

# The Spark

THIRD EDITION

December 2021 ★

The Spark  
Magazine  
wins an  
award

“GATJISTO”  
MAGONGO

*The story of ambition and  
music.*



S P E C I A L   E D I T I O N

# Our Editions



Current Editions



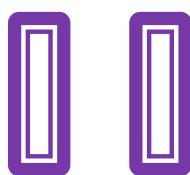

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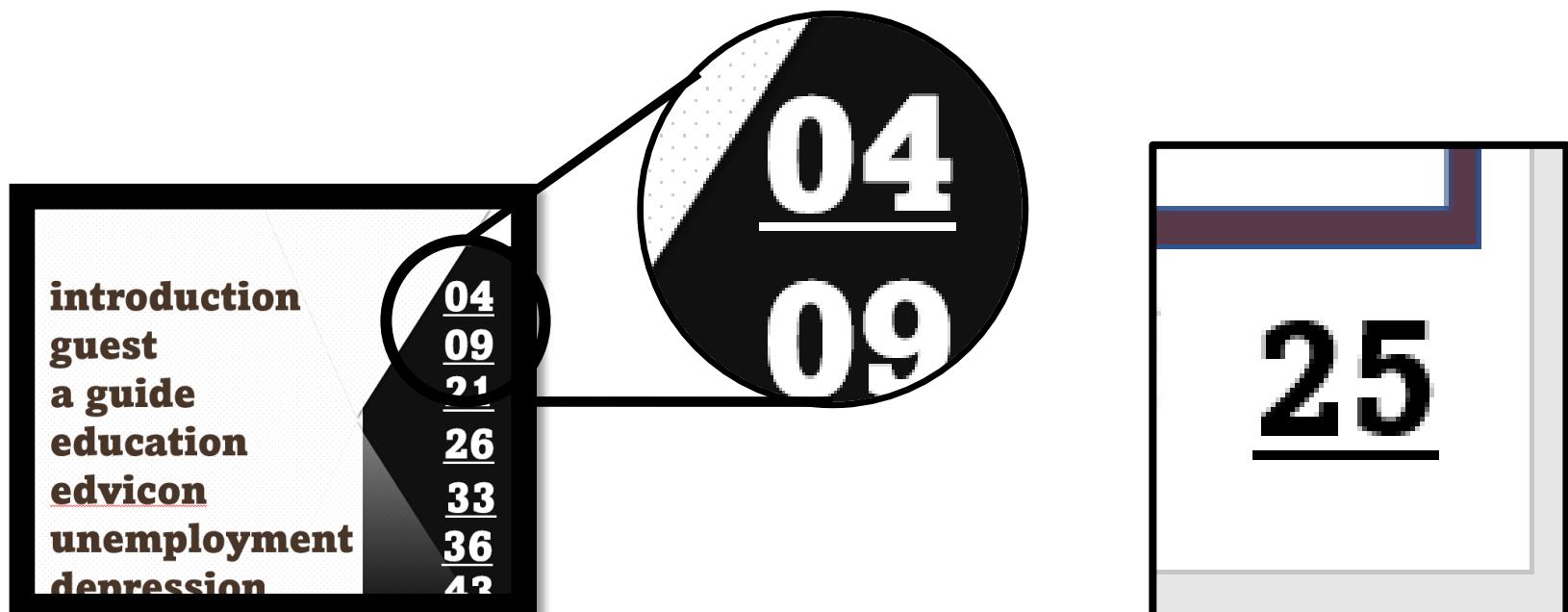
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# Instructions

Curl up with this magazine at the comfort of your phone or computer!

This magazine is mildly interactive, some gadgets will respond to all the commands, but some will allow some. **Download your copy into your device.**

For easy navigation between different articles click on the page number to just straight to your desired pages. At the end of each article click on the bottom number to go back to the contents.



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**Cotton Sway**

# COTTON SWAY

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THE SPARK



# INTRODUCTION

MADE IN  
ESWATINI



After the resurfacing of the unrest in eSwatini, I lost it. I thought whatever was happening defeated the purpose and aim of the magazine. My passion plummeted and I thought there would not be a third edition. The uncertainty of when to release it was also a problem. If too soon, it would be insensitive and too late, probably never. So how? So how do I ensure that this gets to the right hands and at the time they need it? It was hard to know. The Spark Magazine is not about taking a side but about feeding the Swazi people, bad or good, with the mindset of moving ahead. A blueprint of personal development and a light of hope for our beautiful country.

Welcome. The third edition of The Spark Magazine is a mystery. It should not have been, no way! The reason is nested in the realization that the hype is different from when we started. Now we are functioning outside the realm of motivation. The truth is, it would have been easier to have just stopped and it is always easier that way. Almost everyone has started projects before and ditched them all because of one unfortunate truth we too had to learn: it is not easy. It is always difficult and if we depend on the “fire” we had when we started, things never work out. Take for example, being out of social media for a year. The fact that we are even amazed by the thought that a person could live without these platforms for a prolonged amount of time is a sign of our inconsistency.

The life we are living has been complicated and it is getting more complicated. This will be controversial, but people are getting weaker. A lot weaker. It is easy to blame a system and society for all the dreadful things happening in our lives. It gives us a sense of satisfaction and a sense of purpose to realize that our lives are being controlled by the system, whatever that means.

True, we are being governed and greatly influenced by people in authority - I do not deny that. The problem is that we tend to forget that a lot of our everyday choices are ours. The fact that we check that phone ten times a minute or procrastinate doing our work, that right there is our choice. On either side of the political spectrum, I have this message for every individual: it is your responsibility to do what is right and best for human beings as a whole not only for ourselves. Love your neighbour as you love yourself type of mindset. Others argue that their salaries are determined by their bosses and, “Where is the choice in that?” Choice is found as you choose your course, choice is applying for a job knowing very well how much they pay. Choice is living way above your means and living a life that is not financially savvy. Yes everyone must negotiate a pay raise, but those who have a skill in negotiating will have more successful negotiations and higher pay. Simple economics; supply and demand.



The point here is that we should take responsibility for what we can do and change, unless we assume that every Swazi is doing all they can do to make their lives better.

Back to the controversy, we are becoming weaker. This does not mean that we need to be rude and insensitive as we might have been decades ago. We have made so much progress in realizing that people need to be taken care of.

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*"The truth is, it would have been easier to have just stopped and it is always easier that way."*

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It is only but a miracle that we have progressed, but this has also caused great strife for our generation and probably will be a problem for the generations to come. But how do I know that we are weaker now? Am I just projecting my insecurities to the human race? Am I generalizing my weaknesses? Probably I am and probably not.

I think if we would take a short self-introspection and ask ourselves that which activity, self-motivated, have we been consistent for more than 60 days (about 2 months). Do we even set goals and work towards attaining them? I usually find myself busy with the useless tasks and not getting anything done because we all know that planning to do a draft paper, buying stationary, organizing our beds or colour coding our shopping list is easier than drafting a paper, often called productive procrastination.

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*"The point here is that we should take responsibility for what we can do and change, unless we assume that every Swazi is doing all they can do to make their lives better."*

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When last have we faced our fears?

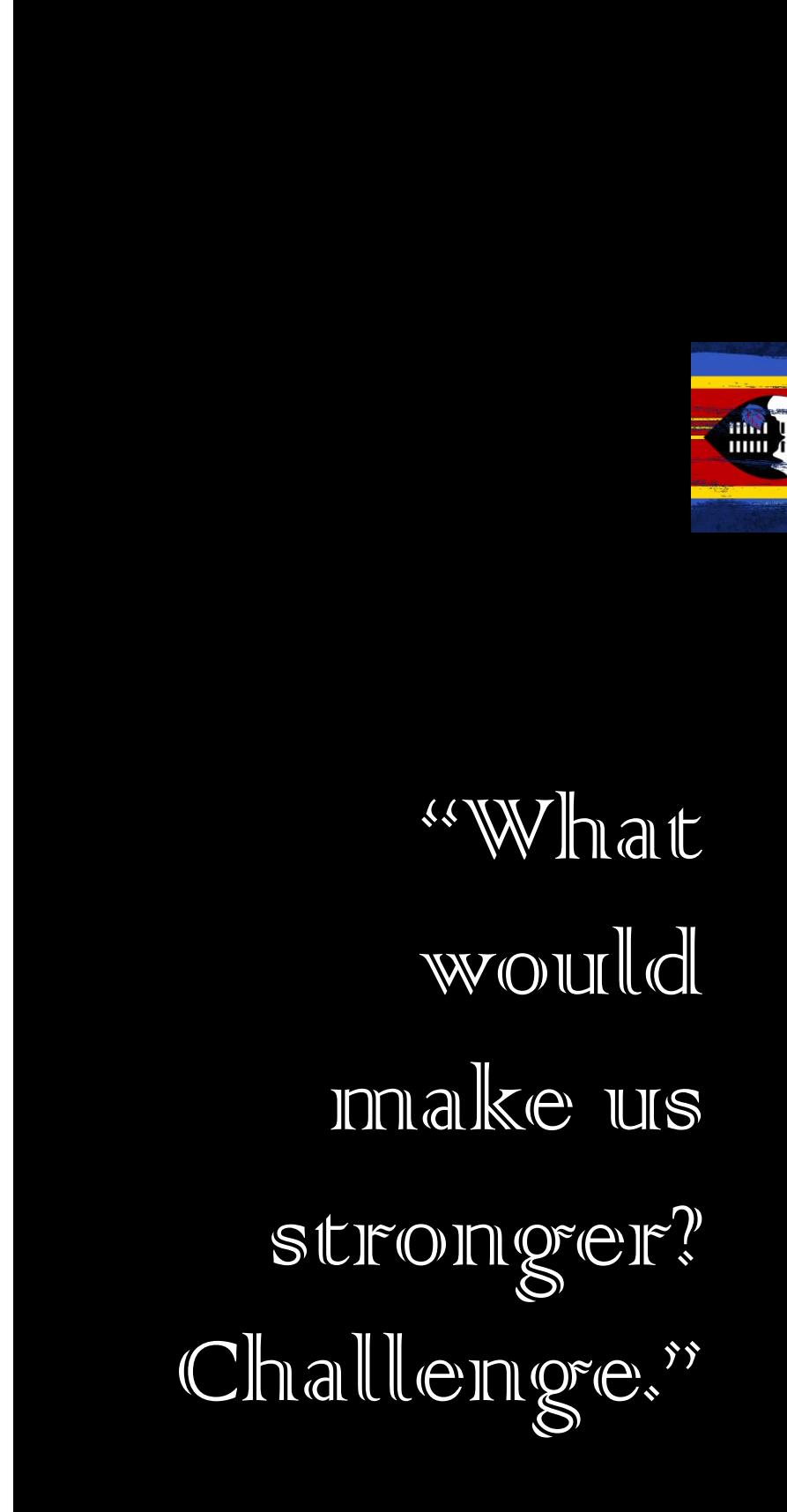
The problem is instant gratification. We are used to things happening fast. We are also fooled by the façade our social media environment portrays to us. People partying every day or as if work is not a long, long, long, long process. A business is not born overnight. The idea is less than a percent of what makes it successful.



It is demotivating but also encouraging to know that the standard is extremely low, and the competition is amazingly easy to win. Knowing all that, we will still not make the effort to change things. Why not? Some people do not have time to do it, or it is not the right time to start. Others do not have resources and there are other reasons. If you read the previous edition, you realized the story of Shakes doing all he could even with little to no resources. It is possible.

What would make us stronger? Challenge. The question is, "How far can we go?" How far can I go? How far can you go? Are you doing what you must do; are you doing what you need to do? Are you doing something in life or is life happening to you? Is your mind still or you feel like you are hallucinating in a never-ending nightmare? These are strange questions to ask and one might feel like their ego is being challenged and they might put their defences up. Life is not easy, that's good. That is excellent even. If life was easy, it would not be worth the time, the value of life would not be appreciated. There will be the absence of striving for excellence and progress. We aim for the utopia, but it does not mean we would like to live in such a place. Challenge is the reason our lives keep on improving. Challenge prunes some of our weaknesses, challenge enforces our beliefs and teaches us about life.

There are many ways to face challenges. There is a quote a businessman I admire once said, "Let fear be your personal guide to freedom".



This means that if we do what we fear the most, at the other side of that obstacle is freedom. Freedom in almost all the aspects of life. Be it financial, emotional, psychological and even physical freedom. Fear points exactly where you should start working at. Enjoy.



# VICTORY

## Brand



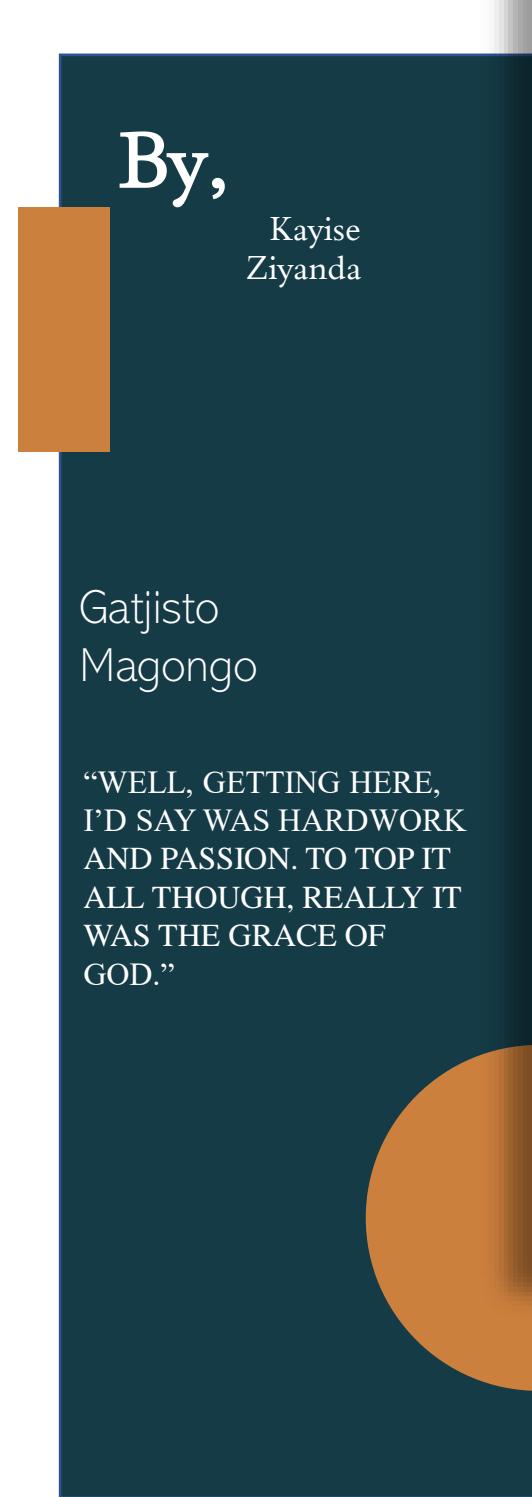
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“Let time tell your tale...”



# Cover



It is always so inspiring to read about a success story, especially one in a rather not so friendly sphere of entertainment, where everyone just shies away from the microphone or music instrument, or just music holistically. However, some, because of the passion and zeal for music and sound, still brave all of those impediments and pursue a career in this very daring field. This is the story of Makabongwe Magongo, also known as Gatjisto or Gatji Bass, born and raised in the notorious streets of Manzini. Of course, his other stage name, Gatji Bass gives it all away, because you can already deduce that, in all of his many pursuits and passions, he is also a guitar player and has stamped his name in many artists' hearts because of his drive. Before he could give everything away, I was keen to know Makabongwe before Gatjisto. "I am from a loving family of five, that being my mom, dad and two sisters. I am kinda like the middle man because I am the second born, central of two ladies, LOL." There is a sense of glee, I can't imagine why because he is literally the thorn amongst roses!

"I was born in a Christian family of musicians, which is where I inherited the musical side of my life from both my parents. Oh yes! I am proud to say I am a born again Christian. I grew up in a Mission where I attended my pre school at Kaneima Hynd Pre School, my primary at Nazarene Practicing Primary, and my high school at Manzini Nazarene High School. I grew up attending Nazarene Church with my family, but in the long run, I went out to serve at Free Evangelical Assemblies, to which I still am to date."

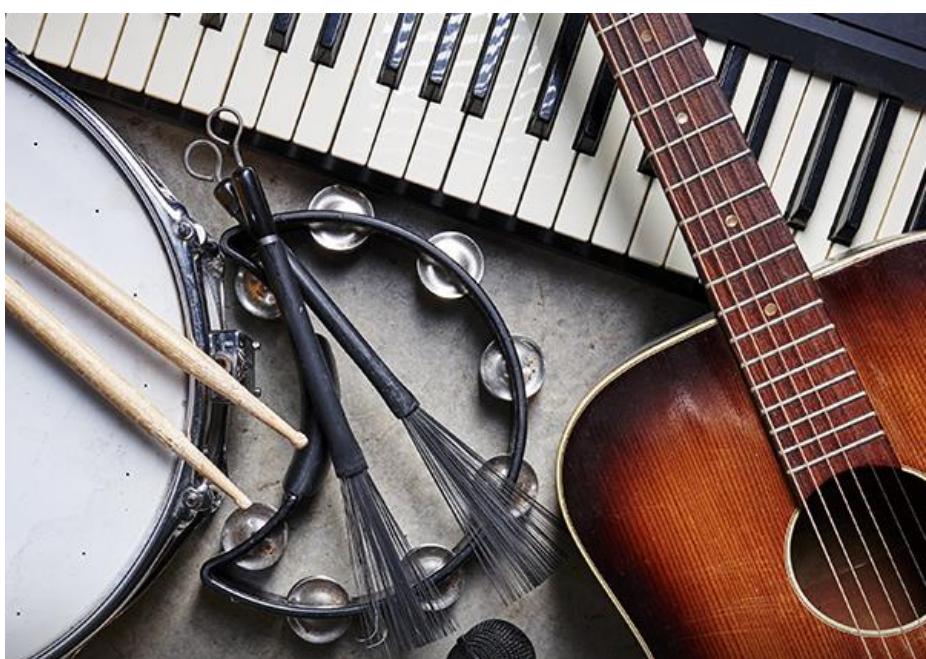
We went down memory lane. I wanted to know where it all began, how it started! There was an impression of thanks and disbelief as he began telling. "Where do I even start? Well, my musical journey began at home, from both sides of the family as I have already alluded. My dad is a guitarist and my two uncles are bassists, so I couldn't have run away from it even if I wanted to. My mom and siblings sing.



How I got to play was my God given talent, I was born with this gift, but of course my dad assisted in nurturing it. I was in form 2 when I discovered my love for the bass guitar. Before, I had played piano too. But one time I just decided to pick up the guitar and played. I kept on practicing, listening to different genres of music, and the rest is history.”

So then how did we get here? Magongo has achieved, no doubt! How did he do it? “Well, getting here, I’d say was hardwork and passion. To top it all though, really it was the grace of God. I played in church and people started noticing the young boy who played bass in a unique way. I was acquainted with a friend of mine, Ndumiso Ndzinisa, started attending his church and in that very same church met figures like Nduduzo Matse and Frans Dlamini. I started working with them in their respected shows, which was so unbelievable for me! I finished my high school in 2007, went to do my matric in 2008 at Nelspruit White River, where I got to meet other great musicians and be exposed.

In 2009, I met a great friend of mine Mduduzi Ziyawa Matsenjwa, who introduced me to our very own soul artist, the great Bholoja. I started working with Bholoja then, and my career was taken to the next level. 2010 I met Keke Poofolo while still studying at the Vaal University. A year later I met the Jaziel Brothers and started working with them, and I still am to date. In the year 2012, I was introduced to Nathi Mankayi, when we recorded his album Buyelekhaya. A few years later, I had the privilege to work with Vusi Nova in his album Naninina. I have also worked with the likes of Vincent Bones in his single, My Baby. Recently, I have worked with Sandziso Sands Matsebula on his latest album ‘Rhythm of Sands’.



# “Follow your passion.”

Take it seriously and do go to school for it, get your music degree, because your gift alone can only go so far! Supplement it. Proverbs 18:16 talks about your gift paving the way for you to seats at the king's table! So if you take care of your gift, your gift shall take care of you in turn



He was quick to mention that he is still growing musically, and even after that very long and interesting history, he hasn't even begun to scratch the surface.

We pinned our ears back as he divulged on some of the highlights of his career. “Oh my goodness! There are scores of those! I have travelled most of Africa. I have been to Nigeria, Namibia, Lesotho, Botswana, Zimbabwe, South Africa (almost all regions). I have played in every musical festival there is in South Africa and abroad, even in our Kingdom. Just to name a few, I have played at the Cape Town Jazz Festival, iRock Festival, Durban July, Windhoek Jazz Festival, 22 SAMA Awards, Ugu Jazz Festival, Bushfire Festival, Hipnotik Festival, and so many more. In all of these festivals, I have had the chance to meet with the gurus of the music industry and its top musicians, which to me, has made me want to do more and push myself further.”

We could never wind up this conversation without taking a look at some of the lows in the industry, especially in our kingdom.

“There are lows in every industry really, because the future is uncertain. When it comes to our industry in the country, the instability! Volatility with regards to job provisions and earnings definitely sinks the industry. As the entertainment industry, we should be striving to create more music festivals, which in turn create job opportunities and exposure for musicians in the country.



The industry should also have standard fee rates for musicians because what drains it the most is when artists are paid below standard, or even exploited holistically! Entertainment should be taken to the next level and as a career just like in any other country, in order to provide for musicians and all round artists in the country.”



It's pretty clear we could all learn a thing or two from this humble and vastly experienced artist. So we ask what advice he would give to a primary school learner passionate about music and wanting to pursue a career in music. "Follow your passion. Take it seriously and do go to school for it, get your music degree, because your gift alone can only go so far! Supplement it. Proverbs 18:16 talks about your gift paving the way for you to seats at the king's table! So if you take care of your gift, your gift shall take care of you in turn.

"I offer lessons at a fee. Hit me up on Facebook, Instagram, or simply just call me on 78307075. Here you will get any information you need regarding bass lessons."

You know we're always here for a FUN TIME!

\*Bass or Mixing?

LOL, tough one, but I'll stick with my bass guitar.

\*Food or Sleep?

I'd rather be full than sleep and be hungry, so it's definitely food for me.

\*Music or movies?

Wow! I love both of those! Do I really have to choose? Anyway, music it is!

\*Which artist did you really enjoy playing for?

I really enjoyed playing for all artist I have worked with.

\*Which artist would you like to play for or with in the future?

Nqubeko Mbatha, Jill Scott, LOL, I can never exhaust the list!

An absolute pleasure to hangout with this talented and passion driven man. A career in music can be risky, but it can be worthwhile and a success too. If this local story doesn't inspire you, I don't know what will.



Makabongwe

Gatjisto

Magongo



YOU ARE  
RUNNING  
FROM YOUR  
GROWTH

PEARL. S



If you are seeking to make it in life, it is time to face all your obstacles. We live in a world where most great things came with labour pains. The truth is, comfort does not move people to achieve better in life, challenges do. Fiction ignites the fire, what will move you to greatness if not a goal, what inspires a goal if not a challenge.

Challenges take many forms. There is the kind which you are born into, be it an impoverished nation, a poor background, a disability or a series of misfortunes. These kind of challenges are not something you should look down on, they are not meant to break you, but to give you an advantage.

*"If your goal is to be great, watch the lives of great people and not just the glamorous side of things, but the part where they do not sleep, where they do not stop knocking and having door shut in the faces or the part where they sharpen their skill non-stop."*

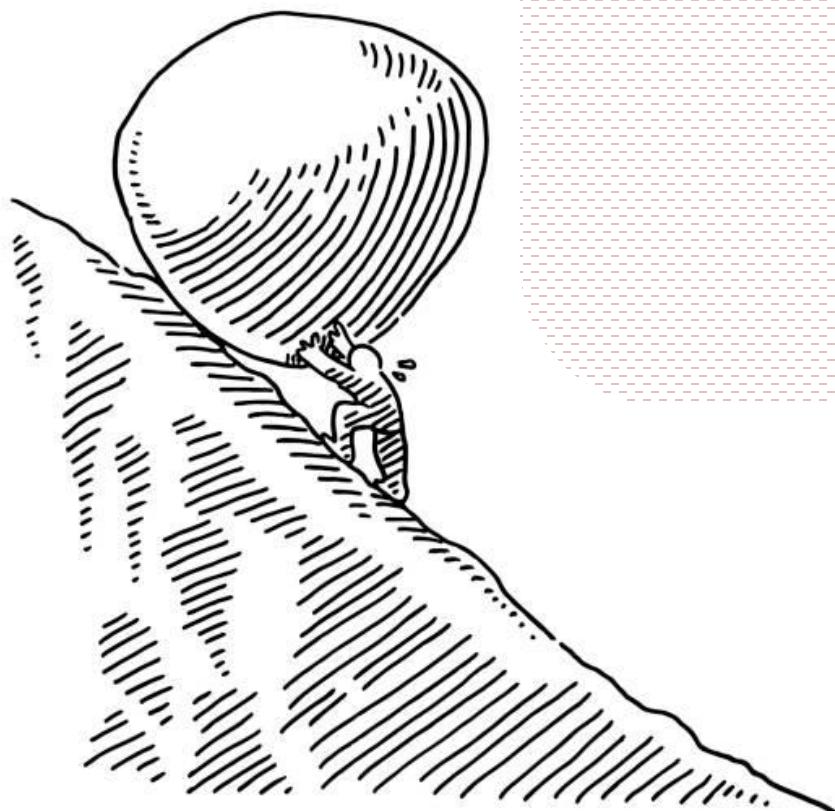
If your goal is to be great, watch the lives of great people and not just the glamorous side of things, but the part where they do not sleep, where they do not stop knocking and having door shut in the faces or the part where they sharpen their skill non-stop. Something is pushing them, when you start moving towards a goal, this world will resist you.

You are not meant to hold on to them, you are meant to let them propel you to a better you and a better tomorrow.

We listen to motivational speakers all the time, celebrities and multi-millionaires, most of those who make it and stay made did not have a good start in life.



**"Challenges are not fun especially the ones that are not self motivated, they are not meant to be fun, they are meant to teach you something, so learn."**



Watch the drive of someone born in harsh conditions, who has made up their minds that they will make it, using their background as fuel and not as an anchor pulling them down. Also watch a child born into every privilege waste their lives away. When you look at things this way, we are all standing on equal footing, as unfair as that may sound. Even though the vehicles to get there differ, the door of success is one in its many forms.

Challenges are not fun especially the ones that are not self motivated, they are not meant to be fun, they are meant to teach you something, so learn. If you do not learn from them, you will be stuck in a cycle of never amounting to your dreams. Do not run away from something because it looks difficult to achieve, the higher the mountain, the more you will appreciate the view at the top.

Embrace challenges, I do not mean get comfortable in them but challenge them back!

*If it doesn't challenge you, It doesn't change you.*

Fred DeVito





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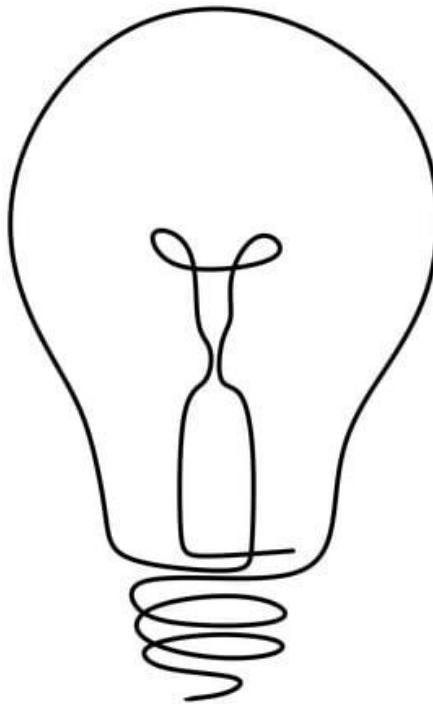


# EDUCATION

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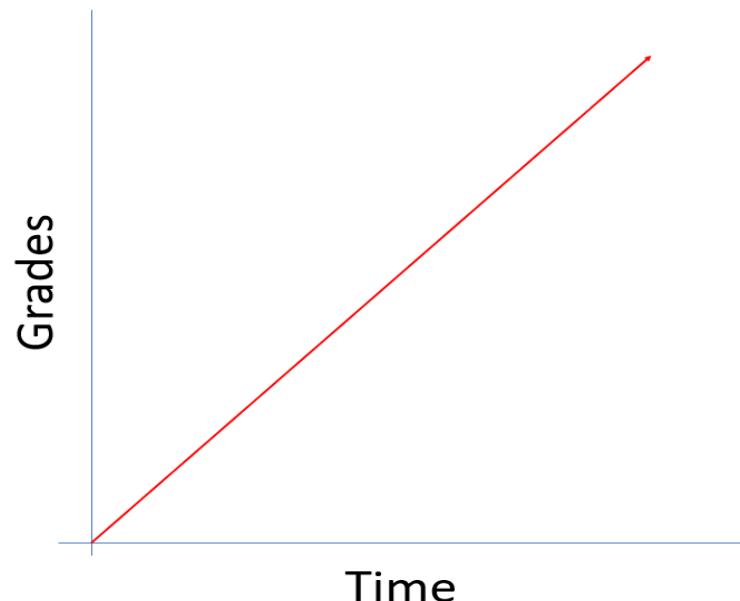
IT  
TAKES  
COURA  
GE TO  
WORK  
SMART.



Following the article on educational system in the second edition, there is a necessity to dive in further into the mindset of approaching school on this new illuminating edition. I truly believe that people are frustrated by school and for now, this article is the only remedy I have for those people who aren't creative enough to live outside of school – including me. This article also applies to people who are not in school. One of my instructors, who happened to be my advisor too, once said to me, "I know you are a hard worker... but you need to start working smart." On that day I was not feeling good at all. We had had a difficult conversation of how I am at the brink of failing. As she talked to me, I zoned out of the room and her voice became an echo as I replayed all the days I had ploughed through her assignment for hours no end. I thought that she must be kidding me! I have been losing sleep and sacrificing my other classes for this class, and all she had to say was that this class is easy; that I am spending more time than I should; or that I should work smart. Am I dumb? But at the end of the conversation I surrendered and chose the path of completely obliterating my ego. Hard work always beats no work but working smart surpasses them both. She was right! And my main takeaway was that, it takes courage to work smart.

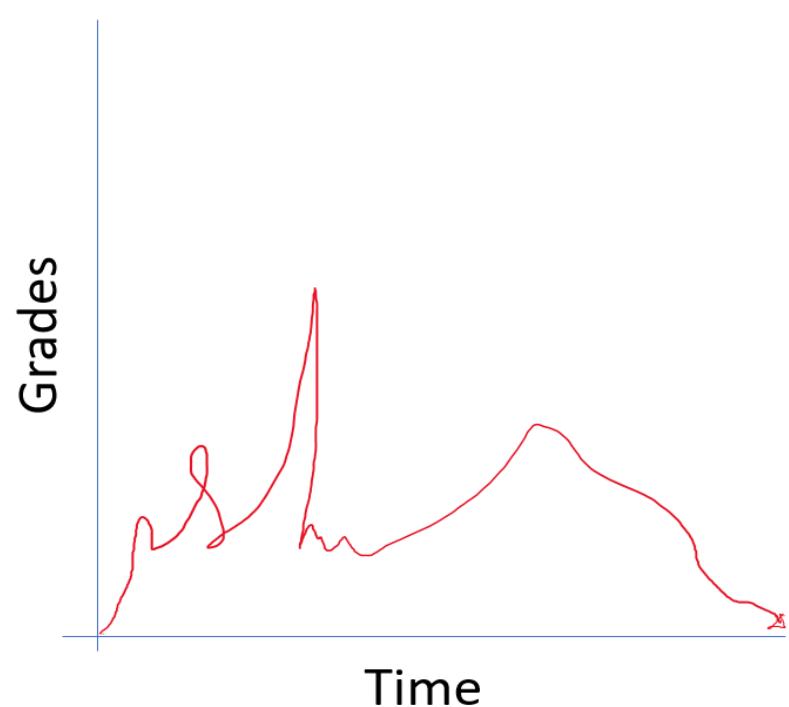
I felt numb and powerless as I exited the room as the way I had been working all this time was the only way I knew how. My core assumptions of how things should have been like is illustrated by the following graph:

My previous assumptions



But at that time my graph was looking like this:

The sad truth



Definitely, something had to change drastically! Time spent would not be my path to success anymore. But what would be my new strategy? It was going to be working smart. Although working smart sounds easy, it is not independent of hard work. Sometimes working smart *is* working hard and no other way. The essential part of working smart is identifying the requirements and the rules needed to accomplish the task at hand.

What I did after that interaction is what determined my trajectory. I went back to the drawing board and decided to take a new approach to use in changing my path to success. This changed my entire outlook not only on this course, but to the rest of my courses. Things had to change or else I was bound to fail at the end of the day. I started with a reflection; what do I think I did right and what did I do absolutely wrong? Goal setting is fundamental in the way I function, so I had to write down my new goals. These include: spending less time perusing through tons of notes, asking more questions and getting better marks than I did previously. Scheduling and goal setting are mutually inclusive. I looked into the previous assignments that went terribly wrong and had to allocate time for each one of them so as to fix them. Correcting my mistakes was what would make me have a clear view of what was and is expected of me in as far as attaining great marks and progression was concerned.

**“Hard work always beats no work but working smart surpasses them both.”**

Ultimately, a positive attitude was essential in maintaining a steady progress. Motivation was low at all times but I had to keep pressing on. I gave myself no option. I was hopeful too, I thought that I will be there until the last second. What was also essential in my everyday life was maintaining composure. Being relaxed helped me focus on one thing at a time. Yes this was not just a one day transformation, but you can be shocked at the resources one has if they have necessity, discipline and the courage to take a new perspective of learning. It takes courage to allow your beliefs to be challenged and furthermore – if you find the concept plausible – to adopt it. It takes courage to allow your ego to be set aside in order to attain an impeccable final product.

People, especially in academia, have a toxic mindset of being individualistic.



If a person has been told that they are smart or on the other extreme, that of being slow or rather stupid, they adopt a culture of being individualistic. They think education comes naturally and they will be able to figure it out all by themselves. Even the smartest person had to learn how to write their name at some point in time with the help of other individual(s). There was a period in their lives where they had to scribble and draw shapes that cannot ever be repeated. They were just incapable of writing. The social media age has perpetuated the mindset of showing our best side and hiding our worst side. We are in an illusion that life can or will ever be perfect (some people do not do this with school but in other areas of their lives). There is a façade brought up in attempt to appear “fine” in our own metrics of what fine is. It is hard to ask for help hence we choose to figure things out ourselves. We slowly die inside until it is too late to recover. We need the courage to collaborate and eliminate the amount of time we spend studying and figuring things out all alone.



Linked with the previous point, we as a people hardly take advantage of the fact that people have achieved what we wish to achieve. Mentors are one of the highly effective assets we could have in our corner as we climb the ladder to our predetermined lives. It is very hard to do things alone. One needs to be able to find someone whom she or he can learn from. One who can offer their perspectives and advices drawing from their experiences as they have went through the same tunnel one is trying to go past or walk through. It is true that things that work for them are not universally applicable, but the chances are high enough that they might. And mentors provide more than just advice, they offer a key to success which is accountability. And besides, if we are accountable to someone we are more likely to accomplish a particular task. Mentors are people you value and respect. It could be a colleague, your instructor, other people in academia and parents. Mentors offer support and enforce discipline among their mentees. You are more likely to make the most of a mentor which you pay for than that you do not. The psychology here is that you have put your skin in the game and are bound by the money you paid. Bottom line is that, an effective mentor is someone who you have enough respect for that you do what they say and put away your ego. It takes tenacity to go out of your way and connect with people that could assist you. It takes courage to obey and be coachable. It takes courage to work smart.



Ask questions. Always! Ask them during class as you acquire information or after class. Asking questions significantly reduces the amount of extra studying you need to do. Our instructors or teachers are there to be challenged by our stream of questions. Those people who take this for granted are not enjoying the state of understanding. You can ask questions to a number of people: librarians, students and teachers' assistants. It is important and time savvy. It is smart!

Part of working smart demands the discipline of not skipping a step. When you have a project, you fundamentally need to break it down to actionable steps that are laid out linearly, one after the other. Most people tend to rush into carrying out the last step which is to write the final work without breaking down that particular task for better understanding. Take for instance one needs to write an essay, most people tend to go straight into writing the first draft which is a biggest mistake. This cannot produce a masterpiece. Especially because that first draft is usually written hours before the deadline for the final draft. My instructor, the one I refer to earlier on, gave me this insight. Well, I cannot say it is an insight because it has been my life for the past 2 decades. That being said the devil is in the details. She clearly insisted that when you tackle a small chunk of the whole project, you aim to make the next step much more easier than the one you are doing.

For example, plan well enough to accommodate lazy days and unforeseen events. Read and take notes that will be easy to use. With all this care and discipline, the next step is inevitably simple. No one however can be this disciplined if they do not have a mentor or ask questions whether they are on the right track or not. This long process is impossible if you still try to do it by yourself or are still going to figure it out on your own. For instance, asking a question in a computer class could potentially save you 2 hours of trial and error. That is enough to write at least 2 pages of an essay. Think about it. Why do you need to work long and hard? Conversely, whilst working individually, some do not work hard and they skip necessary steps and find themselves producing work that they themselves despise. It takes courage to weigh your options and take on the path least travelled which is starting early and being efficient in your approach. Starting on time gives you ample amount of time to refine your work and as the saying goes, "Wine improves with age."

I think this has not happened only to me, for long I had been confused by what we were doing in my advisors class. I just did the wrong assignments and did not even know what is due when. I was just winging it. I am embarrassed thinking about that class because I just did not do the basic step which was reading and understanding the tasks.



This point is similar to the previous point but I must emphasize it. Before you even proceed with planning, breaking down the task or taking necessary actions – understand the task. Clear out everything that you do not understand by simply asking questions. There is no other way. Work the instructions thoroughly before you start the task. You could translate it, you can write it in your own words or you could annotate it or anything but make sure it is clear about what you are supposed to do. You can even ask for strategies of how to go about it, if need be. Once you clear that out, you can then start working on it. Make sure you know the main requirements and what skills are graded. Be clear in your head then the whole process will be smoother. Prepare yourself first. Do not just jump right in. This could differ in other areas of your life but the fundamentals are knowing what is being required and what is important in achieving good results.

As stated above, working smart is not synonymous with working easy because sometimes you need to get your hands dirty and do the unpleasurable tasks. I am going to be biased here, but you do need to actually read the book (because I am not a reading enthusiast). You need to do the tasks that most people productively procrastinate. You may even spend more time than what most people do, having two sets of notes where everyone has one. This is a strategy. It is deliberate action.

One set of notes are just random things that you thought could be useful and they are laid out according to the sequence of the book. The secondary notes could be those which are polished and structured in a way that suits your essay. You may also need to follow the rules of writing and even, in some cases, evaluate each sentence. But if you have a clear direction and plan, you might as well have every task done accordingly. It takes courage to persevere the laborious tasks.

In conclusion, we could ask ourselves, “Why should I go through this at school?” The simple answer is that it is smart. Working smart gives you the optimal results at a fraction of time. Working smart is not as easy as it is portrayed but it is necessary. If some of the principles can be induced to other areas in life where they are applicable, one can be very efficient. It is time for emaSwati to strive into working smart so that they get to achieve results that cannot be fathomed. It is time for *you* to take courage by learning the principle of working smart!

**“...working smart is not synonymous with working easy because sometimes you need to get your hands dirty and do the unpleasurable tasks.”**



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# RELATIONSHIPS



# HOW CAN ONE KEEP WARM ALONE???



Ron Adamic/Stocksy.com/1582981

So I was doing a bit of reading and came across this word and I got to think about the importance of companionship. It makes a lot of sense that two people are always better than one in almost all aspects of life. Like I mean how on earth could someone manage his/her entire life in solitude? Not enticing at all right? I bet so too. So let's look at the advantages of companionship. Why it's so important we associate with people, mingle and not be all alone. And before you get all excited, this has nothing to do with dating, this column focuses on all sorts of relationships in the universe hence we'll look at companionship from all angles. So why should we be in some sort of relationship?

First and foremost (okay now this sounds a bit all too serious but it's okay), companionship equals to success. Yup, I said it. If you have no one to point out what you're doing right or wrong then there's no room for growth hence stagnation which is not such a good recipe for success now or is it? So in as much as criticism is not always our favorite but we always need someone that will point out certain things we wouldn't have noticed if we were all by ourselves. Hence it becomes imperative that we have people around us to help us succeed. To point out our strengths and where we need to put in a bit more effort.

Again, if we avail ourselves for relationships then if we fall, we can always be assured that there will be someone to help us get back up.

However, this is not always the case, as the saying goes, "when days are dark, friends are fewer", which then brings us to the point of choosing the right companions and sticking with those companions that will always be there to pick us up. Relationships should be a 'give and take' hence, what you expect to be done to you, you should also do to others. Relationships are a commitment, they take work so effort must always be shown which involves picking our friends, family or the 'older babies' up when they fall. It's a terrible shame when one falls alone with no one to pick them up.

Another positive of companionship or rather relationship is that when you're all alone then it's quite easy to be attacked and defeated. A lack of a support system is most often than not disastrous. Let's face it, really we can never be able to do things all by ourselves no matter how much we may want independence or "just don't like being around people", there is always a need for that stranger along the way that shows you you've dropped your phone or that friend you can call at 2 a.m. to whine about "how horrible life is" or those few hundreds a parent helps out with during those 'broke' times so we really always need someone for a helping hand so that we don't feel stuck and get all defeated in this journey called life. Sadness and depression can always creep in when we're all alone but two people talking about something that may seem like a mountain to another may actually come up with solutions to climb the mountain and reach the peak instead of focusing on how high the mountain is.





So, in closing, we all need someone to lean on whether introvert or extrovert, young or old, companionship is an essential part of our daily lives. We just cannot keep warm alone!!

By: **Noncedo Mhlanga**

# Simple Source

Simple to use. Difficult to live without.





### ***THOBEKA NXUMALO MAKING HER PRESENTATION ON SIMPLE BOOKS***

IT solutions made simple! I come bearing good news! And a gift for every business person reading this, big or small! I'm here with a solution to your math problems! To your accounting problems where those books just don't seem to balance! I'm pleased to let you know that you won't even need that calculator anymore! Do away with the mentality of "Why fix it if it works perfectly?" no! It's not working perfectly.

Read through to find the surprise that I have for you, which will save your time, peace and overall business. You'll thank me later.

Founded by Mr Siboniso Ginindza after putting off teaching as a profession in 2017, Simple Source is a software company that develops easy IT solutions for businesses and individuals.

Its mission is to understand the uniqueness of your business and vision, to provide you with IT solutions that maximize your business's potential. Simple Source offers Simple Books now, which is a software that does basic bookkeeping for small businesses in the retail, service and agriculture sector. It enables a business to transact and automatically carries out double entry bookkeeping for all the incomes and expenditures. It can be connected to a Point of Sale system that enables the business to receive payments and keep track of sales and stock. All you need is your smartphone! The software is installed either on your phone, tablet or computer. Once it is installed, Simple Source keeps things running smoothly so that clients can focus on their businesses. Now one feature that you will absolutely love about Simple Books is that, the desktop application can work even without connection to the internet. Also, you don't have to lift a finger because you can trust that security, regular server and app updates, performance monitoring, daily backups, maintenance of features and bug fixes are all overseen.



**FOUNDER OF SIMPLE SOURCE MR  
SIBONISO GININDZA**

With over 10 years of experience in the ICT industry developing education and business technology, you can trust that Simple Source is the best investment you could ever make for your business.

What's more, there is also ease of document production.





***CEO OF THE ROYAL ESWATINI  
TECHNOLOGY PARK, MR  
VUMILE DLAMINI***

Documents like quotations, sales and purchases reports, point of sales reports, balance sheets, statements, general ledger, trial balance, cash flow statements, sales and purchases journal as well as invoices issued and received, are well taken care of. No sweat, the software does it all for you.

No one wants issues with the revenue authority right? Tax issues can totally sink a business, but rest assured, Simple Books mitigates all of that because of its ease in tax compliance feature that will give you a good night's rest. It saves the output and input tax, making it easier to complete returns. It also scans all receipts and stores them securely for auditing purposes. See? One less thing to worry about.

Now let's talk about the vehicle that'll take you to this beautiful software. Simple Books is very affordable! At only E2 400 per year, you are sure to get this wonderful package that will bring about changes worth it in your business. This software only develops what you need and what you use, hence prices vary with packages. You can save up to E50 000 per year in inventory management software.



# SIMPLE SOURCE



Even greater news for businesses who cannot afford to hire a full time IT support staff, Simple Source provides both remote and on site IT support from their experienced team at competitive prices. Everyone is covered!

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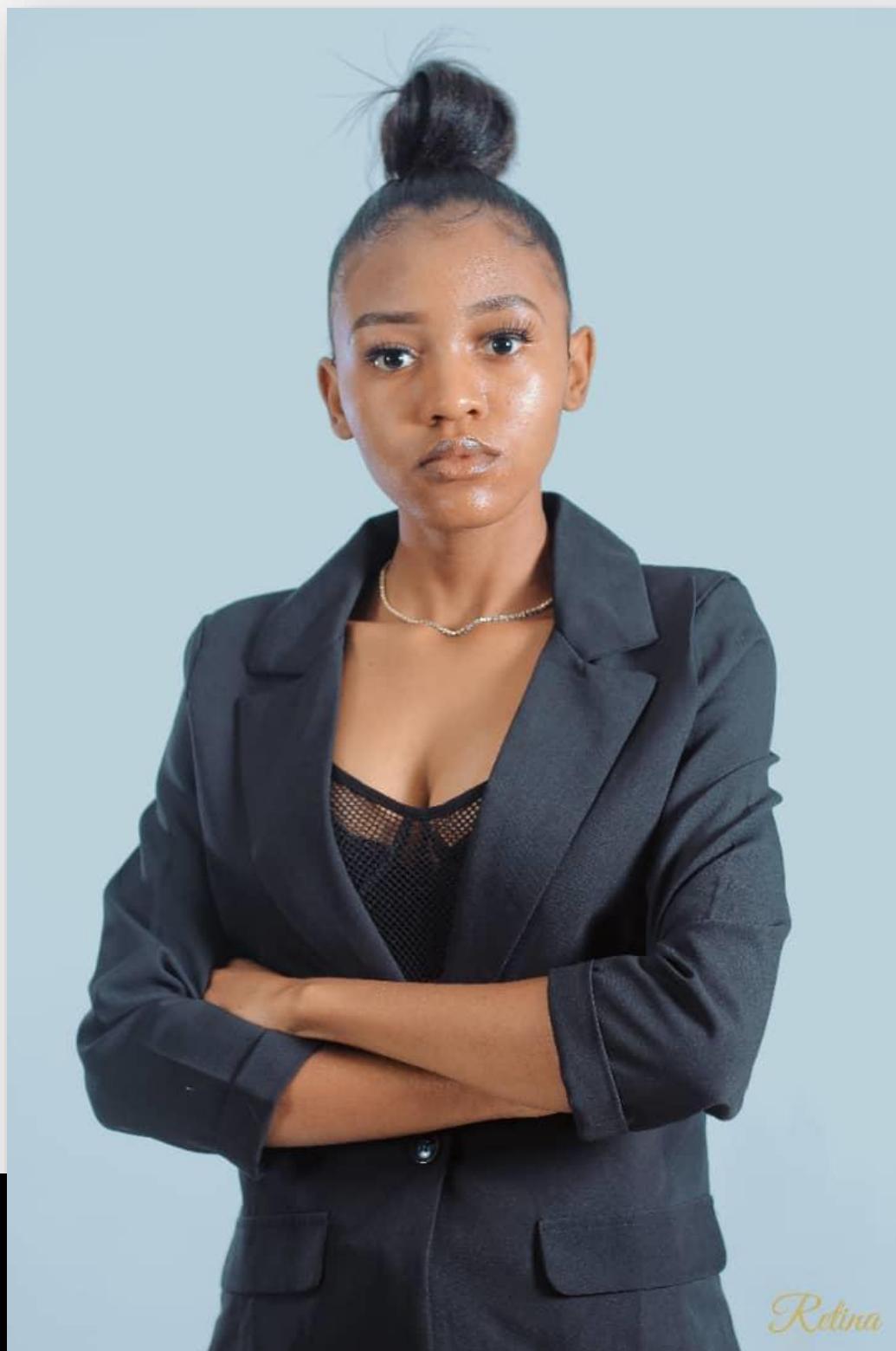
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# *Growth diaries*

**With Mandisa Magagula**



# Growth diaries

*We grow through experiences,  
interactions, what we feed our minds,  
etc.*

*Dear Diary...*

Every time I speak to a young person here on this humble diary, I realize just how much we have such powerful opinions and perspectives that one can't find just lying on the ground somewhere. On this entry, I realized that with growth, we never arrive! I became conscious of the fact that growing and outgrowing feed off of each other. Growth happens every single day! We grow through experiences, interactions, what we feed our minds, etc. Those happen every day! So then you'll meet someone after 4 years of not talking to them and they'll say, "Oh my goodness! You've grown so much!" seeing that you have outgrown certain habits and attitudes. So growth comes about when you outgrow! A habit, obsession, attitude, and all of those toxic traits we all know. labourer, citizen or letting go  
of a sleeping habit, drug or  
social media addiction and  
actually taking life more  
seriously."



# Growth diaries

The ever so lovely Mandisa Magagula stopped by to remind me that, in this life, we need to redefine. I invited her to share some of the truths about a 17/18 year old and their attitude towards others.

"First of all, I think we need to redefine the word 'truth', because my experience is different from another person's, so we can never come to that common ground to say, yo! This is the truth." It made so much sense, because my truth is definitely far from what she has just said. That's just the thing about truths, attitudes and opinions! They will forever differ and I LOVE it! So I had to enquire further whether or not she thinks these attitudes are based on the environment and the company kept. "Almost everyone is influenced by their environment and the company they keep. Those actually change your perception towards life, so I think we really need to come to the point where we outgrow the influences from our environment and company! We need to stand our ground, to say, this is what I believe in, this is going to be my truth and this is what I will live by." WORD! She continued to say we shouldn't ever let anything define us! We acknowledge our background yes, but let us refuse to stay there!



# Growth diaries

This is a diary right? And it can get very personal! So I was eager to know how she has grown over the years and what exactly made her grow. "One of the most important is my relationship with God. When I embarked on my spiritual journey, things changed. I realized that I am not living for myself, because, \*chuckles\*, I thought I was the only one in the world, but me being saved showed me that I need people, I need love, I need everything that God has to offer me. God works through man and He works with man, so you can't do everything alone. I outgrew self-absorption."

"I wish I had known that life isn't easy. It's a constant fight, and victory is certain if you fight. FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT! Fight for your spot. Sometimes things aren't served on a silver platter! You fight for your spot in the world, for your destiny and everything that you believe in. But first, it starts with you building yourself and knowing what your truth is. Take your time."

Now we all have some sort of antidote, don't we? How does Mandisa survive? "God." Period! I will not in any way justify that. "On my hardest days, I take a break. I play that one song that picks me up, sermons, and prayer audios. Those give me a huge boost! Also, my parents! They are such a huge motivation."



# *Growth diaries*

My favorite part of this diary has to be when these young adults share their pieces of advice to those behind them. It's always so insightful!

"Never put pressure on yourself. Be kind to yourself. Growth isn't something that is measured by days or years. Growth is you being in a place where you love and appreciate yourself daily, you accept things that you cannot change and you pursue the things that you can change. So don't let anyone give you a time frame on when things should be done because you have your own lane! And life is a marathon, not a sprint. Be kind to yourself and RESPECT PEOPLE."

Wonderful, beautiful things! Spoken like a true visionary and a lady with ambition! Well, there you have it! Growth is not measured by days! We couldn't agree more Mandisa!

Make sure to catch the next entry with one of our very own! Keep well, chest out!  
You got this!!!!

**By Ziyanda Mhlanga**



# The Spark Magazine

Celebrates its first star in winning best online arts and entertainment magazine in Swazi fest writers awards



C E L E B R A T I O N

The spark interviewed the founder of the Swazi Fest Writers Awards (SFWA).

Clement Thando Dlamini is a writer, motivational speaker and the Times of Eswatini newspaper columnist. He grew up in Bhunya under Manzini region where he spent his childhood with his grandmother, attending school. He did his primary school at Ekuthuleni Primary School he then proceeded to Inyandza High school.

He is the only child on his mother's side whereas, he is the first born of six children of different mothers on his father's side. His mother was a textile worker and she died in June 2010, and she left him with his grandmother who raised him, since he was still a teenager. He completed high school with stipends from piece jobs implying that he used to work in order to pay for his school fees.

He completed Form 5 in 2015 and unfortunately, he didn't credit enough subjects to enrol to university. In April 2016, he started working as a security guard and he worked there for 3 years. Having said that, he was a heavy drug addict for seven years; on 31 October 2017 he quit his drug usage and the following year, in February 2018, he enrolled at IMDC upgrading institute to upgrade Maths and English. He was able attain that enabling him to enrol in Limkokwing University of Creative Technology, in 2019, where he is currently doing his last year.

# Q & A

## **What inspired you to start the writers awards?**

As the newspaper columnist I was getting a lot of questions on my emails, WhatsApp, Facebook inbox and calls people asking questions like; How can I become a writer ? How to perfect your writing craft ? So, while I was busy replying them one by one; one day I thought of organizing a writer's conference so to help by sharing the writing tips then while I was brainstorming on the idea I ended up coming with a big concept of appreciating local authors as there were no awards for writers, so I decided to host the first writer's awards ever in the Kingdom of eSwatini.

## **When was the event?**

Nov 27, 2021

## **What challenges did you face in preparations and how did you overcome them?**



While we were preparing to host the writer's awards we faced a lot of financial challenges as we didn't have sponsors at first but luckily MACMILLAN came for our rescue.

### **What do you look forward to in the future?**

As we are already working on bringing the best show in 2022, I'm hopeful that we'll come back bigger and better next year as we have learned through experience of hosting the first edition of SWAZI FEST WRITER'S AWARDS. I hope this event is going to be one of the biggest event in the kingdom of Eswatini.

### **How could writers and other third parties support you in your endeavours?**

Writers and other parties which are interested must show up and propose new ideas, recommendations and suggestions on what they expect to see in the near future. As this is for them, they have a say as relevant stakeholders to this event. Any party with keen interest on supporting this initiative must check our Facebook page and contact us on that email or WhatsApp number provided.

**Do you have books or other things that the public should check out? If yes, could you elaborate on them.**

Check out my column page on the Times of Eswatini newspaper every Friday and I'm working releasing anytime as I'm still waiting to graduate and building the brand.

**Why writing? Why do you hope to achieve by promoting writers and yourself?**

A writer changed my life and because they are not appreciated I decided to step up and do something for them. By promoting writers I want to encourage the culture of reading and writing in the kingdom of Eswatini as most people don't like it.

### **What is your advice to writers?**

Please read and write a lot. We need more books in the kingdom of Eswatini. Dj Sbu on his book titled 'The Art of Hustling: Sell or Surrender ', he said " He sees the necessity of celebrities and successful influencers to share their success stories through books." In that case, we need more people who'll unselfishly share their journey to stardom so to help those who follow them to have a glimpse of what is expected from them if they want success.



# SWAZI FEST WRITER'S AWARDS

## 2021

The first edition of writer's awards was hosted successfully and we thank all those bought tickets and attended the event. Over 70 people graced the event and we are hopeful that next year we'll come back bigger and better as we are already working on bringing the best show in 2022.

This year we had 10 categories and next year we'll introduce more categories as the main objective is to encourage and celebrate local author to at least motivate them to write more. This year's winners are as follows;

1. Best Blogger - Tenele Dlamini
2. Best Informative Author - Matron Mntshali
3. Poem Compilation Book Author - Nerville Johnson
4. Best Fictional Author - Mbali Dlamini
5. Favourite Newspaper Columnist - Bandiswa Vilane
6. Best Scriptwriter - Nerville Johnson
7. Best Siswati Author - Gcina Mhlanga
8. Best Online Arts and Entertainment Magazine - The Spark Magazine
9. Best Young Writer - Nonhlanhla Mkhabela
10. Best Selling Author - Tandzile Zwane

Congratulations to all the winners



# C E L E B R A T I O N



**CLEMENT THANDO DLAMINI  
— FOUNDER OF SWAZI FEST  
WRITERS AWARDS**



**THE SPARK MAGAZINE  
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# Spiritual corner

# IT'S THE FESTIVE, AND ALL THINGS ARE ALLOWED BUT...

It's that time of the year, the season to be jolly! It's that time where we'll be meeting long lost relatives, having outings and gatherings with friends, and all other sorts of fun and pleasurable things there are out there. For most of us, this is the time when our Christian life will be shaken and our beliefs and different spiritual decisions will be put through the fire with some somewhat tough or rather not so pleasing questions and comments. Sometimes we'll just have to battle with ourselves to do what's right even when it's really not what we feel like doing. And we have to ignore what doesn't build us up!

"Why are you still not married?, Why aren't you dating?, Why didn't you bring your date?, Why are you so uptight, live a little, you're young, a drink or a few pulls and puffs won't hurt. You really don't have to be that much spiritual. Why don't you just get a fling for the festive? A no strings attached type of thing, surely there's no much of a sin in that", blah blah blah. There's just so many examples of what we get asked and told when we decide to live a life different from the norm, a life different from the status quo, and if we're not careful we might just get convinced that what we're doing is just a



bit overboard and we're too spiritual and boring or whatever else people may think whenever you decide to set yourself apart from the norm. But there's encouragement, we don't have to be conformed to the standards of this world and we should always strive to present ourselves as called and chosen. So each time, we have to remind ourselves that we're called, chosen and set apart.

Well before I get carried away and move away from the point, let me get back to the subject matter. So apostle Paul tells us that some people say that, "all things are lawful for me" but not all things are helpful. And some say that "food is for the stomach" but we can't go around being enslaved by these things. 'All things' basically means that we can do anything, we're allowed, it's really our life after all so I mean we can do all sorts of things. But we also get the warning that despite, 'all things being lawful' and 'food being made for the stomach', not all things are helpful and we should not be enslaved by these things that we decide to do. Truly, not everything is good for us, some things are just good from afar and not us actually partaking in them.

'Just one more slice of cake won't hurt', even when you've had like 5 different others two hours before.

'It's Christmas and it's all about feasting so I can have as much food as I can possibly take in, I can always exercise next year after all, as a new year's resolution', but gluttony really shows a lack of self control which is a fruit of the spirit so indulging recklessly probably does not get a nod from our heavenly Father. Apostle Paul tells us that we should glorify God in our bodies, that entails taking care of our bodies even on aspects that we don't think God cares about. Truth of the matter is He cares, he cares about all our beings, every single detail including what we do with our bodies and what we put in and on our bodies. 'I can always show off a bit of skin on the socials, it's a vibe, everyone is showing off their summer bodies anyways' but there's boundaries as a child of God, not everything is helpful really although it is lawful.

So as we jol this festive season let's remember that we are called, chosen and set apart for God's glory. In as much as we can do anything and everything we want, but not everything is helpful and we should be cautious that we don't let anything enslave us, keep us bound in a dark cell. So it's more than okay to let that drink or that pull and puff pass. It's okay to be single and pursue holiness. It's still very much good to exercise and be mindful of what we eat.





It's still very much fashionable to dress modestly, cover up and not want to leave little to the imagination just because everyone is doing it. After all, how will it help man to gain nods from the world and lose his eternal life?

Let's ponder on this even during the vibes. We can do anything, but not all things are helpful!

By: Noncedo Mhlanga



# FEAR

## Clothing

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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# MOTORING

# 3D

## A Ride to the future

We have seen the evolution of cars unfolding in front of our very eyes and it seems like an evolution that is yet to still grow and expand. What is the future of cars now? what changes and modifications do they have in mind? we have had theories that by the year 2020 we would be having flying cars and cars that run from solar energy to save on fuel costs but are we as people that advanced to carry out and maintain a world where cars fly?

Even in a modern society where technology is advancing day by day something's can't be rushed and thus these theories still remain as such. Let's dive into a world of motoring that is beyond our imagination; these will be the game changers of the motoring world, these will be the cars that matter in the future. It might take a few years until some of these get manufactured but they will definitely be worth the wait.





## **I. The Acura Integra**

**This will be the first Integra to be sold since 2006, it is simply a re-styled Honda Civic Sedan. It is set to be available in wild colours like Emerald blue and Fiery Yellow with steering wheel designs of up to 18 inches. It has a 1.5 litre four cylinder turbo engine rayed at 180hp and 177 lb·ft of torque, sales will begin in 2022**



## **2022 Alfa Romeo Tonale**





**2024 Austin Martin Vanguish - the new  
Austin martin will be a mid-engine  
supercar and it is said to start at  
\$300,000 when it arrives in 2023**

# B M W i8 M



Starting price at \$160,000 with the current i8 not living up to the manufacturers expectations they aim at bringing new and improved i8 M with a massive increase in Power, a longer all-electric driving range, updated styling, and a more capable chassis are all expected to separate the i8 from the model it will replace.

# 2025 Cadillac Calestiq.



# 2023 Chevy Corvette Z06

The Corvette went on sale early 2022 as a 2023 model starting at about \$85 000 with a naturally aspirated DOHC 32-valve



**5.5 litre V-8 with a flat-plane crank and revs between 8500 and 9000 rpm and spits 600-plus horse power.**

# **OWNING A SPORTS CAR**

**You have seen the amazing wheels these manufacturers have in store for us and i'm certain that you're wondering if owning a sports car is really worth it? There is no doubt that**

**in as much as sports cars may look appealing to the eye they can sadly destroy your bank account. It is always wise and best to know what you're getting into before buying one well let's hop on to the Pros and Cons of owning these luxurious cars.**

## **PROS**

**1. Resale value is important, All cars depreciate with time but sports cars have a greater chance of having higher resale value than ordinary cars because of its sleek interior and great designs**

**and also because fewer of them are manufactured so even after a few years they are still in demand as they become classics.**

**2. Speed, If you're someone who is a sucker for adrenaline and performance these are the right cars for you as they are built to respond, perform, make driving fun, mind-blowing and exciting.**

**3. Personalisable, These cars now come with options to personalise them to fit your own taste and feel from body paint, interior trim, fabric used on seats. These are far more than just commuters**

**they are a source of personal identity and a good way to express yourself.**

## **CONS**

**1. Comfort, if you want a comfy commute then you most definitely should not be looking into sports cars. These have stiffer interior as manufacturers use firmer suspensions and low-profile tires to improve handling.**

**2. Maintenance, The higher price tag of the car does not end when you purchase it but continues through out maintenance like fuel, tires and monthly garage visits. So if you're an individual on a tight budget this is not the type of car for you.**

**3. Space, sports cars do not have a back seat and those that do ,it's not big enough to hold a child, These are good cars for show not for family and running errands.**

# CAR CRUSH OF THE YEAR





## **THE 2021 Mercedes-Benz S-Class**

**MSRP: Sedan      \$190,800 (E2,987,546.40)**

**Coupe      \$131,140 (E2,083,814.6)**

**Convertible    \$140,000 (E2,224,600)**

**Horsepower: 463 to 603 hp**

**Dimensions: 198-215" L x 75-77" W x 56-60" H**

**Curb weight: 4,586 to 4,817 lbs**

**Engine: 3.0 l 6-cylinder, 4.0 LV8 FE**



## **IMPRESSIVE FEATURES**

### **COMFORT: Next generation MBUX**

**Active ambient lighting**

**Rear seat comfort package**  
**executive seat**

**Burmester high-end 4D surround**  
**sound**

**Rear axle steering**

### **SAFETY: Driving assistance package**

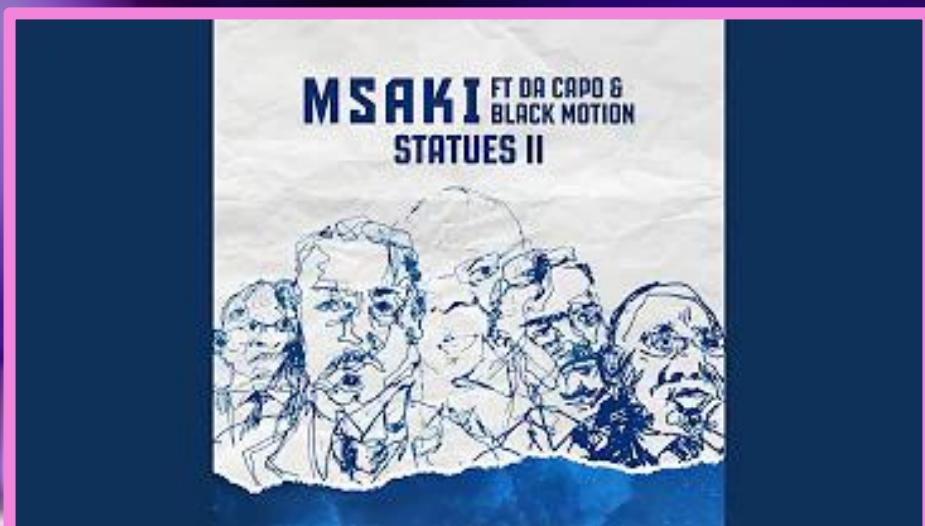
**Digital lighting**

**Rear airbag**

**attention assist (enhanced vision)**

# SONGS





# POEM

Like always

You're in my head like always  
I just got scared, like always  
I lost my way like always  
Thought you left me like they all did  
But you've been here like always..

I make a mess like always

You clean it up..purify me..bless me and tell me  
I am loved like always...

I lost my way and you found me like always..

Was broken by the world like always..but like a  
potter you fixed me, moulded me and built me  
again like always..

You're in my head like always

I've just been scared like always

Lost my way like always

But you are still here like always..



# POEM

You've never left me nor forsaken me like  
always

You've kept me close to you like always

Called me blessed like always

Breathed life into me everyday like always

You called my name like always

I just chose to ignore you like always..

But today I am made new unlike those days

You call I hear you unlike those days

I wake up and I want to be like you, live like  
you ,walk like you unlike those days

I am strong unlike those days

The devil has no power over me unlike those  
days

I am loved like always

Blessed like always

I am a child of God like always ❤

-Kayise Dlamini ❤



WHAT THE F\*@# HAPPENED TO HOUSE 9

Episode 1: Isn't it a little bit strange?

Setting: School



## SCENE 1

*Everyone gets off the Bus people start to hug each other. CARLOS takes his stuff and follows everyone to where they are heading and takes his own initiative to understand what is going on so that he gets things done (short snippets of a person breathing, footsteps and until he takes a deep breath to show he has stopped. Background is full of sounds of screams, luggage wheels, footsteps etc.).*

STAFF: Hey, what's your name again?

CARLOS: Carlos, Ma'am.

STAFF: No need to call me Ma'am – I am Elizabeth. Don't wait here, you can just go and fetch your t-shirt over there. If you go to that table there is a girl, her name is Thulile, she will help you.

CARLOS: Yes Elizabeth (goes there)

*on the background people are shouting and speaking. The most heard voice is the staff member supervising the distribution of the t-shirts saying, "Has everyone gotten their t-shirt?"*

CARLOS: Hello... Thulyla... Thuylil... (chuckles). Forgive me, I tried.

THULILE: (smiles) Thulile you mean?

CARLOS: Yeah, I'll make it my life mission to learn that name, even if it means failing the IB. I am Carlos. (Awkward Pause) Anyways, I would like to get a t-shirt please.

THULILE: What is your size?

CARLOS: guess...

THULILE: I do not know... medium... Large? It would be better if you told me.

CARLOS: Close, but my height makes me take large because everything else becomes a cropped top.



## **BREAK 1**

STUDENT: (enthusiastically) What is this?

ALL: water

STUDENT: (Even more enthusiasm) When I do this?

ALL: you are tapping

STUDENT: Does it mean it is tap water (looks at them and then runs away)

ALL: Don't leave me (laugh and run after them)

(Laughing in the background)

## **SCENE 2**

CARLOS: Thank you very much. So I have to go to my house and I do not know where my house is. House... *nine*? (emphasizes the nine)

STAFF 2: Thulile can you show CARLOS where his house is located because it is quite far. No need to drop him off just give him directions from the point where you can see it. I will be giving out the t-shirts meanwhile.

THULILE: (she is okay with it) Okay, I will. (Looks at CARLOS) Lets go.

*They leave together and walk towards the house*

CARLOS: Where are you from? Your name sounds: African. Not west Africa, however, your accent...

THULILE: I am from South Africa.

CARLOS: I am from El Salvador (silence) So, how was your first year like? Is this year going to be exciting? I think it is fair to say I will bring a vibe to the school.

THULILE: (Sighs) okay.

CARLOS: I was told a lot about the school including the fact that there is some dumbass who eats soil. What's his name? (starts giggling)



THULILE: (in a louder voice) Bob. Bob is not a dumbass; he is trying to show that he can stop at nothing to make this planet a better place for all of us and for the generation to come. I think we all need to take the issue of sustainability serious. The future generation will suffer because of us. If I had to, I would also eat the soil.

CARLOS: (Sarcastically) For a moment there I thought you did not have a sense of humour. (laughs at her) I am sure you are vegan or watertarian - or something like that.

THULILE: (a long silence) okay here's your house. Bye.

CARLOS: leaving already?

THULILE: Yeah, I have already taken you too far.

### **SCENE 3**

GUS: Man, my summer was a big mess, I thought I would study, since, you know...

MARTIN: I know what?

GUS: ... since I flunked my end of year exams. This term is going to be rubbish!

MARTIN: Oh yeah. Me too. But have you checked out the new Avengers movie. It is a masterpiece. In the Cool-Blue scale I say it's 0.85 blues.

GUS: That is (screams) sick! There are very few movies or anything in life that have ever reached that level. I must see soon - today. I will not sleep because I will be thinking of the awesomeness of the iron man!

MARTIN: not on Netflix.

GUS: Then I will have to use my computer skills. (makes an evil laugh)



## **SCENE 4**

*THULILE enters her room*

ROSE: Hey I am Rose and I am from Nigeria and I will be your roommate for this year.

THULILE: Oh nice to meet you I am Thuli.

ROSE: I have a second year but I am just afraid to talk to him. Do you know Noah?

THULILE: yeah he is nice so do not worry. And yes some people do not get along as much with their second years so do not worry you will be okay.

ROSE: Anyways I am excited to be here. I didn't think I would ever qualify and finally I am here! In Germany!

THULILE: I do not think you will need your second year much. You will be able to make friends.

*THULILE talks in another direction. She is talking to another firstly.*

THULILE: Hi there, what is your name? Are you okay? You are quiet.

ZADA: My name is ZADA. I am fine, just tired.

THULILE: Okay take some rest and then at dinner you will meet everyone. I'll just be packing my things meanwhile.

ROSE: Nice to meet you again THUL-YEAH. I think I will go outside and meet other people, ZADA do you want to come with me? (*gasp because she remembered what has been said*) - forgot, see you later.



## **SCENE 5**

CARLOS: Hey, it's you again. Thully?

THULILE: (passes him without saying a word)

CARLOS: (runs back to talk to her) wait... please wait. I am really sorry about... (interrupted)

THULILE: What are you sorry about?

CARLOS: ...earlier today, I just got out of proportion. Please, you know I would like to talk to you.

THULILE: No, no I'm alright I just didn't see you for a moment (smiles) However, I need to go to my house I have to meet my friends. We'll talk soon

CARLOS: Okay, see you then. (calms his excitement and we hear them walk)

## **SCENE 6**

(Max enters room)

CARLOS: Hi, you look like you just got off a fight. (laughs nervously)

MAX: (breathing heavily he ran up the stairs) Cheers mate!  
(With a British accent)

*MAX throws his luggage on his bed, opens the wardrobe and bangs it closed and heads out*

CARLOS: Oh,

*MAX re-enters the room and looks at CARLOS and smiles*

MAX: Where you from? I heard you speak Spanish

CARLOS: I am from El Salvador and I am sure you are a German, even if your clothes look ripped from a fight.

MAX: There a lot you have learn. So what's poppin' have you made friends yet?

CARLOS: Not yet, I have just arrived.



MAX: It will do you justice if you move out of your room man. There are a lot of beautiful men and women, depending on your preference. At least have you spoken to someone.

CARLOS: Yeah, a girl known as Thulile, she is from South Africa. But we did not have great start. I kind of offended her...

MAX: Are you a jerk, mate? Do not come here creating steam for yourself, especially over nothing. I mean she is a sweet girl if you mess with her know you have gone too far. I want you, the moment we wake up, you apologize – am I clear?

CARLOS: I did but she didn't want to listen to me...

MAX: Just do it... otherwise you seem like a (*does not want to say good*) roommate. Let me head out.

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## What is this?

The magazine is a platform and catalogue for the youth to be inspired, to showcase our heroes who are working effortlessly in the backgrounds and forefront in making our beloved eSwatini a better place for all. It is the voice for the voiceless. It is a platform where people are given a chance to confidently lay out their souls to fellow emaSwati and the world at large. It is there to reconstruct and unleash the real beauty of this country. It is an empowering vehicle that aims to empower and replenish the lost hope in the entire Swati nation.

It will entail interesting thoughts, mind boggling facts and opportunities for people to get up from their couches and not so comfortable "comfort" zones and actually do something in making our dreams a reality!

## Last words

I may not know for sure when exactly this great change will come to pass, but I know for sure that change is inevitable! The winds of change are blowing already. It is up to us as a nation to unite and soldier on in freeing ourselves from ignorance and deprivation. All I am asking is for us to change our mindset towards the challenges we are faced with as a nation. I challenge us, Swati youth, to put it on ourselves to win this attack on our precious land. To break the insidious cycle of inadequacy and deprivation.

Each one of us has to take some responsibility.

Each one of us has to do some introspection and have a conversation with oneself as to what attempts can one do to shape and create the eSwatini generations have been yearning for. No effort is too little at this point. Individualism is not an African trait hence it has destroyed our precious land. We need to stand up eSwatini and fight for our land, for our rights. If we really need those jobs, undegraded education, lucrative income, freedom of expression amongst other things, we need not run away. There is more for each one of us here at home. We must stay and fight intellectually. It is possible, only if we work in solidarity. Now is the time!

**Let's ignite The Spark of our love for the country!**

**Thank you. Siyabonga Maswati akitsi.**



This edition was possible because people dedicated their time to help. This project is non profit hence every effort put, there has been a volunteer who thought the country would benefit from their work and I believe they had an impact. At the same time, you might like to help too. There are number of ways each an every Swazi or even if you are not liSwati that you could help with.

### **Editor**

The magazine has been edited by dedicated editors but in order to make it more efficient, we could have more editors. Editors check for grammatical errors and try to make the story more appealing and persuasive. The more editors there can be we can try to reduce the amount of subjectivity in the articles.

### **Sponsor**

Any kind of monetary donations are truly appreciated. There are incurred costs such as data usage, transportation and other. We do need support as we try to make the release of The Spark a regular thing.

### **Give feedback**

Giving critical and constructive feedback is preferred because we believe that we could make faults and potentially offend people. We would appreciate your feed back and suggestions for improvement.

### **Writer**

If you have something to share with the country, we would truly appreciate it if you would write it down so that people can benefit. You can write as many as you want and we shall choose at least one from you.



## **Advertise/endorse**

Even if it's a big business or a startup, we could advertise it for you, free of charge. We would like you to then help us spread this magazine until it reaches the whole country.

## **Ideas and brainstorming**

If you have ideas that relate to the theme of this magazine, you can kindly give them to us so that we could write about them and ensure a counterpoise in the magazine.

## **Social media/Promoter**

If you have a great following on any social platform, you can help spread the news to your following because it will be very useful in reaching great numbers.

## **Reader and other**

The aim is that people can end up reading and that can start with you. If you read this, you will be supporting the work of your fellow emaSwati or even yours. We encourage you not to leave any page unturned.

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# Let's improve eSwatini



*Find out how you  
can help too...*



Have yourself a  
Merry little  
Christmas