

Vuk'uzenzele

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Tshimedzi 2022 Khandiso 2

Once empty land now thriving community farm

THE MEMBERS of an agricultural cooperative are working towards becoming large-scale, commercial farmers – thanks to the power of community unity and the support of government.

Owen Mngadi

By working together, the Middelpos community in Saldanha Bay in the Western Cape has turned an empty plot of land into a vibrant, mixed agricultural farm.

The people of Middelpos realised how much more they could achieve as a community than they could as individuals and formed the Thembelihle small-scale farmer cooperative. Today, the group is collectively working the 112-hectare farm it leases from the municipality to combat hunger, poverty and unemployment.

According to Gerrit de



■ Thembelihle cooperative recently received over R6 million in equipment and support from government.
Photo supplied

Bruyn (58), chairperson of the cooperative, members of the community started to use the vacant land to grow food in the then informal settlement in 2011. With more and more people starting food gardens on the land, the community decided to work together to form a cooperative.

The cooperative approached the Saldanha Bay Municipality and signed a formal five-year lease agreement to use the land for farming in 2017. In 2019, while the 2017 contract was still in existence, they renewed the contract after intervention by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. This year, they signed a seven-year lease agreement that will come to an end in 2026.

De Bruyn says they

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CONTACT US

Website: www.gcis.gov.za
www.vukuzenzele.gov.za

Vuk'uzenzele @VukuzenzeleNews

Email: vukuzenzele@gcis.gov.za
Tel: (+27) 12 473 0103

Tshedimosetso House:
1035 cnr Francis Baard and Festival streets, Hatfield, Pretoria, 0083

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divided the farm into two and four hectares to be used for crop and livestock farming. Spinach, cabbage, onions, potatoes and tomatoes are among the produce grown, while on the livestock side, pigs, Boer goats and cows are raised. The farm also has broilers and laying hens that produce thousands of eggs daily.

The cooperative has a diverse membership of men and women and young and older people.

De Bruyn says they supply their produce to local supermarkets and sell livestock at auctions.

"It is amazing how this place has been transformed from what it was before. This was done through our collective efforts; we all demonstrated a passion for farming. We made sacrifices, we turned our homes into offices and used an internet cafe to do administrative work. We supply established supermarkets because of the quality and commitment we show in our work," he says.

The farm has created jobs for some locals who work as herdsmen and farm assistants.

De Bruyn believes that the land is too small for the number of people who belong to the cooperative

and says they are exploring other options to get access to underutilised land.

Recently, the cooperative received farming equipment worth over R6 million from the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Thoko Didiza. Goods handed over included seeds, containers for storage, mobile offices, a bakkie, a cattle trailer and a kraal, while fencing support will also be given.

In explaining the challenges the cooperative faced before the handover, he said that their private homes had to be used for administration and storage. "We sold cattle

through auction and transportation was a serious challenge. The timing is critical in agriculture to ensure you deliver your product on time. So all these supplements [donations] will come in handy going forward."

Another farmer, Ntuthuko Mngoma, who is the secretary of the cooperative, says the Minister's visit gave the community hope and motivation.

He says he is happy that their farm has created employment and believes that proper fencing will go a long way in making it more successful because their cattle will be better protected.

De Bruyn says the donation from the department will help increase the farm's production capacity, which – in turn – will help them in their quest to become commercial farmers.❶



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Farmers who want to be assisted by the DALRRD can visit www.dalrrd.gov.za or email queries@dalrrd.gov.za / info@DALRRD.gov.za

Owen Mngadi

The sky is the limit for Mpumalanga poultry farmer Lungile Mkhize, who hopes to establish herself as one of the major egg producers in her province.

Armed with a Diploma in Agricultural Science from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Mkhize (29) is putting her scientific and practical knowledge into practice. She completed her practical training at an established farm, Limiet Rivier, where she learnt how to run a business.

"I made sure I learnt all the aspects of the business, including the administration and financing part of it. I asked my supervisors to involve me in the whole value chain, including the market and customer relations. I wanted to learn about the funding available for small businesses and how to service loans or any borrowed assets. I knew that my vision was not only to grow chickens, but to become a business-

Egg producer off to cracking good start



Mpumalanga egg farmer Lungile Mkhize.

Picture supplied by Lungile Mkhize

woman," she explains.

Mkhize is on an upward trajectory, after starting out in 2019 with 500 broilers and 300 layers in the backyard of her home in Siyabuswa township, near the Limpopo/Mpumalanga border. She says

within a few months, she formalised her business and registered it as Lungile Poultry Farm, with the vision of applying her academic knowledge to create employment for others.

Mkhize currently has 900 layers that produce over

2 000 eggs a day and over 2 000 broiler chickens.

However, starting from scratch was not easy and her parents sacrificed their pension fund to purchase the equipment, worth R380 000, that she needed to start the farm.

In 2020, Mkhize took a leap of faith and successfully applied to the Mpumalanga Youth Development Fund (MYDF), which is a three-year pilot project aimed at supporting youth job creation.

Mkhize says she felt honoured to have been approved as one of the beneficiaries and intends to use the R 2.5 million grant that she received to increase egg production to 40 000 per day by 2024. She also intends to grow her staff complement from three to eight and to employ 10 seasonal workers.

Mkhize recently completed the Embassy of France in South Africa and the Gordon Institute of Business Science's women in agriculture empowerment programme.❶

For more information about applying for the MYDF, you can email MYDF@mpg.gov.za or call **013 766 2108/2005**



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communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: 012 473 0353

Email: vukuzenzele@gcis.gov.za

Address: Private Bag X745, Pretoria, 0001

Head of Editorial and Production

Regomoditswe Mavimbela
Regomoditswe@gcis.gov.za

Acting Editor-in-Chief

Zanele Mngadi | Zanelemngadi@gcis.gov.za

Acting Managing Editor

Tendai Gonese | tendai@gcis.gov.za

News Editor

Noluthando Motswai

Writers: More Matshediso

Graphic Designers

Tendai Gonese | Benny Kubjana

Production Assistants

Jauhara Khan | Sebastian Palmer

Language Practitioners

Nomgcibelo Motha | Boitumelo Phalatse
Thandolunye Khulu | Mahanyele Ramapala

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"ZWINO NDI TSHIFHINGA TSHA URI ROTHE RI SHUMISANE HU U HULISA VHO NELSON MANDELA NA U FHAȚA AFRIKA TSHIPEMBE LISWA LA KHWINE LA VHATHU VHOTHE."

Muphuresidennde Vho Cyril Ramaphosa

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KHA VHA ITE URI VHUMATSELO HAVHO VHU SHUME KHWINE RI GUDA KHA VHO MADIBA



A huna thandululo ya u ḥavanya kha u fhelisa zwa u khaulwa ha muḍagasi nga u sielisana fhedzi mvelaphanda i khou itiwa

Kha muthu muñwe na muñwe a no dzula kha lino shango, zwa u khaulwa ha muḍagasi nga u sielisana u bva vhegeni dzo fhelaho zwo vhanga ndađo na khaedu nga maanđa. U sinyuwa ho kalulesaho ha lushaka ho vha ho tea.

Sa musi Eskom yo kombe-tshedza habe u dovha ya vhuedzedza zwa u khaulwa ha muḍagasi nga u sielisana hu u itela u tsireledza giridi ya lushaka, mabindu, miňa na vhathu vho di wana vha khou tambula nga u tsumiwa ha muḍagasi u swika kha awara nna nga khathihi.

Zwa u khaluwa ha muḍagasi nga u sielisana zwi vho fhira mpimo. Zwi na masiendoitwa mahulwane kha masia othe a lushaka lwashu u bva kha sia la zwa pfunzo uya kha sia la zwa vhutsireledzi ha lushaka khathihi na ndisedzo ya tshumelo ya zwa mutakalo. Mabindu mahulwane na maňku a khou xelevwa nga tshelede nahone khaedu iyi ya fulufulu i khou vhanga khombo kha sia la zwa vhube-nnduzi khathihi na u tsikeledza mbuyedzedzo ya ikonomi yashu.

Hu na u laňa fulufhelo kha zwa uri hetshi tshiimo tshi vhonala tshi sa khou khwinifhadzea khathihi na zwa uri mbonalo ya tshiwo itsi i sumba i nga si fhele.

Naho hu na swisiwla ja khaedu ya zwa u khaulwa ha muḍagasi nga u sielisana, hu tea u vha na thandululo kha itsi tshiwo tsha muḍagasi.

Ri khou bvelaphanda na u ita maga marñe we a u tandulula thaidzo iyi e nda a ḥivhadza nga nwedzi wa Fulwana, naho zwi nga si tou vhonala nga u ḥavanya.

Sa musi zwiřtshi zwa Eskom



zwi shumisaho malasha zwi sa khou shuma nga ndila yo teaho, ri nga si kone u fhelisa zwa u khaulwa ha muḍagasi nga u sielisana nga u ḥavanya.

Hezwi ndi ngoho i si ya vhuđi ya tshiimo tshashu, ine ya vha na ḥivhazwakale yo lapfaho.

Tshipikwa tshashu tshihulwane kha tshino tshifhinga ndi u fhungudza maitele a u ḥuwisa ha muḍagasi nga u ḥandulukana na vhuleme ha zwa u khaulwa ha muḍagasi nga u lugisa tshinyalo dza tshiřtshi tsha muḍagasi.

Heyi ndi khaedu ya ndeme musi ro sedza miñwaha ya zwiřtshi zwa muḍagasi khathihi na zwa uri tshifhingani tsho fhiraho ndondolo yo vha i sa khou itiwa nga tshifhinga tshoteaho.

Eskom i katni u shumisa maga a u khwinifhadza kushumele kwa tshiřtshini tsha muḍagasi, zwine zwa vha zwa ndeme u swika vhubveledzi vhuswa ha muḍagasi vhu tshi do thoma u shumisawa.

I khou tandulula thaidzo khulwane ya ndisedzo ya malasha, zwi tshi katela u shumisana na vha Transnet kha ku endedzele kwa malasha khathihi na u lavhelesa ku shumele kwa ndisedzo ya malasha a tshi bva migodini u swika zwiřtshini zwa muḍagasi. Eskom i khou dovha hafhu ya tandulula

khaedu ya u shumisawa ha malasha a si a vhuđi, zwine zwa vhanga u tshinyala ha tshiřtshi tsha muḍagasi. Vhathu vha re na tshenzhemmo siani la zwa tshumelo ya zwiřtshi zwa muḍagasi vho dovha hafhu vha tholwa uri vha kone u thusa uri pulanti dzi shume zwavhuđi, ndangulo khathihi na u pfhumbudza vhashumi.

U itela uri ndondolo dza khwine dzi itiwe nga tshifhinga, nyambedzano dzi khou itiwa u itela u khwinifhadza ḥodea dza zwishumisawa na u shumisa vhabveledzi vha zwishumisawa u ita mushumo wa zwa ndondolo.

U itela u tandulula thaidzo ya fulufulu nga u ḥavanya, Eskom yo shuma u bva nga nwedzi wa Fulwana u itela u wana muḍagasi wa ndindakhombo, na zwa uri kha vhege yo fhelaho yo thoma mbekanyamusho ya thengo ya muḍagasi u swikaho 1 000 megawatsi (MW) wa ndindakhombo u bva kha dzikhamphani dzi no bveledza muḍagasi khathihi na u itela u wana muḍagasi u bva kha mashango a tsini.

Muvhuso wo sedzesza nga maanđa kha zwikili, tshenzhemo na vhukoni ha vhurangaphanda ha Eskom u itela uri khamphani i vhe na vhathu vha ḥivhaho mushumo kha levele dzothe dza tshimisawa itsi.

Haya maga a do thusa kha u fhungudza zwa u ḥuwisa ha muḍagasi nga u ḥandulukana khathihi na vhuleme ha zwa u khaulwa ha muḍagasi nga u sielisana sa izwi ri khou qisa muḍagasi muswa kha giridi nga tshifhinga tsha vhukati u itela u engedza ndisedzo ya fulufulu.

Zwenezwino, muvhuso wo saina thendelano dza thengiso ya muḍagasi wa 420 MW hune tharu dza u thoma dzi na vharengi vha tshipentshela nga phasi ha Bid Window 5 ya mbekanyamushumo ya zwa fulufulu li bvusuludzvaho.

Hedzi thandela tharu dzo lavhelelwa u do ḥumiwa kha giridi nga nwedzi wa Tshimedzi 2024, na ndugiselo dzi kati malugana na u saina na vharengi vha tshipentshela vha swikaho 22 vho salaho.

Tshivhalo tsha khaphasithi ya vhubveledzi tshire tsha do wanala u bva kha Bid Window 6 tshi do engedza 2 600 MW kha 4 200 MW.

Komiti ya Lushaka ya Zwiwo zwa Muḍagasi ye nda i thola nga nwedzi wa Fulwana i kati na zwa u shandukiswa ha milayo na dzi pholisi zwine zwa do bveledza vhukoni na vhuđatisani kha sekithara ya zwa muḍagasi.

Ro vulela lushaka uri luvhe na zwine lwa nga amba nga ha tshandukiso ine ya do fhelisa zwa u ḥodiwa ha ḥaisentse kha thandela dza vhubveledzi ha muḍagasi dza phuraivethe.

Hezwi zwi do bveledza ndila ya vhubindudzi khulwane, tshivhalo tsha n̄tha tsha thandela dzine dza do dzulela u bveledza muḍagasi muswa munzhi kha giridi.

Thodea ya thendelo ya mupo yo tendelwa kha u ita tshanduko ya themamveledziso kha vhupo vhune ha vha na mikwita ya tshiřtatedzhi tsha mvelaphanda hune khombo ya mupo ya vha phasi.

Zwifhinga zwa thandela dza zwa fulufulu zwi wanaho thendelo ya u shumisa mavu khathihi na thendelo dza u ḥuma kha giridi dzo fhungudza nga maanđa, nga vha Ndaulo ya Fulufulu ya Lushaka sa ndila ya ndangulo ya zwiimisawa zwa muḍagasi.

Sa musi ri khou shumela u engedza vhubveledzi ha muḍagasi, ri tea u engedza vhuđidini ha u fhungudza ḥodea dza wo, nga maanđa nga zwifhinga zwine wa vha u khou shumiseswa.

Ri tea u shumisana rothe sa vhadzulapo kha u fhelisa mutsiko kha giridi ya lushaka.

Hezwi zwi amba uri ri fanela u shumisa muḍagasi nga ndila ya vhulondi, u vhiga zwiito zwa u ḥuma muḍagasi zwi si ho mulayoni khathihi na u badela muḍagasi une ra u shumisa. Mabindu, miňa na mihasho ya muvhuso ine ya koloda Eskom i tea u badela u itela uri Eskom i kone u ita ndondolo yo teaho kha u khwinifhadza ndisedzo ya muḍagasi.

Sa musi ri khou isa phanda na u livhana na khaedu ya zwa u khaulwa ha muḍagasi nga u sielisana, hu na khondzeo ya u nga laňa fulufhelo uri ri nga si tsha kona u tandulula thaidzo iyi.

Fhedzi, arili ra nga sedza zwine zwo no bveledzwa u bva tshe tshiwo itsi tsha bvelela, hu na mbonalo dzi re khagala dza mvelephanda na zwiitisi zwavhuđi zwa uri ri vhe na fulufhelo.

Sa musi ri khou shuma nga ndila ya tshihadu kha u tandulala thaidzo ya zwino ya sisteme ya fulufulu ine ya khou kundelwa, ri dovha hafhu ra vha kati na u bveledza mushumu wo khwāthaho nahone une wa do fhelisa zwililo zwa muḍagasi kha lino shango lwa tshifhinga tshilapfu.❶

The burden of depression in people with albinism

OFTEN ISOLATED by their communities, many people who live with albinism suffer in silence as life becomes unbearable.

Phakama Mbonambi

The dehumanisation of people living with albinism, especially in many sub-Saharan societies, leads to severe depression – often with terrible consequences.

Globally, depression is a serious mental health disorder that affects people from all walks of life. Severe cases of depression can lead to suicide, which the World Health Organisation lists as the fourth leading cause of death for people aged between 15 and 29.

Sabelo Gumede, a psychologist based in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, believes that people with albinism need all the care and support they can get – and that starts with changing society's understanding of



what albinism is. People with this genetic condition lack melanin, which leads to a lack of colour pigmentation in the skin, hair and eyes. They battle with their vision and are at risk of developing skin cancer.

Gumede says the main causes of mental health difficulties in people with albinism are discrimination and bullying. If not addressed, this can lead to psychological difficulties,

such as depression, anxiety attacks and episodes of post-traumatic stress disorder.

"People living with albinism often feel isolated, especially as a direct result of social stigmatisation. This tends to be more prevalent in townships and rural areas."

Signs of depression are isolation, poor inter-personal relationships, poor hygiene, a lack of concentration, slowness and suicidal thoughts.

Combatting depression

Gumede says people with albinism can seek help from a private psychologist, ask their local clinic for help or reach out to an organisation that assists people with depression.

Since people with albinism live within the community, just like everyone else, friends and family should keep an eye on them and ensure they get professional

help if needed.

Government and non-governmental organisations can play a crucial role in combating hate and discrimination against people with albinism through awareness and education campaigns, particularly in rural areas, because that is where violence against people with albinism is often reported.



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Get help

These organisations can support people living with albinism who are depressed or feel isolated:

Akeso Crisis Helpline
www.akeso.co.za
0861 435 787

Albinism Society of South Africa
www.albinism.org.za
011 838 6529

South African Depression and Anxiety Helpline
www.sadag.org
0800 567 567

Ndambedzo ya tsiki dza malofha ndi ndila i sa vhavhi ya u phulusa matshilo

Vho Kgaogelo Letsebe

Vho Mfundzo Mxolisi Ngwenya (30) vha bvaho Durban, vunquni ja KwaZulu-Natal ndi muñwe wa vharema vha si gathi vhane vha ita zwa u lamedza tsiki dza malofha kha jino shango.

Vha Tshiiimiswa tsha Vhuñwalisi ha ñwongo wa Marambo tsha Afrika Tshipembe (SABMR) vha ri hu khou tea uri vhunzhi ha vhatu vha vharema na vhone vha ñiwalise sa vhalambedzi ngauri zwi ita uri mulwadze a vhe na tshikhala tshihulwane tsha u nga wana muthu wa malofha a fanaho na awe nga u ñavhanya kha zwigwada zwa mirafho yeneyo. U ya nga vhuñwalisi, hu tou vha 10% fhedzi ya vhalambedzi vha swikaho 78 000 vho ñiwalisaho vhane vha vha vharema, ngeno 9.9% ya hone

vhe vhatu vha lushaka lwa Maindia (Asian) na 67% ya vhatshena.

Vha SABMR vha ri vhunzhi ha vhalambedzi vha lambedza nga kha maitele aye a vhidzwa *peripheral blood stem cell collection*. Hezwi zwi amba uri tsiki dza malofha dzine dza wanala kha ñwongo wa marambo avho dzi dovha hafhu dza wanala na kha malofha avho aye a khou tshimbila na muvhili. Hu tou itwa maitele aye a si vhe a muaro nahone muthu a songo vhuya a valelwa vhuongeloni musi hu tshi ñoða u wanwa tsiki idzi. Malofha a kokodzwa nga ñeleþe u bva kha tshanda tshithihi, a fhira kha mutshini une wa vha wone u kuvhanganyaho tsiki idzi dza malofha hune nga murahu a dovha hafhu a humiselwa muvhilini nga kha tshiñiwe tshanda tshavho hu tshi shumiswa ñeleþe. Tsiki dza

malofha ndi dza ndeme kha u fhodza malwadze a malofha a fanaho na khentsara ya malofha, vhlwadze ha ñwongo kana apleshia.

Vho Ngwenya, vhane vha vha mulanguli wa zwa mitambo ngei Yunivesithi ya Thekhinoñodzhi ya Durban, vha ri vho thoma u guda nga ha ndambedzo ya tsiki dza malofha nga ñwaha wa 2012 musi vha SABMR vhe kha fulo ñavho benefho kha mavhenegetsekano apo. "Ndo ñi dzulela u netshedza malofha khathihi na uri ndi takalela u dzula ndi tshi thusa tshifhinga tshoþe, ngauralo, ndo mbo ñi zwi ita. Zwo vha zwo leluwa vhukuma sa izwi vho sokou tou dzhenisa dzudzu mulumoni wanga he nga murahu vha ri vha ño mpfounela."

Sambula ine ya dzhiwa u bva kha mulomo wa muthu aye a khou ñoða u lambedza, i fhedza ya itwa ndingo nahone zwidodombedza zwave zwi ño fhedza zwa vhulungwa zwavhuði u itela uri muñe

wayo a ño kona u kwamiwa arali malofha a tshi elana na a muthu aye a khou ñoda tsiki dza malofha.

"Ñwaha wo fhelaho, ndo tanganedza luþingo he vha ñalutshedza uri vho wana muthu aye a vha na malofha aye a tou fana na anga kokotolo. Maitele a u lambedza a dzhia tshifhinga nahone hu vha na ndingo dzi swikaho 13 dzo fhambanaho dzine dza itwa, u thoma kha dza muvhilini (u ñathuvha mutakalo woþe) u swika kha ndingo dza malofha.

Ndo vha ndi tshi tea u tou ñithavha ñuvha liñwe na liñwe, vha ralo. Ndambedzo yoþe yo fhelela i dzhia tshifhinga tshi linganaho awara dza vhukati ha dza rathi na dza malo.

Hu khou todea vhalambedzi vhanzhi

Vho Ngwenya vha ri vhatu vha tea u tsivhudzwa uri maitele a u netshedza malofha ha itwi nga muaro. Vho amba uri kha ñiñwe nyimele, vhute-

ndatenda kha zwa mvelele vhu ñga dzivhisa vhatu kha u vha vhalambedzi.

Vha SABMR vha ri vha ño kwamana na vharangaphanþa vha zwa sialala khathihi na vha vhurereli u itela u ñutuwedza ndambe-dzo ya tsiki dza malofha. Vho dovha vha amba uri arali vhunzhi ha vhatu vha vharema vha tshi ñi dzhenisa kha maitele aya, hu nga vha na matshilo manzhi aye a nga phuluswa.



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U ñivha zwinzhi nga ha ndambedzo ya tsiki dza malofha, kha vha dalele www.sabmr.co.za, vha founele kha **021 447 8638** kana vha tou rumela imeilí kha donors@sabmr.co.za

More Matshediso

If you are a South African citizen who is older than 60, in need of 24-hour care and preferably a recipient of an old age grant or pension, you can apply to live in an older persons' residential facility.

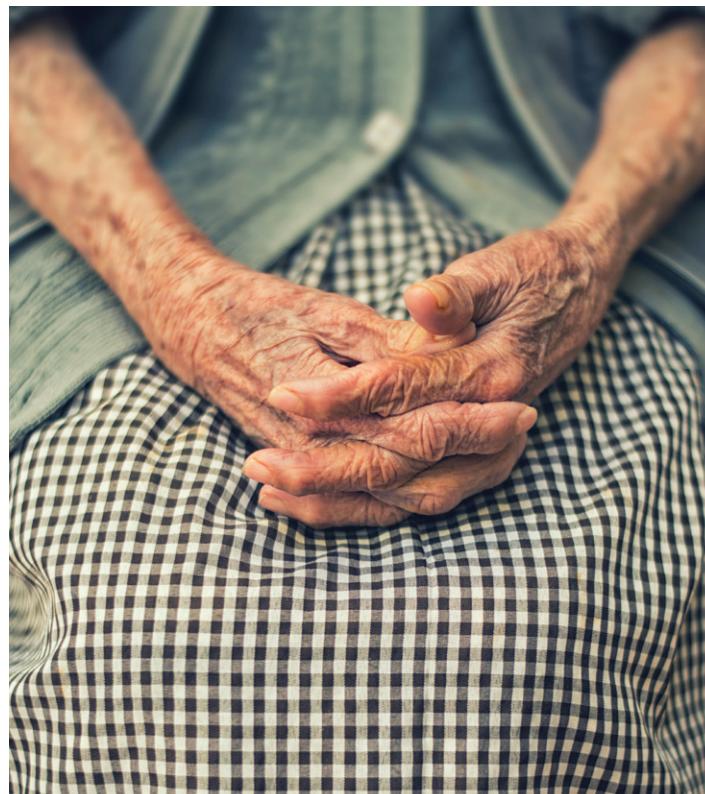
To apply, you need to visit the care centre you would like to stay at so that an application form can be completed.

The Social Development office nearest your home can tell you which care facilities are close to your home.

According to the Department of Social Development (DSD), no one can admit you to a residential facility without your consent, unless a medical report proves that you are mentally unfit to give consent and a court order is issued.

"However, in emergency cases, you may be admitted on the recommendation of a medical doctor, pending the

24-hour care is available to state pensioners



issuing of a court order. In some cases, an older person may not be frail, but destitute, and admission may be temporary,

pending investigation," the department says.

The costs to stay at older persons' homes vary, says the DSD.

How to apply

Admission to an older persons' residential facility is subject to the availability of beds, the department says.

Once a residential facility has been identified, you will be required to complete and return application forms to the residential facility. When you return the forms, you will also need to take along your South African identity document and a medical report stating that you need 24-hour care.

You will also undergo a screening test to see if you qualify for admission and a payment subsidy.

"If you are too old or sick to travel to the office to apply, ask a family member or friend to apply on your behalf. A social

worker will arrange a home visit to assess your current living conditions," the department says.

Your application will be processed within 14 days and you will get a response within 30 days. If your application is declined, you must be given a reason in writing and you can appeal to the Minister of Social Development.

Family and friends are urged to visit their loved ones in older persons' homes so that they do not feel lonely or abandoned. However, an older person may also say if they do not want particular people to visit them.

For more information, visit your local DSD office or call customer care services at **012 312 7727**.

Owen Mngadi

An eight-room shelter in Rustenburg in the North West is giving victims of gender-based violence (GBV) the support they need to leave abusive relationships.

The facility was opened by Kitso-Ke-Lesedi, a community-based, social development organisation that was responding to the increase in cases of GBV in the area, which is home to a large number of mines.

Tau Motlaping, Kitso-Ke-Lesedi Director and Project Manager, says many people in Rustenburg's 'platinum belt' have come to the city to search for jobs in the mines. Often, their wives or partners come with them and once there, are isolated from their family and friends and are financially dependent on their partners.

This makes it difficult for them to leave an abusive relationship and they find themselves trapped, says the organisation.

GBV combatted in mining community

MANY WOMEN living in mining communities, far from home and without money of their own, are trapped in abusive relationships.



"This has been a trend we have noticed with the majority of the victims. They come from the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga. Sadly, some tolerate the abuse for too long because they are dependent on their abusers for survival. Our facility accommodates them while we

make arrangements to take them back to their homes... those who want to," he says.

Motlaping says that their focus is now on empowerment programmes, after they realised that most women suffered from GBV because of financial dependence.

The great need for a place of safety in the area is

evident in the high number of women helped by Kitso-Ke-Lesedi – in the third quarter of 2022, more than 100 women were assisted.

Kitso-Ke-Lesedi, which has a staff complement of 47 and operates from the Lethabong Police Station, offers these women both safe accommodation and counselling. It works closely with the South African Police Service.

The organisation was one of the 110 high-impact, non-profit community-based organisations that received funding from the Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Response Fund.

The R128 million fund was launched in 2021 by President Cyril Ramaphosa, along with the International

Women's Forum of South Africa and social partners. The money was raised through pledges made by various private companies.

Motlaping says while they have been in existence since 2007, the R250 000 they received from the fund will help them expand their reach and assist more victims.

Lindi Dlamini, CEO of the GBVF Response Fund, said in a statement that it is heartening to know there are community-based organisations in our communities that are actively helping to reunite survivors of GBV with their loved ones.

You can contact the Director and Founder Tau Motlaping on WhatsApp **060 750 1322** or Call **073 751 8230**

Northern Cape Health welcomes 99 new pharmacy assistants

Kgaogelo Letsebe

The Northern Cape Department of Health has absorbed 99 pharmacy assistant learners as permanent staff. According to the department, this once-off programme started in 2020, targeting 100 young people across the province.

Health MEC Maruping Lekwene says the Pharmacy Assistant Learnership Programme was made possible through training funding allocated by the Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HWSETA) in the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 financial years.

He says the province is committed to ensuring better service delivery and is confident that the appointments will help build a 'resilient and sustainable system'

within healthcare facilities for service delivery'.

The learners will be employed at facilities close to where they live.

MEC Lekwene says that of the

pharmacy assistant learners enrolled in 2020, 13 learners completed their Post Basic Pharmacy Assistant

Mzwandile Tshonto is one of the 99 pharmacy assistant learners who are now part of the Northern Cape Department of Health.

qualification during 2021. The remaining 86 learners completed their Basic Pharmacy Assistant qualification during 2021 and were subsequently enrolled for the Post Basic qualification when funding was once again secured from HWSETA for the 2021/22 financial year.

Mzwandile Petrus Tshonto (36) from Kimberley saw an advert for the programme in a local newspa-

per in 2020 and applied.

"Before applying for the programme, I was working as an administration clerk at Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe Hospital (Kimberley hospital). I saw this as an opportunity to empower myself and improve my skills," he says.

Tshonto says the programme helped him understand more about medicine and the importance of pharmaceuticals.

"It expanded my knowledge of medicine, how it works, how to preserve and dispense it, and such. It also showed me the importance of medication to the public. Overall, I can say my career has taken an upturn in terms of growing, developing and furthering my skills and knowledge."

So inspired is Tshonto that he is working on becoming a

fully-fledged pharmacist. He hopes to open a pharmaceutical college in the province one day, to enhance and broaden the pharmaceutical field and create more employment for locals." **V**



SCAN ME

In order to become a Pharmacist's assistant (basic), you need to obtain a certificate of qualification in South Africa from a provider of education and training approved by the South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC).

For more information, visit www.pharm-council.co.za or email: customercare@sapc.za.org or call 0861 7272 00 or +012 319 8500.

Young man grows his community, one seed at a time



Owen Mngadi

Inspired by the idiom 'a candle loses nothing by lighting another', Thami Gazide is making an impact in his community through the community gardens initiative he started when he was just 16.

The 22-year-old final-year

international relations student from Middelburg in Mpumalanga founded Philanathi Golden Stars, a non-profit organisation, in 2016, to combat poverty and hunger in his community.

He says he asked local businesses and supermarkets to donate food that he would distribute among families

who were struggling to make ends meet.

However, after a few months, he realised that his strategy was not sustainable and was not empowering his impoverished community. He then identified an illegal dumping site, which he turned into a community garden with the help of other

volunteers. He says instead of asking for food, he asked for seeds and saplings and started growing vegetables.

Gazide says he involved families that could not take care of themselves, enabling them to put food on the table and make some money by selling the extra vegetables they grow.

The first community garden was started on four hectares of land that had been used as an illegal dumping site. By cleaning up the site and planting vegetables, the health of the community was improved because healthy food was made available and an unhealthy dumping site was cleared.

"This initiative responded perfectly to other challenges we faced as a community. The dumping sites were mushrooming everywhere and the condition of our neighbourhood was deteriorating," he says.

rating," he says.

Gazide now manages 16 community gardens that are spread throughout the Middelburg township – including at schools – and benefit 36 participating families.

Gazide's proudest moment was the day he started changing people's lives and giving them the hope that they are not alone.

He says seeing people grow and being able to transform their lives even in the smallest way inspires him to do even more.

While the families mostly sell their own produce, Gazide says market days are sometimes hosted and bulk sales are sometimes made to local supermarkets.

"We have restored the dignity of many people in this area. It serves as a place for growth; people share ideas and there is unity among them. We are looking at getting a much bigger space so we can turn this into a big community project." **V**

Western Cape schools go green to address energy crisis

More Matshediso

The Western Cape Department of Education is rolling out various projects to help schools use less electricity.

Through a partnership with the University of Stellenbosch, the department replaced existing fluorescent lights with energy-saving LED lights at 25 schools in a 2021 pilot project that will be rolled out to more schools from October 2022.

Education MEC David Maynier says the department provided 40% of the funding during the 2021/22 financial year.

"The replacement of fluorescent lights with LED lights can lead to an annual saving of up to R36 000 per school," he says.

Maynier adds that R28 mil-



An employee from GreenX Engineering replacing fluorescent lights with energy-saving lights at a Western Cape school.

lion has been budgeted for this project and other green initiatives in the 2022/23 financial year.

Given the success of the pilot project, the department is fully funding another 25

schools this year, from an initial list of 100 no-fee, high-enrolment schools.

"High-enrolment schools have higher energy usage and can benefit from these savings, allowing these

no-fee schools to spend money on other things," the MEC says.

MEC Maynier says that when schools in the province need to have lights replaced during scheduled maintenance, LED products are used. These lights are also used as standard practice when new schools are built.

Solar panels

Additionally, 41 Western Cape schools have applied to install solar panels to further reduce their environmental impact and electricity costs. The combined peak capacity of these installations is 25.87 megawatts-peak.

The installation is funded by the schools, either through school governing body funds or by entering into lease agreements with firms such as Sun Exchange

(a solar leasing platform).

The department says it fully supports these schools' investments, which are valued at over R46 million.

In 2021, Cloetesville Primary School in Stellenbosch became the first school in South Africa to receive an energy performance certificate, thanks to energy-saving technology installed by the University of Stellenbosch and GreenX Engineering.

Then again in August 2022, Cloetesville received a 7.5-kilowatt solar panel system, which will produce about 14 000 units of electricity each year. This means the school has reduced its carbon footprint, while saving around R20 000 per year and selling electricity back to the grid.

The school's headmaster, Rodger Cupido, says beyond enjoying the financial benefits, the school is not affected by load shedding.

Empowering Ekangala's learners through mining

Dimpho Mogale

The learners of Ekangala Engineering School of Specialisation are obtaining a range of critical skills suitable for the mining sector, thanks to a new curriculum.

The new school of specialisation is the 21st to be launched by Gauteng Education MEC Panyaza Lesufi, and its curriculum focuses on skills needed in the mining sector.

It is located at Ekangala in Bronkhorstspruit, which is home to several mines, including Petra Diamonds in nearby Cullinan.

School principal Zanele Tjiana says the idea to change the name and curriculum of the former Ekangala Comprehensive High School to Ekangala Engineering School of Specialisation came from



Zanele Tjiana, the principal of Ekangala Engineering School of Specialisation.

the Premier's Office.

"I supported the idea and highlighted the fact that many people in our community are unemployed because many factories have shut down. The school now focuses on mining because Ekangala is surrounded by mines," she says.

The school now offers technical subjects and a dynamic curriculum that teaches welding, fitting and

turning, automotive mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, excavation and mining skills.

According to MEC Lesufi, recent statistics show that 85% of matric learners go to university after matric and become academics. Schools of specialisation will help create more artisans and technically skilled people.

"Learners in such schools will be able to either work

immediately at industry-leading companies, or they will embark on entrepreneurship and start their own businesses," he says.

The school has partnered with Petra Diamonds to arrange field trips for the learners to the mines so that they can explore career opportunities in the industry. Petra is also sponsoring bursaries for learners from Grade 10 right through to tertiary level. Currently, three youngsters have bursaries to study at the University of Pretoria. Two of them achieved 100% in mathematics and physical science. A Grade 10 learner is also benefitting from the partnership.

School fees are R800 per year and in exchange, learners receive a quality education. According to the Department of Basic Education, if parents who, for whatever reason, cannot afford school fees and needs assistance to apply for exemption or lodge an appeal, they may request the school fees committee

chairperson or any members of the School Fees Committee to assist him or her in making the application. The School Fees Committee must respond in writing to the parents on the outcome of their application within 14 days of applying. The school achieved an 80% matric pass rate in 2021 and hopes to increase this to 90% this year.

There are currently 1 061 learners from Grade 8 to Grade 12. One learner, Sihle Sibanyoni (17), who is in Grade 11, enjoys electronics, technical mathematics and technical sciences subjects. "I want to become an electrical engineer and 'the next big thing' in the mining industry," she says.

To be admitted to the school, applicants who have passed Grade 7 must pass an aptitude test with an average of 60% in mathematics, English and natural science.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

✉ | LETTER

Dear Vuk'uzenzele

I need help as to how I can start an organisation fighting gender-based violence(GBV) in my area. I would like to bring change in my community by ending GBV.

Regards

Mameki Cindi

✉ | REPLY

Dear Mameki

Thank you for your email.

Well done for trying to make a difference in your community by ending the scourge for GBV. Your efforts really deserve an applause. If you know someone who is in an abusive relationship and needs help, please refer them to the GBV Command Centre they can call the toll-free line on 0800 428 428, or send Call Back request to *120*7867#

You can also visit your local Department of Social Development. They will be able to guide on how to register a non-profit organisation and how to get funding.

Wishing you all the best.

Vuk'uzenzele

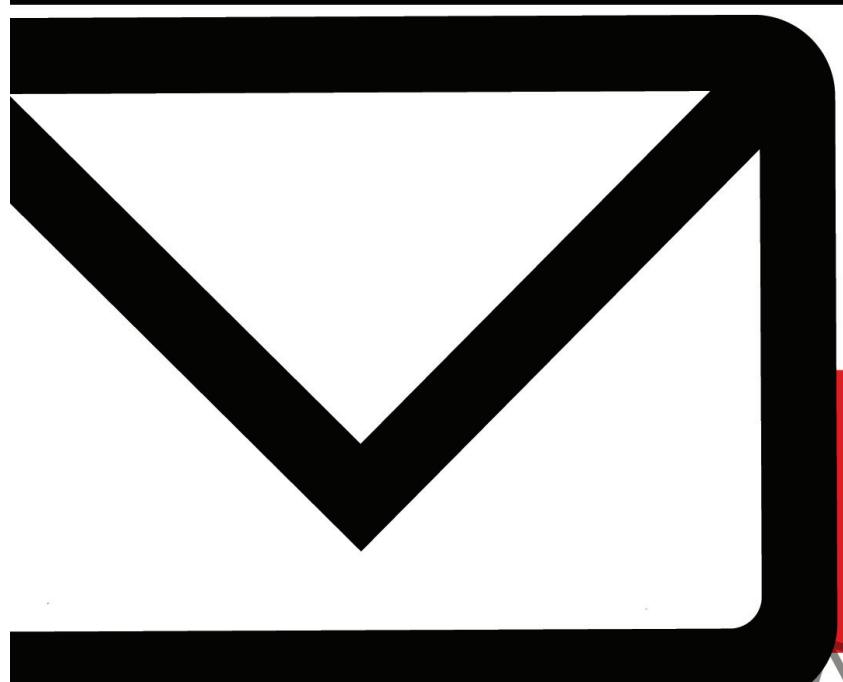
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Mpumalanga volleyball star says sport can free her of poverty

Kgaogelo Letsube

Karabo Sarah Mnguni (17), a Grade 10 learner of Sovetjheza Secondary School in Matshiding, Mpumalanga, has been selected to be part of the South African national volleyball team that will represent the country in Lesotho and Malawi.

Mnguni, who started playing the game at the age of 12 in 2017, will take part in the Sixth Leg of the Zone VI Beach Volleyball Tour in Maseru, Lesotho, from 21 to 23 October 2022, and the Africa Union Region 5 (AUR5) games in Malawi in December 2022.

Speaking about her success, Mnguni says what first started as a hobby soon became a life-changing opportunity. "I started playing volleyball as an extramural activity

A YOUNG volleyball star shows that great things can be achieved through dedication and hard work, despite a person's circumstances.



Karabo Sarah Mnguni (17) from Matshiding in Mpumalanga is part of the national volleyball team.

in primary school for the Chivas Volleyball Club. I found myself enjoying it and I started putting hard work and dedication into beco-

ming better. I was chosen for the Mpumalanga U/15 team earlier this year to represent the region in Durban and Cape Town."

It was at the Cape Town tournament that Mnguni's star shone. According to her coach and teacher, Moses Bhiya, she captained the team, which went on to secure a gold medal. She also won the Most Valuable Player of The Tournament award and was selected for the national volleyball team, alongside teammate Lindokuhle Langa.

Bhiya describes Mnguni as hard working and determined. "She is a dedicated, talented and energetic player. She's also very teachable and determined to achieve more in volleyball."

The entire Mpumalanga-based team works hard, despite funding and support challenges, Bhiya says.

"We are struggling without enough equipment, such as balls, as well as transport to attend competitions. Sometimes, I cannot even take a full team to a competition, as some of the children's families cannot afford to sponsor them. My wish is to have sponsors who will see the great work that these kids are doing."

Mnguni would like to study sports management. "I want to be an inspiration to other children. I also want to become one of the country's top players. I believe that through sport and education, I will be successful and get my family out of poverty." **0**

The Chivas Volleyball Club can be contacted through coach Moses Bhiya on **066 257 3963**.

Owen Mgadi

School sports are essential to a country achieving sporting success at an international level.

This is the belief of the Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture, Nathi Mthethwa, who was speaking at the unveiling of a new multipurpose sports court at Soshanguve South Secondary School on the outskirts of Pretoria.

"Programmes like these assist in reversing the trend of transporting children to facilities located outside their residential areas. The court will also aid in decreasing societal ills, such as teenage pregnancy and drug abuse," he said.

Minister Mthethwa emphasised that the facility is for all schools in the area.

"Participating in sport is not only about competitions or about winning. It promotes physical activity, develops physical skills,

Soshanguve learners given a sporting chance



provides opportunities to learn teamwork and improves self-esteem. Sport also instils discipline among young people in our community," he said.

The development was made possible through a collaboration between Ned-

bank and the Sports Trust. Mamelodi Sundowns, the reigning champions of the Nedbank Cup, nominated the school as the beneficiary and handed over sports equipment.

The multipurpose centre accommodates five sporting

codes – basketball, football, netball, tennis and volleyball – and is the eighth such facility the collaboration has produced.

School principal David Mahlangu said the facility will make a big difference to the community. "As

a school, we commit to establishing further sporting programmes that will include members of the community. Together with the local councillor, we have strategised a plan to keep the facility safe so it can be around for generations to come."

As part of the handover, soccer kits, balls and books were handed over to local schools, including Soshanguve East and Seageng Secondary Schools, Bokamoso, Ayanda and Itumeleng Madiba Primary Schools.

Sundowns midfielder Ofentse Mashiane, a Soshanguve South Secondary alumnus, expressed his joy at the establishment of the facility. "I encourage the students who now have top-class facilities to grab the opportunity with both hands and make the best of it. I also want to tell them to put their education first, work hard and play hard." **0**