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WEEKLY SA

MIRROR

Insight to connect the dots...



RUSH TO SOWETO TO

VACCINATE

P2

OVERCROWDED SUBURBAN CENTERS FORCE WHITE
JOBURG CITIZENS TO GO TO SOWETO FOR ELUSIVE JOB



Getting the jab: An elderly Soweto man being given the Covid vaccine at a Soweto clinic. Photos: Mohau Mofokeng

COVID VACCINATION FRENZY

By Thuli Zungu

The frenetic rush to vaccinate for Covid-19 has seen an exodus of white citizens landing in Soweto to get the jabs.

Whilst the Whites were happy to receive the jab, it left a bitter taste in the mouth for scores of elderly black folk who've been on queue waiting to get vaccinated.

Weekly SA Mirror this week witnessed the vaccination drive being carried out in clinics around Johannesburg, where by Thursday officials said they've vaccinated close to 500 people who are 60 years old including health workers who missed out on the first vaccination drive.

A White couple Marsha Burger, 76, and hubby Charles Burger, 78, from Orchards in Johannesburg, said they decided to come to Soweto after they've been to various vaccination centres in Jozi where in some instance they had to wait for six hours at one of the clinics and went home without being vaccinated.

The couple were among scores of whites who had come to the Itireleng Clinic in Dobsonville after they were advised by a friend that they will definitely get the jab because the health centre was properly organized.

**DRIVE FOR JAB:
First White, first
served - complain
Soweto residents in
long queues..**

Another white couple Arnold Connack, 84, and his wife Sheila, 80, from Glen Hazel in Johannesburg, said this was the first clinic they visited and were happy with the reception they received from the staff clinic.

They too were told about the good service offered at this clinic, they said.

Whilst the Whites were happy to receive the jab, it left a bitter taste in the mouth for hundreds of elderly black folk who've been on queue waiting to get vaccinated.



Coming to Soweto: A group of white people seen at a Soweto clinic for Covid vaccination.

On their arrival at the clinic, Weekly SA Mirror had noticed that after they were sanitized and screened at the gate, the Whites did not join the queue as other citizens, but were escorted to the vaccination hub by the clinic manager.

Weekly SA Mirror was made to understand they had requested to jump the queue and this was granted. There was near pandemonium when some black elderly person also demanded to be allowed to jump queue as well, but his pleas fell on deaf ears. Spokesman for the Gauteng health department Sandile Gwayi said they were not aware of the incident but will investigate. There are two clinics designated as Covid vaccination centres in Soweto, namely Itireleng Clinic and Chiawelo Clinic.

At Chiawelo clinic, Sister Magdalene Matsoso, who is responsible for the vaccination station said she was impressed by the public response to get vaccinated and added that they did not turn people away even though they may not have received an SMS to come for the jab.

Sister Matsoso took Weekly SA Mirror through the vaccination process: Citizens are divided into two groups, those who received appointment dates and those who did not get any sms notification.

Those to be vaccinated are housed in tents where they are also checked for TB or any other symptoms. After inoculation they are booked for a second date as they have to take two doses of the Pfizer vaccine.

There is a nursing sister who dilutes and mixes the vaccination and places it in a cooler box which has a thermometer before it is carried to the vac-

ination corner. Vaccination is kept in a fridge at a certain temperature inside the hospital.

After being vaccinated a doctor gives a 15-minute observation for any side effects before a citizen is allowed to leave.

Both Soweto clinics see about 500 citizens on a daily basis respectively, and with Covid-19 they have employed extra nurses who have been trained for vaccination.

This helps alleviate pressure on the other nurses so they can concentrate on other patients.



Health worker: A nurse at a vaccine station in Soweto. Photo: Mohau Mofokeng



Cooler: Vaccines being taken from a cooler.

BELEAGUERED GOVERNMENT JABBERS ON WHILE VACCINATION DELAYS FUEL PUBLIC AND FRONTLINE FRUSTRATIONS



To vaccinate or not; A woman being counselled before taking the vaccine. Photo: Mohau Mofokeng

NIGHTMARE: Concern over Department of Health's prolonged struggle to overcome logistical glitches

By Pearl Rantsekeng

WHILE thousands of South Africans await notification from their respective health providers to go for their Covid-19 jabs, the national Department of Health is grappling with the mammoth task of implementation due to lack of systems and some cases sheer incompetence.

In order for the department to reach its immunity target, South Africa has to vaccinate well over 100 000 people per day, a task that is so far proving almost impossible to achieve fuelling fears that the implementation might take longer than anticipated. According to Health Minister Dr Zweli Mkhize, by Wednesday this week, a total of 761 903 individuals had received their jabs, which include the Sisonke as well as the Pfizer first dose. Mkhize said under the Sisonke Programme 479 768 people were vaccinated.

Looking at the way the numbers are trickling now, it is quite unlikely that they will reach those targets.

"These vaccinations were with the one-dose Johnson and Johnson vaccine and are therefore completed vaccinations. The total vaccinated in Phase Two as at midnight today is 282 135. These vaccinations were with the first dose of Pfizer vaccine," explained Dr Mkhize.

Meanwhile, the cumulative number of Covid-19 cases identified in South Africa stood at 1 645 555, with 4 623 new cases reported over the past 24 hours since Wednesday up to Thursday and 102 Covid-19 related deaths.

According to Business Insider, hundreds of private healthcare providers were at the end of their tether, due to their frustration at not being able to deliver the Covid-19 vaccines to their communities because they are missing the two elements that only the government may provide: vaccine doses and approved recipients for those doses.

"Everything else is ready down to the empty fridges and syringes lined up," they told Business Insider. Some are said to have even paid for additional security guards, to help manage anticipated queues and protect the elderly people they expect to arrive. But, they have been unable to get any indication from the government on when their sites might be activated on the Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS), government's central database through which vaccine deliveries must be arranged.

Government's official target is to have 3300 sites active but was currently sitting at about 200 active sites throughout the country. However, it is believed that the Clicks Pharmacy Group has since been given approval by the department of health to offer vaccinations at 47 sites around the country with a further 520 locations still awaiting approval.

US MANUFACTURE DELAYS ADD TO MISERY

Aside from the activation of sites for vaccination, the government has also been battling with having enough jabs to dose the people.

While South Africa was expected to manufacture the Johnson & Johnson dose at a factory in Gqeberha in the Eastern Cape, there seems to be a delay from the manufacturers in the United States.

Mkhize has also expressed concern about the shortages. As of Monday, there were at least 800 000 doses of Pfizer's shots available in South Africa while the release of a large number of Johnson & Johnson vaccine doses is thought to be imminent. Business Insider reports that there also isn't any sign of an imminent shortage of willing recipients.

"Business groups have been urged to push for more over-60s to register on the EVDS, to reach an ultimate target of five million. But less than 15% of those over 60 already registered have received their first doses so far, while local practitioners cite slow rollout as a big part of a chicken-and-egg problem, with seniors hard to convince they should get into a queue they don't see moving.

"Potential recipients have also described being put off by their inability to select a preferred vaccination site, for fear of exposure to infection at a crowded public healthcare facility, after more than a year of carefully shielding against infection,"

reported the Business Insider. Speaking to Newzroom Afrika yesterday, Acting Dean of Health Sciences at the University of Fort Hare, Professor Leon van Niekerk, said he believed the reason the department took on the active role of doing the vaccinations by itself might be due to them being cautious to ensure that they got it right and also managed the cold storage.

"But from here they have to make sure that they grow a bit more exponentially as they have huge targets to achieve towards the end of June. But looking at the way the numbers are trickling now, it is quite unlikely that they will reach those targets," said Van Niekerk.

He alluded to the fact that as much as the government is set on making sure that all and sundry are vaccinated, the reality is that they are

faced with severe challenges in implementing and facilitating the roll-out especially in the deep rural areas of the Eastern Cape as well as others throughout the country.

"I don't see them being able to work with the appointment system and for the people being able to come to the vaccination centres at the set time due to the fact that most of these people have to overcome a lot of challenges including transport. And, how many of those people over 60 for starters have access to smart phones or at times connectivity," said Van Niekerk.

Van Niekerk said at some point the government might have to form partnerships with people who work in the communities in order to cover a bigger number of people as working by itself is just making things difficult for them.



Safety First: Checking out sanitizers and keeping work station clean. Photo: Mohau Mofokeng



LIFE GRINDS SLOWLY FOR FORGOTTEN, POVERTY-STRICKEN MATSATSENG FAMILIES

DOOMED: Despair as state food relief eludes families living in this North West informal settlement

By **Boitumelo Tshehle**

Over 70 families in Matsatseng informal settlement outside Mahikeng are yet to benefit from basic human rights and recent social relief programmes outlined by government.

Residents situated 30 kilometres from the capital city, had been building their houses using wood and plastics for over three decades.

This, they say, was because government told them they were illegally occupying land belonging to a white farmer.

Residents say they were told that the farmer could come at any time and demolish their structures because it was his land.

Tabling his state of the province address for 2020/2021 financial year, premier Job Mokgoro said the right to adequate housing was an important basic human right.

Mapula Khumalo (59) said she is yet to experience that. She has been staying in that informal settlement for over 30 years. She said govern-

ment officials told her that she must always bear in mind that her structure could be demolished at any time by the land owner.

"At that time I was only happy that they have allowed me to use plastics and wood to build my house," she said. Khumalo who stays with her five children and three grandchildren said life was tough but that she has learnt to accept the conditions and lived with whatever life throws at her.

She said time went by but poverty still gripped the village. "It's a norm here that we live in plastic houses. Nobody cares that much. We live like we are in a desert," she said.

The area does not have electricity and proper water supply, the residents also use pit toilets. There is no school and residents managed to create makeshift buildings to attend church.

To further his address, Mokgoro said R15 million were set aside to establish the provincial food bank which aimed at distributing food to the people directly to their households.

He further said there were 28 community nutrition development centres around the province which were established as part of the feeding programme that the province had to alleviate hunger amongst vulnerable communities.

But not even one food parcel was delivered to this informal settlement. James Bareetseng (39) said he has not received any social relief of distress except the R350 which he received only twice.

"No one gave me food parcels and the post office always turns me away saying it was not time for me to receive the R350. I only received it twice ever since," he said.

He said his life was so affected by poverty to the extent that he does not know what to do anymore.

"Every time when I wake up I go to the local tavern. Umqombithi keeps me sane and focused. I did not go to school so I cannot find employment," he said.

Even when the country is on level one and practices Covid-19 regulations, residents here do not wear masks.

"We put them on only when we go to town. It's pointless to put on a mask here," another resident Johana Khubeka said.

Last month a resident died while going to steal at a nearby farm, his body was found at a farmer's plot decomposing.

"He went there to steal maize meal. Here we steal whatever we can just to provide for our families," she said.

A local councillor Pule Mokgele said Matsatseng residents have not enjoyed the fruits of democracy.

"There was nothing government could do because they are occupying a private land," he said.

He said he had made it his duty to make sure that the residents receive decent houses. "At least we have found the land owner and he has agreed to sign off the land to us.



Johana Khubeka says their lifestyles was normalised by their situation.

Photo: Boitumelo Tshehle

Only then we will be able to build them houses and give them electricity," he said.

North West Human settlement spokeswoman Dineo Lolokwane said she still needed to consult with the regional director before giving a proper response.



James Bareetseng says he believes things will turn out for the best.

Photo: Boitumelo Tshehle



Mapula Khumalo at her house in Matsatseng. Photo: Boitumelo Tshehle

HIGHLIGHTS: *Limpopo*

By Frank Maponya

GA-MASEMOLA

Learners at a rural school were confronted with small pieces of broken glasses in their food. It is reported that the learners at Masemola Secondary School in Ga-Masemola village near Jane Furse found broken glasses (bottles) in their food on Wednesday morning after they were served as part of the school's nutrition programme.

After the discovery of the broken glasses, the learners reportedly informed their teachers who allegedly turned a blind eye.

What is more scary to the learners is that they do not know who could have eaten the food prior to the discovery of the broken glasses, and are now seeking guidance on how to sort out the issue. The Limpopo department of education said the matter is being investigated.



SHIKWANE VILLAGE

An off-duty police officer stationed at the Le-boeng satellite police station was shot on the leg by unknown suspects at his home in Shikwane village, Ga-Sekororo, on Monday night. Police said the incident happened at around 11pm and the officer was rushed to Sekororo Hospital for medical treatment.

They say the suspects were heavily armed with an R4 rifle and shot guns. According to police, on the same night the suspects had also gained a forced entry into one of the houses in the village and found a victim asleep.

The suspects allegedly robbed the man of his pistol and other valuable items. The men then allegedly went to another house where they robbed occupants laptops and other valuable items.

A manhunt has been launched and police request the assistance of community members with information that can lead to the arrest of the suspects to contact the nearest police station or call the Crime Stop number 086010111.

SAPS IN POLOKWANE

A police officer attached to the Protection and Security Services of the SAPS in Polokwane has been arrested in connection with the murder of a 44-year-old man at a liquor store.

The incident happened on Saturday at around midnight after the victim was allegedly found inside his car, apparently waiting for his girlfriend who was inside the store.

Police said the officer had the car and shot the man at point-blank range before fleeing. The victim was certified dead by paramedics. Spokesperson of the police Colonel Moatshe Ngoepe said the officer handed himself over on Monday following intensive investigations. Sergeant Mphela Obed Mokoena, 36, appeared in court the following day and the case was postponed to June 1 for a formal bail application.

Ngoepe said the motive for the shooting had not yet been established and that investigations were still ongoing. The deceased had been identified as Kenneth Shongwe, 44.

TSHAKHUMA VILLAGE

The family of a man from Tshakhuma village near Thohoyandou, who was found dead on Sunday, believe the 48-year-old was killed for ritual purposes.

This after it was found that some of the dead man's body parts were missing.

MBILWI SECONDARY SCHOOL

A teacher at Mbilwi Secondary School accused of the rape of a learner at the same school has resigned from work.

The 50-year-old teacher reportedly handed over his resignation on Tuesday. He was arrested last week in connection with the rape of a 17-year-old learner and appeared in the Thohoyandou Magistrate's Court on Tuesday, where he was granted bail.

SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN

EASY TARGETS: Schools have become playground for criminals



Childhood Innocence: A typical school break scene at a Soweto school. Photo: Facebook

By Vusi Xaba

Criminals targeting schools spread their reign of terror again, striking at a Soweto school for the disabled.

Police in Soweto are investigating a case of robbery after armed men entered a school for disabled children and robbed staff on May 21.

Police spokesperson Sergeant Octavia Thebe told Weekly SA Mirror that three men entered Thokomelo Special School, which caters to children with physical disabilities and held two teachers and a security guard at gunpoint before robbing them of two cellphones, a laptop, an undisclosed amount of money and a camera.

"We received a complaint that a 44-year-old female member of staff was with her colleague when three unknown males entered her office. One of the men had a firearm. They locked the office, instructed them to open a safe. They took a laptop, camera and cash from the safe," Thebe said.

She said the robbers, who had brought along them a guard stationed at the school gate to the

office at gunpoint, bound them with cable ties. They then demanded a bundle of keys, locked the office and left.

No arrest has been made, Thebe said. The school principal who refused to identify himself declined to comment further than confirming the incident.

Though his confirmation was not direct, he indicated that he was not authorised to talk to the media and our presence at the school after the incident could further traumatise staff and learners.

However, Weekly SA Mirror team did not encounter any problem entering the school. Staff at the gate only asked us who we were, made us sign the register after telling them that we were there to see the principal.

They then sanitised us, checked body temperature in accordance with the Covid 19 protocol and a female employee escorted us to the principal, whom we found talking to another teacher in the schoolyard. The Gauteng department of education had not responded to our inquiry when we went to print.

VETERAN DANCE TUTOR CONTINUES TO NURTURE FUTURE STARS

FUNDA COMMUNITY COLLEGE: Not even vandalism, let alone cancer, will dim artists' dream

By Victor Mecoamere

Seasoned choreographer Nomsa Kupi Manaka is making a bittersweet return to the Funda Community College complex in Diepkloof, Soweto because she is looking for a relatively safe and secure place at which to nurture future dancing superstars.

This is the same place where she and her late husband, playwright Matsemela Manaka, had formed a formidable team several decades ago. Together with the likes of the late singer Sibongile Khumalo, they had turned the place, then known as Funda Art Centre, as a thriving hub of youth development through music, dance, fine art and theatre.

"I am returning to a place that holds many good memories for me," Kupi Manaka told Weekly SA

Mirror this week. "This is where I had matured as a dancer, choreographer and dance teacher. I had later spread my wings and worked professionally, elsewhere."

This is somewhat of a forced homecoming for Kupi Manaka because she has had to close her dance academy, known as the Kupi Manaka Dance Studio, which was situated inside the Walter Sisulu Square in Kliptown, also in Soweto, owing to extensive vandalism which had occurred at the height of the Covid-19 lockdown in November 2021.

"I am still hurting badly after the original studio, which was a sanctuary and a place of peace to me and the children been desecrated by vandals in November 2020," Kupi Manaka said, as she remembered the harrowing scenes inside the place her 12 year old granddaughter, Kaone, used to call



Window broken and the dance floor is flooded.

her place of peace.

The dance floor, which had been installed at a cost of R200 000.00, had been badly damaged. All the costumes, costing about R100 000.00 were also taken.

The children have taken it badly, as well. "This was their home away from home," Kupi Manaka lamented.

"Each year, from until last year, we had been catering for about 300 children annually. Orphans and other vulnerable youths, including those who were addicted to drugs, had found a home away from home."

Kupi Manaka fondly remembers a teenage boy who had stood at the door for days, on end, "until I had invited him in; and, today, he has matriculated,

and is an asset as several dance troupes".

The only time that Kupi Manaka could not be with her beloved charges in 2016, was diagnosed with stage four ovarian cancer, so there was no dancing, no dance teaching and no nurturing for that year, "because I had to fight a new battle, but now I am in remission, and those kids and what we were achieving at the dance studio game a purpose to live.

Now, our lives have turned, full-circle, and we are staring over, once again," Kupi Manaka said, adding that she was happy that it is safer at the Funda Community College complex.

"So, the dream of ensuring that the kids and I have a sanctuary and a place of peace – more than a dance school – is still alive," she declared, boldly.

IKUSASA CAREER GUIDE



Bongiwe Mkhwanazi

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



ENTREPRENEURIAL DUO MAKES GOOD DIME BY PUTTING SHINE TO THOSE DIRTY, SOGGY TAKKIES

AYASHISA AMATAKKIE: Enterprising youths find unusual niche to make money and create jobs...



By Bongiwe Mkhwanazi

Many South African youth who have matriculated and could further their studies are languishing at home yet there are opportunities they can explore to upskill themselves and eliminate poverty and unemployment.

Weekly SA Mirror came across two young stars at Wild Chestnut Street in Protea Glen just opposite Sizwe Shopping Centre. Its 9am on a cold busy Friday and Velaphi Luvuno, a 33-year-old man washes takkies and shoes in a garage which has been converted into a working place. A self-skilled Luvuno said he started washing takkies three years ago after his internship ended. He battled to find employment as he had no experience and together with his friend, they came up with this idea.

"Being young and starting a business was very challenging and people didn't believe in idea and had condescending remarks we did not care" he said. They had no marketing tools but invited family and friends to support their initiative, Luvuno said. With no finance at hand they took soap and brushes from home and borrowed from neighbours to keep their business running. "Initially we started



this at Diepkloof and strategically moved to Protea as it offered a good business opportunity" said Luvuno. As the business grew customers came in numbers and beautiful business ideas, he said.

"Some wanted to know if we could renew their faded shoes and takkies and that pushed us to google and found ways of doing so," Luvuno said.

While interviewing Luvuno his client, Philani Kweyama, 34 came to collect his shoes he brought three days ago. Kweyama a taxi operator said a number of operators supports Luvuno, because they have no time to wash their takkies and you cannot transport passengers wearing smelly takkies. "We want him to grow unlike those who are now hooked to nyaope and all sorts for drugs," he said before leaving. Luvuno and his partner Linda Mabaso has employed four more people including a scholar who joins them after school to help with washing of takkies. Due lot of encouragement and different innovative ideas, people wanted him to start redecorate the takkies and Mabaso said he did not know he could draw until started painting and drawing their takkies.



"I thought I did not know how to draw until I tried," he said. Using a brush and fabric paint they produce these beautiful and colourful takkies.

They now have a shoe shop they supply. Sadly, they have no electricity, or shelves where they could pack these shoes and takkies. To dry them the first cover them with white toilet paper to ensure they don't discolour from the heat of the sun before they put them on the roof of their business place.

They also wash morning sleepers and dye faded takkies, caps and hats. Though they are a registered company they do not know they could get funding to expand their business.

"We want people who can hold us by hand and guide us how to get funding or who can help us develop our skills," Mabaso said.

"One day we want to own a decent shoes and takkies cleaning service company that could hire more people," added Luvuno.

They charge R35 rand to wash white takkies and R40 to clean suede. They use Surf powder as their cleaning detergent, according to them, it is the only washing powder that cleans and remove all

dirt completely.

"We then charge R20 for kiddie's shoes and R70 to clean boots" they said. Luvuno said the youth should not be discouraged when they do not get employment, but if they could be creative and start something and they could end up being business owners. He added by saying that COVID 19 and the first lock-down almost killed their business. When we reopened it was like starting afresh, it was tough, but our landlord exempted us from paying rent until we were back on our feet.

"All you need is determination," said Mabaso

Dear Ikusasa,

I matriculated in 2015 and It was difficult for me to further my studies because there was no one to pay for my fees. My aim was to study a degree in Civil Engineering and my scoring was low and did not meet as a result my application was rejected.

Currently I am struggling to get employment as I have no experience and with no qualifications. I want to find out if you have any learnership or apprenticeship opportunities that are available so that I can apply.

Nomalungelo Nkosi, Zola in Soweto

Dear Nomalungelo,

Thanks for approaching Ikusasa for help. There are companies that offer such opportunities, normally they place advertisements on various newspapers or advertise on websites like Skills portal. If you have a smartphone or access to google you can check the adverts of Skills portal where you can find these opportunities.

You can also visit your nearest Further Education and Training (FET) college where they also do offer a Civil Engineering course form N2 to N6. These FETs also assist students with a NSFAS application. You will need to apply for your Civil engineer diploma before you could apply for NSFAS

The South Western FET College closer to you is situated at Molapo.



How Setas alleviate unemployment by nurturing youth for world of work

HOW DOES SETAS WORK?

- The purpose of the SETAs is to improve and develop skills within its sector, to identify skills development needs to ensure that national standards are maintained.
- The primary aim is to encourage employers to use the workplace as an active learning environment, acquire new skills and provide new entrants to the market place.
- SETAs work on a levy grant system, which means companies must be registered for and pay their Skills Development Levy to the South African Receiver of Revenues.
- Then SARS will allocate this money via the Department of Labour to each of the SETAs according to the SETA that each specific company has registered with.
- SETAs oversee learnership and ensure that they offer qualifications while getting on the job experience.

HOW DO COMPANIES BENEFIT?

- By complying with certain legal procedural re-

quirements employers may claim up to 70% of the Skills Development Levy back from their SETA.

- The benefits of paying SDL which includes 20% of the employers levy can be claimed back in a mandatory grant.
- The employer can register once for different tax types using client information system Tip Top: where an employer expects that the total salaries will be more than R500 000 over the next 12 months that the employer becomes liable to pay LDS.
- Skills Development Act of 1999 serves to fund the skills Development initiatives in the country.

HOW IS THIS ACHIEVED?

- The company must register and coach its skills development facilitator who will act on its behalf.
- The company must conduct its skills audit and develop a work skills plan.
- The facilitator will assist in identifying the correct OFO (please give the full name) codes for different jobs titles as required by the SETA.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT LEVY?

- If your company promote training and learning in the workplace and pays SLD every month you are entitled to the following benefits:
- Skills development grant
- Substantial tax allowances when you implement learnership in your company.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

- Each SETA has a levy paying company
- A company must be registered and have a tax certificate and CIPRO document.
- Skills levy fund must be paid monthly depending on the companies annual return
- SETAs were structured to develop skills in the workplace, in other words your company must be a learning environment for your employees.
- A company must complete a workplace skills plan (WSP) and an Annual Training Report (ART).
- WSP should be submitted to the employers relevant SETA and ten start training your employees

in order to claim the grant.

- ART must be submitted to the employers relevant SETA as proof that the training mentioned was done alongside all relevant documents, money spent on training e.g., invoiced and registered of attendance.

WHAT IS A LEARNERSHIP

- A Learnership combines learning with classroom learning so that the learner is able to put into practice on the job what has been learned in the classroom.
- It is workplace learning
- Observing and learning
- Receiving coaching and mentoring
- Understanding the job
- Practicing new skills
- Gathering evidence and being assessed
- When learnership is complete, the learner receives a national qualification
- The respective SETA will be responsible for verification on registration and results before the learner can be deemed qualified.

Consumer Eye



**AWARD-WINNING
CONSUMER EDITOR LOOKS
INTO YOUR COMPLAINTS**

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In case you have been missing your consumer champion, my column has now found a new home in SA weekly Mirror, where I will still be advocating your rights with the same zeal. Consumer Eye aims to help consumers to resolve their complaints, educate you about your rights and responsibilities. We will also expose unfair business practices brought to our attention. Consumer Eye has no intention to tarnish the image of any business, but to ensure that customers are treated fairly all the time. As we all know, all of us have rights – whether we are dealing with smooth-talking salesmen or encounter unfriendly government officials, poker-faced airline personnel or

shady second-hand car dealer.

In fact, most of us have more rights than we realise. Better still, we have the right to complain when we are sold defective goods; right to stand up to banks when they have not handled our complaints to our complete satisfaction; rights when a dealer makes you sign one-sided contract. In line with the Consumer Protection Act, we will arm you with important consumer information about your rights and responsible consumer behaviour. We will give you tips on how to steer clear of any trouble.

HOW BRAZEN IMPERSONATORS CAPITALISE ON TECH LOOPHOLES

IDENTITY THEFT:

Consumers advised to guard their personal info at all times

Cases of identity theft have risen exponentially after most employees had started working from home and sending sensitive information across insecure servers.

This type of crime, also known as impersonation fraud, is increasing in all the provinces, with Eastern Cape leading the ballooning statistics by 161 percent according to the statistics which were released recently by the offices of the South African Fraud Prevention Service (SAFPS). And the most concerning statistic coming out of the report is that impersonation fraud has increased by 337 percent countrywide.

Matshepo Thembekwayo, 27, of Rondebult in the East Rand, who is one of the countless victims of identity theft, said she had discovered this in January when she tried to open a bank account at Capitec Bank. "My heart sank," Thembekwayo told Weekly SA Mirror this week. "I was informed that I was owing cosmetics company Avon. I could not believe what I was hearing because I had no form of association with Avon, as the consultant showed me on the computer screen of the fraud. I just shook my head, in disbelief. The only form of credibility I had

was from a furniture company, Bradlows, where the information from the Credit Bureau was saying that I had bought a laptop, and had duly paid this off."

Thembekwayo was also told that she had "adverse information", meaning that she had been blacklisted, and that – based on this information, which was being kept by the credit bureau – she could not be granted a credit account until she had paid all the service providers she allegedly owed. But she had no knowledge of having had any contact with the other service providers she was said to be owing.

Capitec Bank had then referred Thembekwayo to the SAFPS, which has since helped her to clear her name, and she is now able to open accounts, said the mother of one. "The fraudster bought goods and to take loans to the tune of R15 000, using my identity, cellular phone number and my home address; all of which were in my hand bag, which had been stolen," she said. For the past three years, Thembekwayo has had to explain her plight to all the service providers who had been calling her, demanding payment, and informing them that she was a victim of identity theft; and sending her signature specimen did not help, either, because these companies had gone ahead and blacklisted her.

"My gratitude goes to the SAFPS who has given me a Victim of Impersonation Letter which I'm now using to open accounts," she said.

Thembekwayo said her matter was sorted out within a week and her credit score has also improved. SAFPS CEO Mannie van Schalkwyk said the "risk landscape" (or number and spread countrywide of the incidents and victims of identity theft) was growing, daily. Van Schalkwyk said an

area which saw a major increase was fraud listing which had increased by 62%, in addition to victim listing, which had risen by 54%. He said that the contributory factor was the lockdown, due to Covid-19, which had led to many employees being required to work from home. Van Schalkwyk said the problem with this was that the employees had to conduct their work by sending sensitive information across servers that did not have the same level of security as those at their normal workplaces. "The Fourth Industrial revolution is driven by data; and cyber criminals are conducting targeted attacks on servers to steal valuable data, to use this data to commit fraud," he said.

Van Schalkwyk said technology had improved drastically, and it was now easy to make any online application to look legitimate.

"We have reached a critical point relating to the economy and the extreme measures that the cyber criminals use to perpetrate identity-related fraud. The 2020 statistics collected by the SAFPS indicates significant increases in the key areas, and that there is a long road ahead to address this challenge," Van Schalkwyk said.

Van Schalkwyk said that it was not doom and gloom though, because the SAFPS had saved R4.4 million for affiliated companies that were using their database. One of the core of SAFPS' service offerings is known as "Protective Registration", which serves to protect individuals against identity fraud.

"It is imperative that consumers and companies protect themselves against fraud and more and more we see the use of biometric data as the solution for the future," said Van Schalkwyk.

a clothing account, the credit provider would request the consumer's credit profile. This is one of the criteria set out in terms of the affordability requirements before a credit provider may extend credit to a consumer.

"As credit extension is about risk and costs, the best predictor of future behaviour is generally, past behaviour," Noval said. "Should a consumer's credit record reflect adverse information, the consumer may be regarded as being a possible riskier debtor," she added.

For consumers applying for employment where the position requires honesty in dealing with cash or finances, and the job descriptions of such positions are clearly outlined, the employer or recruitment agent may access the consumer's credit profile," Noval explained.

Regarding consumers who want to challenge adverse information appearing on their profile, Noval said the Credit Ombuds office would recommend that such consumers should obtain a copy of their credit profile from one of the major credit bureaus to ascertain whether the correct information was still reflected. She said a consumer is entitled to one free credit profile in any twelve-month period.

But if you have already requested a report in that twelve-month period and require a further report, the bureau may charge the consumer a nominal fee to obtain this.

Noval said The Credit Ombuds had been inundated with disputes where consumers were disputing having received their statements of account, and were also challenging the interest and charges to their account, or may have other queries on the amounts that were being debited.

All the information you need to safeguard your key info

If you have been unfairly or incorrectly listed (Blacklisted) at the Credit Bureau here is what you need to know: The National Credit Act requires that you should be informed before any adverse information is reported to a credit bureau.

Therefore, your adverse information shall not be submitted to the credit bureau by any credit provider and service provider, without giving you notice of their intention to submit the info.

Also, you are supposed to be given at least 20 business days before the listing is placed on the credit bureau's database.

Should you wish to challenge the adverse information which may have been submitted to the credit bureaus alerting you, you can lodge a dispute with the credit bureaus.

Avitha Noval of The Office of the Credit Ombuds, said the credit bureau is in return required to investigate your dispute within 20 business days. Should the 20 business days expire, and the matter remains unresolved and or you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you can approach the Credit Ombuds for help, she said.

Noval said one of the primary functions of the office of the Credit Ombuds was to investigate complaints relating to credit information provided, and whether the correct process had been followed.

"If the consumer challenges the lack of notifi-

HANDY TIPS: What the National Consumer Act says about your rights

cation before adverse information was submitted to the credit bureaus, then the credit providers and service providers would be required to provide reasonable evidence that the notification had been sent to you in good time," she added.

She said the consumer's adverse information should not be submitted to the credit bureaus if the account is settled shortly after receiving the notice of intention to "blacklist" – or if the consumer has disputed liability for the outstanding amounts during the notice period.

What is contained in your credit profile and why:

A credit profile contains a consumer's personal details, their employment status, and credit history. Should you wish to apply for a loan, or for a loan to be extended relating to credit for a furniture or

LETTERS

Consumer Eye

Dear Consumer Eye, I rented a property 36 Sonata Square, 51 Jacaranda Ave, Olivedale in Randburg through Sheilagh Cronin an Agency at Air and Grace Properties between September 2019 and December 2020.

When moving in the property was dirty and I had to hire a cleaning service provider as the agent ignored my request to have it cleaned.

I paid a rental deposit of R8 600 plus R860 for water and lights.

In addition to this, I paid R600 to the cleaning service provider when moving out and did not transfer the cost to anyone.

However, on termination of my contract the agent only paid me R6000 in February after a long persuasion as she was supposed to refund it in January according to the contract I signed. The balance outstanding is R2560.

It is not about the money which is negligible in any way, but it is a matter of principle as I am certain that is what they did to the previous tenant.

I have had silly items being charged to justify why the balance cannot be paid. Even if those items were legit, I have paid the last invoice for water and lights and still, they are not releasing the money held back for that.

They charged me frivolous amounts which include cleaning the house and R400 to replace two globes and an additional bill for water and lights.

Their attitude is beyond being arrogant nje. Please help me recover my balance instead of this R800 they are offering.

Puleng Namane, Randburg

Dear Puleng, Consumer Eye noted that you and the landlord did not perform a joint incoming and the outgoing inspection to determine any damage that the tenant may have caused. This would have saved you the cost of paying a cleaning service provider you hired.

An ordinary electric bulb cost up to R99 unless they were replacing Intelligent rechargeable lights which can cost up to R240.

The Rental Housing act states that the agent must keep the deposit in an interest-bearing account for the duration of the lease and that interest should be paid back to you, from the statements you provided it does not seem like it was the case.

The refund must occur within 7 days after the lease agreement ends if there is no damage but where there are damages, it should be refunded within 14 days after the restoration of the property.

If you did not do the inspection, the refund should have been paid after 21 days, not two months later.

Consumer Eye took up your matter with Sheilagh Cronin an Agency at Air and Grace Properties a week ago and she promised to respond with the owner's comments and all the final documents and paperwork to justify the deductions from the deposit which he holds.

This has not been the case and she ignored our follow up inquiries.

Kindly email your complaint to the Gauteng Rental Tribunal for further assistance.

Their email address is rentaltribunal@gauteng.gov.za

Comment

STOP THE ROT BEFORE IT CORRODES POLICE SYSTEMS

Whenever people are allowed to act with impunity, lawlessness will always creep in and take centre stage.

Not only that, the ensuing culture of impunity will ultimately have a negative impact on public confidence in the rule of law, especially when the law itself displays inertia when expected to act against public disobedience.

Our lead story last week underscores this point rather poignantly, where about 400 homeless people have been illegally occupying the South African Police Service's living quarters in Protea, Soweto, for many years without any consequences.

Worse, some of the illegal occupants are believed to be relatives of Saps members on retirement but no longer living there.

In addition, most of the squatters occupying the police apartment blocks are unidentified; and no one knows where they come from.

That crime is committed from the illegally occupied buildings, is shocking and cause for serious concern. And there is also the issue of the decrepit state of the living quarters and nothing being done to redress the situation.

Worrisome is that authorities in this instance have not taken responsibility for the neglect of the quarters, for lack of security and proper controls, instead there have been flimsy excuses about why the situation has been allowed to degenerate to such an extent.

Most disturbing is that the grimy police accommodation is situated a mere few metres from the Saps police station, yet the top brass there seems to have turned a blind eye to this mess - for more than 27 years.

The worrying twist to this unending saga of dereliction of duty, is that about 100 police members staying at the facility live in fear in the presence of unknown illegals, some of whom might well be criminals.

Instead of acting swiftly to flush out the illegal squatters and protect their own, police authorities are fidgeting and busy looking to other departments, including the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure to fix the mess. It's promising, however, that they have committed to work with all the relevant departments to resolve the matter.

THAT IS NOT ENOUGH.

Disgruntled police members say the buildings have been neglected and not maintained since the dawn of democracy in 1994, and that rubbish has not been collected for close on 10 years

We urge senior Saps management, together with the ministries of all other relevant departments, to act swiftly to resolve this mess, which is symptomatic of the disturbing trend of hijacking of buildings in many Gauteng central business districts.

That said, we are encouraged that the police are aware of this problem, that they are working on a roll-out project plan led by the Saps Legal Services department in the province and State attorneys to lawfully evict the illegal occupants.

Any solution short of finding alternative accommodation for these families will just compound the situation, though.

Although police have stressed that only active members of the Saps can be allowed to stay into the barracks, let them act on their orders rather than merely pronouncing them on paper.

That notwithstanding, there are general concerns that there are other police buildings in similar state of disrepair elsewhere, and that unresolved issues include lack of resources, impacting on the police's capacity to their jobs effectively.

Ultimately, this simply calls for an extensive urgent audit of the state of police buildings nationwide to plumb the depths of the problem, so that appropriate interventions can be made at national level.



FLASHBACK: The World's June 16 front page, which featured Sam Nzima's iconic picture of the injured 13-year-old Hector Pietersen being carried by Mbuyisa Makhubo, accompanied by the boy's sister Antoinette, caused international outrage at the time. The copy of this edition is reportedly missing from nearly all public libraries in South Africa.

REMEMBER TO REMEMBER THE UNREMEMBERED

JUNE 16: ABRIDGED INAUGURAL DR SAM NZIMA LECTURE DELIVERED BY ANC STALWART MANDLA LANGA AT CONSTITUTIONAL HILL ON MAY 21...

The story of the fateful events of June 16, 1976, cannot be fully told without the name of Sam Nzima featuring prominently. Reading about his life in various publications – and hearing accounts from journalists and others who interacted with him – a picture emerges of someone driven from an early age. I was heartened by the fact that Sam Nzima was born in Bushbuck ridge on 8 August 1934, for the simple reason that my late brother Pius Langa, onetime Chief Justice of this country, was also born in a village in Bushbuckridge.

Perhaps, I thought, in a moment of whimsical self-indulgence, they might have met as boys and shared ideas about the future that lay ahead.

But, growing up in a farm where his father



Mandla Langa

worked must have been hard for young Sam for the simple reason that farm life, however idealised in novels and films, is one of hardship. But it is here, in the early years that he was fated to meet a schoolteacher who showed him the workings of a camera, an instrument that caught his fancy and would one day be his chosen weapon. In fact, when asked how he envisaged his legacy, in an interview with Mbekezeli Mbuli of a local newspaper, The Lowvelder, Sam Nzima had a ready reply. "I would like to be remembered as a freedom fighter who did not use a machine gun to send a message across, but only used a camera." The one camera he used to take photographs was a Pentax SL.

In underscoring the hardscrabble existence of black people in farms, especially in that region of Limpopo, I would like us to imagine the period in which little Sam grew up. The 1930s, or forties were a time of an impossibly punishing existence for farm workers.

Sam Nzima must have had a glimpse of that life and it is no surprise that he sought to escape this existence whilst he was doing Standard 6 and headed for Johannesburg. Since we're all the sum total of our experiences, one would say that when

he took up what people sometimes refer to as "menial" tasks, as gardener before becoming a waiter after completing his high school correspondence courses, he was here to do a job; and one would imagine that he still had a home to which he hoped to return to one day. He just didn't know what fate would throw his way, which would hasten his return to his ancestral home, Lilyvale.

It was when he was working as a waiter that his unswerving need to improve himself shone brightest. He read and copied the writing styles of seasoned scribes. Later, he worked as a freelancer for The World newspaper and had a feature published. One can imagine his elation at seeing his own name in print. There followed a long stint as a photojournalist attached to The World. Since he couldn't split himself into two, Sam Nzima's work as a photographer led to the waning of the passion of writing stories.

Dr Sam Nzima was chosen by history to be at the right place at the right time. Assigned by The World newspaper, which was fortuitously edited by Percy Qoboza, Nzima was one of the photojournalists around on Soweto on June 16, 1976, where he'd heard from the township grapevine that, in the parlance of the time, chandies sal ruk – the students were going to demonstrate. But it was to be his call to take that emblematic photograph of a dying and bloodied Hector Pietersen being carried by Mbuyisa Makhubo with Hector's sister, Antoinette Sithole, running alongside.

There's no mistaking the anguish on the young people's faces, the 18-year-old Mbuyisa, grimacing from the effort of running with the deadweight of the 13-year-old Hector. Antoinette, beside herself with grief, is only 15 years old. I remember the image, its impact and the fact that it lent itself to reproduction, as it soon made appearances almost everywhere in various incarnations. As a poster, a banner, a tee-shirt or featuring in innumerable publications, acting as a graphic shorthand that took the abstract struggle against apartheid onto recognisable, almost visceral realms. If one draws from Christian iconographic imagery, the composition would be evocative of Michelangelo's renaissance sculpture, the Pieta, which depicts the body of Jesus in the lap of his mother Mary after the Crucifixion.

The picture by Dr Sam Nzima tells a story that has been quite difficult to tell. The story of oppression, which has its roots in colonial plunder, has been obscured by the skilful and orchestrated campaign to render black people – and their pain – invisible.

The usurpation of their land has always been accompanied by a constant crusade to elude, if not erase from living memory any of their achievements. But no condition, especially one based on force, is permanent. The more the regime demonstrated its naked strength, the more it engendered

resistance. Power without morality, someone has observed, leads to tyranny. Growing louder, in the late 1960's was a countervailing philosophy that posited a view that debunked the state-sponsored invisibility of black people. The black consciousness philosophy recognised the hard battles that had been fought by the liberation movements but decided that – with the silencing and banning of these movements – there was a need to fill the vacuum. The youth, which was at the forefront of this new energy, led boycotts in universities and various institutions of higher learning or, as Malcolm X would say, in centres of miseducation and indoctrination.

The children threw stones and took to the street to prove one point, that they existed. They mattered. The strength of their resolve could not be contained, or stopped, even by bullets. Sam Nzima took a photograph of a casualty, a boy of thirteen; the photograph became more powerful than speeches at the United Nations. It galvanised and united various nations into a bloc to oppose apartheid. The murder of the innocence of children happened when they, these young minds, were forced to witness the humiliation of their parents. There



Sam Nzima

was Sharpeville, all those bodies punctured by steel slugs. Somehow, when Hector Pietersen fell down and Mbuyisa ran with him alongside Antoinette to the car, the time had come for everyone to say, 'Enough.' Going back to Sam Nzima's photograph, it seemed to me that the telegraphing of the seriousness of the situation in the country could only have happened once the image took hold of the consciousness of the world. It is sad that there has to be a blood sacrifice of the young and vulnerable before people can start taking things seriously.

Bra Sam Nzima charted the way for us, young and old. He's gone now and has left us with a huge responsibility. Ours, especially the young people who can still dream dreams, is to get our cameras and flood the country with images of our choice, where we'll counter the lies and the attempts to render us invisible.

Apartheid was one huge lie. There are new lies now. We can not be distracted by the noise of the misinformation which has distorted reality. It will be hard. It was hard at first for Dr Sam Nzima. In the end, it was possible. When we do that we'll be able to remember with pride.

The youth are that possibility.

TRIBUTE: *Joe Thloloe*

HOMAGE TO 'A TOWERING INTELLECT AND SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE'



INTERGENERATIONAL: Former Sowetan Editor Aggrey Klaaste's son salutes his late dad's great friend, journalism stalwart Joe Thloloe...

I know Ntate Joe Thloloe through his life-long friendship with my late father, Aggrey Klaaste. They were inseparable. I am told their legendary friendship began in the 1960s. They bonded over their passion for jazz, literature, journalism, politics and a deep loathing of a system of government that subjugated their people. They didn't know it at the time, but greatness for both of them lay in the future. Their names would later become the gold standard of journalism. Their courage in the face of relentless state harassment of the media is well known.

But, back when they met, they were simply bright young lads in Johannesburg trying to figure

out the angles of life. They worked together in various newspapers and magazines of the 1960s. They were keenly aware that they were in the shadow of the Drum Decade of the 1950s that had produced larger-than-life names.

But they were now in their own decade. They were also burning with a desire to make a mark in journalism, to tell important stories, even though repression made life around them bleak. Unfortunately for these two smart journos booze got in the way. Which journalist during those days didn't enjoy a drink after meeting a hectic deadline? Over the years, the two fought mightily to get out of the bottle and they succeeded.

I'm humbled to personally know Ntate Thloloe through this life-long association with my late old man. He is an important father figure to me. I revere him. I love him. He's a remarkable and caring man. In the past few years, he has played a leading role in helping my family set up the Aggrey Klaaste Trust which seeks to revive key elements of the nation building philosophy that my late father championed during his heydays of his editorship of Sowetan newspaper.

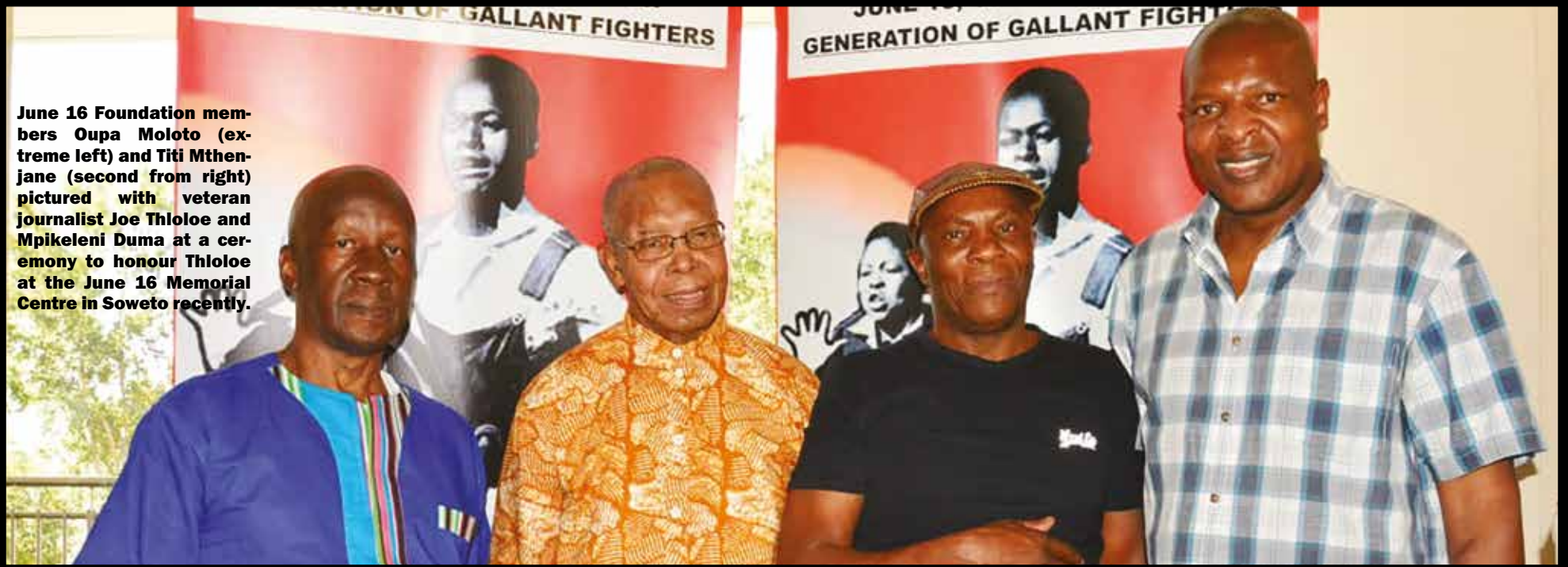
Lately, I would sit at Ntate Thloloe's feet and learn about our country's history, the importance of an ethical media and how community structures need to work to empower everyone. Enraptured, I would listen to him and take down notes so as not to miss any of the pearls of wisdom coming out of his mind.

Ntate Thloloe is a towering intellect and a source of knowledge. South Africa needs more people like Ntate Thloloe to become an even greater nation. I'm happy that his path and my dad's crossed.

I am lucky to call Joe Thloloe, my beloved Ntate.

FRIENDS SALUTE THLOLOE OVER HIGHLY DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN SA JOURNALISM

TRUE GRIT: He served print and broadcasting journalism with distinction for more than 50 years...



June 16 Foundation members Oupa Moloto (extreme left) and Titi Mthenjane (second from right) pictured with veteran journalist Joe Thloloe and Mpikeleni Duma at a ceremony to honour Thloloe at the June 16 Memorial Centre in Soweto recently.

By Len Maseko

There is no higher claim to journalistic integrity than going to jail to protect a source, American journalist Thomas France once said, in reference to the difficult choice journalists were often called to make in their line of duty.

Notably, making similar choices in the line of duty has been part and parcel of veteran journalist Joe "Nong" Thloloe throughout his illustrious career spanning more than five decades, while working for different South African media titles. Save for that, that dilemma has come his way since the advent of democracy in 1994, when apartheid was formally outlawed and a new era began under the ANC government.

Before then, Thloloe's brushes with the apartheid law in the past had been frequent and translated into many detention spells, punctuated by intermittent torture at the hands of the security police.

Few journalists in South Africa can claim the extent of rigorous police harassment faced by Thloloe under the Nationalist Party government, except his lifetime friend, Thami Mazwai, who similarly has spent long spells in detention, qualifying the friendship between journalism stalwarts for the term 'partners-in-crime.' Not forgetting the late former Soweto editor Aggrey Klaaste, the journalism icon who formed a troika of a lifetime

friendship with the pair, and he too claimed a matching distinction.

Actually, Thomas Frank's quote about the virtue of a journalist choosing jail rather than betray a source resonates with Mazwai's own experience. In 1982, Mazwai was jailed for eighteen months for refusing to testify against former Soweto Students Representative Council leader Khotso Seatlholo charged under the Terrorism Act.

Fresh from imprisonment, Mazwai would later be quoted as saying: "As a journalist I am part and parcel of my people and cannot turn against our aspirations simply because the going is rough... nor can I reveal in a courtroom what I am told by a source 'off the record'".

For his part and principles, Thloloe has received many plaudits, one of which describes him as being "the conscience of South African journalism; the epitome of the theory that journalists are the servants of the people and that it is a high honour to be a servant of the people".

Thloloe was born in Orlando East, Soweto in 1942. He began his political activism at high school and later became the founding member of the Pan-Africanist Congress in 1959. In 1960. His resume states that he was convicted for his role in the 1960 Anti-Pass Campaign that led to the Sharpeville Massacre.

Along with Klaaste and other journalists, he was detained for four months in 1976 following the students' uprising of that year; again detained

in 1977 for 18 months under the Terrorism Act, 1967; banned in 1981 for three years under the Suppression of Communism Act, 1950; and detained, tried and jailed for 19 months between 1982 and 1984.

On April 10, 2021, Thloloe was honoured by his peers at the June 16 Memorial Act in White City Jabavu Soweto, along with the June 16 Foundation and the Institute for the Advancements of Journalism. Oupa Moloto, project coordinator of the June 16 1976 Foundation, said students of 1976 worked hand in hand with journalists from The World and The Weekend World, of which Thloloe, Mazwai and Klaaste were part. He said journalists like Willie Bokala, with whom he spent time at Modder B Prison after the 1976 uprisings, and Duma ka Ndlovu helped the students with how to engage with the media at the time.

Moloto remembered that the late editor of The World newspaper Percy Qoboza would write statements as if they were penned by the South Africa Student Movement (SASM) and the Soweto Student Representative Council.

Veteran black journalist Mpikeleni Duma, and co-organiser of the event, described Thloloe as one of the most courageous journalists of his time.

"Why honour Thloloe?" asked Duma. "It is because of the role he played an important role as a journalist in the liberation of this country, along with other veteran blacks journalists like Thami Mazwai, Bokala, and those who have since joined

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

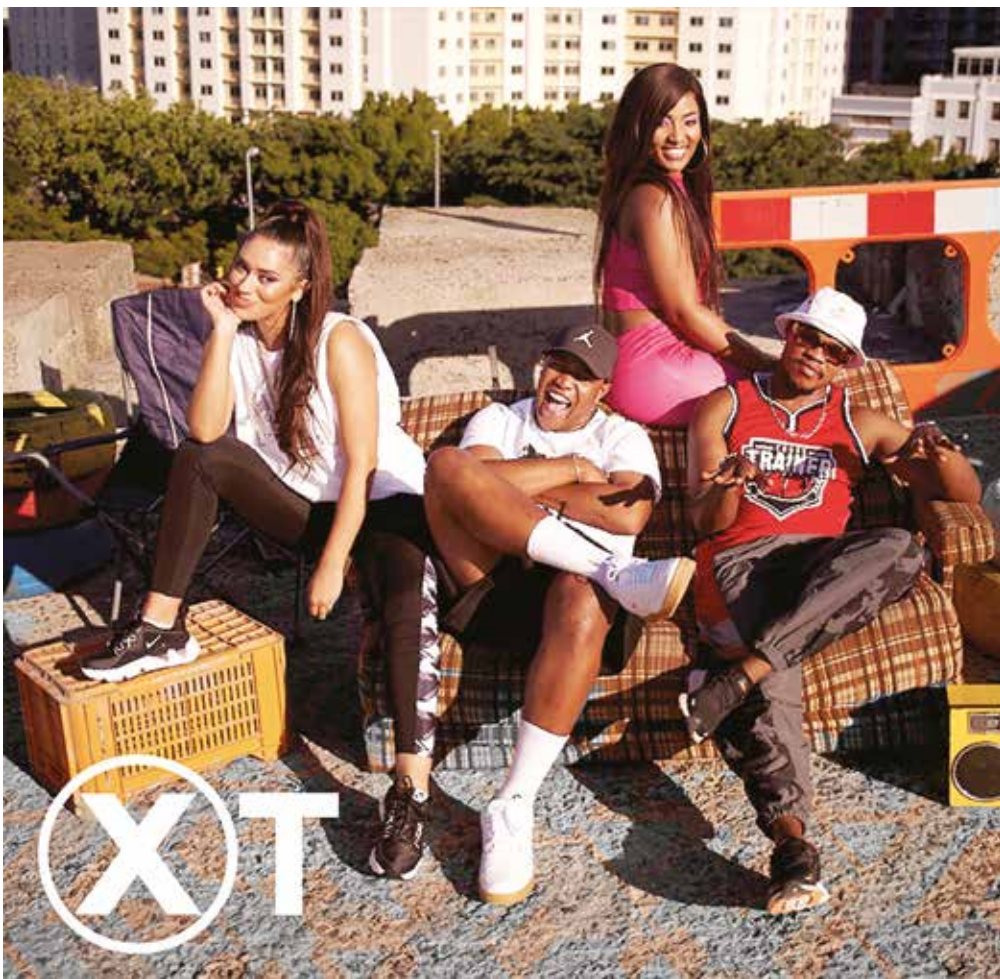
- Drum
- Rand Daily Mail
- The World
- Sowetan
- Editor-in-chief SABC TV News and eTV
- Press Ombudsman
- and Director of SA Press Council
- Nieman Fellowship
- Honorary doctorates from Rhodes University and Wits University.

the ancestors; Aggrey Klaaste, Zwelakhe Sisulu, Qoboza, Sam Mabe, Sinah Kunene and Ruth Bengu. We must acknowledge and honour those folks who showed us the light."

Duma said these journalists belonged to the Union of Black Journalists (UBJ) in the 1970, which was later banned along with other political organisations on October 19 1977. Thloloe was the first president of the UBJ, and among several journalists banned during that time.

Black journalists under UBJ helped to spread the philosophy of black consciousness among various communities, and conscientiously reported news from a black perspective.

Addressing the gathering, Mazwai said he met Thloloe at Madibane High School in Diepkloof Soweto in 1952. Jokingly, Mazwai said he would "blame" Thloloe whenever he was in trouble with the special branch, cursing the day he met him.



KNITTING THE X FACTOR INTO THE TX BRAND

ATHLEISURE: Combing sportswear and leisurewear an important trend in fashion.

By Mpumi Brown

Staying in trend is easy, but being a trend setter is more difficult without the right tools and navigation to the right stores suited for you. Whilst South Africa has been missing a brand that has the X-factor, fashionistas welcomed local brand XT launched at Sandton City under The Cross Trainers private label nationwide by the creative strategist, Ryan Frame in early May.

Whilst most agree that the transition from the Covid-19 comfort clothing has been the biggest struggle around the globe, there is now a new local brand ready to be a part of the fashion revolution as they embark the world to African finesse.

It is no secret that South African brands are on the rise and brand XT brand is well placed to attract an eclectic mix of South African youth (men and women) who share a common love for street fashion and athleisure.

To those who are unfamiliar with the term "athleisure", it is a combination of sportswear and leisurewear - a trend that has become one of the leading fashion silhouettes and an appealing aesthetic to the market and even international designers. The athleisure trend which has appeared on multiple run-way shows and has been proved as a yearly trend for all seasons and demonstrates that it is here to stay. As Ryan Frame explains: "Upon



conceiving the brand, we wanted to separate the XT range from what was already out there. Rather than simply produce another fashion label that adds to the woe of the environment, our goal was to produce a sustainable brand with the future in mind." To increase brand exposure Ryan Frame then developed the tagline

'Find the others', a campaign aimed at increasing brand exposure which led to a partnership with the likes of Kim Jayde, DJ Speedsta, Bontle Smith and Material Don Dada - individuals who hold strong global views as connectivity has enabled them to live in a global village.

Frame says overall the XT range empowers female-owned businesses, local designers, and artists to set a new standard of fashion while not only empowering South African communities but progressing sustainability by using environmentally friendly materials.

"Ours is a brand that is designed and manufactured in Mzansi for all of Africa," he says.

The Cross Trainer stores will exclusively sell the new XT range, at 30 selected stores nationwide and online on: www.thecrosstrainer.co.za.



5 SHOES TO HAVE IN YOUR CLOSET THIS WINTER

KEY WORD: Sub header here and here Sub header here and here Sub header here and here

By Mpumi Brown

Step into winter with the right direction with a fine selection of the best winter shoes! Do not "kick" yourself if you have yet to find the right pairing of shoes here are the most trending items to have you starting your winter on the right foot!

1. LOAFERS:



The shoe well associated with frat boys, business interns have now the must have in faux leather which a unique look. The 2021 loafer have been spotted with a chunkier sole or embellished with a chunky chain. This classic has made a return for Winter 2021 men and women.

Walking from summer to winter, the thick and chunky lug sole has been an appearing trend for all shoes this year,

2. FAUX-FUR Shearling MULE:



The relaxed mule a basic, wear-everywhere style shoe, has been elevated this winter from cotton fabrics to faux beagle, faux sheep skins. With the transition from our daily slipper attachment from lockdown, this trendy shoe is like no other; it's no surprise that fluffy sherpa and faux-fur styles are trending.

3. ANKLE BOOT



A classic and chic item that always comes back in the list around winter. This shoe is a ladies staple that come in different styles. This year unique prints, or quilting has been spotted on Fashion Week's must have's.

Footwear News buyer Mytheresa Tiffany says "The midcalf and knee-high boot is going to be bigger than ever, with designers focusing on this height and less on the ankle boot. The key trend from this was the boots worn under midi skirts, especially in bright ways."



4. LUG SOLED COMBAT BOOTS | CHUNKY CHELSEA BOOT

Lug Soled Boots have come in many styles including the Combat Boot. This style has become one of the most fashion-fashion-forward footwear for the year. These chunky soldier boot have taken the market by storm and been viewed as a shoe necessities.

5. UGGS



The shoe that gathers meme's and designers attention has been the winter mascot the UGG's. With the UGG brand making a statement gathering all your favourites. Check out <https://www.ugg.com> to view a range unlike no other.

The shoes also have some interesting accessories or finishing elements which look at: quilting, chain accessories and or side pockets on the boots The range of shoes have come in different colours from the loafer to the UGG's. So you will not lose your way, with these top 5 picks you are certain to trend this Winter.

Q&A



Winefly Yours

LM: Who is Wine of Color SA, and what is the rationale behind the concept?

ZIYANDA: Wine of Color is the brainchild of Janine Petersen. She has joined forces with two other dynamically talented innovative women, Ziyanda Tutu and Mbali Masike, to form this organization. The aim of this organization is to get black-owned wine brands to work together to become commercially viable not only in the local markets, but also internationally. Many black-owned brand owners have not been able to access funding and other opportunities because of the racial barriers and gate-keeping structures of the liquor industry. The institutions that have been put in place, which are meant to be a vehicle for transformation, are riddled with nepotism and blatant corruption. They only serve a tiny segment of black-owned businesses, which are desperately lacking in imagination and innovation.

LM: You hosted a festival recent, what was the theme of the festival?

ZIYANDA: This was our launch event as Wine of Color SA.

LM: We noticed that there were predominantly black-owned wine labels that featured on the show, is the reason behind the choice of the line-up?

ZIYANDA: Wine of Color is about giving a platform to black-owned brands to, not only showcase their products, but also to sell and make commercial gain. We also want to come together as black-owned brands to create our own opportunities in the liquor industry.

LM: What are typical difficulties the owners of these labels face?

BLACK-OWNED WINE BRANDS QUEST FOR PLACE IN THE RAINBOW

VINOUS JOURNEY: Ziyanda Tutu, a qualified winemaker with a Bachelor of Science degree in viticulture and oenology, is owner of Sena Wines, and owns a gin label. We talk to her about a wine project, Wine of Color SA, that she has started with other wine personalities....



Wine and gin label owner Ziyanda Tutu is in the forefront with her associates at Color of Wine to build muscle for new entrants to the wine market.. Photo:Robert Magwaza

ZIYANDA: Barriers to market entry, racial divide, lack of education and knowledge, lack of financial capital, commercial exclusion, gate keeping by other black people in the industry like funders, sommeliers and buyers

LM: I notice also you have created own gin, how did this come about?

ZIYANDA: During lockdown I, like many other entrepreneurs, came across some difficulties and needed to expand on my offering. I then created a new business called Naked Bottles, where I sell different alcoholic and non-alco-

holic beverages as a white label for other people to rebrand and create their own wine and drinks business or to make personalized gifts or party favors.

Gin is one of the products I am now also producing under this label called Naked bottles. I have always been about being relevant. Gin is relevant right now. I give people what they want

LM: Tell us about the gin, its ingredients, the story behind it?

ZIYANDA: It is a plain London dry gin for my commercial customers. Botanicals are juniper and citrus. I also craft other flavours like a pink gin and a blue gin depending on how my customers want to build their gin flavors specific to their brands. We also have vodka, rum and fruit liqueurs

LM: How is non-alcoholic wine doing?

ZIYANDA: There has been an increase in the demand for non-alcoholic wines



Siya Wotshela (left), posing with an unnamed friend, proudly shows off her bubbly Siya. Photo:Robert Magwaza

LM: Is this category of drink catching on South Africa?

ZIYANDA: People are realizing more and more the need for non-Alcoholic drinks and the category is growing in different sectors

LM: Why?

ZIYANDA: I believe that the liquor ban forced people to try out the non-alcoholic wines where, in the past, they would have scoffed at the idea of a non-alcoholic wine. After trying the wines out, they also realized that this was a viable option for them going forward

LM: Talking about the future for these budding wine label owners, what is in the pipeline?

ZIYANDA: We want to go international as Wines of Color. We would like to set up a few permanent stores. We would like to take part in bigger and better events, but more immediately we will be hosting another market on the 5 June in Rosebank on the Keyes Art Mile, outside the black-owned Parisian L'Atelier Bakery.



Joy for Nondwe Majondana is owning your wine brand, African Sips. Photo:Robert Magwaza



NIMBLE SUZUKI ERTIGA COMES OUT SWINGING TO SPOIL ROAD PARTY



ALI MPHAKI'S
GARAGE



DEAL BREAKER: Will new Seven seater just fit in or set blazing trail ahead of other careers in its category

By Ali Mphaki

There is a popular Japanese seven seater Multi-Purpose-Vehicle, MPV, daily ferrying multitudes of especially taxi commuters across various townships which has usurped the curious tag of *amapehele*.

For the uninitiated, *amapehele* are those nocturnal creatures with a knack of showing up in their confidence when there are visitors around during the day, cockroaches in English.

How did it come about for these donkey worked vehicles to earn the moniker, is anybody's guess.

Conventional wisdom has it that originally the tag was used to refer to those old jalopies doing sterling taxi business in the once squeaky clean streets of Daveyton in Ekurhuleni, the 1976 Chevrolet Kommandos', etc.

I cannot for the life of me fathom if the *nom de guerre amapehele* is a term of sizzling endearment, of derision or what, but who am I to argue against overwhelming public opinion. Cars.

I believe, as our latter day carriages, should have emotive nicknames like Vrrrrpha! G-String, iBhujwa, Shabir Shaik etc. I'm also intrigued at how the Batswana pronounce the name Polo, in reference to that pocket rocket from VW.

My take is that whomever coined the *amapehele* sticker should be blessed with a quirky sense of humour, let alone a fertile imagination.

You might be wondering where this is crawling to...

Thing is there is a growing seven-seater (with a third row of seats) MPV segment which the Toyota Avanza (shh...the *amapehele*), is the undisputed leader of the pack for over the years, mostly thanks to the taxi industry.

So enamoured are taxi owners about the practicality of the Toyota Avanza that it would seem for every one they buy, they get one free.

Now enters the new 7-seater Suzuki Ertiga 1.5 in the fray, determined to spoil the party. Making its debut on South African soil in its second generation incarnation, having initially been introduced in India back in 2012, where the Suzuki

PR machine is quick to point out it has become a favourite people carrier, it offers a decent alternative from the ubiquitous Avanza.

What immediately draws you to the Ertiga is its wide, and bold design style.

Deep character lines, and wide rear doors give it an impressive side view, while a more prominent set of rear lights completes what is a decent package which comes wearing a set of 15-inch multi-spoke alloy wheels.

The face is dominated by projector headlights on a slightly aggressive grille. A sporty bumper with fog-light bezels. A sporty front bumper with fog-light bezels gives it more character and adds some panache to the offering.

Welcoming you on board is a classy and roomy interior whose upscale feel is accentuated by the faux wood trim which surrounds the dashboard and door panels.

A 10-inch touchscreen with Android Auto, Apple Carplay, USB and AUX port, with navigation seem to float over the dash.

Safety has not been comprised either, with the Ertiga coming standard with SRS Front Dual Airbags, ISOFIX Child seat ports, Child locks, rear parking sensors, a reverse camera, an antilock braking system with electric brake force distribution and a pedestrian injury mitigating bonnet.

The cargo volume of 153 liters can be in-

creased by folding the rear seats, but when fully laden with seven passengers boot space is laughable, just as it is to try and squeeze two adults into the rear third row of seats. It would seem the designers were just cautious to say the third row of seats is strictly for children.

Under the hood is a 1.5 KB engine which churns out 103 kW and 138 Nm of torque to return about 9.0 to 10.0 km/l in light city driving, while on the highway it averages 17.0 to 18.0 km/l. Suzuki says when carrying additional cargo or people, fuel figures drop to around 7.5 – 8.0km/l and 15.0 – 16.0 km/l accordingly.

As for steering and driving feel despite its somewhat economic torque, the Ertiga is nimble with a neither too hard or soft electric power steering delivering more road feel even if one could detect a lack of feedback. Due to the height of the vehicle, caution is advised when taking those corners at haste as well as driving in strong winds - the body tends to lean considerably.

Oncoming trucks could also see the Ertiga bob and weave like a boxer.

Overall the Ertiga ticks most boxes and offers an attractive alternative to the opposition.

Its greatest assets are its affordable price tag, thrifty performance and nimble handling.

Retail price from R239 400 which includes 4-year/60 000km service plan.



THE PROS AND CONS OF MARKET FUNDS VS MARKET ACCOUNTS

PROTECTING WEALTH: Saving vehicles play important role for now and future

Money market funds or money market accounts, which instrument is right for you, especially given that most traditional savings accounts offer pretty nominal interest rates? Financial advisors say deciding between the two instruments involves careful consideration of one's goals and the intention for which your money is being earmarked. It also depends on how those instruments are regulated and structured, what interest is paid or earned, how fees are charged, the risk that they present and how they should best be incorporated into one's portfolio to ensure that they are fit for purpose.

So, which instrument is right for you? Though money market funds and accounts may be different in nature and purpose, both instruments are designed to house funds earmarked for short-term use, according to financial experts. They are used by investors and savers who want to grow their wealth in a risk averse manner. Because their names are so similar, financial experts believe that many people may be unaware of their differences and the purpose these structures are designed to achieve.

"In times of economic downturn and market pull backs, savings vehicles play an important role in protecting your wealth, if not for now but for the future as well. There are however key differences in the various savings solutions that investors or savers need to be aware of," says Nicholas Riemer, head of Investment Education at FNB Wealth and Investment.

According to him, a money market account is a deposit account offered by a bank or financial institution which operates like a normal savings account into which you deposit money, although the interest rates offered by these accounts are generally higher. The good part is that interest rates are advertised upfront, meaning customers are aware of exactly how much interest they will earn on their funds going forward.

The risk however is that since the funds held in a money market account are exposed to the risk of

a single bank, your money could be at risk should the bank run into financial problems. Nevertheless, these accounts are low-risk and highly liquid enabling account holders to access their funds at a very short notice. Craig Torr of Crue Invest (Pty) Limited believes that apart from providing incrementally higher interest rates than savings and less

As these funds are so liquid, the interest earned on these accounts is generally lower than that offered by fixed or notice deposit accounts, he argues.

To invest in these accounts, an investor will need a minimum of between R10 000 and R20 000 depending on the bank, with fees charged per transaction. "When it comes to interest, most banks



than is offered by a normal savings account, money market accounts are appealing because they give the customer 24/7 access to the funds making them ideal for housing emergency funds required at short notice, or where an account holder needs to make frequent withdrawals.

offer tiered rates based on the balance in the account, with both the capital and interest being guaranteed," Torr says.

From a regulatory point of view, money market accounts are recognized as short-term deposit by the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA).

"When it comes to using money market accounts for maximum benefits, such an account is essentially a beefed-up savings account for the long term, but which also provides you immediate access to cash if your circumstances require."

A money market fund on the other hand, offers investors higher interest rates and more diversity while still providing liquidity. It is an investment product that falls within the FSCA classification of Collective Investment Scheme but they are regulated by the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act. Because they are actively managed funds, Torr says they are invested in a range of instruments such as promissory notes, commercial papers and Negotiated Certificates of Deposit. Whereas the risk of a money market account is limited to a single bank, money market funds are well-diversified across numerous institutions, which make it the job of the fund's asset manager to actively seek investment opportunities in order to provide a higher yield for the investor.

If you have a higher risk tolerance (and capacity) and you're looking to grow your capital, then a money market fund may not be the best vehicle for you. If you have a longer term investment horizon, then again, you may want to consider other investment vehicles, experts warn.

Says Riemer. "Money market funds invest in short-term debt and cash instruments and pay out earnings in the form of dividends. Unlike a savings account, investor capital is not guaranteed in a traditional money market fund and because of the higher risk, offer investors higher potential returns."

Though money market funds are used as a useful tool when diversifying risk, the downside is that the principal capital could decrease in value as is not guaranteed by the financial institution. "Interest rates can also vary over the period of the investment depending on the type of fund utilized," says Riemer. Even though the minimum deposit requirements is substantially higher (around R100 000), with access to the funds taking between one and five working days, experts advise investors to still consider this instrument as it makes an excellent holding bay for cash while an investor is making an investment decision or when he or she is working towards a goal such as paying a deposit on a home.

They warn however that keeping money in a money market account or fund simply because you are fearful of exposing your cash to the markets is never a good idea as the purchasing power of your money will never grow over time.

SULTRY: NTOMBI LIGHTS UP THE NATION

BRAINS AND BEAUTY: when not on stage she fights loadshedding

By Gugu Sibiyi

At a time when the nation is at the end of its tether due to load shedding and Eskom's inability to keep the lights on, Ntombi Mzolo's alternative power solution has been received gratefully like a lifeline thrown to a drowning person.

"People are tired of load-shedding and the inconvenience that goes with it. The more they explain, the more they leave us in the dark. I really feel bad for those people whose lives depend on electricity staying on."

"The downside of Eskom's shenanigans, is the opportunistic crime that happens when the lights go out" says Mzolo, echoing concerns that have South Africans up in arms over.

"Like most people I was sick and tired of Eskom's excuses. So when the opportunity to partner with Elle Salkow, offering alternative power solution, I grabbed it with both hands."

"We sell competitive packages to people from all walks of life. Tailor made to suit individual needs and pockets, we have a growing clientele. They include informal settlements. Talk about frustrated people" she reveals. Her passion around solar or alternative power she says, is fueled by the joy it brings to people who thought it was out of reach.

"This has opened an interesting door

to my life. I'm educating school children about optional power solutions. In turn they will empower their parents."

Showbiz has always been the beautiful Mzolo's oyster. It's no wonder she's making waves on Moja Love, channel 157.

"Lekunutu her captivating show, offers burdened guests a safe environment to bare their souls without feeling judged" she states.

"Studio confessions ensure guests are not alone. The deep, dark secrets occasionally lead to flare ups. Violence is a reality for most women hence the fear for confrontation or leaving."

"Luckily we provide coping mechanism such as counselling. It's important that guests use the tools provided to make informed decisions" Mzolo pleads.

"Lekunutu is an emotive show that needs to be handled with the utmost sensitivity and discretion." Mzolo reiterates that most of the secrets are shocking, destructive. "It's up to her to contain the situation in the studio."

"It's also fulfilling when guests return from an emotional precipice, committed to mending their lives. Viewers can learn a lot from these experiences".

Come Again on SABC1, was another show that won her throngs of viewers. "I was showcasing youngsters' businesses in communities. Not only are they thriving

but I loved their strength, resilience and determination to beat the odds."

Indisputable talented, Mzolo continued ticking her wish list when she hooked a gig with Metro fm.

"I've always been fascinated by radio. The four years at Metro were amazing and a dream come true. I learned a lot. I really had a blast" she says though for now she's hung her mic.

Instead of cashing on her famous parents' fortune or AmaPoni, the band that took Mzolo and her siblings around the world, she has carved her own path.

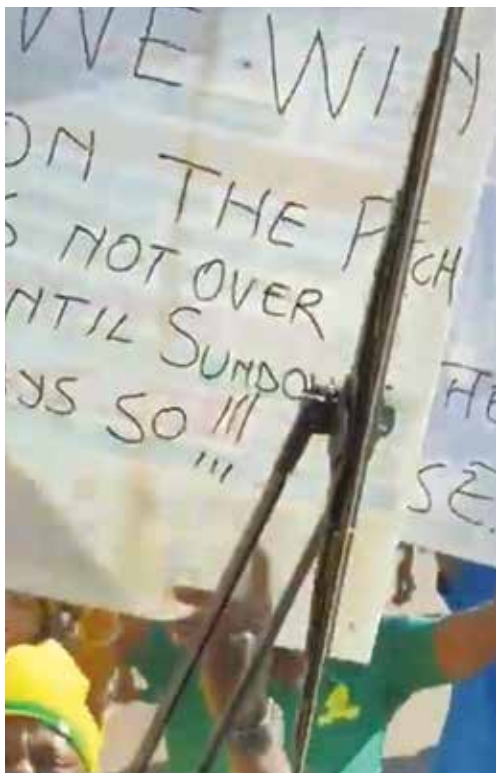
"While I'm mad about our repertoire as AmaPoni, I still wanted to explore a solo career with the music that rocks my world" she says that to date she's dropped an offering titled African Sexy and a number of singles. "Performing and travelling with my siblings was magical. When we were at home, we spent a lot of time in the studio. These days it's a bit complicated because our diaries clash so we haven't dropped an album in ages" though they still perform together at events.

A package of brains and beauty, the talented Mzolo never lets an opportunity slip through her fingers. Life is good to her because she has made it her mission to explore.

It's going to be interesting to see what her next destination is going to be.



Ntombi Mzolo personifies determination and success.



CRASH COURSE IN TOLERANCE MANDATORY FOR DOWNS FANS

UNRULY: Sundowns' half-hearted apology worse than original insult to former coach

was not even part of the worried-looking entourage. But, by some stroke of luck and before any physical harm could be visited upon Mosimane, the police and a handful of concerned security personnel somehow managed to safely escort the bus into the stadium. Later, the visitors were to shrug the earlier eerie scenes to emerge 3-1 victors on aggregate after securing a 1-1 draw at Pheli that enabled them to squeeze through to the semi-finals.

A highly emotionally charged Mosimane, in a post-match media briefing insinuated that the failed possible physical attack against him was orchestrated within the Sundowns hierarchy and claimed to have proof in that regard. Sadly though, what he said will remain an allegation until he himself takes this matter seriously as he should be doing. Jingles, beware you're on your own here.

Since we believe Mosimane is surrounded by some sharp-eyed legal experts around, we wonder though why they have not yet urged him to lay criminal charges.

Choosing not to do so might later prove disastrous, because already it looks like even his employers in Cairo are applying some "let bygones be bygones" diplomacy with Sundowns. This after our local side chose to apologise for their fans' despicable behaviour.

In their half-hearted apology seemingly deliberately chose not to remember that Mosimane who

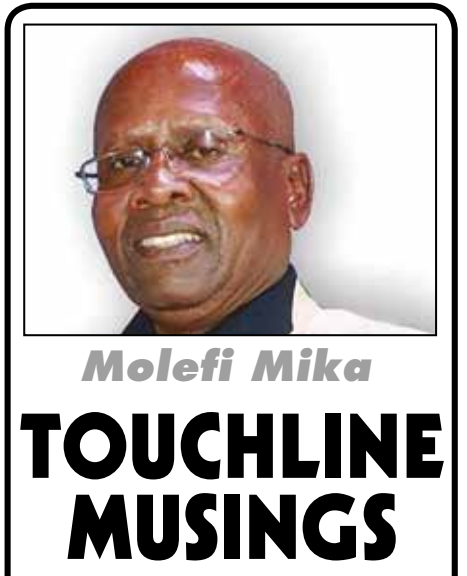
is the victim. Again, they appeared oblivious of the fact that no other coach, except him, made the football world to respect them after leading them to a CAF Championship glory, hence the golden star proudly displayed at the front of their jersey.

Yet, in the end, the rude harassment by their followers did not elicit a clear honest apology to their former coach. Sies!

We are also aware that CAF and SAFA issued statements condemning the behaviour by Sundowns fans, in particular, verbal attacks against Mosimane. We can only say the seriousness in the tone of that condemnation shall be measured against any concrete action taken against the hosting team. That's if there will be action taken all as we have our doubts.

Anyway, as we wait for action to be taken against the culprits, we also wonder if those hooligans that threatened Mosimane really understand the definition of the club's slogan Botho-Ubuntu (Humanity). For, this cherished African phrase is proudly emblazoned on the T-shirts, yet some of the fans created havoc against their fellow South African while wearing the same gear. All this hateful fervour poured upon a former kasi boy currently making South Africa proud – perhaps not Sundowns fans, it seems – by coaching one of the world's best football outfits, for that matter.

Most importantly, the sooner a crash course in



DUST is still yet to settle over the controversial events leading to the much-anticipated CAF Champions League second leg quarter final fixture between Mamelodi Sundowns and Al Ahly in Pretoria, something that was nothing but disgusting and shocking, to say the least.

It is now public knowledge that a bunch of Masandawana (Sundowns fans) clad in their familiar yellow colours, tried to block the visiting team's bus heading to the Atteridgeville's Lucas Moripe Stadium. In doing so, they were expressing their disdain for their former team's coach, Pitso "Jingles" Mosimane – madness aimed at Mosimane for apparently "sabotaging" Sundowns by joining the feared Al Ahly.

As this was happening, some were hurling all sorts of insults at him, mentioning his mother who

tolerance and sportsmanship is organised for those culprits, including those who perhaps gave them orders, the better for all of us who are still ashamed by their wanton display of villainy, worse still during the Africa Month.

Let's not forget to salute Kaizer Chiefs for their near-impossible feat of qualifying for their maiden Champions League semi-finals. We confer our compliments, considering their struggle to secure a Top-8 position in the domestic DStv Premiership.

Chiefs, who a week ago beat Tanzania's Simba 4-0 at Soccer City, subsequently lost 3-0 in their away clash over the past weekend. Nevertheless, they were 4-3 winners on aggregate. Our message to them: "The Glamour Boys continue to proudly fly our flag and no swearing please."



By Ali Mphaki

Swallows FC is back from ebhuquni, a metaphor for the ashes, with a scintillating display of football skill and true grit during their first year of the DSTV Premiership, a feat that brought unbridled joy to their hordes of die-hard fans.

One undying faithful loyal John Montwedi Ntshingila, popularly known as "Jendis", a corruption of the name Genkhis Khan from the film character of the same name. He has on so many occasions tried to correct the mispronunciation of Ghenkhis Khan, his favourite that was unforgettablely portrayed by Omar Sharif in the 1970s classic, to Jendis to avail, a futility that forced him to give up in the end.

"Thing is there is a lot of ignorance around," says Jendis ruefully. "Most locals do not know about the history of the Mongolians. I am named after Genkhis Khan the son of Kubla Khan...all these barbarians are under my command," he declares, in a moment of poetic inspiration. It has always been a source of constant wonder how he got his nickname. Those in the know say, Montwedi

was re-baptised Jendis after he was once spotted threatening to attack a fellow taxi driver with a tomahawk during an argument over passengers while operating on the Rockville to Dube route in Soweto.

"It was one taxi owner who gave me that name after he had gone to watch a movie about the man who is credited as the father of Mongolia," he explains. Historic depictions of the Mongolian Genkhis Khan show him wielding an axe as he attacked his foes. Much later Montwedi would wear the name as his badge through his off-screen display of bravado.

At first sight, Montwedi's thin frame is rather deceptive, conjuring up an image of a down-to-earth man who would not even harm a fly, not even with a tomahawk.

Yet Montwedi has a short fuse; does not suffer fools gladly and he is always armed – not with an axe but a press-button knife; a habit he picked up from his youth growing up in the townships during those dark and deadly days of apartheid especially in the 60s and 70s.

"I am always ready to protect myself. I won't allow any dog to come piss on me," he says, bran-

Meet Jendis - The feisty Swallow with truly undying passion for the legendary Moroka Swallows

REBEL: Born in Orlando East, home of Buccaneers, but followed Birds to Dube

dishing his weapon, as if he is about to perform on someone a bit of surgery unrecognised in the medical world.

It may be true that some habits die hard. History will show that it was the same Montwedi who caused the abandonment of a NPSL fixture between Swallows and Amazulu at the Orlando stadium in 1975.

With his team trailing 5-nil and the match tethering to its end, Montwedi would do unthinkable in the history of local football. As the ball went out of play it fortuitously landed near where he was seated, he – without hesitation, drew his knife and stabbed the ball – causing pandemonium inside the stadium.

With his unofficial strike on the ball with a knife, Jendis would gain instant infamy and respect among the Swallows faithful and opposition team alike, immortalising his name in local football folklore.

Since only a single ball was assigned to each match, the referee had no choice to unceremoniously end the game just as Jendis had done with his own version of the infamous "Hand of God".

To this day, no dyed-in-the-wool fan of Swallows can forget that incident. In fact, no one can claim to be a Swallows insider without a recollection of Montwedi's infamous slaughter of the ball. Some go as far as to say no history of the club, which

is also known as the Dube Birds, will be complete without the mention of his name. They say, like all other great players and managers of the club, he deserves a place in the Swallows hall of fame.

Montwedi's passion for Swallows spans more than six decades. This, ironically, despite the fact he was born in Orlando East, the spiritual home of Orlando Pirates, arch-rivals of Moroka Swallows.

He says he was so smitten by the football wizardry of the late Difference Mbanya, one of the best players of the 50s and 60s, that he immediately threw his weight behind the Beautiful Birds.

"I've never looked back. I've been Swallow all the way. I'm so excited that my team is back in top-flight football. And more so, despite the many draws we've played, and that we are in the Top 8 and look set to end the season within that bracket," he says. A day Montwedi won't forget in his lifetime is the fateful moment when Swallows were relegated on May 31, 2015.

Resplendent in his full Swallows supporters regalia, he had taken a six-hour bus trip to the Thohoyandou Stadium in Limpopo for his team's penultimate must-win match against local club Black Leopards in a play-off match.

That game would become Swallows' Waterloo, leaving the club in cinders. Yet, only rise to rise again from the ashes like a Phoenix bird five years later.

'MIDNIGHT EXPRESS' GEARED TO INJECT FUEL INTO BAFANA POWERLESS TRAIN

FRESH START: Former Bafana star determined to make a mark



Helman Nkosiye Mkhalele and Hugo Broos. Photo: SABC

THIS week Weekly SA Mirror had a chat with newly appointed Bafana Bafana's second assistant-coach, Helman "Midnight Express" Mkhalele about his more than demanding position.

Mkhalele together with national coach Hugo Broos and fellow technical team members are tasked with making sure that South Africa also takes part in the FIFA (Federation of International Football Associations) up-coming finals.

A glance on the likeable "Ncane's" football fact-file suggests that he was not your kind of ordinary player in his early days, let alone his reserved character. He also seems to be well aware that athletes also need to equip themselves with some form of education.

Mkhalele, loaded with football knowledge by virtue of exposure at club level, locally and abroad, is a germ that was discovered by a man born Madoda Wallejies Mkhulwa, popularly known as Ephraim Matsilele Sono (Jomo or The Black Prince). Sono later sent him over to Orlando Pirates in 1994 when Cosmos got relegated from the First Division of the NSL (National Soccer League). Currently he boasts a 46-starts record at Ezenkosi considering that he was back there again in 2005/2008.

The "Midnight Express" was there when Cosmos became the first Mzansi soccer team to reach the semi-final stage of the 1993 African Cup Winners Cup (today's Confederation Cup), which was also a first in all other club/national team competitions. The experience he gained at that level possibly came handy for Pirates to snatch the 1995 African Cup of Champions Clubs – Champions League – and the 1996 Super Cup.

The 1969 Madadeni-born Nkosiye Mkhalele soon attracted attention in Europe and went out to unceremoniously leave defenders flattened in search for goals after joining Turkish teams such as Kayserispor, Ankaragucu, Gaztepe and Malatyaspor.

Molefi Mika (MM) talks to him: Congratulations Ncane (**Helman Mkhalele [HM]**) on your appointment as one of the Bafana Bafana assistant coaches, would you say this is one of your football dreams and why?

HM: Yes, Bhuti wami, it has been one of my dreams to play a meaningful role in the development of football in our country, especially at Bafana Bafana level.

MM: Any worries about the big task lying ahead perhaps?

HM: Insufficient time for preparation of the games or tournament (FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022) since some players might be arriving late to camp because of situations that are beyond everybody's control

MM: Obviously having worked within the technical structures of SAFA (South African Football Association) in the junior ranks, seemingly this made the job of the leadership easy to appoint someone they have somewhat tested. However, please remind us about the team or teams you were involved in and in what capacity before this appointment?

HM: I started as the assistant coach of U20 Men's

national team in 2016 and became the head coach of that team in 2019

MM: What would you say were your highlights when you were working with the under-20s team and also your disappointments, if any at all?

HM: The memorable moments were: When the U20s qualified for the FIFA Youth World in 2017 (South Korea) and also in 2019 (Po-

land); Finishing 3rd at the CAF U20 Youth Championship in Niger, 2019. Disappointments include failing to qualify for the CAF U20 Youth Championship hosted by Mauritania in 2021 and also failing to qualify for the CAF CHAN Championship in Cameroon early this year.

MM: Before we assume that SAFA initially invited you to help in their technical structures based on being a former obedient professional player and for that matter who also donned the national jersey, kindly tell us what qualifications you have as far as coaching is concerned.

HM: I am holder of CAF B & A License, SAFA/CAF Instructor. I am currently studying for the one-year FIFA-CIES Executive Programme in Sports Management at the Nelson Mandela University (Jointly organised by FIFA and International Centre for Sports Studies)

MM: More often than not assistant coaches, be it at club level or national level would be complaining about being treated like some "glorified ball-boys" if not cone-arrangers during training sessions and not being consulted for their views, your comment in regard to that in case this happens to you.

HM: I would like to make any assumptions regarding such matters since I am of the view that assistant coaches will always play an important role in the advancement of the team, this whether one is playing a more visible role or playing a more active role behind the scenes.

I also believe that the personality of an individual also plays an important role in determining the kind of involvement (active or passive role) as assistant coach. It is also important to note that both active or passive roles always contribute in the team.

MM: Would you say the current Bafana squad could still be beefed up by some younger players that you know of if given a chance to help fly our flag high out there?

HM: I believe that every player that plays football at the highest level of football competition, also possessing the required qualities for the international standard of football, deserves an opportunity to represent his country.

MM: Based on discussions you've had so far with coach Hugo Broos what do you promise football fans in regard to our country qualifying for the 2022 FIFA World finals in Qatar?

HM: Ours is to continue working hard with the right mentality.

MM: Thanks "Midnight Express" and all the best.
HM: Thank you!



Helman Nkosiye Mkhalele. Photo: @SAFA_net

MIRROR SPORT

Insight to connect the dots...



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SWALLOWS FEATHER NEST ON TOP 8 BRACKET

CONSISTENCY: THE BIRDS CONFOUND DOUBTING THOMASES



By Ali Mphaki

What a year it's been for Swallows! But, will they muster the same zest to carry out another blitz on the premier-ship again next season?

Or will it be the case of one swallow does not make a summer – that is, the club failing to keep the trend of an exceptional season. Time will tell.

Yet, in their maiden season back in top flight football and contrary to expectations, Swallows FC were able to defy the laws of gravity by maintaining their PSL status, albeit under extremely unusual of circumstances.

History will record they notched most draws than any other team in the PSL in the 20/21 season, an astonishing 18 draws as of writing. But, the most distinguishing statistic is that they registered only one loss having played 27 games so far. It might not necessarily have been out of generosity for them to share

so many points with the opposition, but the fact is the PSL has become highly competitive – thanks, to some measure, to teams like The Birds who had a fairy tale season.

A puzzle to their unforgettable magical display is that the team never went on a wild shopping spree for new players, but continued with the core of the team promoted from the second tier last season.

This was no doubt a classic case study in consistency, a feat that epitomised the virtue of visionary leadership in inspiring a team to its most effectiveness without the need to bring in the toys to prop up the show. Come to think of it, it was only six years ago when Swallows suffered the ignominy of being relegated from the elite league to the NFD in the 2014 – 15 season.

After one season in the NFD it was like the soccer gods had forsaken the Birds when they were relegated to third tier ABC Motsepe League. With epitaphs already written and cast in stone about the foregone demise of Swallows, it was not until businessman David

Mogashoa and Panyaza Lesufi, Gauteng MEC for Education and other directors teamed up and bought the status of Maccabi FC in the second tier, that the fortunes of the Birds from the Dube aviary were revived.

A new era beckoned as the heavily indebted legendary club struggled after the previous Swallows owner Leon Prins's disastrous reign. Desperate to reverse the situation, Lesufi went out to find investors to purchase the club's intellectual property rights in October 2019.

In the meantime, Swallows had registered only one win in their five games back in the NFD during that time before replacing coach Zech Marques with current incumbent Cape Town-born Brandon Trutter.

With Truter at the helm, the club did the improbable gaining automatic promotion from the GladAfrica Championship to the Premier-ship, finishing with 57 points.

Fast forward to the 2020/2021 season, Swallows continued to soar high and are likely to finish their maiden season in the PSL with a

tad short of 50 points.

As of writing they are occupying the fifth spot on the log and, barring the unexpected, they are unlikely to drop further down. They are left with three more games to cap their debut, with this weekend's fixture against the already crowned DSTV log winners Mamelodi Sundowns at the Dobsonville Stadium in Soweto.

The two last played to a 1-all draw in a game marked by Swallows' characteristic never-say-die spirit in full evidence, scoring last-minute crucial goals as they have done throughout the season.

Against Sundowns on Saturday the Birds will, out of tradition, form a guard of honour for league champions Sundowns before the start of the game.

And, if Sundowns are true to the dictates of fair play, it would only be appropriate for Masandawana to also make a guard of honour for Swallows as the draw wizards of the 2020/2021 season