race in the 2023 German ADAC GT Masters championship and will be driving Engstler Racing's Audi R8 GT3 LMS at the Hockenheimring Festival of Dreams on 10 and 11 June. He has set his eyes on the GT4 nine-hour Endurance Series, the 24-hour Le Mans, the 24-hour Nurburgring, the ADAC GT Masters and the GT3 winter racing. He says: "My ultimate goal is to one day secure a works factory drive in the DTM Series."



Zulaikha Patel

Anti-racism activist, author, founder, council member

Twenty-year-old Zulaikha Patel started her activism at the age of 13, when she started a movement called Stop Racism at the Pretoria High School for Girls, because the rules at her high school included that black girls had to straighten their natural curly hair. Her stance sparked a countrywide movement and garnered her fame. She told United Nations Human Rights: "I was being forced to assimilate to whiteness and ... an image that I did not fit into. It [hair] was a tool being used to enforce oppression on me." In 2021, Zulaikha published her debut book for young readers, called *My Coily Crownly Hair*, which is helping girls to learn to love their natural hair and themselves. "Creating representations that affirm African beauty and pride is central to my writing," she says. She was a laureate of the 2022 Young Activists Summit in Geneva, Switzerland,



which showcases young people who work for an inclusive and equal world. Besides now studying for an undergraduate LLB degree at the University of South Africa, Zulaikha started a nonprofit organisation called Dare to Change, to inspire "the youth to change the world around them. The nonprofit is focused on three pillars: education, activism and literacy, with the latter the hope of setting up library corners at under-resourced schools in rural areas and townships."

Siyabonga Stengana

Founder and manager

Siyabonga Stengana, 34, is the founder of Beauty of Nature, a community organisation that converts illegal dumping sites into recreational spaces. He has successfully established 40 such places in Mbekweni in Paarl, as well as a branch in Langa, Cape Town. Siyabonga started the initiative after he lost his job at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. Beauty of Nature cleans, refurbishes, and activates these spaces towards income-generating activities, which range from a carwash, a tshisa nyama outlet selling braaied meat to "hydro-dipping" art done on sneakers, according to the May Gathering report of the Changemaker Towns Network, which is convened by the Western Cape Economic Development Partnership, In Transformation Initiative, Citeplan/Restaurare, Democracy Works, Ranyaka and Kagiso Trust. The income from these activities enables the youth at the Beauty of Nature sites to continue their work, while they rely on donations of paint and brushes. Siyabonga's work has been recognised in parliament and by the University of Cape Town. He was also 2023's Garden Day Ambassador 2023 and a guest at the Green Building Convention of the Green Building Council South Africa, an organisation promoting green building and sustainability in the property and construction sectors.



Masego & Matlhogonolo Mphahlele

Flight attendant & student pilot; both directors

Twins Masego and Matlhogonolo Mphahlele, 21, had a vision after they saw a teammate injured during a soccer game, who had to wait at the hospital for an X-ray. This was the moment the idea of digital X-ray glasses was born. "We knew that there must be a quicker and more portable solution than traditional X-ray machines. Just think, after a tough tackle in a rugby match, the medic could take a digital X-ray there and then and secure the player's safety," they told Red Bull. Masego and Matlhogonolo worked alongside students from the University of Johannesburg to create the prototype of the digital X-ray glasses. The twins were runner-up finalists in the Red Bull Basement Global Final held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2022. Twin X Innovation manufactures the Digital X-ray Glasses that perform the functions of an X-ray machine. They told *AfroTech*, "The camera can only take infrared images to a mobile device. We want to do more research to better our idea. We want the product to be able to work without using radiation ... and to be able to distribute it to different local hospitals and clinics." Masego is working as a flight attendant on FlySafair and Matlhogonolo is a student pilot at Flyfofa Aviation Training.

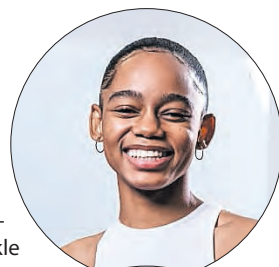
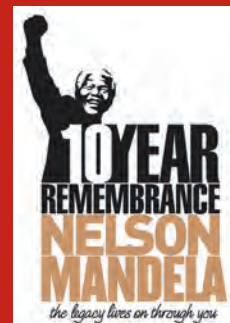


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'I pay tribute to the endless heroism of youth, you, the young lions. You, the young lions, have energised our entire struggle!'

Nelson Mandela's first speech after his release,
City Hall Cape Town, 11 February 1990



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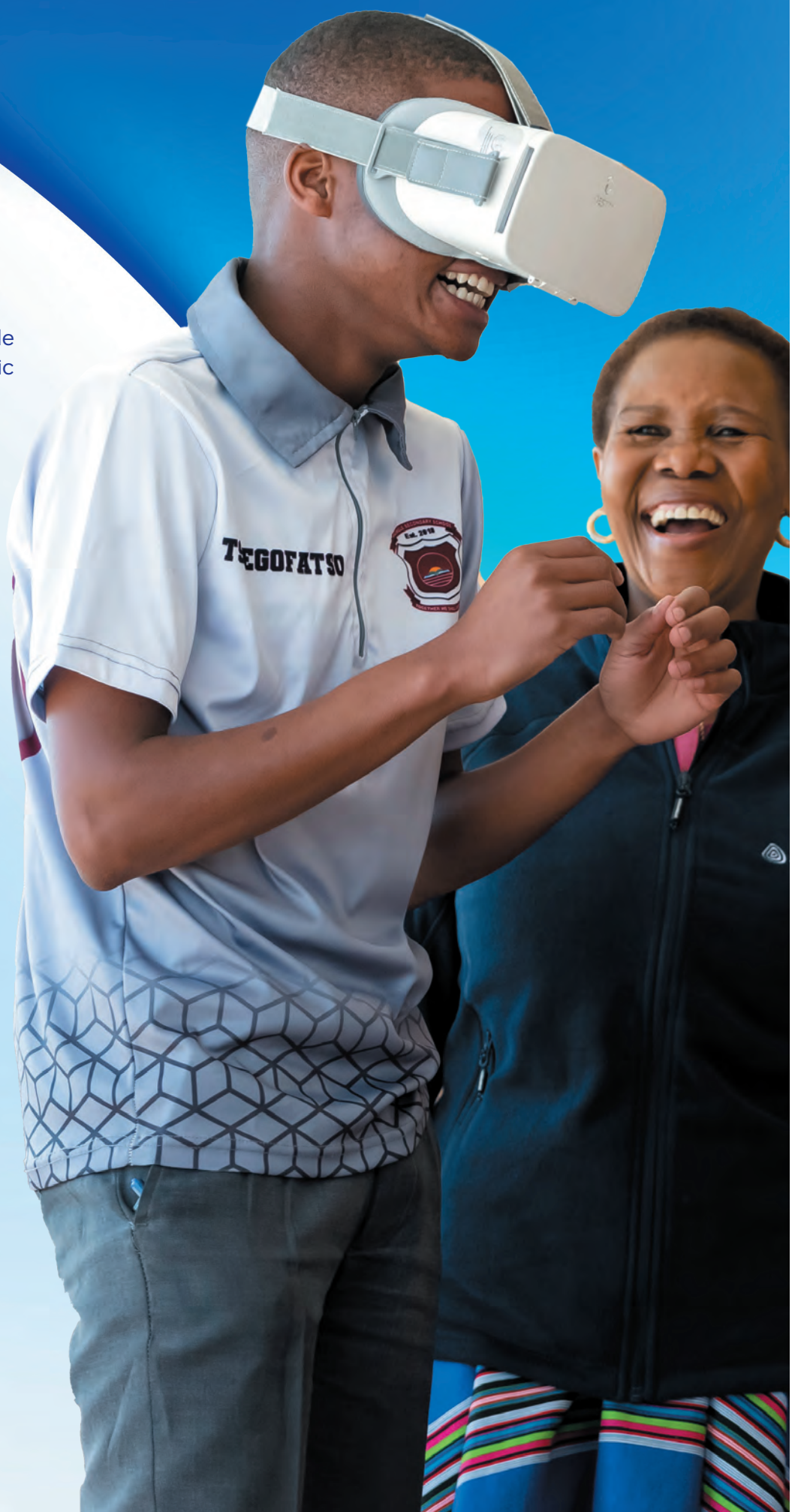
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