



DURBAN'S COMPLETELY SHATTERED SOUL

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'I DO' UNCONVENTIONALLY

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WEEKLY SA

MIRROR

Insight to connect the dots...

INTERNET DATE SCAM HEARTBREAK

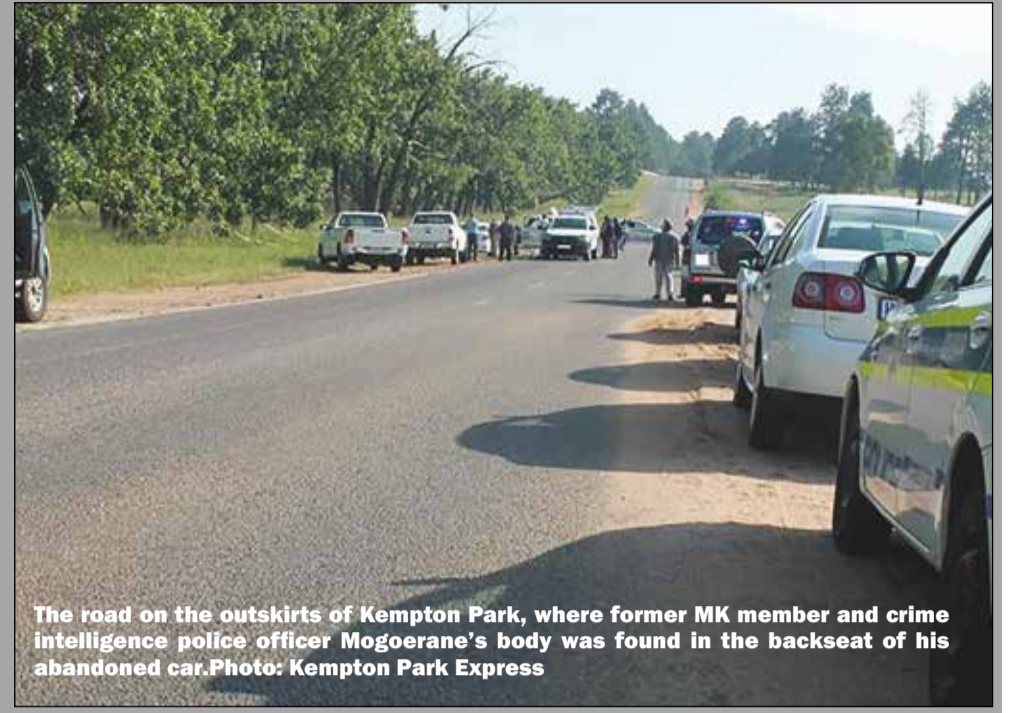


*** Online conmen target single women - turn on sweet-nothing charm**

*** Lonely widow opens heart to online stranger - swindled R70 000**

WIFE ACCUSED OF HIRING ASSASSINS TO KILL TOP COP HUBBY GOES TO COURT

DEADLY MISSION: Grim details of how Major-General Thekiso Mogoerane was strangled and later murder suspects went on to be cleansed by traditional healer



The road on the outskirts of Kempton Park, where former MK member and crime intelligence police officer Mogoerane's body was found in the backseat of his abandoned car. Photo: Kempton Park Express

By Monk Nkomo

RETIRED Major-General of the SAPS Crime Intelligence Thekiso Aaron Mogoerane, 60, whose body was found at the back seat of his car in January 17 2018, was throttled to death in a well-orchestrated murder which allegedly involved his wife, son and a traditional healer.

Mogoerane's wife, Cordelia, is charged – among other things – with murder and conspiracy to murder in relation to the killing of her husband in 2017. His son, Thabiso, is also charged. The pair and other accused have made several court appearances since the incident.

Mogoerane, who was a former member of ANC's Mkhonto we Sizwe and served time on the Robben Island, was a member of the National Crime Intelligence before he retired in May 2016.

She is alleged to have approached in August 2017 her traditional healer, Eunice Ntombizodwa Dlamini, to assist her in having her husband killed. And Dlamini, in turn, is alleged to have recruited Musa Mayisela (who have since died),

and introduced him to Mogoerane.

The State's version is that a drugged and unconscious was strangled on a sofa in the lounge of the family home in Birchleigh, Kempton Park. Police suspected the motive could have been money as he had already received a partial payout from an anticipated large pension at the time.

The two women were among six people who appeared in the Gauteng High Court in Johannesburg this week in connection with Mogoerane's killing. They face charges of murder, conspiracy to murder and an alternative count of incitement to commit murder. The accused are out on bail.

The accused are Mzweshinga Zondo (48) of Sotho Hostel, Vosloorus, Thulani Nxumalo (33) of 1527 Twala Rd, Sotho Section, Vosloorus, Sanele Micheal Mphuthi (36) of 20 Secheke Street, Vosloorus, Thabiso Mogoerane (28) of 111 Strydom Street, Birchleigh, Kempton Park, Dlamini (69) of Emandleni Settlement, 565 Actonville, Benoni and Mogoerane (55) of 111 Strydom Street, Birchleigh in Kempton Park.

The State alleges that, in August 2017, after

Mogoerane had approached her traditional healer, Mayisela then sought the services of Zondo to help him murder the retired police officer as he considered that this was not "a one man's job". Zondo allegedly roped in Mogoerane's son, Thabiso.

After a meeting between Zondo and Mrs Mogoerane in January 2018, another suspect, Bongiwwe Lukhele (who has since passed away) and who was Zondo's girlfriend, was recruited and her car was used to drive to the police officer's home in Birchleigh, according to the State. Zondo, Lukhele and Mphuthi drove to Mogoerane's house but, upon arrival, they found the police officer awake. They abandoned their mission and left.

The State alleges that another plan was hatched when Zondo recruited Nxumalo and Mphuthi to help him with the murder plot. The three travelled with Lukhele to Birchleigh. On arrival at the house, Lukhele remained in the car while the three suspects entered the house, where they found Cordelia and her son.

Thekiso Mogoerane was asleep when the three arrived. His wife allegedly pointed him out to the three suspects who allegedly strangled him to death.

The three, together with the deceased police officer's wife and son, then placed his body in the back seat of his car, drove it to the side of the road at P91 in Kempton Park and left him and the car there.

After that, the three suspects – Zondo, Nxumalo and Mphuthi – allegedly drove in Lukhele's car to the home of the traditional healer, Dlamini, in Wattville, where they performed a cleansing ritual.

The case has been postponed to later this month.

• *Mogoerane was brother of Thelle Simon Mogoerane who – together with two other ANC guerrillas Jerry Mosololi and Marcus Motaung – were hanged at the Pretoria Central Prison on June 9 1983, after being convicted on a charge of high treason.*

PETROL HIKE ADDS TO VICIOUS CYCLE OF STEEPLY RISING COST OF LIVING

IMPACT: Motorists rue trip to petrol stations as fuel price raised to the highest level it has ever been



By Thuli Zungu

Consumers are yet to feel the effect of the double price hikes just within a period of two months, coupled with the impact of the recent looting.

The Department of Energy announced the rise of fuel price by 91 cents a litre, diesel by 58 cent a litre and paraffin by 50 cent a litre amid the increased Eskom electricity tariffs for the financial 2021/2022, which kicked in the end of July.

Weekly SA Mirror spoke to Nondumiso Mophopo, 62, of Naledi, Soweto, who said it was like consumers were being punished for working from home now that very few people drove to work since the beginning of the lockdown.

"Salaries have decreased and food has skyrocketed and the grant is not enough to keep up with this," she said.

Mophopo said she felt the pain of the drivers as her daughter who has been working from home since lockdown had her salary decreased and was at the verge of losing her car which keeps all of the family away from using the public transport since there was no social distancing observed in the taxis.

"With money going to fuel, food, Vitamins and immune boosters to counter COVID and electricity,

which has also increased, we must expect the worst," she said.

Deon Sibeko, who does not post on his WhatsApp status but this Thursday he posted: "I don't normally brag about going to expensive places... I just left the petrol station."

Nunben Dixon, head of Automotive at Gumtree, said after the July monthly fuel price review, the price of fuel is at the highest it has ever been, with 95 octane having increased by over 17% since January this year, to an eye-watering R18.20 per litre. He said with an economy under pressure and pandemic-related lockdowns impacting South Africans' ability to earn, the soaring fuel price directly impacted the cost of living in many ways.

Transport costs increased for commuters and retailers, while the cost of food and consumer goods also hiked, as producers had to pass on the impact of the rise to end users, he said.

For those who had no malls to buy bread from, they would have to travel to areas where groceries were available at an added cost, he said.

"Tragically, while the food costs and the price of other goods is set to soar, consumers' salaries are unlikely to keep pace with these increases, putting consumers under even more pressure than they were before," Dixon said.

FIVE SUSPECTS FACE CHARGES FOLLOWING MURDER OF TWO COPS

DOSSIER: Additional charges include.....

By Boitumelo Tshehle

Five men arrested in connection with the killing of two cops in the North West appeared before the Itsoseng Magistrates court on Thursday.

Benjamin Jacobs, 42, Jeremiah Mongale, 26, Rapulana Keikantse, 25, and Matthews Modukanele, 20, allegedly killed 49-year-old Constable Ngakaemang Ntseketse and 42-year-old Sergeant Mojalefa Horatius Moletse, who were stationed at Mareetsane police station.

The fifth accused who is a juvenile appeared separately in the Child Justice court. The five accused are facing charges of murder, malicious damage to property and possession of a stolen firearm. They were arrested during the early hours of July 28 in Logageng village. It is alleged that on July 26 around 9pm, the two police officers were on patrol duties travelling in a state vehicle when they came across a vehicle loaded with suspected stolen goats.

The members reported the incident to the commander and mentioned that they would be bringing the suspects' vehicle to the police station soon. About an hour later,

the police reported that they were not far from the police station.

Hawks spokeswoman Tlangelani Rikhotso said, however, the police officers never arrived at the police station and they could not be reached on both their cell phones nor on other police radio. A manhunt for the police officers was immediately launched.

On July 27 2021, police were alerted by community members of blood stains on the road leading to the police station.

When the scene was visited, a knife and a police badge belonging to one of the deceased was found and a second badge was found near Mareetsane Road. Further investigations led the team to a burnt state vehicle, wherein the bodies of the deceased police officers were discovered.

Rikhotso said the police traced and arrested the five suspects who were allegedly found in possession of a 9mm pistol which was taken from the slain police officers.

"A hammer, clothing with suspected blood stains and a vehicle have been seized for further investigation," she said.

All accused were remanded in custody and the matter postponed to August 12 for appointment of judicare attorney.

MOVING FAREWELL FOR TOP ACTOR SHONA FERGUSON

SOMBRE: Fond tributes rend hearts at funeral service

Family and friends bade a dignified and sad farewell to actor and director Shona Ferguson on Wednesday. The amiable Botswana-born soap heartthrob died from Covid-related complications.

Confined to family and close friends only in line with Covid-19 regulations, the funeral started with a service at the Ferguson home in Ruimsig, Roodepoort in the morning. Thereafter the cortege drove by the Ferguson's offices and some of the properties, as is often done culturally, and passed throngs of fans and fellow actors lining the streets as a guard of honour.

Ferguson was buried at the Fourways cemetery, where a moving letter from the love of his life, Connie, was read. It was a declaration of love beyond the grave. - Gugu Sibiyi.



DURBAN'S UNLIMITED PAIN A RAVAGED CITY WITH BROKEN SOUL

COWED: eThekweni reaped the whirlwinds of violent protests that unleashed mass human slaughter, looting rampage and lingering tensions between its African and Indian communities...



FREE-LOADING: The sight that greeted millions of South Africans nationwide on July 12, when mass looting happened with impunity while the country's security forces staged the biggest no-show amid the large-scale wanton pillaging ever witnessed in history. Photo: Armstrong Luthuli



By Pearl Rantsekeng

LAST Thursday my colleague Mohau Mofokeng and I, travelled to KwaZulu-Natal in the aftermath of the widespread looting, destruction and the Phoenix massacre, which claimed the lives of 36 Africans attacked by Indian vigilantes.

It was the first time I had ventured outside my familiar surroundings around Gauteng, what with Covid-19 wreaking havoc and the recent violent protests having redefined life.

Mind you, I count myself among the lucky ones as my neighbourhood, in Johannesburg's northern suburbs, was spared the wrath.

So, we took off in the dawn of last Thursday, and headed for KwaZulu-Natal. The drive along the N3 was long and scenic, as usual, until we breezed upon the southern peripheries of KZN, mostly the midlands area, that we came face to face with the horror of the aftermath of the "Release Zuma" campaign that ended in rampant widespread looting and burning down of malls and warehouses on July 12.

The conflagration was a consequence of protesters demanding the release of former president Jacob Zuma, who is incarcerated at the Estcourt Correctional Centre.

Zuma was jailed for contempt of court after the Constitutional Court ruled against him over his refusal to appear before the Zondo Commission's inquiry on State Capture recently.

Just before the Tugela toll plaza on the border of KZN and the Free State, we chanced upon soldiers travelling in an armoured vehicle headed towards Durban.

For the first time, we were confronted by the gravity of the situation on the ground post the violent protests. Just sight of army vehicles, we encountered several between the stretch of Tugela

and Marianhill toll plazas, evoked memories of the 1984/86 era of unrests.

At the time, we generally called white troops by the usual Afrikaans names like "bo Piet and Jan", because they were mostly white and Afrikaans, and ruled our streets.

As we drove closer to Pietermaritzburg, just around the Chatterton/Armitage off-ramp just off the N3 Highway, the true picture of the devastation left behind by the arson and looting emerged. The Brookside Mall etched a spectre of a post-war edifice, barely a shadow of its former glorious self.

down for fear of being attacked.

The owners and some of the residents were standing outside their balconies while some were on the street watching the marchers, numbering no more than 200 people, passed by.

The irony was that, unlike the previous week or two, where residents of the same town and surrounding areas were running amok, looting stores and setting them alight, today they were bystanders and seemed oblivious to what the march was all about. Instead, they were going about their business or were onlookers on the side of the road.

To those uninitiated, the march followed the brutal killing of mostly African people by Indians during what is now referred to as the "Phoenix Massacre". This week, Police Minister Bheki Cele confirmed and released a list of 36 people, mostly innocent souls, who were shot at and others hacked to death in cold blood.

Most of those killed were from KwaMashu, Amaoti, Inanda and Bhambayi, which are predominantly African townships around Phoenix in the north of Durban. The march ended at the Durban City Hall, where the marchers handed a memorandum to the office of the mayor. This is where march organiser and some of the speakers had spoken "about the end to racists Indians who were killing black people".

They sang struggle songs like Senzeni Na, a 1976 anthem sung during the student uprisings, but repurposed for the event to insult the Indians responsible for the massacre. It was during the march that the coalition's convener, Jackie Shandu, was alleged to have chanted "One Indian, One Bullet", which has since seen him arrested and apologise for the chant.

Shandu handed himself over at the Durban Central police station on Monday after charges were laid against him by the Community Policing Forum and African Democratic Change organisations, and is facing charges of contravening the Riotous Assemblies Act and of incitement of public violence and racial hatred.

A drive out of the city to the Umhlanga/Ballito areas yielded further ugly sightings of wanton rampage described by the president as the result of well-orchestrated insurrection. Rows upon rows of

torched businesses and warehouses in places like Queen Nandi Drive, Springfield and Mobeni – to mention just a few – betrayed ghastliness of the horrific scenario. At the nearby townships, vandalised ATMs added to the catalogue of macabre events.

The reality of it all sunk in like the glimpse of a bomb site from a war movie. Dlamini's corner shop and the convenient supermarket that used to service the minor, but vital, needs of the community had been torched to ashes.

The panoramic beauty and ambience of eThekweni, which attracts thousands of tourists every year to soak its seaside charms, now resembled a canvass of a country after war. Nothing that breathes commercial life was left standing. Instead, all that greets an unsuspecting visitor today is a city with a broken soul. Actually, eThekweni has literally been disembowelled – its innards ripped out and ravaged. Sadly, though, life must go on. People must eat and now starts the long walk, and, in some cases, a long drive from areas like Shaka's Head and Shaka's Kraal to the nearby towns like Ballito and Umhlanga for a mere loaf of bread and milk as well as the use of an ATM.

This also means that for people in Ballito, an easy chore like going to buy bread and milk, which under normal circumstances took less than 10 minutes, has turned into a nightmarish mission – to join endless queues and contend with the crowds of people from the nearby townships.

Scores of Durbanites are now stuck at home, with no money and no work. Business has dwindled for taxis. Suddenly that adage – half a loaf is better than no bread – rings true.

What now? Where to from here? Yes, maybe you have scored and got yourself that curve flat screen TV you have been longing for, or that three or four-door fridge that provides the convenience of enjoying drinks with ice.

What do you do now that the loot occupies half your kitchen space, making a loud noise as it stands empty with only a 2litre coke bottle refilled with water?

I couldn't help but wonder – was it really worth it, in the end. What are the lessons learned from this for us as a country?

The panoramic beauty and ambience of eThekweni, which attracts thousands of tourists every to soak its seaside charms, now resembled a canvass of a country after war. Nothing that breathed commercial life was left standing...

Consumer Eye

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AWARD-WINNING
CONSUMER EDITOR LOOKS
INTO YOUR COMPLAINTS

ONLINE BEAU SEDUCES LONELY BRAKPAN WOMAN INTO PARTING WITH R70 000 IN DATE SCAM



SWEET NOTHING: Casanova tells besotted victim he has R5m-worth of diamonds

By Thuli Zungu

During lockdown and its restrictions no one thought that people would be tempted to seek love on-line except for our safety, but they did. Hearts were broken, bank accounts were cleaned and love hunting birds were left in tears.

The pandemic made it easier for scammers to tell their suitors that they are unable to travel because of the restrictions. Some scammers cancelled first date plans claiming they had tested positive with COVID-19.

Nonkululeko Ngwenya* 51, of Brakpan, Ekurhuleni, was conned out of R70 000 within a day last month, just shortly after President Cyril

Ramaphosa announced the recent 28 days lockdown. Ngwenya said she lost her partner 10 years ago and a colleague who married a man she met online enticed her to try online dating.

Early in January she signed up on a number of dating sites and a few days later a would-be suitor named Jerry Smith responded and told her he was a widower and a father of two minor children who needed a mother, Ngwenya said.

They quickly moved their conversations to WhatsApp and private telephone calls where they shared a lot of information as their relationship steadily grew. During this time Smith spoiled her with gifts and cash for entertainment, which won Ngwenya's confidence.

Ngwenya knows Smith as a businessman who

travels a lot, but based in Sandton. She said he promised to come home during the Easter holiday as he was away on a business trip, but later cancelled the trip stating that he had tested positive. He sent her a Valentine's gift instead.

"He kept on spoiling me without making any financial demands until the recent level 4 lockdown," Ngwenya said. Early June Smith told her he needed R10 000 to clear customs taxes.

That same evening, Smith told her he had not disclosed there were diamonds hidden in the stock she had asked her to collect from AU Global Services at OR Tambo and he needed a further R60 000 to get a clearance certificate. Ngwenya, who was retrenched last year, said she transferred the money into his account after Smith told him that

the diamonds were worth R5 million.

"After seeing the photos of the diamonds on my WhatsApp page I immediately transferred the amount he needed," said Ngwenya. Within 24 hours she had parted with R70 000 and a few days later Smith demanded a further R30 000 which she could not afford as her reserves had run dry.

"After this he no longer took my calls and I could see he read my WhatsApp messages but never bothered to reply," Ngwenya said.

She then smelled a rat and reported her suspicions at the Kempton Park police station and discovered that this was a scam that has been ongoing since 2018. Smith dropped the phone when Consumer Eyes contacted him for a comment and his phone has since been on voicemail ever since.

ONLINE SCAMMERS KNOW HOW TO PRESS RIGHT BUTTONS

By Thuli Zungu

Nischal Mewalall, CEO of the South African Banking Risk Information Centre (SABRIC), said the increased prevalence of romance scams is worrying and very difficult to curb given that the modus operandi exploits the emotions of the victim who believes that they are in a romantic relationship with someone who cares for them.

He said such communications are usually confidential and very personal and victims are often too embarrassed to publicly admit to being manipulated and ultimately defrauded.

"Even when banks are able to detect that a victim is about to make a payment based on false pretences, these victims often insist on proceeding with the transaction as they do not accept that they are being defrauded," said Mewalall.

MODUS OPERANDI:

He said scammers often create profiles and post them on legitimate dating sites waiting for potential victims to fall bait to their scam. "They

SKILLED: These scammers are skilled in building trust with victims

may even go as far as targeting specific kinds of people by creating a profile that meets the requirements of a match for the person they are targeting.

Mewalall said these scammers are skilled at building trust and making victims fall in love with them as they pose as their ideal partner. "Once the victim's defenses are lowered and they become emotionally vulnerable they trick you into giving them money."

He said the scammer will contact the victim and offer to share lots of personal information with them in the hope of building a trusted relationship.

The information and profile pictures are all false and are often used repeatedly with various victims. Once they feel that the victim trusts them and they have a bond with them, they will often

suddenly claim to be called away on business or claim to have a serious personal crisis.

"What then follows is a request for money or to pay their travel expenses to visit them. They might even promise to refund the money to the victim when they meet them. Should the victim give them the requested money they may either disappear or request that they send more money," Melawall said.

If the victim doesn't give them the money their messages will often become more desperate and persistent to convince them to give them money.

TIPS

- Be suspicious of people who have out of the ordinary jobs and other jobs that require large amounts of travel.
- Scammers often target several victims at the same time and make use of the same content in their emails to all victims.
- Never send money to anyone that you are communicating with over the internet.
- Look out for inconsistencies in the communication that is sent to you. Syndicates often have several people manning their online dating sites so you could possibly be chatting to two or three different people.
- Be wary of people who keep promising to meet you but then always cancel at the last minute: don't give someone money to come and visit you.
- Should you arrange a meeting with someone you have met online, ensure that you meet in a public area and possibly with friends.
- Be careful how much personal information you share on social networking sites. Scammers can use this information to target you with a scam.
- Should you suspect that you are being targeted by a scammer, stop all communications immediately and report it to the online dating service immediately.



WOMEN'S DAY QUOTES

"The overwhelming majority of women accept patriarchy unquestioningly and even protect it, working out the resultant frustrations not against men but against themselves in their competition for men as sons, lovers and husbands. Traditionally the violated wife bides her time and off-loads her built-in aggression on her daughter-in-law. So, men dominate women through the agency of women themselves."

Winnie Mandela

I have always felt that perhaps women have sometimes almost embraced the same values as men, and the same character as men, because they are in the men's world, and they are trying to fit into a system that men have created. And maybe in truth when there is a critical mass of women who play that role in governments, then we will see whether women can really manage power in a way that is less destructive than the way that men have used power.

Wangari Maathai

Strong men – men who are truly role models – don't need to put down women to make themselves feel powerful.

Michelle Obama

"My motivation for writing [it] was born out of the negative image about black African women in South Africa ... promoted by ... in particular the women in the white community who employ [them] as domestic workers."

Ellen Khuzwayo

"Black women are never allowed to be tired. "Our pain is politicised, we are celebrated for our strength," she said. "Black women, in particular, are expected to be superhuman, which is a gruelling and absolutely psychologically haemorrhaging experience. Black youth, and young black women in particular, need support, protection and solidarity so that their humanity is not disregarded."

Malaika Wa Azania

I look at a stream and I see myself: a native South African, flowing irresistibly over

hard obstacles until they become smooth and, one day, disappear — flowing from an origin that has been forgotten toward an end that will never be.

Miriam Makeba

"There's something so special about a woman who dominates in a man's world. It takes a certain grace, strength, intelligence, fearlessness, and the nerve to never take no for an answer.

Rihanna

"Black women have had to develop a larger vision of our society than perhaps any other group. They have had to understand white men, white women, and black men. And they have had to understand themselves. When black women win victories, it is a boost for virtually every segment of society."

Angela Davis

POEM

WOMAN WORK

I've got the children to tend
The clothes to mend
The floor to mop
The food to shop
Then the chicken to fry
The baby to dry
I got company to feed
The garden to weed
I've got shirts to press
The tots to dress

The can to be cut
I gotta clean up this hut
Then see about the sick
And the cotton to pick.

Shine on me, sunshine
Rain on me, rain
Fall softly, dewdrops
And cool my brow again.
Storm, blow me from here
With your fiercest wind
Let me float across the sky
'Til I can rest again.

Fall gently, snowflakes
Cover me with white
Cold icy kisses and
Let me rest tonight.

Sun, rain, curving sky
Mountain, oceans, leaf and stone
Star shine, moon glow
You're all that I can call my own.
Maya Angelou





DRIVEN: Advocate Hlalele Matolo-Dlepu

LEGAL EAGLES LAUNCH DRIVE TO REMOVE BARRIERS FOR WOMEN



DETERMINED: Advocate Anthea Platt

OBJECTIVE: Two women form base to target transfer of skills to newcomers and ensure access to justice...

By Thuli Zungu

Injustice and unaffordable quality education in the legal profession has propelled two fierce legal minds to open doors for women lawyers. Advocate Anthea Platt and Hlaleleni Kathleen Matolo-Dlepu the co-founder Basadi Ba Molao

Education & Training Services (Pty) Ltd "BBM-ETS" saw a need to establish BBM-ETS because, among other challenges, most training programs offered by training institutions are beyond the reach of many, especially now during covid-19.

"Most institutions charge about R20 000-R40 000 per training program. It was pursuant to this urgent need for training services together with the transformational aspirations that the idea of incorporating BBM-ETS was born," Matolo-Dlepu said.

CHALLENGES

Matolo Dlepu said women, in general, were faced with a myriad of challenges in society. The legal profession was no exception. She said there were many challenges that women had to contend with discrimination based on gender and an uneven playing field.

Initially BBM seeks to meet its objectives through hosting videos, meeting with students, assisting through pro-bono work in impoverished communities, assisting legal practitioners gain an edge in the profession.

Matolo-Dlepu said of the 27 223 attorneys practising in South Africa, only 4 849, a total of 17%, were female. Of the 537 advocates conferred with senior counsel, only 50, at total of 9%, were women. She said by July 2019, in the judiciary, only 94 out of the 244 permanent judges were women. This amounted to 30%. Of the 24 leadership positions in the judiciary, only 7 were women. This number had increased only marginally in the past three years, she said.

She said, in addition, to being under-represent-

ed, there was the pre-conception that women were ill-equipped to deal with matters outside of areas such as family law and debt collection.

"Very few women can access a diverse range of legal work. They are perceived as 'mothers and wives,'" Matolo Dlepu said. Prejudices such as not being able to work late or being able to deal with complex issues prevented women from making a greater impact in the legal field.

To address this their goal was to empower women, transfer skill and ensure that barriers to the legal profession were removed and that access to justice was attainable, she said.

Her passion to fight against injustice started at an early age, she said. At an age of three, Matolo-Dlepu witnessed one of the great injustices of the apartheid forced removals, she said.

Her family was taken from her grandfather's home and later forced to live in tents. As a teenager she witnessed the Soweto Uprisings when her peers rebelled against the apartheid government for forcing Afrikaans as the medium of instruction in schools.

"These two incidents made me aware of injustice and determined to do something to achieve justice for those who have been disenfranchised," she said.

Her partner Platt SC, a fierce defender and advocate of women's rights, used her professional knowledge and experience as a woman to form Basadi Ba Molao, a non-profit organisation in 2019, she said. Platt said this organisation sought to assist women in law through mentorship, guidance and exposure to persons within the profession who were able to provide insight into the obstacles women face in the profession.

Platt said the organisation assisted communities in rural areas who were unable to access legal services. It also assisted students studying law and gave them the necessary exposure and guidance.

This, she had done through a partnership with the Nelson Mandela Bay University.

She said BBM-ETS also seeks to equip the community so that they build entrepreneurs who can work and earn a living in the informal and formal sector.

"BBM-ETS also targets students in rural areas, unemployed youth up to the age of 35, pensioners and the public," Platt said. The pair said dispute resolution is essential for legal practice no matter the area of law in which you practice.

"Through our experienced and accredited trainers, BBM-ETS offers continuing professional development programs via face-to-face and online learning engagement opportunities for busy professionals," they said.

Their programs are designed to enable legal practitioners to fulfil their professional obligations but also provide an engaging experience with industry experts.

BBM-ETS offers practical and focused life-long education to legal practitioners to enable them to provide quality services to their clients and to the community, she said.

"We are also providing a general mediation course to assist law students from previously disadvantaged universities, unemployed youth up to the age of 35; pensioners, organisations and legal practitioners; so that they will be able to find some work opportunities while either completing their degrees or while awaiting further training or employment," they said.

Their dream is to assist with the retention of learning, a blend of training delivery methods to best meet the needs of the participants, including lectures, presentations, role-plays, and class discussions, they said.

Platt said participants with special needs would also be identified prior to the start of the programme to identify issues of accessibility and adapt delivery

and/or materials wherever possible to accommodate these issues.

Covid-19 has shown us that we need to think out of the box and have more than one stream of income to cater for those times when we are unable to find employment. BBM-ETS is designed to provide soft skills for persons once they have completed a course to be able to add to their income base, they said.

HLALELENI KATHLEEN MATOLO-DLEPU

Matolo -Dlepu is the current chairperson of the Legal Practice Council of South Africa, the Commissioner of the Judicial Services Commission of South Africa and a former Co-chairperson of the Law Society of South Africa.

In the past 26 years she trained and mentored more than 20 women attorneys to break the glass ceiling. "In the early stages of my career, I saw that there were few opportunities for women attorneys and this encouraged me to establish a woman-owned firm that focused on mentoring emerging women attorneys. This has been and continues to be my passion to this day" she said.

ANTHEA PLATT SC

She is an experienced Senior Counsel with a demonstrated history of working in the legal profession as well as in the governance of the legal profession for more than 16 years.

Currently, she is the Deputy Chair of the Legal Practice Council; a Commissioner on the South African Law Reform Commission and the Group Leader of Pitje Chambers. She also sits on various advisory panels.

For more than a decade, Platt had been in the leadership of Advocates for Transformation, a voluntary organisation which advocated for a level playing field for practitioners of colour and gender and to ensure a correction of briefing patterns.

WOMEN TO DELIVER ANTI-VIOLENCE PETITION TO PRESIDENT

LOBBY: Government urged to stop targeting of women

By Thuli Zungu

About 5 000 South African Women have signed a petition to be delivered to President Cyril Ramaphosa on the National Women's Day, calling for action on gender-based violence against women in our country.

Lee-Anne Germanos, attorney and co-director at Embrace project, said, with the National Women's Day looming, the country's women had nothing to celebrate while fellow sisters were being maimed by South African men daily.

"So, in honour of our fallen sisters, and the 20 000 South African women who marched to the Union Buildings in 1956 for our freedom, on Monday, #wethewomenofsa calls on all womxn and our allies to protest instead of celebrating," Germanos said.

"We protest because we have #nocauseforcelebration. We call on you to protest the lack of political will displayed in combatting GBVF, despite the introduction of new legislation, the Emergency Response Action Plan and the GBVF Response Fund," she said, adding that the rate of gender-

based violence in South Africa continued to soar.

"It is clear that, despite legislative reforms, and the Presidency's Emergency Response Action Plan to address the violence, the South African government, and its institutions, lack the political will to reduce, let alone eradicate, the threat to the lives, and the enjoyment of life, of every South African woman and child," Germanos said.

South Africa's own Commission for Gender Equality confirmed this in its report released in April 2021. The following month, the UN's Commission on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women found that, because of the extremely high-rate of domestic violence in South Africa, the SA government was in systematic violation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), she said.

"For that reason, we will be submitting our letter symbolically on 9 August 2021 - Women's Day, the day that we celebrate the women's march to the Union Buildings in 1956 when they too handed a petition to the then Head of State," Germanos said.

“Women need real moments of solitude and self-reflection to balance out how much of ourselves we give away.”

BARBARA DE ANGELIS

NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



Comment

HONOUR WOMEN, STOP ABUSING THEM

THE memorable feat of thousands of women who fought for their dignity by protesting against the carrying of the dompas during the apartheid era 65 years ago, will be celebrated on Monday next week.

Women's Day is heralded as a day to pay tribute to the nearly 20 000 women who marched on the Union Buildings in Pretoria on August 9 1956, to submit a petition with 100 000 signatures protesting against the apartheid government's decision that black women must also carry the dompas – like their male counterparts. The move – at the time – was to control the movement of women in the urban areas.

While we celebrate the gallant efforts of these heroines, we are however saddened by the fact that a large number of women in this country are still marginalised and subjected to patriarchy, sexism and ageism. Worse, they are subjected to violent treatment, especially at the hands of their partners.

A total 2700 women have been murdered as a result of gender-based violence since 2000 in this country. This is unacceptable. Men have to be reminded that violence can negatively affect women's mental, sexual and reproductive health.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), one in three women out of nearly 736 million women worldwide are subjected to physical or sexual violence by their intimate partners. Almost 27 percent of women aged between 15 and 49 years who have been in a relationship have reported that they had been subjected to some form of physical or sexual abuse by their intimate partners worldwide.

In South Africa, women were still subjected to domestic violence, discrimination, unequal pay and harassment at the workplace. Yet, the reality is "that gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world," according to ConnectHer, an organisation that promotes women's projects.

In many instances, women have proven to be as capable as men, occupying all manner of leadership positions with skill and passion. In that regard, we are reminded of great women leaders such as Charlotte Maxeke, who was instrumental in the establishment of the ANC Women's League in 1913 and mobilising women to fight for freedom in this country.

Women, therefore, ought to be respected. Real men do not abuse. They protect.

While we are currently experiencing the deadly pandemic of Covid-19, it is the women who are on the frontlines of this crisis as nurses and health care workers, working long hours to save lives and to administer vaccine jabs to hundreds of thousands of people daily to combat the spread of the pandemic.

We are appealing to all men who are still trapped in communal stereotypes and have internalised the behaviour of treating women like slaves or mere objects, to stop their inhumane and violent actions. Women are also human beings who have a right to live and enjoy their rightful positions under the sun without any form of discrimination.

In the end, there is an unedifying interconnectedness among all forms of prejudice and bigotry, as Lisa Kimmerer warns in this quote: "Violence is central to patriarchy, and the forms of systemic violence are interconnected in Western societies. Recognising similarities across forms of oppression (such as racism, child abuse, speciesism, and sexism, for example) is essential."

Indeed, these prejudices have tended to feed off one another to create a vicious cycle of systemic violence, resulting in moral infection that has served only to poison the fibre of our society.

Thus, we must condemn violence in all its forms to reverse the moral decay in our communities.



By Ido Lekota

The varied responses by the ANC-led government to the recent violent protests following the incarceration of former President Jacob Zuma have shown the quality of leadership the majority of South Africans have charged with the responsibility of driving the democratic agenda the country has embarked on since 1994.

The protests have shown how – in the hour of need – those in whose hands the majority of South Africans have put their hopes, aspirations and lives have dismally failed to rise to the occasion. Instead, their behaviour has displayed how the internecine differences in the ruling party have derailed the government from its mandate of building a South Africa, in which the needs of the majority are paramount.

This situation South Africa currently finds itself in relates to colonial and apartheid history, where in the absence of the franchise, the ANC claimed the status of the sole and authentic representative of the people – with the majority of the people – in turn – giving the party the mandate to govern on their behalf. This saw the party becoming the leader of society and the people becoming the followers in the quest to build a new democratic South Africa.

However, looking at some of the developments in post-apartheid South Africa – especially in the past 10 years – one can say with some certainty that the agenda to build true the democracy has been derailed.

There has been several suggestions as to how South Africans can extricate themselves from the rather odious situation. These included a call for them to start grappling with the quality of leaders they elect. Of most importance, there has been a call for South Africans to envision theirs and the

future of this country without the ANC.

This is an important development because it challenges South Africans to interrogate the relationship between them as followers and the ANC as the leader in the quest for a truly democratic society.

For example, South Africans must interrogate the current situation whereby their relationship as

4 It is important for South Africans to explore ways that will empower them to envisage the future of this country without the ANC.

followers of the ANC is based on the leader-centric model of leadership. This is the kind of leadership focusing, for example, on the traits and skills, the leader possesses. This also means the success of achieving the goal on which the said relationship is based depends entirely on what the leader does or does not do.

It is, for example, this leader-centric view of leadership that has led to the ANC's assertion that "there is no future South Africa without the ANC" – a view that many South Africans have also accepted as the sole truth. This has created an untenable situation wherein the majority of South Africans have developed the TINA (There is no Alternative) syndrome when it comes to redress-

ing the debilitating socio-economic conditions they find themselves in under the ANC leadership.

It is important for South Africans to explore ways that will empower them to envisage the future of this country without the ANC.

One such way is to adopt the constructionist approach to leadership in terms of which the relationship between the leader and the followers is based on cooperation wherein, in the words of social constructionist, Boas Shamir, "some will influence and others willingly accept, comply, or conform to the influence."

This is approach is about a process in which "people claim an identity and others grant that identity and through this process the identities of followers and leaders are socially constructed to form the basis of a leader-follower relationship."

According to Shamir, this is a relationship in which the role of the follower is also to strengthen the vision and behaviour of all involved, thereby contributing towards the attainment of the ultimate goal of the said relationship.

In terms this approach, leaders and followers are jointly produced outcomes built as a result of an effective leader-follower relationship.

This means that the constructionist view of leadership highlights both leaders and followers as causal agents of the kind of leader-follower relationship they seek.

As constructionists like Shamir say, the leader-follower relationship is constructed when claims are matched with grants and vice versa. If these are mismatched and there is no reciprocity then there is no relationship.

This is a critical scenario for those South Africans who are willing to ponder the future of this country without the ANC.

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By Dr. Lebogang Lance

Although his global outlook transcended ideological confines, renowned poet and playwright, Maishe Maponya, always advanced a Black Consciousness perspective.

The towering co-founder of the National Writers Association of South Africa (Nwasa), Maponya, was born on 4 September 1951 in Alexandra, raised and educated in Diepkloof, and passed away on 29 July 2021. Indeed, the news of his passing on have cast us into a trance for a few days and we're still refusing to accept that indeed the inevitable has dawned upon him.

A few years ago, two seasoned cultural advocates, Maponya and Nana Kefue Walter Chakela, Nwasa's Founding President, spent endless days deconstructing the state of the arts and culture landscape in the post-apartheid South Africa – the subject they were most passionate about as it embodied the essence of their lives as activists who for them culture was a site of struggle against apartheid.

This duo were both renowned playwrights, poets, theatre directors. While Maponya was a drama lecturer at Witwatersrand University, Chakela – also a former broadcaster – used his craft in adapting African literature matric networks such as Bessie Head's phenomenal novel, Maru, into a stage play to make it accessible to high school students.

Thus, both also shared an insatiable love for education of a black child. Inside the country in the 1970s, as the winds of Steve Biko's Black Consciousness philosophy swept across the country to awaken our people from a political lull imposed in the 1960s by the banning of key anti-apartheid organisations and the concomitant imprisonment of struggle leaders such as Nelson Mandela while others such as Oliver Tambo were forced into exile, cultural formations such as Maponya's Bahumutsi Drama Group and Lefifi Tladi's Dashiki, Patrick Sefolosa and Kenny Mathaba's Malopoets used their productions as tools to mobilise the masses of our people into joining the struggle.

Abroad, the African National Congress established groups such as the Amandla Cultural Ensemble to mobilise through song, poetry and dance while also conscientising the international community about the demon of apartheid tyranny – hence the world even declared apartheid a heresy and imposed both cultural and investment boycotts to isolate the apartheid regime.

Conscious of this background, Maponya and Chakela were aggrieved by our democratic dispensation's reluctance or inadequate adoption of culture by the post-1994 democratic dispensation as a critical jigsaw piece in the puzzle of reconstruction and development of our country, and furthermore, using cultural diplomacy as an arsenal in its international engagements. They both couldn't accept the demise of the erstwhile Congress of South African

Writers (COSAW) and African Writers Association (AWA) after the dawn of democracy and they believed this contributed to the declining development of the cultural industries in the country.

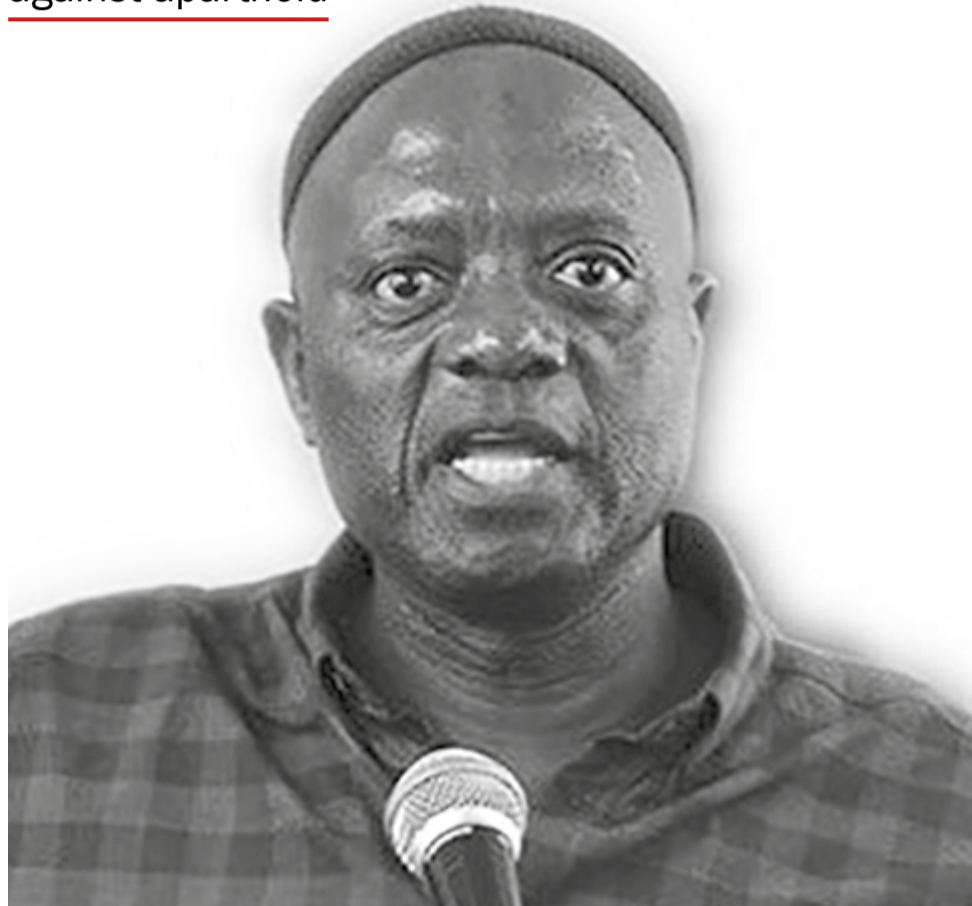
Something had to be done, they resolved. It is worth noting that at the time, Maponya's health was declining and yet his sense of camaraderie inspired him to visit Chakela in Midrand where he was confined to a wheelchair after suffering bouts of strokes.

The duo broadened their discussions and invited Lebogang Lance Nawa, COSAW's last President after Chakela, to join the crusade.

Nawa was given carte-blanc of bringing to fruition the establishment of a writers' outfit with a

MAISHE MAPONYA DECONSTRUCTED THE STATE OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE LANDSCAPE

STRUGGLE: He used his productions to mobilise against apartheid



character that is developmental, socially conscious, politically conscious yet non-partisan, and Pan-African in outlook and conduct. The process entailed wide consultations that included approaching erstwhile AWA and COSAW members.

The bilateral engagement climaxed on 25 May 2018 when several writers converged in Midland, Chakela's residence, and resolved to form a national writers organisation as an assembly of established and aspirant writers with the view to develop, promote, share and disseminate literature and their literary works among themselves and the general public in South Africa and beyond.

The newly established institution, called the National Writers Association of South Africa

(Nwasa), was to advocate for literature, advance and defend the rights and interest of writers and work towards the development of the quality of writing, readership, publishing and distribution of literature.

Nwasa was officially inaugurated on 20-21 March 2021 by PAWA Secretary-General Dr. Wale Okediran. Typical of Maponya's selflessness, humility and his commitment to building capacity in others, he chose not to stand for any executive position in Nwasa although he strongly endorsed Chakela's later nomination as the organisation's founding president to carry out their vision. Perhaps the other reason he decided it was best for him to continue providing care to his comrade as

he battled ill-health that he considered more severe than his.

Yes, he was confident Chakela, an excellent administrator and visionary leader would be competent to steer the organisation into the direction they both charted and eloquently and convincingly communicated to all writers across South Africa political spectrum. Although Maponya didn't go into exile, this doyen of "theatre of resistance", as he dubbed his theoretical framework, left an international footprint in the cultural landscape.

As one of the foremost anti-apartheid voices in the country's anti-apartheid cultural circles, in 1979 his play, The Hungry Earth, toured three European countries – Germany, Britain and France – to great acclaim.

He uncompromisingly declared his works were about conscientising our people to rise against racial tyranny. His other plays, which were provocatively titled, include The Cry, Peace and Forgive, Umongikazi: The Nurse, Gangsters, Dirty Work, Changing the Silence, Bušang Meropa, Jika, and The Coat.

Maponya has also published books and sound recordings on his plays. These include: The Hungry Earth (1981), Gangsters: A One Act Three man Play, Azikho, Tusk, This Land is My Witness: Poems on the State of the Nation, Truth be Told: Da's Kak in Die Land.

Maponya also won many accolades including the Standard Bank Young Artist's Award in 1985, Wesley Guild's Best Diepkloof Poet Prize in 1986, and the British Council Scholarship. Before his grave is showered with confetti prior to his burial, it should be recalled that Maponya frequented courts for over 12 years fighting against his dismissal in 2003 by his former city municipality employer. He eventually lost the case with legal costs ordered against him. Meanwhile, he was unable to secure new employment ever since; thus, living from mouth to hand.

Nevertheless, Maponya continued to impart knowledge to younger generations as an organic intellectual. His presence and legacy has been immortalised by the University of South Africa when on 14 June 2018, he donated to the institution for archiving his portfolio of private writings, publications, programmes, posters. This donation was preceded by the signing of an agreement a year earlier in which he gave permission for his plays to be digitised while he retained their copyrights. This was to ensure that Maponya's works are easily accessible to national and international scholars for research purposes.

In Soweto, Maponya was involved with the likes of Ingoapele Madingoane, Don Mattera, Motsumi Makhene, Matsemela Manaka, John Ledwaba, Makhulu Ledwaba, and Sello wa Loate in various prominent community-upliftment projects. Among these was through the Allah Poets, whose membership included the ever-green wordsmith Es'kia Mphahlele.

Indeed, right now as Nwasa leaders, we raise our hands and touch the African sky – to borrow from Isaac Newton – because we're standing on the broad shoulders of this giant who have departed our shores. We're confident he is currently brewing a cultural storm in the realm above.

Let's also take a moment to pay tribute to a galaxy of national and internal cultural emissaries, too many to cite by name, who have transitioned to the hereafter recently and are to be joined by he whose clan totem is the Elephant.

Raise your truck like a trumpet, and let your huge feet thump loud to announce your arrival there.



SAY I DO TO UNCONVENTIONAL WEDDINGS

LEAP OF FAITH: Till death part you with your dress



FEATHERS: No matter how you interpret this wedding dress trend this gorgeous detail brings the glamour.

By Mpumi Brown

It may be true that no one ever graduates from the institution of marriage, but there is no huge failure than selecting the wrong dress for your wedding day.

With so many decisions and indecisions going through a bride's mind, like picking the right location, meals, vehicles, bridesmaids etc. the real test is in how to select THEE dress. Needless to say, some get it right, others just don't. Style, after all, is the woman.

Wedding planner Kate Murtaugh reckons with Covid -19 the wedding industry, like many others, has experienced a natural shift in tradition. "There are many changes that have occurred from design and the concept of the traditional weddings," she says, adding that wedding traditions have always been a world of constantly changing trends, etiquette, and style.

It is said that since Covid lockdowns more people are getting married, and if you happen to be one of those lucky to walk the aisle soon (ei-shhh Churches not yet open) here are some of the 2021/2022 trends to make your search easier before you say "I do" and to make that day your most memorable ever:

THE SUIT:

First lets look at the latest trends in mens suits: There are five visible trends which have sparked a change in mens suits..

- 1. FLORAL:** Floral prints and floral pockets are big for 2021 across the board, you will expect to see floral ties and pocket squares.
- 2. Casual Suit:** With COVID impacting wedding sizes and plans, many couples are opting for a more intimate and more casual. This new style that reflects the new attitude of having to pivot plans. This has many iterations from blazers and loafers to suits with no tie.
- 3. Bold Colours:** Bright, bold and mood-boosting colours are all the rage for 2021. Grooms aren't trying to steal the spotlight, but don't plan on them being wallflowers for weddings in 2021. From paisley to floral and everything in between, we're seeing a steady increase in patterns and bold colours in grooms' suits. On micro-trend we're seeing is shades of pink. Guys aren't afraid to show their softer side with pinks that range from electric to blush
- 4. Velvet Jackets:** Velvet is the fabric of choice when it comes to 2021 wedding trends for grooms.
- 5. Mismatched Groomsmen:** Long gone are the days when groomsmen simply blended in with each other in the same nondescript suit style. Instead of the same one. For some this is completely different suits, for others it's different accessories.

Behanke Schutte from Luxury Veil Bridal Couture goes on to say

THEE DRESS:

Finding thee dress can be a daunting or exhilarating experience for most wives to be. Here are some of the top 5 dress silhouettes for 2021/2022.

- 6. Pants/Short:** Traditional is out the window, with two fashion hemline trends for 2022. The length is shorter than ever, with a reduced length most brides have opted to change things up and selecting a length that is comfortable and a dress that can be worn again. The second 2022 bridal hemline trend is the pant, jump-suit or pant suit which has become the dress alternative. The



OFF-SHOULDER: If there's ever a moment to express your inner romantic, your wedding day is it—and off-the-shoulder sleeves are all about romance



SQUARE NECKLINE: Flatters the collarbones and shoulders and is a true throwback.



INTIMATE: Many couples are opting for a more casual feel

comfortable figure flattering alternative looks best with all-over beading, crop tops or oversized.

- 7. Feathers:** Another over-the-top embellishment designers are loving this season. No matter how you interpret this wedding dress trend this gorgeous detail brings the glamour.
- 8. Ruffles & Colourful florals:** While floral motifs and wedding dresses are a classic pairing, colourful details like 3-D rosettes and embroidery give this established trend a gorgeous refresh. And, if a full-on coloured dress feels like a fashion risk, pastel floral touches are a more subtle way to add some variety to your wedding day look.
- 9. High Slit:** High slits brought the sex appeal to Bridal Fashion Week. If you're looking to show some skin, this is the 2022 wedding dress trend for you. Go full femme fatale with a curveskimming silhouette that shows lots of leg or go timeless with a twist and opt for a formal ball gown with a thigh high slit.
- 10. -Off- Shoulder:** If there's ever a moment to express your inner romantic, your wedding day is it—and off-the-shoulder sleeves are all about romance. The versatile neckline flatters the décolleté and can be adapted for any silhouette, from a fitted mermaid gown to a grand ball gown. It can also work with any fabric as well, meaning you can wear this design no matter your wedding style.

If the off-shoulder simple is not for you, try the square neckline. This more geometric neckline flatters the collarbones and shoulders and is a true throw back. Popular in the Renaissance and then Regency eras, square necklines have since made a major comeback. The best part? This 2022 wedding dress trend also works for pretty much every wedding style: Go classic with heavy satin, romantic with floral lace or boho with crepe.



HIGH SLIT: If you want to show some skin

IKUSASA CAREER GUIDE



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

FAMILY TRAGEDY PROMPTS DAD TO DEDICATE LIFE TO HELPING DISABLED

COMPASSION Disabled youths manufacture crutches and wheelchair cushions



PASSIONATE: Napoleon Sibaya the co-founder of Mabaleng said you have to love what you do to succeed. Photo: Mohau Mofokeng

By Bongiwe Mkhwanazi

David Mabele's life changed, drastically, after his son was killed in a fatal motor vehicle accident along a notorious main road in Soweto, Johannesburg known as "Killer Road" 27 years ago. Since then, Mabele has dedicated his life to helping people living with disabilities.

"Actually, I almost lost two kids on that fateful day as my two young sons had used the same taxi from Meadowlands, Soweto to the Yeoville Primary school," Mabele said. His other son, Lethole, had survived. But the crash had left permanent scars. The boy was now living with a disability. Mabele said a few months later, he met a 13 year old mentally impaired boy named Amos Mothlabane. The Mabele's had then showered the teenager with so much love that, before long, Mothlabane had brought Ratu Lethole to Mabele's house. Soon thereafter, the Mabele household was hosting up 15 young children with disabilities.

To keep the youths busy, Mabele involved the

youngsters in stimulating life skills games. One day, when Lethole had reached Grade 11, he had suggested his dad should form a non-governmental organisation (NGO). "He planted a seed that later gave birth to the Mabaleng Disability Forum, which now has 157 mostly young members, who are living with various disabilities," Mabele said.

Mabele's NGO was later registered as a non-profit organisation. Mabaleng got support from Andries Grove, a Good Samaritan, who also has a child living with a disability. "Grove donated his time and money to Mabaleng until he retired and had returned to his birthplace of Parys, Free State, recently," Mabele said, adding that Grove used to help with training the youngsters in different sports. And this had brought life to the NGO's sports squad, which specialises in several sporting codes.

But Mabele would love to see the youths excelling, academically. "These are intelligent people who also need to learn information communication technology (ICT), and to pursue other careers, out there," Mabele said. After Mabele had noticed that



David Mabele and Ratu Lethole also the co-founders said don't just sit home and twiddle your fingers there's a lot to do to earn a living. Photo: Mohau Mofokeng

young NGO's members had a challenge with the cushioning on their wheelchairs, an idea had come to his mind to train the youths to sew and sell wheelchair cushions. "These seat covers are sewn by them and delivered to CE Mobility, who are wheels and seating specialists together with whom we have partnered, since 2018," Mabele said.

Mabele said the Mabaleng Disability Forum is also manufacturing and assembling crutches and various walking aids, well as the fabric upholstery which is used on wheelchairs. They had an office to work from in Town and they could not renew their contract as the building became dilapidated with no working lifts making it strenuous and inconvenient for people living with disabilities. Mabele is currently converting his home so that he can house at least ten people at a time, so they could produce the required orders for crutches, walking aids and wheelchair cushions. "Apart from the disability grant the members get, monthly, they also earn a share from the proceeds we get from selling the different products," said Mabele, whose wife has helped with sewing lessons and cooks for the members.

When the Covid-19 pandemic had disrupted production, Mabele's son, Lethole took a bold that has impressed his loving father. I was impressed by Lethole, who had later approached the nearby

Tlhokomelo Special School to look for employment, instead of sitting at home and twiddling his fingers," Mabele said.

Tlhokomelo, is a school for the disable children which starts from Grade R to grade 11. Lethole, a diehard Orlando Pirates fan who also has impaired speech, told Weekly SA Mirror that his job is to take a daily inventory of the pupils who attend classes at the school.

What is sad is that Mabaleng has no office and a workshop for their products, according to 72 year old Mabaleng Disability Forum co-founder and chairman Napoleon Sibaya, who is a father of four, said he became wheelchair-bound after was stabbed on his spinal cord by thugs who were robbing him of his wages in the late eighties, which had left him paralysed. "The Mabaleng community has no centre, and before the Covid-19 lockdowns, we used to meet under trees or at Mr Mabele's home, or at a local recreational centre," Sibaya said.

Apart from sewing NGO was given a piece of land by the City of Joburg to plough and through which to feed their families. But they have no tools to realise their goal. Sibaya said the members could become artisans if they were to be shown the right doors to knock at, since they have been practicing their walking aids and wheelchair cushion production skills for the past 27 years.

FINDING PEOPLE TO BURY NO WALK IN THE PARK



KEEP GOING: Joel Abrahams said if one project does not work, find one that does. Photo: Mohau Mofokeng

PERSEVERANCE: undertaker coining it as tombstone maker

By Bongiwe Mkhwanazi

Starting a funeral parlour is not a walk in the park, according to entrepreneur Joel Abrahams a father of two who has been in this business for the past four years, but has buried only five people, so far.

Fifty two year old Abrahams, who operates the Recalled @ Funeral Services from corner Modjadji and Sebele Street in Meadowlands Zone 2, Soweto, told Weekly SA Mirror this week that he joined the funeral industry after he had met a sales representative from Avbob Funeral Services. "The man was promoting Avbob's various services at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital bus and minibus taxi

terminus in Diepkloof, Soweto," said Abrahams, who was so impressed that he had decided at the time to join Avbob as a policy writer.

Later, after Abrahams had gained an interest in the workings at the mortuaries. After Abrahams resigned from Avbob to start his own funeral parlour, which includes a mortuary. "While I was at Avbob, I learned a lot about how to remove corpses from death scenes, how the bodies are cleaned kept and processed before these are placed, neatly, in the coffins, ready for burials," he said.

Abrahams said, like any business, his has gone through a lot of challenges, causing him to diversify his business; which is why has added the sales of funeral policies and the manufacturing and designing of tombstones; both of which have helped him to stay afloat.

Abrahams, who registered his business in 2012, said the saturation of the funeral industry had compelled him to relocate from White City, Jabavu to Meadowland, where he believes his funeral services business would take off, because he is known better and trusted more, in Meadowlands. After Abra-

hams' clients had asked him to erect tombstones for them, a service he had initially outsourced, he has found himself doing good business in that area. "I had initially thought that it was that easy," Abrahams said. "But it was not. I still have a backlog which dates back to last year, because the Covid-19 lockdown-related restrictions had interrupted business in many ways."

Abrahams comes from skills training and development industries and conferences and events sectors, and he had thought that the experience and knowledge he had gained would help him to make good profits as a funeral undertaker. "But it has been hard," Abrahams said.

Abrahams now specialises in tombstones manufacturing, and has registered a company named Father Abraham Tombstones. Abrahams has been manufacturing tombstones for the past four years, he said "I cannot find the material around in Johannesburg, so I go as far as Rustenburg, or I order the stones from Zimbabwe," he said.

Abrahams employs four people, who in turn feed about fifty mouths, he said. Abrahams is now in a process of getting his employees artisanship training opportunities through the Service Sector Education and Training Authority (Services Set).

CARS MADE IN AFRICA FOR AFRICANS

FIGHTING BACK: Only time will tell but where there is a will there is way



KANTANKA CARS: From Ghana with love.



WALLYSCAR: Founded in Tunisia in 2006 sells predominantly in Africa, the Middle East and Europe

By Special Correspondent

Africa has a large and important car manufacturing industry but none is sold to customers within the Continent. All are exported. Almost every car bought and used by Africans is imported and most are second hand, carrying huge import duties that typically double the price making them more expensive than new cars sold abroad.

Africans are sick of it and are answering back. Nigerians have a word "tokunbo" meaning "foreign used". A statement on the website of Innoson Motors, one of Africa's first and only automotive manufacturing companies, reflects the current mood:

"Africa has literally become a dumping ground for foreign used automobiles. We are not second class people that should only drive second hand vehicles."

A commonly held view is that no one manufactures cars in Africa for the African market but Global Fleet has found a handful of entrepreneur-led organisations making a mockery of that assumption. In 1978, a commercial town situated in Eastern Nigeria, Nnewi, had become the central hub for motorcycle importation but a lack of choice and competition kept prices artificially high. A second-hand motorcycle could cost as much as 80% of the price of a brand new one.

In 1987, at 25-years-old, Nigerian born entrepreneur Innocent Chukwuma founded the first motorcycle manufacturing company in Nigerian Innoson Motors and drove tokunbo out of the country forever. He's now planning the same for cars.

Innoson was the first made-in-Africa automobile brand and is now one of the largest car manufacturers on the continent having sold 10,000 vehicles since inception from its plant in Nnewi, to custom-

ers including the Nigerian government. Its range includes pickups, such as the Innoson IVM Granite, SUVs (Innoson G20), sedans (Innoson Fox and Umu), and busses (Innoson 5000 and 6540).

WALLYSCAR

Founded in Tunisia in 2006, Wallyscar manufactures a range of small 4x4s sold predominantly in Africa, the Middle East and Europe. Brothers Omar and Zeid Guiga set up the company with the idea of making the vehicles affordable, stylish and sporty. They sell to order between 300-600 units a year at a price point of around €15,000 and are now planning an electric version.

KANTANKA CARS

Engineers at the Apostle Safo Suaye Technological Centre in Ghana have been busy developing an electric car. The company itself was established in 1994 by Apostle Dr Ing. Kwadwo Safo Kantanka to manufacture a range of saloons, four-wheel drives, SUVs AND PICKUPS.

In December 2019, the company started manufacturing electric vehicles. The Kantanka Odeneho II is powered by 12 rechargeable batteries, each with a predicted lifespan of over four years. Unlike EVs produced outside of Africa, such as the Tesla, the Kantanka Odeneho does not require specialist set up or equipment for charging as it plugs straight into a mains socket.

MOBIUS MOTORS

Founded in Kenya in 2011 by Joel Jackson, the first generation Mobius II was launched in 2015 with the next-generation released in 2019. Mobius uses the slogan "Designed for Africa. Built in Africa." It released its first batch of low-cost vehicles towards the end of 2017. Designed for Africa's com-

mon road terrain and transport usage, the SUV costs around €9,000 (\$10,000), which is roughly the price of a used sedan.

AFRICA'S FIRST EV

Africa's first electric vehicle to go into production, the Kiira EV, was built by students of Uganda's Makerere University in 2011 with government support. The students went on to found Kiira Motors Corporation (KMC) after taking part in a vehicle design summit organized by the MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

In 2014, KMC officially became a company owned by the Ugandan government and Makerere University. Eager to support the production of eco-friendly vehicles, the government granted the company a 100 acres of land to establish a manufacturing plant.

KMC has so far designed and built three concept vehicles, the first of their kind in Africa. They include the Kiira EV, Kiira EV Smach, which is the first electric hybrid vehicle designed and built in Africa and the Kayoola Solar Bus, which runs on lithium-ion batteries that power the electric motor plus a 2-speed pneumatic shift transmission.

Only time will tell if Africa will win the fight for domestically manufactured vehicles, designed for the terrain at affordable prices but where there's a will, there's a way.

The Continent's growing urbanisation and middle classes have some power and appear to be voting with their feet. It seems some governments are also now keen to support local production - The Network Executive

MOTORING: Briefs

FUTURE AFRICA LESS THAN FOUR-WHEELED

As incomes rise in Africa, so will the volume of motorised vehicles.

However, mobility does not necessarily follow the same trajectory as in already mature markets. The future of mobility in Africa is two- or three-wheeled, rather than four-wheeled.

The Covid-19 pandemic in Africa (and Asia) has seen the growing popularity of two- and three-wheeled vehicles, which are used for public transport, delivery of goods, and provision of services, both in the formal economy and the informal one.

In fact, motorcycles sales in East Africa have now overtaken those of private cars. Annual growth rates of motorbike registrations stood at more than 8% from 2013 to 2017.

Motorcycle sales across the region are expected to increase to half a million by 2030 - Global Fleet The Executive Network.

CHINA BENTLEY LARGEST SALES REGION

Bentley Motors Friday posted the company's 2021 half-year performance, with sales and profit levels unmatched in Bentley's 102-year history.

This includes an operating profit of €178 million, greater than any profit figure posted for a full-year period by the company. Moreover, retail sales increased by 50 per cent from a pre-COVID 2019 figure of 4,785 to 7,199 in 2021.

These sales were well-balanced between the luxury marque's three model lines, Bentayga (2,767), Continental GT (2,318) and Flying Spur (2,063).

The Bentayga maintained the number one model position as full market availability was reached for the first time. Hybrid and S models have also been announced.

With the introduction of the Speed in the second half of the year, it is anticipated that Continental GT sales could reach record numbers three years after introduction.

The market launch of Flying Spur in China, now Bentley's biggest sales region, contributed to the model line's share of 29 per cent of global sales further helped by the addition of the V8 engine.

LAMBO REVS UP SALES

Lamborghini has set another record, by delivering 4853 vehicles in the first six months of 2021 and recording its best half year ever, with sales up 37% compared to the same period in 2020.

The order portfolio is equally positive, with production already covered for the next ten months until April 2022.

The Super SUV Urus remains the best-selling model (with 2796 vehicles, +35%), followed by the Huracán (1532 vehicles, +46%) and the Aventador (524 vehicles, +21%).

Last month saw the launch of the Aventador LP 780-4 Ultimae, while this summer will also see the arrival of the Huracán STO and the Huracán GT3 EVO, as well as the presentation of another new product.

In terms of markets, the U.S. are still leaders (with 1502 vehicles), followed by mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao (602) which have leapt into second place. Then come Germany (391), the U.K. (318), Japan (258), the Middle East (226) and Italy (197).

SOSHANGUVE TAXIS FUEL OWN STATION

The taxi owners in Soshanguve are planning to expand their business by building fuel stations in other parts of the country.

And whilst you still wondering, they are not stopping there as their main objective is to build fuel stations in other parts of the country and eventually save enough money to start a local taxi manufacturing company.

The name of their taxi brand will be Hamba, which they hope will give the likes of Toyota Quantum some competition.

Built by money collected by the taxi owners in Soshanguve they are planning to expand their business by building fuel stations in other parts of the country.

Road Safety for Women Driving Alone

VULNERABLE:

Extra vigilance called for female drivers



EASY TARGETS: Female motorists need beware.

By Arrive Alive

Women are regarded in the insurance industry as "safer" drivers and less likely to be in a road accident. Even though all motorists need to be alert and cautious, female drivers, unfortunately, have to be even more vigilant in order to avoid falling prey to criminal acts such as hijacking, intimidation, sexual assault or worse.

Our women drivers are still regarded as more vulnerable by most criminals. In this section, we would like to offer advice and a few precautions that could enhance the safety of all drivers - and especially our female drivers!

Drivers should always consider the threats and possible worst case scenarios - and plan to avoid as many of these as possible. Precautions would include the following:

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

A well-maintained car is less likely to break down - Keep your car in good mechanical condition and have it serviced regularly by a reputable garage. Have a safety

check done before each long trip. Even better - learn how to change a tyre, jump-start the battery, or change a wiper blade. The more you empower yourself with basic maintenance tips, the fewer chances of you being the damsel in distress.

Never run out of fuel. Get into the habit of filling when the tank's half empty rather than waiting for the warning light. Get faults diagnosed and fixed promptly rather than waiting for them to get worse or hoping they'll go away. Check tyre condition and pressure regularly. Get damaged or excessively worn tyres renewed, and don't forget to check the spare.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Don't drive after dark into areas you don't know if you can avoid it. It is easy to get lost and become a target for criminal activity. Drive with a decent GPS for enhanced safety, and tell someone your route, and what time you expect to arrive. Always be ready in the event of a delay on the road - Ensure your cellular phone is fully charged - and invest in a car charger should you not

already have one.

Add emergency numbers to your phone - such as that of a motoring assistance company, car insurance company etc.

SAFETY WHILE DRIVING

While you drive you can enhance safety by focusing on the following:

- When stopped in traffic, leave enough space to pull out from behind the car you are following.
 - Lock all doors and roll up the windows while you drive.
 - Be especially cautious when you approach intersections crowded with street vendors, newspaper sellers, beggars and street kids.
 - Keep your valuables - laptop, handbag, mobile phone - out of sight. Even though there has been a success in reducing hijackings, theft from vehicles in SA has increased.
 - If you suspect that you are being followed, drive on to the nearest police station or busy place to get help.
- #### NOTICING THAT YOU ARE FOLLOWED
- Should you notice a vehicle following you closely, turn into a different road than the one you would normally take, but take note of road signs and landmarks so that you remain aware of your surroundings.
 - Drive to the nearest police station - but if it is too far or you don't know where it is, drive to the nearest fuel station or convenience centre.
 - In an emergency, there is indeed strength in numbers!

NEW CABINET APPOINTMENTS



ZIZI KODWA
Deputy Minister
in the Presidency, State Security



MMAMOLOKA KUBAYI
Minister
Human Settlements



SINDISIWE CHIKUNGA
Deputy Minister
Transport



THANDI MODISE
Minister
Defence and Military Veterans



AYANDA DLODLO
Minister
Public Service and Administration



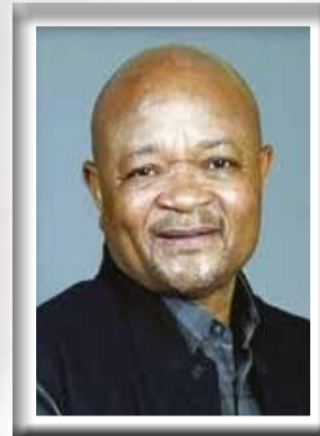
ENOCH GODONGWANA
Minister
Finance



JOE PHAAHLA
Minister
Health



LINDIWE SISULU
Minister
Tourism



SENZO MCHUNU
Minister
Water and Sanitation



MONDLI GUNGUBELE
Minister
in the Presidency



SIBONGISENI DHLOMO
Deputy Minister
Health



STELLA NDABENI-ABRAHAMS
Minister
Small Business Development



PHILLY MAPULANE
Deputy Minister
Communications and
Digital Technologies



THEMBI NKADIMENG
Deputy Minister - Cooperative
Governance and Traditional Affairs



CHANA PILANE-MAJAKE
Deputy Minister - Public Service
and Administration



ZOLEKA CAPA
Deputy Minister - Agriculture, Rural
Development and Land Reform



PINKY KEKANA
Second Deputy Minister
in the Presidency



KHUMBUDZO NTSHAVHENI
Minister - Communications and
Digital Technologies



NOBUHLE NKABANE
Deputy Minister
Mineral Resources and Energy



DIKELEDI MAGADZI
Deputy Minister
Water and Sanitation



SDUMO DLAMINI
Deputy Minister
Small Business Development

THE PRESIDENCY REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA'S STRUGGLING HORSERACING LIMPS TOWARDS MAJOR SHAKE-UP



Dumile Mateza

TOUCHLINE MUSINGS

Over the years horseracing has been the sport of kings because it was associated with the rich and famous such as the Oppenheims and many such families.

One of the most famous owners of thoroughbred horses was no less a person than Bridget Oppenheimer, mother of Nicky and Mary. The only black person ever to be associated with thoroughbred ownership was the late Richard Maponya.

Therefore, black people in South Africa had very little to do with horseracing, only as punters,

HARDEST HIT BY COVID: Modernising existing venues and developing new business models needed to save the sport of kings

grooms (work with trainers in grooming the horse to be neat and clean) and workriders (their role is to get the horse race ready). No wonder the sport has always been accused of being elitist, discriminatory and lack transformation.

These accusations came sharply to the fore, when several people including probably the only black woman horse owner Phindi Kema, laid a complaint with the Public Protector for the biggest operator Phumelela at the time to be investigated for dominance in the market.

The other accusation levelled against Phumelela was that of or having allegedly abused state property in horserace courses like Turfontein, Gosforthpark, Newmarket, Fairview and Arlington in Port Elizabeth.

The biggest gripe for Kema was that these were state owned properties offered to Phumelela to facilitate the corporatisation of horseracing in Gauteng but Gosforthpark and Newmarket were sold at above market value and such income was pocketed by Phumelela.

Even though the Public Protector found against Phumelela, the latter successfully challenged the report by taking it on review and the report was nullified. Soon thereafter, just before South Africa was hit by the devastating Covid19, Phumelela filed for

business rescue. The business rescue coupled with the Covid19 pandemic nearly decimated horseracing in South Africa.

There were fears that the lockdown instituted by government would 'kill' the sport. In the Business Rescue process a knight in shining armour was Mary Oppenheimer, who offered to save the situation. Recommendations made by the Gambling Review Commission set up by the department of Trade and Industry to look at Gambling in relation to horseracing in South Africa are worth mentioning to set the industry back in full gallop.

The Commission acknowledges that horseracing is a well-established and reasonably well-managed industry in South Africa, and though clearly facing major challenge it appears set to ride out the economic downturn as well as declining on-course and off-course betting on horseracing.

As one of the major employers in South Africa, the Commission recommends that for the industry to be more attractive to new especially younger punters, this requires a combination of two things: modernising existing venues and race formats, and developing new business models more closely integrated with other forms of gambling. Both of these changes are in line with world trends.

The current ownership and funding arrange-

ments do not provide sufficient impetus for modernization. Furthermore, the sector seems constrained in its ability to make commercial decisions by its licensing conditions.

The Commission therefore offers the following recommendations:

1. Market forces should be allowed to dictate the number and location of tracks, as well as the number of races. Consideration should be given to separating the ownership of the tracks and the tote. The tracks could be funded through a combination of a levy on the gambling tote, bookmakers and online betting operators, as well as commercial rights, such as broadcasting rights for races."
2. The current funding models for the industry should be reviewed to ensure that the tax rates and levies paid to the industry are standardised across the board to create a level field."
3. The horseracing industry should be enabled to integrate its operations with other forms of gaming, especially slots.
4. Current proposals that the former Jockey Club, now known as the Horseracing Authority, should become a statutory regulator should be considered.

OLYMPICS TOKYO 2020 CLOSING CEREMONY SUNDAY

WORLDS WE SHARE:

Organisers say theme expresses the idea that each of us inhabits their own world



By Weekly SA Mirror Reporter

Tokyo 2020 will conclude on Sunday, Aug. 8, with several events, including volleyball, boxing, and the men's marathon all scheduled for the final day of competition.

The last event of the Tokyo Olympic Games will be the men's water polo final at 4:30 p.m. in Tokyo. After the last goal is scored and the final winner is declared, the Closing Ceremony will take place at the Tokyo Olympic Stadium at 8 p.m. local time in Tokyo.

Needless to say, the Summer Olympics in Tokyo was unlike any other Games. Delayed a year by the coronavirus pandemic, the Tokyo Olympics went off with few spectators in the stands, families left at home, and athletes who were masked, quarantined, and tested daily due to the ongoing COVID-19 state of emergency.

Despite the challenges of staging the Games during a pandemic, the Olympics were still full of notable moments. Simone Biles withdrew from the gymnastics team event to prioritize her mental health and sparked a conversation about the pressure on elite athletes.

Biles' teammates earned silver in the team final and 18-year old Sunisa Lee became won the women's individual all-around competition to become the first Hmong-American to win an Olympic gold medal.

Despite Katie Ledecky's speed, rising Australian star swimmer Ariarne Titmus beat her in the women's 400-m and 200-m freestyle finals. Great Britain's Tom Daley and Matty Lee won the 10-m synchronized diving. Nishiya Momiji also became the youngest Olympic gold medalist in Japan's history with her win in the women's street skateboarding event.

Swimmer Ahmed Hafnaoui, a 50-1 longshot from Tunisia, took gold in the men's 400-m freestyle. Qatar's Mutaz Essa Barshim and Italy's Gianmarco Tamberi decided to share a gold medal in the high jump. And that was all before the final days of competition.

Like at the Opening Ceremony, fans are not allowed to attend the Closing Ceremony due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. However, dignitaries and officials will be present, as well as those athletes remaining in Tokyo.

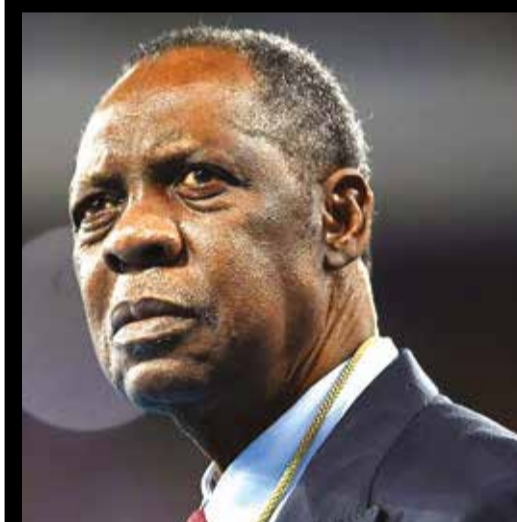
The Closing Ceremony has been a part of the

Games since the first Olympiad in 1896 in Athens. It is a celebration that takes place at the end of every Olympics to mark the end of the Games and marks the slow build-up to the next summer games, set for Paris in 2024.

The theme for this year's Closing Ceremony is "Worlds We Share," which organizers say reflects the Olympic spirit and "expresses the idea that each of us inhabits their own world".

While the artistic elements of the Closing Ceremony are left up to each host country, there are certain protocols set during the 1920 Games in Antwerp that were later put into the Olympic bylaws. Those elements include many moments that Olympic watchers have come to love, including the parade of the nations' flags, the victory parade, the handing out of final medals, and the lowering of the Olympic flag and its handover to the representative of the next host city, in this case, Paris. Perhaps the most moving element is the extinguishing of the Olympic flame. As the lights go out, the Games are truly over.

With the Closing Ceremony scheduled Sunday the world will get ready for the 2020 Summer Paralympics, beginning August 24.



BLIGHT ON HAYATOU'S LEGACY

Former FIFA interim president Issa Hayatou has been banned for one year and fined 30,000 Swiss francs (\$33,189.51) for a breach of FIFA's ethics code, the world soccer body said on Tuesday.

Cameroon's Hayatou, 74, served as Confederation of African Football (CAF) president for 29 years until he was voted out in 2017. He was acting president of FIFA from 2015-16 when Sepp Blatter, now 85, was suspended amid a widespread corruption scandal. Hayatou is also an honorary member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

FIFA said an investigation into Hayatou's conduct as CAF president concerned involvement in deals for media and marketing rights of CAF competitions with France-based Lagardère Sports between 2014 and 2017.

The adjudicatory chamber ruled that Hayatou had entered "in the name and on behalf of the confederation, into an anti-competitive agreement with Lagardère Sport which was detrimental and caused significant damage to CAF." FIFA said this amounted to 200 million Egyptian pounds (\$12.76 million) and had caused reputational and financial damage.

The ban, from any kind of football-related activity at both national and international level, came into force on Tuesday. Hayatou, who rarely makes public comments, could not immediately be contacted.-Reuters.

SPORTS: *Briefs***JELE TO SERVE MORE TIME AT PIRATES**

Orlando Pirates captain Happy Jele has signed a new contract that could keep him with the club until 2023, the club confirmed Wednesday. Having arrived at Pirates in 2005, Jele is approaching 400 appearances for the side.

Pirates have also confirmed that they have parted ways with Gladwin Shitolo, who was on loan at Lamontville Arrows. They also revealed that Justice Chabalala, who they initially said would be joining Chippa United on loan, will now be heading to Sekhukhune United.

VAN DIJK TAKING IT EASY

Liverpool defender Virgil Van Dijk is taking a cautious approach as he prepares for the next step in his return from injury. The Netherlands centre-back ruptured his anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee in challenge with Everton keeper Jordan Pickford in October 2020.

Speaking to the Liverpool website Van Dijk said: "I'm doing well. It's obviously been a tough pre-season, coming back from such a long time (out) to be playing and training with the boys again is a big thing".

Van Dijk had made a brief appearance in the Bologna friendly in addition to the 20 minutes he played against Hertha Berlin last week, Liverpool's Premier League season starts at Norwich on August 14.

SINCKLER IN A BITING STINKER

British and Irish Lions prop Kyle Sinckler has denied biting a South African opponent in Saturday's second test but was still waiting a decision after being cited for the alleged incident. Sinckler was cited "for an act of foul play contrary to Law 9.12 (biting) during the 64th minute of the second test against South Africa in Cape Town on July 31, 2021", a statement from World Rugby said on Sunday.

If found guilty, the England front-row forward could face a sanction of anything between three months and two years on the sidelines. Media reported the prop was alleged to have bitten South Africa front-row France Mostert's arm during a ruck during South Africa's 27-9 victory.

His coach Warren Gatland has named Sinckler among the replacements again for Saturday's decisive third test, subject to the outcome of the hearing.

VETTEL LOSES SECOND SPOT

Sebastian Vettel lost his second-place finish in Sunday's Hungarian Formula One Grand Prix after being disqualified by stewards for a fuel irregularity, a stewards' statement said.

The German, who crossed the line 1.8 seconds behind first-time race winner Esteban Ocon, did not have enough fuel in his Aston Martin to provide a sample after the race as required by the rules. The decision moved Lewis Hamilton up to second, handing the Mercedes driver an eight-point lead over title rival Max Verstappen, who moved up to ninth.

DID YOU KNOW?

- In February 2021, Portuguese soccer wizard Cristiano Ronaldo became the first person in the world to reach 500 million followers across Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

- In March 2021, he passed Brazilian legend Pele's goal tally; a hat trick against Serie A foe Cagliari pushed him up to 770 goals in all competitions.

- His four-year contract with Juventus is worth an average of \$64 million a year and expires in 2022.

- Ronaldo, a five-time FIFA player of the year, in 2020 became the first active team-sport athlete to surpass \$1 billion in career earnings.

- In addition to a lifetime deal with Nike, Ronaldo makes money off the pitch with his CR7-branded clothing, accessories, hotels and gyms.

**PILLAR: Finky "MaThousand" Sekete****By Masoja Cele**

Legendary midfield anchor Finky "Mathousand" Sekete formed the spinal column of the revered Moroka Swallows Limited in the late 70's and early 80's. At a young age, midfield grafter was drafted into the Birds team that was buzzing with talent.

"Most definitely, Swallows had great players on my arrival. Players who starred at the team then were of high quality. They boasted the likes of Andries "Panyaza" Maseko, Daniel "Vader" Mophosho, Joel "Ace" Mnini, Frederick "Congo" Malebane. The late Percy "Chippa"

Moloi convinced me to join the Dube Birds. Fortunately, the presence of the midfield dynamo, the late "Vader" Mophosho played a role for me to settle with the beautiful Birds. The talented Mophosho was a senior player when we played at Moroka Lions FC in Alexandra. Remember, "Izinyoni-Ezibomvu" were part of the Soweto Big Three alongside Orlando Pirates and Kaizer Chiefs", says Sekete.

Sekete still recall the encouragement he received from one of the top Alexandra football administrator. The popular El Supremo stimulated the former midfielder in his game.

"Actually, the current Pirates chairman Dr. Irvin Khoza inspired me to take football more serious. Khoza was senior Alexandra football officer. He was a student and the youngest football executive. Dr. Khoza would even supply me with soccer boots. Patently, he played an important role in my football career" swanked Sekete. The defensive midfielder is the veteran of many of Swallows intriguing football scuffles, but classified the 1980 Mainstay Cup semi-final as a treasure.

"The final before the final. Swallows emerged from the oblivion to reach the semi-final of the Mainstay Cup semi-final on an unforgettable afternoon at Orlando Stadium. It was the semi-final fixture against cross town rivals Kaizer Chiefs. I

A THOUSAND FINKY MIDFIELDERS MAKES SEKETE

WORKAHOLIC: Star shone brightest during Mainstay Cup semi final '80 against Chiefs

will cherish the game for the rest of my life. Soccer fanatics flocked into Orlando Stadium as early as 10:00 am. It was thrill a minute affair with AmaKhosi trailing for the better part of the contest. And the energy sapping game ended at 5-5 much to the delight of both sets of fans. The match would be later dubbed the "The Way of Life" and a film was produced to that effect" says Sekete.

The midfield-workaholic would further explain how they plot the downfall of the Phefeni Glamour boys in the replay of the competition. We approached the replay match with different tactics and zest. There was this notion that you'd never beat in a replay, but we proved football masses wrong by beating Chiefs 2-1 with Frederick "Congo" Malebane and the late Jeffrey "Tornado" Ntsibande banging in the goals. I was thrilled after the final whistle because I managed to keep the tricky Chiefs midfield maestro Patrick "Ace" Ntsoelongoe out of the game. It was not easy to play against the maestro".

"He was a genius. The midfield colossus would go the opposite direction when AmaKhosi attacked. And when you follow him he would create space for his teammates. The next moment Ntsoelongoe in your half and you will be lost in Chiefs half. He would talk to you for the better part of the proceedings, just to make you lose your focus. He was such a brilliant player. We need more like him in our football today", added Sekete.

After flying high with the Beautiful Birds Sekete moved on to join Durban Bush Bucks.

"The late former Bush Bucks manger Larwence "Big Bear" Ngubane approached me with a view to join Bucks. He made me a good tempting offer that led me to pack my bags and moved to Durban. I had great time at Bucks where I blended well with the stylish Mlungisi "Professor" Ngubane, Vusi Silango, Bennett Gondwe to mention the three. Professor Ngubane was the captain of the team and led by example. He acted as a link between the players and management" reveals Sekete.

The golden generations of the 70's and 80's

were christened with meaningful moniker that suits the style of individual players.

"Definitely, my generation were given such exciting nicknames that were identical with your style of play. Unfortunately my nickname was derived from my surname Sekete which means 'thousand' in English" concludes Sekete.

**IN ACTION: Finky "Mathousand" Sekete doing what he knows best during his time at Moroka Swallows****NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

"Women need real moments of solitude and self-reflection to balance out how much of ourselves we give away."

Barbara de Angelis

Insight to connect the dots...

MTN 8 QUARTERS REKINDLE OLD RIVALRIES

**THE ONE: MOUTH-WATERING
CLASHES KICK-START MUCH-AWAITED
PREMIERSHIP 2021/22 SEASON**

SHARP SHOOTER: Sundowns goal poacher Peter Shalulle.

DEBUT: Chiefs new signee Keagan Dolly

By Ali Mphaki

Soccer fans are sharpening their appetites ahead of a mouth-watering DStv Premiership kickoff with the MTN 8 quarterfinals next weekend a sumptuous starter to what promises to be a sweet and sour 2021/22 season.

The football gods could not have prepared a better dish to serve football starved local fans, what with archrivals Orlando Pirates crossing forks with Swallows FC, while the reimagined Kaizer Chiefs to engage in a life and death “knife” battle against their obdurate foe, the seemingly invincible Mamelodi Sundowns.

Both games penciled for 3pm Saturday. With the clock slowly ticking towards kickoff time, tongues are wagging and excitement is slowly reaching fever pitch as fans engage on who will win the original Soweto derby taking place at Pirates home ground at the Orlando stadium.

Adding intrigue to this encounter is that Pirates are the defending MTN 8 title holders,

while the “kings of draws” Swallows FC can be as unpredictable as the weather.

As the defending mentor, pressure is undoubtedly on the Pirates coach Josef Zinnbauer, who in his collective wisdom with his technical team has to ensure that his charges emerge victorious.

The German coach Zinnbauer knows full well that nothing short of a victory will appease the hard to please hordes of Bucs supporters, a section of which wants to see the back of him.

Resplendent in their sky blue new kit, supposedly to represent the energy of the youth in the team, Pirates were lackluster when they lost on penalties to Chiefs in last weekend’s Carling Cup final.

That there was no score for 90 minutes of that encounter no wonder one cynic observed that “Pirates play like they are scoring on the sides”.

News from the Swallows FC camp is that coach Brandon Truter is having a “nice” problem what that his whole entourage, including newcomers, boasting a clean bill of health and

with none of his players serving suspensions.

Truter’s side has also been bolstered by the signing of “flopped” former Pirates winger Austin Muwowo, who if given a chance will want to prove a point against the Amabhakabhaka.

As for Pirates’ noisy neighbours Kaizer Chiefs, corky after clinching the Carling Black Label cup, indications are that their bubble seems destined to be burst by the marauding Sundowns in the early kick off of 3pm at the Lucas Moripe stadium in Soshanguve.

“Returned soldier” Chiefs coach Stuart Baxter will do well to forget the 4-1 loss he suffered at the hands of Sundowns in his first domestic game for Chiefs those many years ago in 2012.

Baxter’s latest return to Chiefs, the third time a coach returned to Amakhosi in different seasons, did not start well with him on the bench when Chiefs lost to Ah Ahly in the CAF Champions League final in Casablanca, Morocco, last month.

While it is obvious the Chiefs family are enamoured with Baxter, sentiments will be on the back seat as the long suffering Amakhosi fans

look up to him to effect a much needed change in their fortunes going forwards.

The new “CBD” at Chiefs comprising Leonardo Castro, Khama Billiat, and Keagan Dolly, albeit now of a matured age, will have to bring their “A” game and valuable experience to see the Naturena side ascend the podium to clinch another title and bring back those glory days to the club.

Coastland fans have not been left out of the MTN 8 showdown, with KZN side Ama-zulu sniffing gloves with Cape Town City. Last season surprise side Lamontville Golden Arrows will also be in action against SuperSport United.

Both games scheduled for 6pm.

Cup games by their nature are unpredictable and the impossible can be possible.

What is not in debate, however, is that when the referees blow their final whistle come early evening next Saturday, some fans will have to eat their humble pies while others will have their tables overflowing in front of the eyes of their enemies. **This is it!**