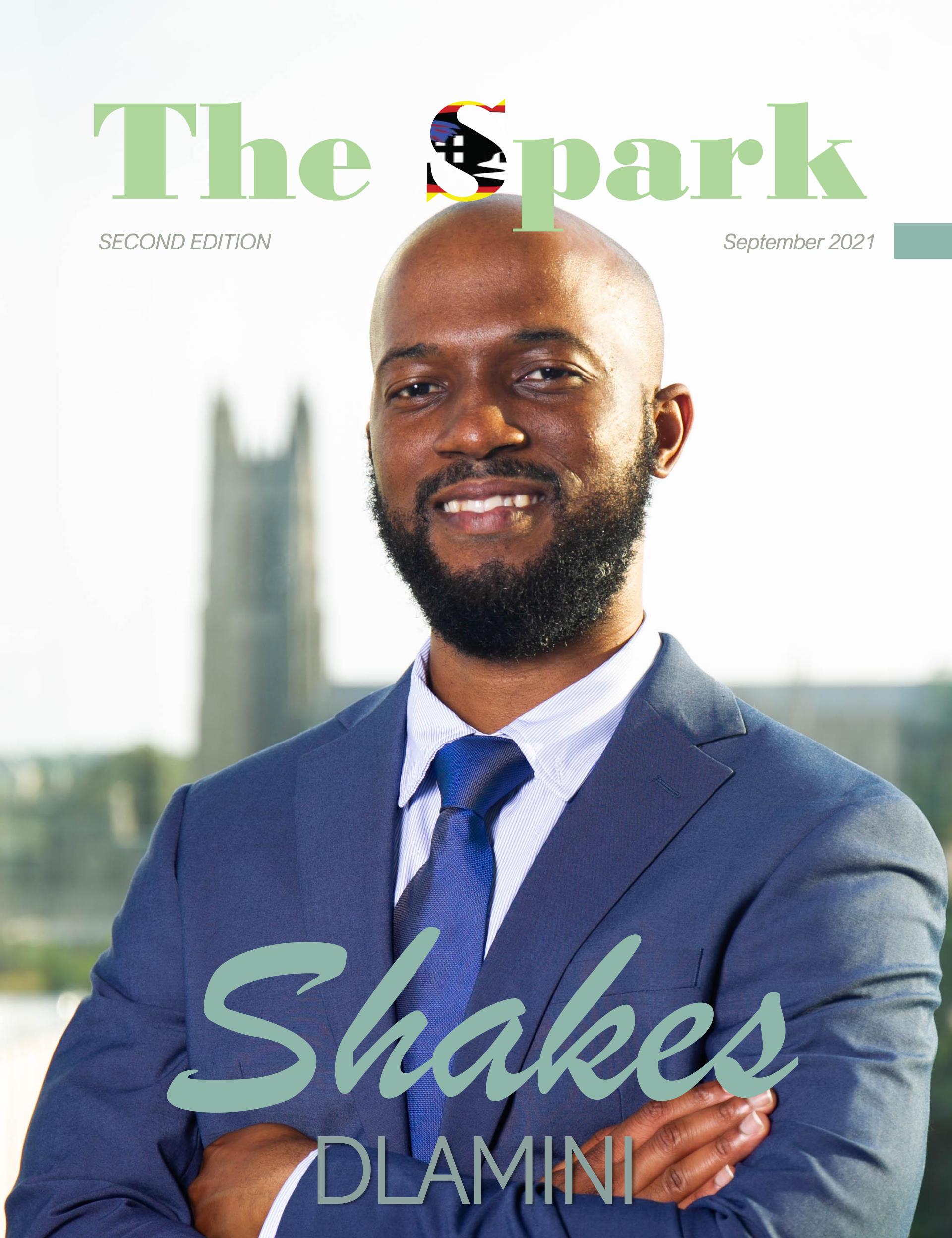


The Spark



SECOND EDITION

September 2021



Shakes
DLAMINI

Study abroad today with us !!

Affordable study routes
with courses starting from
20000 Rands on Tuition

Study In :

- North Cyprus
- Malaysia
- Poland
- Ukraine
- India
- Or at the University of your choice around the globe

Scholarships Opportunities **WHATSAPP : +26876993750**
are available !!

EMAIL : EDVICON@YAHOO.COM



Introduction
04

Pearl S.
23

**Basic
Morals** **36**

Relationships
43

Entertainment
57

Cover page
09

Education
26

**Chosen
ones** **40**

Spring
53

**Growth
diaries** **70**

INTRODUCTION





Eswatini

“The country desperately needs people who will give themselves up for people to eat in the garden they ought to plant.”

If you are reading this magazine, it most probably might be your first or second time reading it, but either way, it is a great pleasure that you decided to take part on this fulfilling journey as we restlessly pursue a dream of rediscovering and reintroducing a better eSwatini for all. We do so by trying to answer important and critical questions like: what is there to love about eSwatini and how can we collectively build it into being the country we desperately desire it to be?

The first edition of this magazine attempted to answer these questions but did not by a very long shot completely and fully answer them simply because it would be unrighteous to think those were the only answers available for these very broad questions. It would only mean we have failed to think. That we have failed to strive and ultimately, our goals are very narrow in the pursuit of a better eSwatini.



I am aware that a lot of people thirst for a political stance on this matter and unfortunately, by all means, I am determined to parch them even further for I believe that the individual also matters!

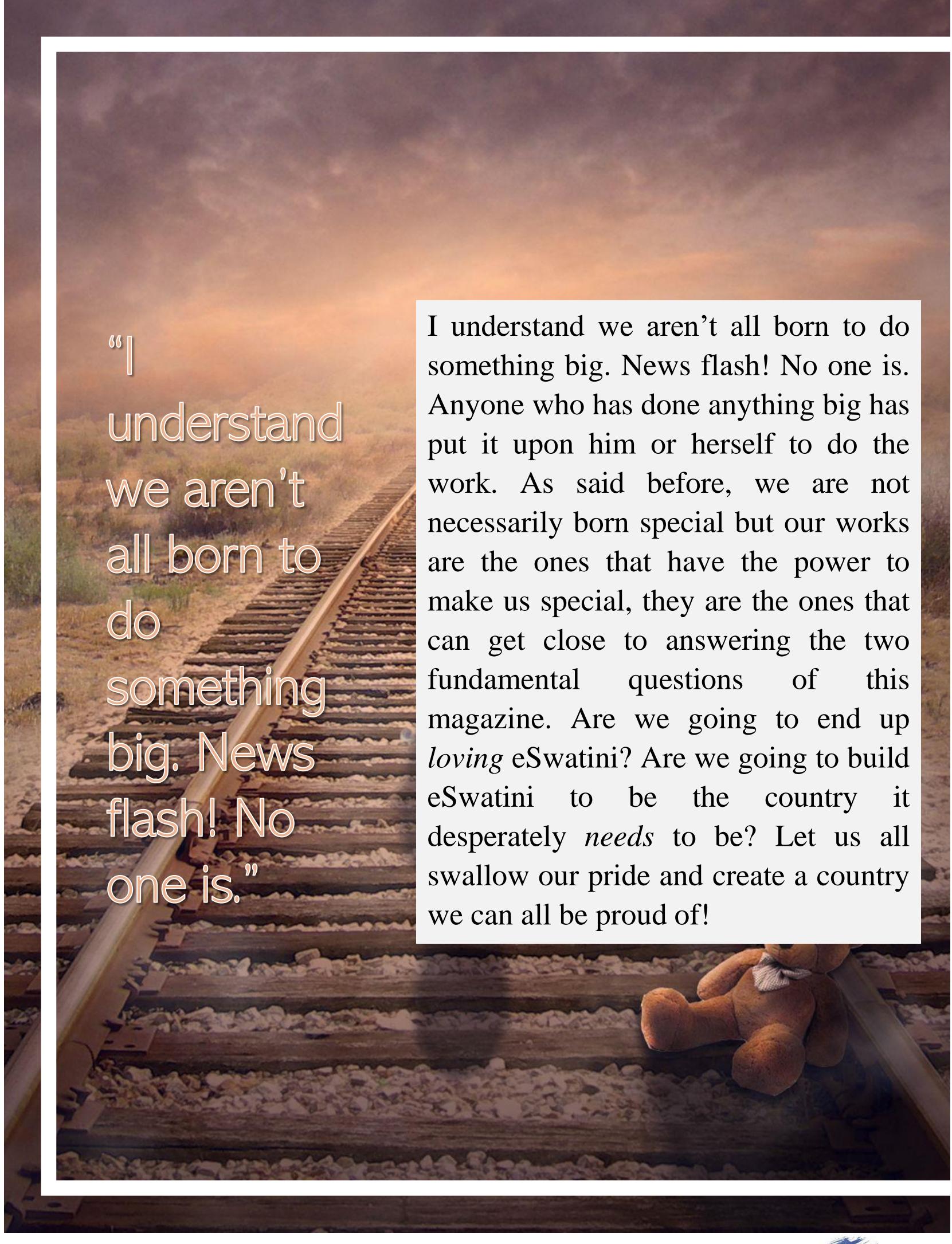
I would like to make it known that we are going to be the authors of the future of the upcoming generations. We are the upcoming youth that will leave a legacy that shall be known for generations to come even on our deathbeds. Why? I have presented earlier the argument that we live in the most creative, constructive, technological and innovative times ever hence we aim to take advantage of that in fulfilling our mandate which is to better our beloved country. The depth of this statement might have been underestimated and I hope it shall not anymore. It is not the outside world that makes us become what we ought to be, it is what we have, what we possess inside that defines and distinguishes us from the rest. I do not mean that we are special individuals – we are not here to change the world. The only thing that can be special are our decisions to work tirelessly hard to ameliorate eSwatini.

To change the world, it calls for one to eradicate any cynicism and keep their egos in check so as to get their faces out of the picture and ultimately work with or without the praise or recognition. It takes a humble individual to commit to something bigger than themselves. It takes love to persevere because things do not get big the time they start but only grow with persistence.

The country desperately needs people who will give themselves up for people to eat in the garden they ought to plant. This means that people have to fully commit to daring the "impossible" for the eSwatini people and expect absolutely nothing in return. Period! The country needs people who will use the world we live in to create something of substance for the country. Understanding all possible restraints coming from the political, economical and social areas of the country, I truly believe that if we always try *one more time*, as Thomas A Eddison said, we are assured of some good results. Can you be that person?

"...try one more time,..."





“I understand we aren’t all born to do something big. News flash! No one is.”

I understand we aren’t all born to do something big. News flash! No one is. Anyone who has done anything big has put it upon him or herself to do the work. As said before, we are not necessarily born special but our works are the ones that have the power to make us special, they are the ones that can get close to answering the two fundamental questions of this magazine. Are we going to end up *loving* eSwatini? Are we going to build eSwatini to be the country it desperately *needs* to be? Let us all swallow our pride and create a country we can all be proud of!

VICTORY

Brand



+268 7663 4281
+268 7916 1812

“Let time tell your tale...”



cover page



Shakes DLAMINI

Thandolwethu Zwelakhe Dlamini goes by Shakes, a name given to him by his grandfather since he was a little boy, and he uses it often. He was born and raised in Manzini, eSwatini. He started his preschool in a preschool in Nazarene, progressed to Nazarene practicing for two years and then further to Ngwane Park primary school in grade three. He graduated to Ngwane Park High school in Manzini and now he is currently in Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) doing his Masters in Technology and Policy. We are going to have a peek into his journey to MIT.



Q: You talked about being in Massachusetts, can you share the journey in getting there?

I can do it too

When I was in form 4, and one of my classmates was in the top 50 in form 3 external results. This was a signal to me that it was possible to be in my school and still be amongst of the top students in the school. The person was a girl, Phetsile, and she was one of my friends. We were deputy head boy and deputy head girl.



Being with her in class I was able to channel myself to compete with in terms of academic work and had ambitions to be part of the top students. Fast forward to when the form 5 results came out, in 2011, and fortunately I was amongst the top students in the country! I was among the group that had the second highest grades in the country. We had only one student who had the highest grade in the country. In second place, I was the only guy in a group of 5 girls which was cool. I remember them saying, “[He is] The gentleman among the roses.” And Phetsile too was in the top 10, and that was remarkable to the school that the head boy and head girl were part of the top students in the country. Being in the top 5 was one of the things that helped in what happened afterwards.

“Being with her in class I was able to channel myself to compete”

Failed again

I already knew about UWC (United World College) Waterford Kamhlaba since I was young, I knew that I wanted to go to Waterford Kamhlaba. When I was in form 5, in March, I went to write the entrance test and unfortunately, I did not pass the entrance test. After being one of the top students in form five, I was more confident at that point, and I thought I would ace it. But I remember on the day of the exam I was filled with overwhelming anxiety, and I had prepared for the exam. I still did not have a lot of guidance on how to prepare for the entrance test and I did things on my own and without guidance. And yeah. I failed it twice and that was devastating because it also was a huge blow to my self-esteem, I was like “how will this look like,” being a top student and I had failed the test. It brought a lot of feelings: maybe I was just lucky.

I think that experience made me experience the imposter syndrome. I was at this point, having regarded to be one of the top students but I could not do well in the interview as it was very important in determining how my life would turn out after that.

Q: Did you face any pressures being in the top position? How significant was it to be a top student?

A big deal

It is seemed like a big deal at that time, because I remember we were in the front page of the news papers. I was being invited for interviews on radio, my church they gave me a certificate I was invited to visit different places just to motivate my community and my family was very proud and excited. Publicity wise, it was a big deal because there was a lot of celebration that came with this newly acquired status.

Unfortunately, our success was not celebrated with support that would pave the way for us after that. We were left to figure out what the next steps were going to be and what we were going to pursue. Like I said earlier, I do not even know if I was preparing the right way for the Waterford entrance test. I could not to do metric or AS (Advanced Subsidiary) level because my family could not afford it at that time.

I had expectations for myself that I would not go to a university in eSwatini because I wanted to study engineering. I knew that I wanted to study something other than engineering in eSwatini. That was one of the biggest expectation I had for myself. My family was happy for me although they did not have financial support for me. I had to figure out would end up happening after I realized that Waterford did not workout.

Q&A



"Unfortunately, our success was not celebrated with support that would pave the way for us after that."

Fortunately, or unfortunately, I knew at the back of my mind, after taking the Waterford test, that I would not be called. I was hoping but I wasn't expecting to be called for the interview.

Plan B

When I left, I asked my self what was going to be plan B. I started looking for scholarships that would help me pay for AS. As I was looking for scholarships, I realized that time was passing by and so I started figuring out how I would be able to teach myself the AS curriculum so that I can write the exam. At that time, I was volunteering in my previous school, and I got a stipend of E2000 (134\$). At that time Salesian High school had an AS program and I went there and spoke to the teachers about enrolling into the program, but I couldn't because they were far ahead.

I spoke to the individual-subject teachers asking them to help me when I do not understand any material. At that time, I was doing physics, chemistry, and mathematics. English was not taught at Salesian High school. And for English, I got external teachers because Salesian [high school] did not have English teachers from an organization in Liqaga building. Each teacher cost about E500 a month. All of the stipend I got from my volunteer job went to paying my acquired teachers.

The side hustle

I compensated for that because I used to run a business where I was selling burgers and hotdogs during lunch time. I also did some videography where I was taking pictures of people. I was ultimately doing the best I can to make money to be able to support myself. And so be able to pay for my education.

Whilst I was doing all that, I was also pursuing other avenues and that's when I got like guidance from one of my mentors at the time, Mr. Ntuli, that was his name. Because I wanted to study engineering, so he suggested that, since I know what I want to study, let me think about the organizations in the country that hire the people who have engineering degrees. So, the first thing that we did was to draft a letter to different institutions and the first organization we drafted a letter to was Eswatini Electricity Company, EEC (then Swaziland Electricity Company). I stated that I'd like to work for the company after I graduate from my electrical engineering degree. He also helped me get an article published in the Times of Eswatini me about that. I was looking for scholarships

Breakthrough
I remember it was a Thursday. One Thursday day after school, I had asked for permission to leave early so I could go to Mbabane. I did not know where the head office of Eswatini Electric Company (EEC) was. I did not know who the Managing Director (MD) was. I told myself that I would go to the MDs office to drop off and ask to speak to him about my please. I went there without knowing anyone and I said, "I'm yet to see the MD." They were like, "Oh OK." The MD at EEC has an executive secretary. So, they called the executive secretary and they told me that I am there to see the MD and she said that they should let me in. I explained my story, showed her my results as well as my letter and she was like, "This is amazing!"

"I was ultimately doing the best I can to make money to be able to support myself."

She took my results and went to speak to one of the other managers in the company and then told me to send the letter to the MD and in the letter should mention all the bridging programs that I need to go to in order to be able then to qualify to get into an engineering program in South Africa. In the broader letter I was able to mention the bridging programs: Matric, AS and the IB (at Waterford). She said the board was about to meet in a few weeks and they would take my letter to the board to decide. That is how I ended up getting a scholarship from EEC.

The dominos

When I got said I should find a bridging program at any school I think is appropriate and so when they told me that it was like they wrote me a *blank cheque* and so immediately I remember that day I went to Waterford and us to speak to Mr Storer to ask for a spot because I had this opportunity.

Q&A



*“...getting
into each of
these schools
is a long
journey.”*

Unfortunately, it was, I think, the beginning of the second term already I couldn't start in 2012, I had to wait until the beginning of 2013. He agreed and I connected the school with the EEC because it was paying for my tuition. It became a big deal, is on the eSwatini Electricity Company pledged to not only sponsor me, but sponsor other students to go through the program. During my year at Waterford, I knew we were 2 who were sponsored by eSwatini Electricity Company scholarship. In total, that program ended up sponsoring five students to go through Waterford and take the IB curriculum.

I finished my IB in Waterford, I went to Duke University where I did my electrical engineering and now I am MIT and getting into each of these schools is a long journey.

From Waterford Kamhlaba, did you get a scholarship to Duke, or EEC sponsored you?

When I was at Waterford after graduating, I applied to universities in USA and also in South Africa and I got the *Allen Gray Orbis Foundation* scholarship, together with the EEC scholarship, which enabled me to attend the university of Cape Town. I spent a semester in Cape Town university while I was there I got the *Mastercard Foundation* scholarship at Duke university and that is what paid for my undergraduate there.

“Policies should enable people to be able to start projects and enabling environment for companies to solve these problems.”

After duke university, did you directly go to MIT?

Projects

When I was in Duke, where I was studying Chemical Engineering, I got interested in issues and problems affecting people in the African continent and in different developing countries. Since I was connected to the EEC and I wanted to do something concerning energy, I was really curious about energy access. After my third year in duke, I took a gap year. I worked for a startup company in Lesotho and building mini grids in communities that didn't have electricity access. I did that for 7 months and then moved back to eSwatini. I worked on the first project with EEC that was building a electricity grid for a community that has never had electricity.

Discovery

One of the biggest things that I discovered, in those two experiences, in addition to it being a technical issue that communities do not have electricity it is also an issue of policy and having the right type of policies that support companies building mini grids. Policies should enable people to be able to start projects and enabling environment for companies to solve these problems. That is why I probably became interested in this program in MIT, which is Technology and policy because I thought that I have the technical skills. I needed to understand more about the policy and how to navigate around it. My boss at the startup company had gone through the Technology and policy program at MIT and that is how I learnt about it.

How I afford

When I returned to Duke, for my final year, I applied to MIT. I came for MIT directly from undergrad. The great thing about this program is, once you get admitted they help you gather a research job as a research assistant. The job pays for my tuition and as well as it gives a living stipend and that is how my education is paid for. I did not pay anything from pocket and the EEC is also not paying.

You have highlighted the project you have been part of, but I know that you have been part of The Knowledge Institute. Can you talk about it?

The knowledge institute (TKI) was started in 2013, Fanele had the idea and I heard that she was working on something like this. I emailed her that I wanted to work with her at the time I was in first year of IB.

Q&A



The reason why I wanted to work on this project with Fanele is because I wanted student not to go through what I did. I mentioned how I struggled how I did not know what to do, being a top student in the country. I could imagine the other students who weren't top students how they find out about the different options that they have. The motivation to work on this project was that the top students do not go through the challenges that I went through, as well as spreading information about other options. I think one of the frustrating things for me is that going to Waterford was the only opportunity I only knew. That was problematic because it wasn't there were other options, I just did not know about them.

"The reason why I wanted to work on this project with Fanele is because I wanted student not to go through what I did."

**After duke university,
did you directly go to
MIT?**

Projects

You are a different case because I knew you from church, our connection was not just from the knowledge institute. How would you describe your experience of TKI?

Q: I definitely got information directly from you, for example African Leadership Academy. However, I also experienced TKI. I once went to a TKI seminar and I think it was very informative about the opportunities and another perspective that one should look at school and then prepare and plan. Fanele gave us a lot of information that I would not have known if I had not attended the seminar.

When I was in Duke, where I was studying Chemical Engineering, I got interested in issues and problems affecting people in the African continent and in different developing countries. Since I was connected to the EEC and I wanted to do something concerning energy, I was really curious about energy access. After my third year in duke, I took a gap year. I worked for a startup company in Lesotho and building mini grids in communities that didn't have electricity access. I did that for 7 months and then moved back to eSwatini. I worked on the first project with EEC that was building a electricity grid for a community that has never had electricity.

Discovery

One of the biggest things that I discovered, in those two experiences, in addition to it being a technical issue that communities do not have electricity it is also an issue of policy and having the right type of policies that support companies building mini grids. Policies should enable people to be able to start projects and enabling environment for companies to solve these problems. That is why I probably became interested in this program in MIT, which is Technology and policy because I thought that I have the technical skills. I needed to understand more about the policy and how to navigate around it. My boss at the startup company had gone through the Technology and policy program at MIT and that is how I learnt about it.

How I afford

When I returned to Duke, for my final year, I applied to MIT. I came for MIT directly from undergrad. The great thing about this program is, once you get admitted they help you gather a research job as a research assistant. The job pays for my tuition and as well as it gives a living stipend and that is how my education is paid for. I did not pay anything from pocket and the EEC is also not paying.

You have highlighted the project you have been part of but I know that you have been part of The Knowledge Institute. Can you talk about it?

The knowledge institute (TKI) was started in 2013, Fanele had the idea and I heard that she was working on something like this. I emailed her that I wanted to work with her at the time I was in first year of IB.

The reason why I wanted to work on this project with Fanele because I wanted student not to go through what I did. I mentioned how I struggled how I did not know what to do, being a top student in the country. I could imagine the other students who weren't top students how they find out about the different options that they have. The motivation to work on this project was that the top students do not go through the challenges that I went through, as well as spreading information about other options. I think one of the frustrating things for me is that going to Waterford was the only opportunity I only knew. That was problematic because it wasn't there were other options, I just did not know about them.

You are a different case because I knew you from church, our connection was not just from the knowledge institute. How would you describe your experience of TKI?

Q: I definitely got information directly from you, for example African Leadership Academy. However, I also experienced TKI. I once went to a TKI seminar and I think it was very informative about the opportunities and another perspective that one should look at school and then prepare and plan. Fanele gave us a lot of information that I would not have known if I had not attended the seminar.

The biggest projects that we are working on in the knowledge institute is Sasa. It is a platform. We have been showing students the opportunities out there since we started.

One of the problems we have identified a lot of the students do not know and unable access institutions in Eswatini because of how cumbersome it is to apply in in the universities in the country or to find information academic and educational opportunities in the country. We are building this online platform, working with universities and the ministry of education and TKI so that students will be able to apply for university in eSwatini online – to many of them.

Imagine if the CommonApp did not exist I would not be where I am today. Probably, I would but the process would be that much harder if you had to apply to each individual college.

Q: How can education be improved or what changes do you think would benefit eSwatini's education system?

Availability of other curriculums as an opportunity

At the institutional level, at a countrywide level what could be done is making access to regional education systems it easier it is quite hard to do so. It can be done by collaboration with institutions and countries so that Swazi students can access matric. The SA government is making it harder for non-SA students to get the Matric curriculum, I think the Ministry of Education of Eswatini should attempt to make it available also in public schools.

Curiosity

On the education system in general, I think that there is still a lot to be done in improving the critical thinking of students and avoiding memorization and more of a hand on type of education.

Encouraging students to be curious about what they are learning and rather than to just prepare for tests.

Integration

I found that when I went to Waterford, I realized that I was good at memorizing I did not ask myself how things applied to life and my daily life. Just to make the education we get in school more relatable and more applicable. We think what we learn at school is just for school and when you are at home it is a totally different life all in all. Integration that shows how what you are learning and how it applies to your personal life.

Career guidance

Intentional focus on education such a financial literacy and career aspirations things that are important but not taught.

The only thing I was told by my family is that I become a doctor because I was academically capable. I think that this limited our perspective on what is available and what we can do with our education. What we can do with our education and there are other things I can highlight Career guidance of some sort.

Q: Now we are moving to the fun section where you will give us 10 fun facts about yourself. Ready? Let's go:

Q 1: Favourite Swazi food

Emasi, especially emasi nesinkhwa semmbila

Q 2: Pick and pay, Shoprite, spar or other

I think it is between pick and pay and Shoprite. When I lived on my own, I preferred Pick and Pay.

Q 3: Favorite color

Blue

Q&A



Q 4: Manzini or Mbabane

Manzini, because that is where I am from.

Q 5: Role models (in eSwatini)

Fanele is one of them, Mfundu Mohammed, He is one the guys I look up to in eSwatini, Mpendulo Ndlovu, Wandile Hlatjawayo (Wara Wara) young climbers

Q 6: Favorite book(s)

A book that I recently read that really most Africans should read is *Prosperity Paradox*.

The importance of entrepreneurship in building a more prosperous Africa or prosperous eSwatini.

Q 7: Last country you have been to

Before I came here [America]? The summer of 2019 I started my senior year, I was in Switzerland, Germany and Italy.



Q&A

Q 8: Favorite football team (any place in the world)

Manchester United

Q 9: If you would have one superpower, what would it be?

The ability to reverse climate change.

Remember like when Thanos snapped his fingers? That is how I would like to reverse climate change.

Q 10: Food or sleep

Sleep, if you would ask anyone who knows me, they would tell you that I am chronic sleeper, sleep is a problem for me.

Q: Could you give advice to an ambitious liSwati who wants to get ahead in life

Find people who will help you think outside of your situation and understand better the place you wanna go. On top of believing in yourself and working hard. Even if people wont really do something like giving you money having someone to tell you about opportunities around you. Once you know what is out there, and you are determined enough, you figure out ways to get that opportunity you have. Follow people and pages that you like, those who inspire you or those who are doing what you interested in. Finding seminars and workshops, I remember for me learning in the young climbers. Read the spark, you will learn about a lot of things and also follow TKI you will learn about a lot of things.





@Mayerhs giftbox treats

Candy Treats @ E100 and Giftboxes range from E185-E1400, they can also be customized in any way of your choice for any occasions, but prices may vary according to your preferences.

☎: +268 78716126

⦿: Manzini (we deliver in other towns at a fee)

FB: @Mayerh.s_giftbox sz

IG: @mayerh.s_giftbox_treats



**SUCCESS IS
THE CHILD
OF SELF-
DISCIPLINE**

PEARL. S



“Discipline is choosing between what you want now, and what you want the most.”

~Abraham Lincoln

Discipline is a word that is disappearing daily in the dialogue of today's youth. I am watching our microwave generation failing to sustain anything they start.

This is not the belt-beating-buttock type of discipline (referred to as punishment) but the discipline of training ones self to consistency in anything precisely self-discipline. Discipline is continuous and habitual, it is a way of life, a principle you live by to attain a specific result. It is my belief that we should learn self-discipline from our predecessors because, truth be told, the amount of discipline my grandparents had I could never compete with. This is not because of their experience but because of the acts of discipline they still carry out until this day.

In most households truly you have made it if you manage to wake up consistently before your grandmother or grandfather you have made it in life. It would be an error on our part to overlook this because there lays the keys to accomplishment.

Do you not wonder how some of our parents and grandparents who did not go to school are holding seats in corporate settings. Their discipline ensured the mastery of their skills such that a university degrees that cannot be able to teach. Start now! If you think you will be able to sustain that business idea or venture in the future out of sheer will you must be boo-boo the fool. People who are able to keep things are those who understand perseverance and patience. If success was simply a matter of getting a formal education, we would all be eating its fruits.



The people who are seated at the top are making money and taking decisions over your life while you sleep or while you keep postponing that assignment.

Self-discipline starts with making your bed right after you wake up, it starts with doing your homework on time and consistently, it starts with finally waking up in the morning to jog and keep on doing it even when it is not too convenient. Self-discipline starts with choosing to finish anything you start, it starts with overcoming all your excuses. If you do not start it now, it will be a struggle later. Honestly, I do not even have the time to be writing these articles, but I used to be that kid who always did their homework, no matter what. I am now uncomfortable not handing in anything I promised to do – discipline. **Why bother?** Well mainly because your success is your own responsibility. It takes one to push themselves past what they believed their limit to be and standout in the midst of their generation

Discipline is also associated with perseverance. Show me any person who holds their success but are without perseverance and I will show you a man who it is only a matter of time before they loose it.

The ability to push towards your dreams despite excuses that have been rationalized by your mind is a fruit of discipline. Self-discipline teaches you how to value your dreams and goals. It takes time, effort, pain and effort to develop certain positive habits. When I started jogging, I went through muscle pain, joint pain, back pain, body pain, you name it. The stamina I have now has enabled other areas of dietary consciousness that keep me going. I keep at it because I know the price to pay to start again. The ability to keep getting up each time you fail and each time you are rejected comes from resilience. It takes an extra ordinary ability also called a ‘fighting spirit’. Our society is full of people who have a negative outlook on life, it will take you developing a mindset and sticking to it to be any different.

“The cost of discipline is always LESS than the Price of Regret. So, Self-discipline is the BIGGEST investment.”

~APJ Abdul Kala



EDUCATION

r e a d
B O O K S



A win in school?

I am sure 99% of the population hates the person or the people who made education compulsory. Why should we spend the peak of our lives in a routine that teaches us things that we will never need in life? “When am I going to integrate when I buy milk in the store?”; “How do tectonic plates feed me when I am hungry?”; “For goodness sake why do I need to wake up early to just learn physics?” We are just told to go to school so that we can get a good job. Whilst some people endlessly complain about the jobs they have.

School is frustrating for most people, it is boring for many and ultimately useless for the unemployed in the country. So why bother? I mean it took a decade for amazon to be the billion dollar company it is now, some people hardly scratch around E200 000 (14 000 US\$) annually yet they have been to school for over two decades.

It is discouraging, to some very unfair.

This kind of mindset has led the nation to shift the focus of what school is for. School is now a depressive routine and some cope by deciding to redefine it. Education is expensive, tuition fees are very high. Even if you may claim that you get free education the fact remains that there are accumulated costs that are involved including transport and stationary. That being said, we should be mindful that someone is paying for the education people are currently having and they possibly could have used their money in other ways. This is to encourage each one of you to be appreciative of the sacrifice those people paying are making and start doing our very best to achieve the best we can.





Education is arguably one of the things that has lifted billions of people out of poverty as per the United nations standards. I acknowledge there is a big disparity between the rich and the poor and also I do recognize that there is a bigger difference between poverty in 50 years ago and now – people are less poor now. The well known argument is, “Bill Gates never went to school and he is a billionaire and why should I go to school therefore?” The simplest answer is: “You are not Bill Gates. *with a short chuckle*” In a serious note, people do not realize that it is not the absence of school (which Bill attended) but the presence of rare skillsets that enabled him to achieve what he has. Whether ethical or not, Bill gates strategy has enable him and the 1% of the rich people on the planet.

If you are willing to put in the hours by Elon musk or have the intellectuality of some businessmen you are more likely to be poor. School tries to inculcate skills that an average person does not possess. Contrary to that, if you think you are special and will get out of poverty without school – go right ahead – but if you are being realistic and have not shown capabilities that have been rewarded by money and status probably you ought to go to school.

Is school for money? Well yes. And no. We all need money to survive these days. To get money, going to school gives higher chanced of a job. (The self help people are obviously angry at this statement but over 90% find this true – because it is true – most people work for money). Less than a percent of people have made it without school – especially in Eswatini. For me school has become a place where I get a simulation of how life is. Meeting deadlines, organizing events and generally meeting people. School is a perfect simulation of life and you can interpret it in your own way. Probably for some the marks are like currency to them.

One common theme in school is work hard, work smart and be social. The more you get ahead in your work, the more you create meaningful relationships and the more you find the fist of your classes you get to develop intellectually and otherwise.



Not everyone needs school to make it in life but most do, like 99% of them. The problem is that 80% of the population fits themselves into the 1% which might not need school. Remember, the richest probably did not go to school (to be specific college) and the poorest did not go to school and there is a whole lot more of those. There obviously exceptions and complications but the trend is like that.

School does not have to be physical and does not have to follow the rules we are akin to. We can say education is everywhere and needs to be grasped and utilized. Most people do not get to positions high enough for them to know how calculus is applied in real life but the truth is education – the right education (as you interpret it) – is important.

Now, I would like to share with you, based on my experience with school, how to reduce your anxiety and rather have a meaningful school experience. This is going to be a series to try to deeply capture the essence of how you can approach school and make it easier than not. One important note is discipline. Saying no to what you have to say no to and yes to doing the work and enjoying life too (very important).

Education is in three perspectives: the student, the teacher and parents/guardian. Students already know that they are always responsible for their education but sheer willpower can only take you this far.

Teachers believe they are doing their work well because they tick certain boxes and I am sure every Swazi teacher believes there is not more that needs to be done, probably, but we do not know. If you are a parent, you might be furious that your money has been spent already what more do I want from you, or what else should you do now? This Magazine aims for a better eSwatini and its current state does not reflect an ideal country. This means there is more to be done. I will outline the requirement for now.

STUDENTS

Accountability

Most students do not know how to use their teachers. Probably some have unlocked these prized possession. Teachers are practically the most important resource we have in school. Failure to use them drastically decreases our success levels as students. My education in Germany introduced me to this phenomenon. We had to write an extended essay where a student is tasked to write an investigation that surpasses their knowledge and their syllabus for the coming year. I thought I would figure it all out for myself.

That was the biggest mistake I made but everything changed as I talked to my supervisor. I was able to understand the work. It is very important to ask questions and as many as you can. Ask for help. You do not need to do the work that Isaac Newton took 20 years figuring out. Ask for help.

One of my friends asked a question to our geography teacher, “How can I get a 7?” In Swazi terms it is like asking how you could get an A*. Our teachers surprisingly know how a student can get those marks in the course they are teaching or in general. That is fascinating and surprising why people are not asking. The teacher told my friend exactly how to do it; furthermore, she kept his work accountable because he has asked her to do so. Bottom line is think creatively, you can be shocked how you can use teachers to your benefit. You can ask them to keep you accountable anything to get you to do very well.

Reviewing

In my Form 5 grade, I had a universal exercise book in which I wrote all corrections to my tests *and classwork*.



I cannot describe how this exercise book contributed into being a key in how my final results were at the end. Do corrections, for everything. The little red crosses are an indicator where the problem is. They are shouting, “SOS!” and you definitely need to attend to them. If you do not know how to study the least you can do is write tests, get them marked and attend to the feedback you get and do that again and again until you get them perfectly. Go through your work when you are still writing because it is very crucial. In a nutshell, feedback only tells where you should start studying. The two most common mistakes are studying what you know or trying to study everything. (Studying everything is helpful when you get perfect scores and you want to get to an advanced level)

Goal setting

It is rare for a person to set goals for their school life. It is always, “We’ll see how it goes at the end.” I beg to disagree with that mindset. Have a schedule for your school life. Put that homework in a timeslot.

It requires discipline and a lot of people do not want to see that they did not meet their goals and they prefer not to plan at all. Goals can be the specific grades you would like to get at the end of the year and values you want to uphold during an academic year such as punctuality in both attendance and submissions. This requires scheduling. Google calendar is free, or you could use pen and paper. Write it down read it daily.

TO TEACHERS

My first year of math in IB curriculum was my favorite math experience. I was not only taught what things are but I was taught why things are the way they are and how they were derived. I find it important that a teacher does their research and further more simplifies it to be understood by their students. I think the teachers who made me think and realize that them too are doing their research made my acquiring of knowledge easier and interesting.

One controversial topic is homework and I am about to make it more controversial. All homework should be graded. Studying in the USA has totally changed how much I push myself.



My final exam will only account 20% to some courses and guess where all the 80% comes from? Course work, including homework. Homework is one way where students are able to investigate concepts on their own and get to ask questions and seek help. Because I now do homework I am always ready for a quiz. No chances. Truth is I never took homework seriously in my life and hardly did it because it did not decide anything.

Lastly, if teachers can emphasize on research and practical work. I think if I had to write a short paper on a topic in each subject that investigated its practical application I would learn more on the subject. Not every subject can do this but those which can, lets take advantage of practical work.

PARENTS

I do understand why parents think why education is something a student should be responsible for on their own. That is true. Only true for the 1% who have perfect self discipline and urgency. Everyone has things they do not do because it is difficult to be disciplined. With accountability a person does more to what they can do on their own.

Accountability is not pestering your child daily but it could be attending meetings and teachers concerns. It is helping your children set schedules that will be part of everyone's schedule. For example, if homework time is a 7pm to 9pm then everyone will be sitting in the living room doing what they should. Accountability can be, before school starts at the beginning of the year, everyone should set their goals (final grade) and they are written down in a book and will be reviewed every term to see if they are still on track to achieve it.

Parents need to also understand that their children are human and they should help support them and not demonize them. It wrong for a parent talk about their children being bad to other people. Everyone has the capacity of making mistakes and more often than not everyone will make a mistake. It is a parents' responsibility to seek help from an expert or they themselves support their children. School is hard and that should be acknowledged.



“There should be somewhat a standard that a child should live up to, if last year they got 67%, why not go for the 70% this year?”

I am not advocating that parents prevent the child from experiencing the consequences of their mistakes but I am saying they should understand that it is human. Parents should not also set unrealistic expectations that they would not like when reversed. If you are going to compare a child with the top student allow them to compare you with a top businessman or CEO.

There should be somewhat a standard that a child should live up to, if last year they got 67%, why not go for the 70% this year? For a parent to successfully direct their children they need to set standard and rewards for attaining that standard.

Rewards are important motivators that allow people to keep on working even when they do not feel like. I think that is why people work, they want the pay cheque at the end of the month.

I brushed on some of the things I find useful if a person or a student should have a better experience at school. I think we should all challenge ourselves to go to school if we want to make eSwatini better and those who can make it without school they should do that to make a change.



COTTON SWAY

Click logo to access

THE SPARK



Spiritual corner



BASIC HUMAN MORALS



Merriam-Webster defines Morals as: concerning or relating to what is right and wrong in human behaviour. The church takes a strong stand on a number of moral [ethical] issues.

I *love* this definition cause it then directly relates it to the church that has a strong opinion when it comes to Morals. As a young Christian we're living in a time when we choose the kind of morals we decide to live by. There are many moral standards Jesus told us to live by but we choose them according to our comfortability.

As a church, morals have turned into personal preferences instead of how God said we must live. This is not me saying I'm living a perfect life according to God's standards, but this is me realising that as Christians we are afraid to correct each other with love because of fear that it will come out as judgement unto the other person. I feel it is our personal duty as Christians to remind each other of how God truly says we must live. Not how we want to live.

Basic Morals date back to the time of Moses are the ten commandments found in the book of Exodus chapter 20.

Exodus 20:3-17

[3] You shall have no other gods before or besides Me.

[4] You shall not make yourself any graven image [to worship it] or any likeness of anything that is in the heavens above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;

[5] You shall not bow down yourself to them or serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, [Isa. 42:8; 48:11.]

[6] But showing mercy and steadfast love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

[7] You shall not use or repeat the name of the Lord your God in vain [that is, lightly or frivolously, in false affirmations or profanely]; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.



[8] *[Earnestly] remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy (withdrawn from common employment and dedicated to God).*

[9] *Six days you shall labour and do all your work,*

[10] *But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, your daughter, your manservant, your maidservant, your domestic animals, or the sojourner within your gates.*

[11] *For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it [set it apart for His purposes]*

[12] *Regard (treat with honor, due obedience, and courtesy) your father and mother, that your days may be long in the land the Lord your God gives you.*

[13] *You shall not commit murder.*

[14] *You shall not commit adultery.*

[15] *You shall not steal.*

[16] *You shall not witness falsely against your neighbour.*

[17] *You shall not covet your neighbour's house, your neighbour's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbour's.*

These are the commandments in the amplified version of how God says we must live. These morals are not to threaten us or to fear God but are meant to help us live a fruitful life full of respect and reverence for God and His creation.

In the New Testament, God continues to give us even deeper morals on how we should live our lives. I will not go deep into all of them but will select a few that I believe will resonate with most.

In 2nd Corinthians 6:17 God says "*So, come out from among [unbelievers], and separate (sever) yourselves from them, says the Lord, and touch not [any] unclean thing; then I will receive you kindly and treat you with favour.*"

God here is not saying we must reject unbelievers or any unclean thing but is guiding us to be careful of the people we associate ourselves with (those without godly principles) and the things we see or hear. We must be careful of what we see with our eyes and what we allow our ears to hear.

In Galatians 5:16 it says, "*But I say, walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit]; then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh (of human nature without God).*" Here God is telling us to let His spirit that is in us to guide us in whatever that we do. To let it lead us and not be led by the flesh which only wants to satisfy the physical yet the Holy spirit satisfies our souls, minds and hearts.

These are some of the basic Morals God has instructed the church to live by. Morals help us to set apart what is right or wrong, what is good and not good for us.



We are the chosen ones

I need you to read that again. I didn't say "I am the chosen one" or "Only a few are the chosen ones." I said WE, as in, all of us are the chosen ones. If you look at the book of Acts 9:15, where God sends Ananias to heal Saul who had been struck by a sudden light on his way to Damascus, that being the Lord asking him why he was persecuting Him.

He went blind after that encounter right? Now Jesus sent Ananias to heal him so he could see again. That didn't sit well with Ananias and he told the Lord of how Saul had been persecuting believers, hence probably didn't even deserve mercy. This is my favorite part: Verse 15, "But the Lord said..." Who? The Lord.



Now I need you to pay attention to this. “...**go, for Saul is my chosen instrument** to take my message to the Gentiles and kings, as well as to the people of Israel.” It was like He was saying I don’t care what Saul has done before. This is what I want you to do now. Go! That man is my chosen instrument. How beautiful! Can you see that the Lord cares not about our past sins and how we have been rebellious. In all that, if we are chosen, we are chosen!

Looking at the book of Romans 8:29, the Bible says God knew His people in advance and He **chose** them to become like His son. Do you understand that it really isn’t up to you anymore? The Father has already chosen you. Let’s continue. Having chosen them, He **called** them to come to Him. Now this is where a lot of us lose it. When He calls us, we run away from Him as though we were Jonah. When the Lord calls, we need to come to Him. We need to open up (Rev 3:20), otherwise we’ll only remain chosen, and that is of no benefit to us. Now how does He call us?

Through John 14:6, And Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.” That is how we come to the Father, through Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, so many of us are rejecting Him and His truth, further rejecting eternal life. Please continue reading the rest of this scripture to find out the rest of the beautiful things God has in store for those who come to Him when He calls them.

It is no secret that inasmuch as God chose all of us, there are those set apart for His work that not all of us are gifted to do. 2 Peter 1:10, Peter encourages us to work hard to prove that we really are among those God has called and chosen. Just before verse 10, he gives us the tools to supplement our faith, those being moral excellence, knowledge, self control, patience, endurance, godliness, brotherly affection and love for everyone. This is how we work hard. Otherwise we have already been given right standing with God through His son (We can’t attain right standing through our own works but through faith, which is a story for another day)





Otherwise, we have all been chosen and called. We need to come to the Lord through Christ, if not, then us being chosen is of no value to anyone.

Stay safe, keep well. Love and light to you and yours!



RELATIONSHIPS



WHAT



Isn't

What Love Isn't...

We all have heard a thing or two about love. We might have not experienced it the same way, but we know something about it. Be it from family, friends, down to our dating scenes hence the different views. Unfortunately, over the years, love has become less appealing and a scary world to tap into all because of the errors and misconceptions that surround what and how love should be. There is a lot of confusion when it comes to differentiating what is love and what isn't. This is the reason why most people find themselves having to put up with uncomfortable and degrading circumstances all in the name of love. Maybe if we could get this clear and straight, the love phenomenon would regain the dignity and value it once held in society. And this applies to every single relationship, be it family, friendships, acquaintanceships, romantic, you name them. All relationships stand to benefit from this piece

So, let's get into it!

Typically, love is very broad and there is no formula for it. But one thing we can all agree on, in Pastor Bakhe's words, is that, "**love shouldn't hurt!**" On most occasions we often hear people crying "love hurts" which then ends up blurring the lines when it comes to denoting exactly what we mean when we say love shouldn't hurt. The truth is that the act of love itself does not hurt. What these people mean when they say "love hurts" are your heartbreaks, loving someone who doesn't love you back, loving the wrong person, having to stay apart with your lover due to distance and work. That hurts and is all there is to it. Anything outside these instances is not love. Love is a positive feeling that breeds out positive and considerate actions. This means that anything that inflicts pain and sorrow to the next person is not an act of love but the opposite. Healthy relationships, either platonic or romantic, do not cause you emotional and physical harm.





A healthy relationship should bring much more joy and happiness to your life than any of the small moments of disagreement or upset. So, having a friend that always says the worst hurtful things to you is just not love. Having an acquaintance that always betrays you but claims to have your best interest at heart is not love. Having a lover that always beats you into pulp whenever you disagree on certain issues is not love but straight up abuse. Scars should never be trophies of having been in love. Having someone you love cry over something that could have been avoided is not love but manipulation and selfishness at play.

When you love someone you never ever want them to intentionally experience hurt, because when she or he is hurting you're also hurting. Love makes people become one. So if you have been experiencing some of these things in the name of love, I am sorry to put it to you that you have wasted your precious time for that is not how love goes.

Secondly, love **isn't jealous**. Yes, you read it right, love is not jealous at all! There has always been this misconception that has led most people astray when it comes to love and relationships. If your partner is jealous, it means he or she loves and cares for you more.

No! That is not love for I repeat; love is just not jealous. That is just the manifestation of insecurities, possessiveness and envy. What do I mean? This is solely because with jealousy in the picture, each and every decision or choice made in that relationship solely seeks to benefit only one party at the expense of the other.



It seeks to satisfy only the "needs or wants" of that individual hence compromise ends up not being in the picture. Love is a two-way thing. All parties involved should be happy. Now if it is as simple as this, why then does it become difficult to spot the difference between love and jealousy?, one may ask. This is because the level of manipulation present in these relationships is just appalling. Some really wouldn't notice that certain advances are as a result of jealousy because they are sugar coated so perfectly.



Most often than not, people struck by this jealousy disease, especially in romantic relationships, use other people's experiences to convince and manipulate their way towards achieving a certain goal, that only benefits them of course. For instance, someone you heard of from the news had to terminate his marriage because of an unfaithful friend who ended up cheating with his spouse. A jealous partner would then start forcefully making you cut-off your friends even if they are not of any harm towards your relationship, using this person's experience as an excuse for his paranoia. Even if these are your childhood friends you love so much and have always been there for you, you would be forced to just cut them off without any fault nor explanation. One would even go to the extent of always monitoring your phone, questioning each and every "suspicious" text, to even banning you from going to the malls without them.

Some in their extremes even lock their partners in-doors whenever they aren't around for a certain period of time. Yes, you read it right, lock them up against their will! It's tricky right? One would then try to cover up all this in the name of looking out for you or protecting you from "temptations" which for a matter of fact isn't! These are insecurities, trust issues that have graduated to being jealousy and possessiveness. If your partner is not for something you are; a certain compromise has to be made by both parties so as to make both parties happy. That is love.

With friendships on the other hand, it can get pretty tense too. You see that one that is always throwing criticism that is far from being constructive, more like advising you to quit all the time, now that one you should be wary of. She might have gotten in-contact with the jealousy disease! They simply love to hate anything that comes with you.

Why? It is not looking out for you, it is pure jealousy and envy taking centre stage. You have a car, whenever you are going out in public he or she always wants to be the one driving and tells people it is his or her car; Red flag! You see your BFF getting a new bag, you want it too or your homie gets a new pair of shoes then all of a sudden they seem appealing because he owns them;Red flag! Your brother or sister is in a happy relationship and all you can do is pinpoint the wrongs every time: Red flag! Even if the justification could be, "I just have your best interest at heart and I don't want you getting hurt", it all boils down to one thing, envy, and that is not love. So if you feel a bit of a sting when your friend, lover or sibling is achieving way more than you are, child, it is time you took a look into your love tank. Find out whether it is still full of pure love or has been diluted with foreign materials that are babies of envy and jealousy.



A healthy relationship is one where compliments and good compromises are made when due, the opposite of this is just not love! So, it is time you start taking those red flags seriously and be on the lookout for these kinds of relationships.



Thirdly, love is **not boastful or rather proud**. It is okay for someone to want to genuinely tell you about parts of themselves but be wary of that one that will always be talking about themselves throughout the date and won't even listen attentively when you share your bit about your own life. See, relationships are a two way street.

It is not just about one person but both the parties involved. So, it doesn't even begin to make sense if a person would be all out blabbing about themselves the entire time you can't breathe. Love involves genuine interest in the other person, genuine care and compassion. If someone who claims to love you won't jump off from their high horse to genuinely listen to what you have to say about yourself and perspective of life, invalidates anything that comes from your mouth, boy, you better run!

Another thing love isn't, is being **rude**. That's a definite no! no!. Bad language and harsh words have never been sexy even in provocation. So if you got someone always swearing and yelling in all disagreements then cut your losses, there isn't any love there. One thing about words is that they're not easily erasable.

If a person claims to love you, that individual should always be mindful of each and every word he or she utters in your presence, even in the heat of arguments for love is careful of the next person's feelings. So, it would do you good to start listening attentively whenever someone you love or one that claims to love you speaks to you for there's no excuse for slander. A soft response always alleviates anger so the gauge should be the words a person uses. If they can't say something good and are always out poking you even on minor things like dress code, how badly you always dress on outings or how your make-up ain't always on fleek, then it might be time to look closely into that relationship. There is something fishy there. That is not how a loving somebody addresses a person of interest. He or she always tries positive criticism instead, that's love.

Instead of "those shoes are ugly, how did you even pick them for this occasion?", one goes like, "well that's a nice outfit you have right there, but a different pair of shoes would've been cooler". That is much more loving.

Fourthly, love **doesn't demand** its own way. It can't always be "my way or the highway". Love is considerate. Anyone who feels like their word always has to be final probably has their love tank almost empty. In any kind of relation, it is not just about one set of feelings, needs and wants. Each one's opinions and feelings are valid and deserve to be heard. Love never disregards one's feelings at the expense of the next person. If you always have to hide your own feelings so as to make the next person happy, that is not love but self-torture. Love is free! Phrases like, "but he's the man so I should listen and always take his word", are a definite no! All parties should be heard. Common ground should be reached.

Love is considerate so be circumspect of people who are always going to go out of their way to convince you to always do things their way even if you're uncomfortable.

Second from last is, love **does not rejoice in shabbiness or iniquity**. Love rejoices in truth and it most certainly flourishes in truth. If your day one isn't so big on truth then you must be cautious and make them conscious of their shortcomings. If they really care, they will seek help. Things should be fair in relationships, efforts shouldn't be one sided. Relationships are a body of work! And all parties should put in the effort. You cannot always be the one making calls, wanting to meet and wanting to get close to a person who claims to love you. If there is love involved, acts should be mutual!

Last but not least, love is definitely **not irritable**. Love shouldn't be easily annoyed or irritated.



Got a friend who always wakes up on the wrong side of the bed, like always and gives you the runaround? One who always finds pleasure in reminding you of all your shortcomings or mistakes? I think it is time to evaluate that relationship. Love does not keep count nor rejoice whenever one falls short on something. To err is human hence those accomplices that get annoyed at every single detail that's wrong without forgiving could actually be having the wrong end of what love is. Getting mad at everything and anything simply isn't pretty! Love is all about understanding and appreciating the fact that we are certainly not the same.



People react or act differently in each and every situation hence things might not go our way sometimes. If one fails to understand this, then that individual knows not love.

Love is a precious phenomenon that if done right, has the power to change one's life, the world for the better. When you love someone, you simply desire to be with the person with whom you are in love with because you enjoy their company and all the sizzle that comes with it.

You don't want or need to control them, you just enjoy them. That is just love. Anything outside that is not love. Love is easy and gentle to the soul. It should make you happy at least 70% of the time if not 90%. It should not always be tears and bitterness. Once you're always jacked up because of a relationship, then it might be time to walk away. This is actually the right time where you have to cut somebody off! Cut it!





Hello!
Spring!



SPRING! WHAT A TIME

TO BE ALIVE

After the spine-chilling winter, we've been through, there can be no doubt that we are all looking forward to some fun in the sun with our sandals and floral dresses showing some leg that pops! Speaking of popping, we can finally say goodbye to dry and ashy skin and say hello to a more radiantly beautiful skin that glows all day long! Unfortunately, for some if not most people, this does not come easily.

Certain efforts have to be made for the smooth transitioning of the skin, from a dry one to a more glow one and it mainly concerns FOOD! Yes, food! So the question is; what exactly should we be eating this season so as to achieve and maintain this irresistibly radiant skin? What habits should we be breaking or adopting, and what fashion trends do we need to keep up with this spring?

5 words; You are what you eat! As cliché as that may sound, it is the honest truth. We are what our bodies make of the food we consistently eat. In this case, we want to achieve a popping-skin right? Top of the list of foods to consider eating are fruits and vegetables. Dr. Hadley King, a dermatologist, suggests fruits and vegetables rich in vitamin C for the synthesis of collagen, so that your skin looks naturally bright. That is obviously your orange, and surprisingly, your tomatoes too! According to Dr. Marie Jhin, eating a tomato or tomato based foods such as sauce and tomato juice may help in clearing up acne, as well as help in increasing one's collagen strength which is very important in unleashing that shiny radiance.

Next on the list are Avocados, my all time personal favorite! You don't want to leave these behind this spring because they work miracles in adding hydration to skin (which we desperately need after these harsh winds). As we will be having plenty of sun time, recent studies have shown that both vitamin C and vitamin E found in avocados, play an important role in protecting the skin from oxidative damage caused by the sun and other environmental factors. Together, these nutrients can also help boost the production of collagen which soothes inflammation and lifts away old skin cells. Avocados are genuinely a must have I must say!

I know this next addition will not sit well with some people because fats and summer bodies to them just don't mix. But for us to achieve that great irresistibly- glowing skin, we have to pull all the stops right? Now, how about some fatty-fish? A little bit of fatty fish will do us good my people. Fatty fish like salmon and mackerel are great sources of omega 3 fatty acids. These help one's skin to look supple and radiant by softening rough, dry skin and have a soothing effect on irritation and dermatitis. They also help regulate the skin's oil production which keeps the skin looking fresh and young. I guess one does not have to worry about aging with fatty acids in their diets! It's a bonus!



For those with a sweet tooth, you definitely can't go wrong with dark chocolate! Apart from the fact that it is a rich source of antioxidants and minerals perfect for the skin, it generally contains less sugar since we're all for a healthy diet and all. Speaking of a healthy diet, it is not a healthy one if we are to leave out water! A generous amount of water equals great skin, it is no secret! That is exactly why we cannot leave out those 8 glasses of water per day!! Can I challenge you into trying that out? You'll thank me later.

Habits

Attitude: After one has achieved beautiful skin, why not top it off with some positivity? Great attitude always compliment great looks and we are all for that this spring!

This is #SpeakLifeSeptember! We are affirming things we probably have not been paying much attention to, we are having the universe gravitate our things towards us through the words we speak. Words are very powerful. The tongue is so powerful in such a way that it moves mountains, it layers valleys, it makes dry streams overflow and roar hence we're exploiting that this month to say, speak life over your life! Does that make sense? Let me give you a small tip; whatever you say, whatever you affirm, affirm from a place of gratitude, having confidence that it is already happening! It's already gravitating your way! Believe as you affirm.

Also, we've got to quit complaining this September! This month is an introduction to the coolest and most beautiful seasons of all times. So let us cultivate the habit of whining less and appreciating more.

The more gratitude you have, the easier it will be for the universe to give you what you have been calling out by name. So just to wind up, let us be cool and have a positive mindset this season. Let us be colorful as the plants. Positivity is indeed infectious! Imagine how your sole positive outlook could do to your circle, no matter how small it is! Imagine how it could change someone's life.

What should I wear?

With your attitude in check, you need just the right outfit to express it!



With spring being about positivity and life, why not color your way through it? Listen, I am all for floral dresses and sandals which is our spring culture, but are we not revolutionaries? What's trending in the world of fashion this September ? Try something new!

Large and in-charge blazers, bright colored bags, and sleek face masks dominated fashion weeks over the last few weeks. Everything from sunshine yellow to citrus orange and hot pink will prevail throughout spring. So girl, go get that yellow bag! See that one that you had stashed at the top of your wardrobe claiming it's too bright? We need bright! Take that yellow out, we have our shades on!

You also can't go wrong with those knee high boots and your open flare dress! There ain't no event for that outfit sis! Don't forget that headscarf too! OMG, who doesn't want to wrap that around and pretend as though no one can see them?! And of course, if you're one to show off some skin and way more leg and thigh, then you're not far off with that denim mini skirt or short. Feeling confident?, top that off with an off the shoulder colorful top or strip top. Complete your look with a sleek black mask and you are ready to spring out of your house! Go get yourself one if you haven't yet!

For the gents: I know you, less is more LOL. What I'm sure of though is, the ladies want to see some legs!

Guys in the right shorts are a picture you just can't stop marveling at! Spring is here, bring out those shorts and hats, and let's go smell some flowers!

Before we close, can we all just bow our heads and take a moment to appreciate winter's departure?

Thank you!

*By: Mhlanga
Ziyanda*



ENTERTAINMENT

Find suggested
songs, swazi
dishes and
other!



SONGS

- P-floozy & Sybriz-Sands Tigi cover
- Detroit ft Native flow- FUMBLE
- Sean Cast-Scars
- It'll All Be Over ft Smaggz by CUPID
- Thasco Lepara MusiQ _ Made In Piggs Peak
- Thasco Lepara MusiQ _ Weekend Vibes
- Thasco Lepara MusiQ _ The Injection

Buying a new car!

@Special Board





Buying a car seems easy, it just has to look good right? True; but looks alone cannot guarantee that you have bought a good car.

There are a number of very important aspects one should consider before making this big purchase. Allow me to take you on a ride on the main things to consider when buying a new perfect car.

Factor 1: Quality

Quality refers to the durability of the car, its components and accessories over time. Cars rated high in quality will experience less problems over time when it comes to paint peeling, rattling noises.

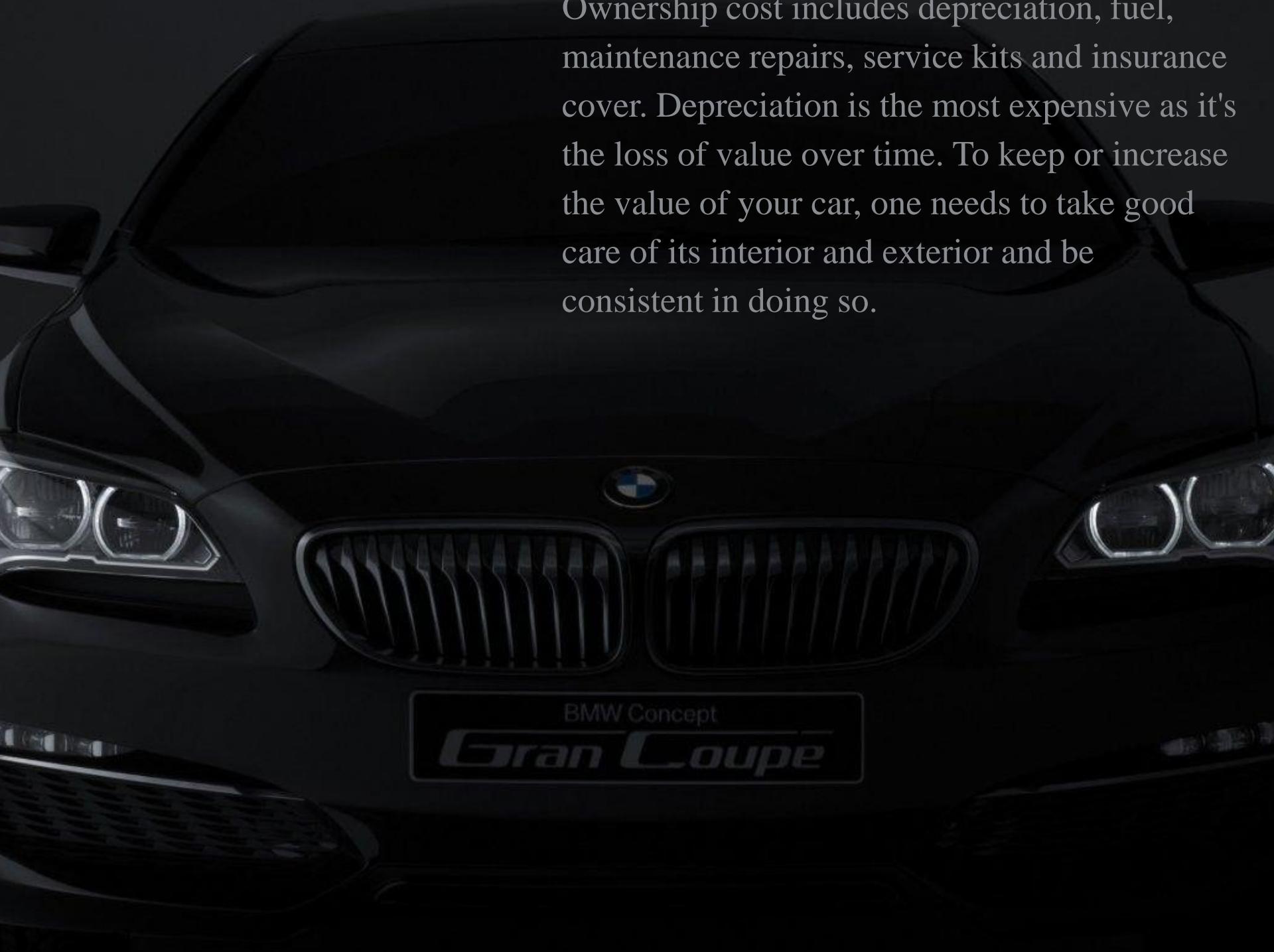
Studies have shown that cars tend to have problems within their first year of production as manufacturers deal with unforeseen production glitches and errors. Common quality problems tend to occur on technical features such as navigation, reverse-parking assist. It is therefore advisable to wait until the second year of production before buying a car so as to experience fewer quality problems and save money on repairs.



Factor 2: Cost of Ownership

The long-term cost of owning a car is more than the actual price you pay when buying a car.

Ownership cost includes depreciation, fuel, maintenance repairs, service kits and insurance cover. Depreciation is the most expensive as it's the loss of value over time. To keep or increase the value of your car, one needs to take good care of its interior and exterior and be consistent in doing so.



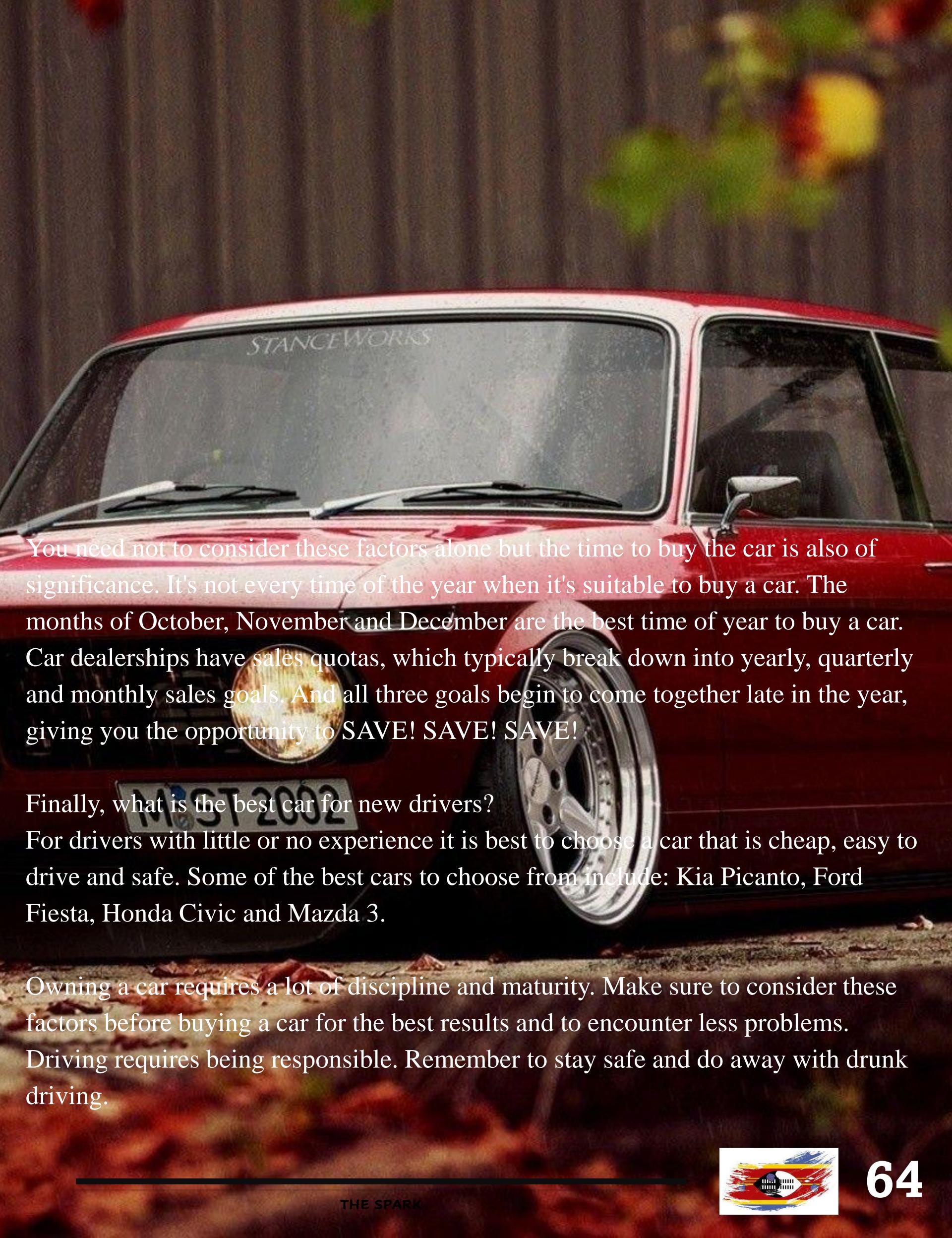


Factor 3: Reliability

Having a reliable car is such an important factor. A reliable car is one that doesn't need anything more than normal repairs (oil changes, brake jobs, tires). An unreliable car could be defined as a consistent number of unplanned breakdowns. Owning a car that constantly needs repairs is exhausting and cuts deep into the pocket so why not get one that will be lenient with you on these unplanned breakdowns.

In as much as most vehicles these days are reliable or rather come with new car warranties of at least 3 years or 36,000 miles and some go even as high as 10years/100, 000 miles; one will still need a car that is dependable.





You need not to consider these factors alone but the time to buy the car is also of significance. It's not every time of the year when it's suitable to buy a car. The months of October, November and December are the best time of year to buy a car. Car dealerships have sales quotas, which typically break down into yearly, quarterly and monthly sales goals. And all three goals begin to come together late in the year, giving you the opportunity to SAVE! SAVE! SAVE!

Finally, what is the best car for new drivers?

For drivers with little or no experience it is best to choose a car that is cheap, easy to drive and safe. Some of the best cars to choose from include: Kia Picanto, Ford Fiesta, Honda Civic and Mazda 3.

Owning a car requires a lot of discipline and maturity. Make sure to consider these factors before buying a car for the best results and to encounter less problems. Driving requires being responsible. Remember to stay safe and do away with drunk driving.



MEME CORNER




Yepp....

We all have that one friend that always starts to get happy and start to dance while eating



Life without food?



Detail

All set for my meeting with the student that missed more than 30 classes this semester and emailed me to set up an appointment to talk about his grade.



as soon as you think "I'll wake up early and do it tomorrow" you've already failed



I am going to oversleep. I am not going to wake up at all.

If u look at me from a distance u may think I don't have money but when u come closer you'll see that I truly don't have money 😂

Hahaha. Kubuhlungu

People who wear Glasses 😂



With
Glasses VS Without
Glasses

Depends, I've seen the opposite

THIS CUTIE AWARD

HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO

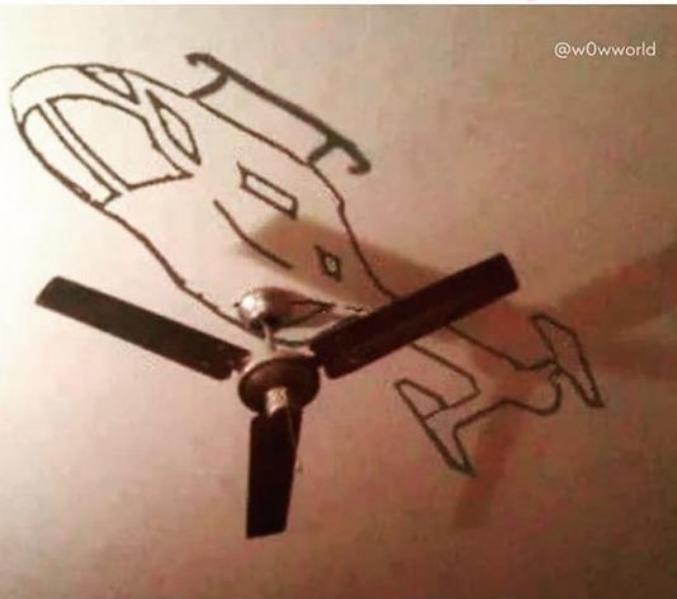
YOU

for being a very attractive human being
keep up the good work!



A Participations' trophy

 Respect to this
awesome **creativity!**



You cant be bored anymore



Handwriting in exam



 First page

Last page 😂

It is not that I am dumb

**At my funeral you have
to show a picture of
you with me at the gate
to get a plate..**

if you eat AMASI with no Sugar it's fine you don't have to explain to anyone why you're mentally unstable



We know...

POEM

Ngike ngaba ngumtfombo lodvungekile
Ngidvumele, ngidvubutekile
Imicabango lengcolile ingikakile
Ngikile ngaba ngulolahlekile
Ngingahlungeki eveni
Ngingehluleki nekuhlala nalabangetsembeki
Ngingakahleleki, kungahlekeki
Phansi kungahlaleki
Ngehla ngenyuka, njengeluhlanya
Hhayi ngoba ngihlanyela, cha!
Kuphela nje inhlanyelo ngangiyisakata
Kutanasa kungemahlalakhona
Kwaba mahlandla lapho khona nginyakata
Inyakatfo iningizimu
Imphumalanga nenshonalanga
Shona malanga
Yavuka intfombi yacabanga
Enhla entasi yacalata
Nasetulu selicala kumanyata
Kumnyama kuyakhanya, yinyakanyaka
Kantsi yonkhe leminyaka lengaka bengisolo ngentani?
Ngike ngaba ngumtfombo lodvungekile.



Nayi imvula seyiphonseka

Phosenga phishaneka ngenta lengidvume ngako kwekuphitsu
tingabonakali kutsi ngiphetselaphi.

Ngitsi angikhe nankha emanti emvula legeletako

Kube sicalo lesisha semphilo lephuphumako

Ngiphume eveni lebantfu labangiphambukisako

Netintfo lengitiphambatisako sale tima!

Ake ngicondze ngitsi tfwi!

Ngibophe libhande laMoya ngitsi mfi!

Ake ngilondze livi laMvelinchanti

Encenyenigaphilisa kweMsedari waseLebanoni

Lelibhanoyi bowutsi utawungitsengela lona sewungatetsembisa wena

Uke uve kutsi kunjani kwetsembisa utsambise inhlitiyo ite itsi wele
wena!

Kantsi utayivitsita Ibe timvitsi letingenamsebenti.

Wena lodvungekile, buya ngikucocele.

Tigcogce! Ticobonge! Cokelela letincetu emacadzini.

Nguyacondza kucangene,

Cina! CIMA bumnyama ngekukhanya

Nyatsela ngemandla.

Nyalo indlala seyendlulile, indlela seyibovu

Kungcola sekwendlaleke phasi

Nansi litfuba lekucala phansi.

Sukuma! Tati!

Nemtfombo lodvungekile usengavama kuhlob

Ziyanda Mhlanga



THIS
PERSPECTIVE
||Growth Diaries||



I love reminiscing! Especially if there's something to gain. Like a flash of beautiful memories, we want to forever hold on to lessons that changed our lives, people that came for seasons and reasons; it's all just so beautiful to think about. So, I went down memory lane with a wonderful young woman who has grown stronger and bolder over the years. One who has worked very hard towards securing a stable future for herself and for her new personal adorable little person who she says has changed her life drastically, but beautifully so! Tema Sgce Mkholo! Get ready for some insight, lessons, inspiration and a brilliant life story of a girl we've all seen grow over the years right in front of our eyes! (On your screens too! Her socials are a story on their own)

Growth

I was keen to know how she has grown over the years and what it is that made her really grow. She made a very valuable point come to light, that is the importance of choice! "My past years have been the most challenging but yet still great! I've come to learn that you are 100% responsible for your actions in life." No doubt that choices come with responsibilities and consequences eventually. She went on to speak out about the change in conversations with her mom. "I've grown to have uncomfortable conversations with my mom!"

Especially because of the biggest transition and blessing that I received!" She obviously sounds very excited about motherhood, stating that having a baby has been the biggest life changing experience! "Baby girl comes first! In everything! I have to think for her, consider her in almost everything, she literally has my life wrapped around her little finger!" However being a young mom does come with challenges, no doubt! "Juggling mothering, school and relationships definitely isn't a walk in the park, but in all that, my baby has truly made life better!" I couldn't agree more! A lovely baby coming with great and valuable life lessons, hard work, smiles, cute little kisses and hugs is something we want to have, and the cherry on top, Sgce is in university! Having a baby isn't all doom and gloom. However, it's still very pivotal to be ready first before you can have those precious little ones. Have them at the right time with financially stable people too and they sure are going to be the greatest blessing to you!

Friendship

If you know me, you know I'm a sucker for beautiful friendships! You know I'm obsessed with having close girls, your go to people anytime (back then anyway). Seeing Sgce over the years and the friendships she has made, curiosity got the better out of me. She was quick to state the biggest of fears! "Y'all won't be friends forever. The friendship will probably fade in college."

OMG! The truth in this?! So many friendships ended back in high. Only a few survived after. It goes on to show how genuine everything was, cause let's be honest, most things are fake in high school. "My circle hasn't changed much, but I have a few friends that I talk to more often." You can't keep everyone! And you shouldn't feel bad about that.

You most probably won't relate to them the way you used to back then anyway. She went on to say that nothing much changed negatively, "all of us have really grown. We're more on lifting each other in esteem, confidence and just really supporting each other so we can be the best!" That is definitely what college will do to you. A change in conversation! "Conversations have changed. From the silly all day everyday talk, to more mature talk! It's a beautiful transition." I couldn't agree more. If conversations don't change, there's definitely a problem.

There can be no doubt that we all have just a few regrets, or should I say, "if I knew then what I know now" type situation. "I wish I knew how to learn and take part in most of the things that interest me." Girl, we share the same pain! "Also, time management. Wish I had practiced more of that." I definitely think time management is a skill that should be cultivated from as early as kindergarten! Because even after all these years, we still don't know how to properly manage our time as a youth.

Coming to my favorite part! The next generation, what do we have to say to them? Sgce didn't hesitate to share some sweet advice, "Baby girl, dear boy, never try to fit in! Be real! You lose yourself if you aren't real, and honestly, you're much happier if you live your truest life. Think about your future, keep it in mind, life goes beyond high school! Lastly, have clean fun. High school years will fly by so quickly! So, make memories."

We indeed had a lovely conversation! Wish I'd share the rest, but hey! Words and time! In the meantime, keep well and stay safe! Also, you're free to suggest a feature. We are more than willing to explore and jump into conversation anytime.

Sgce Mkholo

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 editions was possible because people dedicated their time to help. This project is nonprofit 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.

CONTACTS

Email: mpukaba.official@gmail.com

WhatsApp: [+268 7966 4198](https://wa.me/+26879664198)

Facebook: [Mpumelelo Khaba](https://www.facebook.com/Mpumelelo.Khaba)

Facebook: [The Spark Magazine](https://www.facebook.com/TheSparkMagazine)

Instagram: [mpukaba](https://www.instagram.com/mpukaba/)

Instagram: [The Spark Magazine](https://www.instagram.com/TheSparkMagazine/)

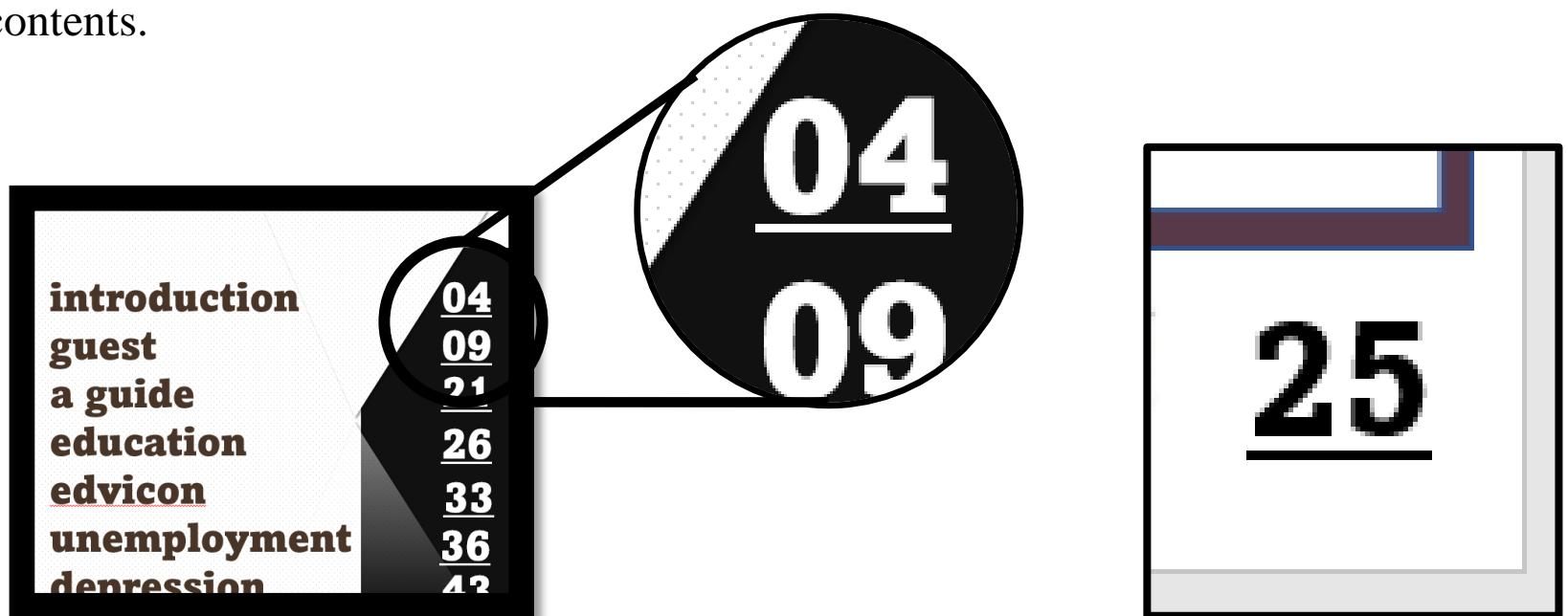


Instructions

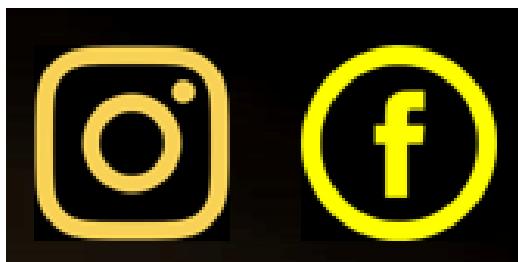
Curl up with this magazine and the comfort of your phone or computer!

This magazine is mildly interactive, some gadgets will respond to all the commands, but some will allow some.

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.



Most underlined text is a hyperlink to social media handles and other information on the internet. Icons and picture are hyperlinks too leading to websites and social platforms.



[Cotton Sway](#)

Let's improve eSwatini



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