

# Yo School Magazine

*Enable Our Children Now for Better Days*



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### **Editor's Note**

*April is Freedom Month in South Africa*, 30 years into our democracy, a month before the National and Provincial Elections on Wednesday 29 May 2024.

**Education** is a fundamental right of every individual, and it is the foundation of a prosperous and successful society. **Education** not only equips learners with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in life but also enables them to contribute to their communities in meaningful ways. **Educating** the youth is particularly important because they represent the future of our society. **Empowering the next generation** through education is vital to ensuring that they can tackle the challenges of tomorrow.

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## **Sgodiphola Secondary School Strategic Plan towards 100% pass mark in 2024!**



By Mzukona Mantshontsho

Sgodiphola Secondary School on Saturday 13 April 2024 committed further to a 100% pass mark in 2024, having achieved 81% for the past three years.

These were the words of Acting Principal and Sepedi Teacher Jack Molepo, as the school continued on their commitment to hand over top achieving learners per subject code in the presence of parents, teachers and the School Governing Body. “This forms part of the pledge we signed in the first term to achieving a 100% pass mark for this year 2024, we use this as motivation for ALL the learners in Matric Class of 2024 to strive to do better and be seen by their peers, teachers, parents, guardians and our School Governing Body,” he added.

The Matric Class of 2024 at Sgodiphola Secondary School in Cosmo City assembled at the school at 5.30pm on Saturday 20 April 2024 for the school camp in preparation for the mid-term examinations.

Acting Principal and Sepedi Educator Jack Molepo said: “The school camp is happening again this year beginning today Saturday 20 April 2024 in preparation for the mid-year examinations. There will be no excuses because you cannot attend as the school notified parents in the first term of a donation of R100 per learner to cover catering and a stipend for transport money support for the Educators that will be helping the learners with their school work.

“A generator is available in the event of any power outages. Security has been made priority so that the learning process goes on smoothly. Classes at the school camp begin at 8am and late coming will not be tolerated – as a rule of thumb going forward, avoid any absenteeism during internal and external examinations without a valid reason”.

Second Deputy Principal Educator Nosenga at the school said: “This is part of the second push effort we spoke about in the first term, we are capable of achieving, time-tables and results for the first term have been issued so that everybody is aware of where they are and where they need to improve. We will have these efforts every term. Your attitude in Grade 12 will take you far. Change how you feel about school and your studies, please PLUG-IN today. Change your attitude and behavior towards your teachers - they are here for you – the only gift your teachers can give you is EDUCATION”.

*Yo School Magazine* to the Matric Class of 2024 says: “Invite God to walk with you in your life journey and school work. Unite as classmates and help each other, you can never know everything. Remember your family background and use that as a motivation to get your priorities right,

“Focus on your mid-year examinations that begin on 21 May 2024 with Geography paper, you will need those marks to apply for tertiary acceptance. In term 3, have fun a bit, it’s your Matric Dance, but pass your Preliminary examinations, all the marks count. In term 4, write your examinations and PASS! Do away with peer pressure; choose the learners you want to associate with. Peer pressure will not get the work done”.

**Parents should be involved in the learners’ education:**

- Check that the learners have all their books;
- Check that all learners have study timetables;
- Let’s make sure that our learners are dedicated and involved in their school work;
- Go through the learners’ Assessment Plan to check on progress;
- Any school-work that needs signing, should be signed;
- We will die and leave our children behind, make sure they are left behind with great values;
- Make sure they are left with a decent education;
- The only certificate they have is their birth certificate; **MAKE SURE THEY GET THEIR MATRIC CERTIFICATE** to open the doors to the rest of their **LIVES!**



## “What About the Boys?”



By Nandika Beukes

Harmful stereotypes in society are as detrimental to men and young boys as they are to women and the girl-child. This is also true in relation to the fight against gender-based violence and, according to some, the critical argument is that more needs to be done in re-evaluating the traditional yet toxic notions of masculinity. The effects of these societal expectations on boys are evident in how they are raised in relation to their female counterparts.

Statistics suggest that boys are struggling and need more support and guidance than ever before. The traditional notions of masculinity that promote aggression, dominance, and emotional suppression are outdated and unhealthy. By challenging toxic masculinity, the one-of-a-kind GBV-preventative ‘What About The Boys?’ seeks to redefine what it means to be a good man. To kick off the 2024 edition of the programme, Primestars, CHIETA, SASOL, the GBVF Response Fund along with some 200 high school boys gathered at the Ster Kinekor complex at The Zone in Rosebank. It was a day filled with determination and a shared vision for a more inclusive and safer tomorrow.

Since inception in 2022 ‘*What About The Boys?*’ has impacted over 40 000 high school boys from under-resourced township and rural communities nationally, presenting to them relatable storytelling through movies, coupled with our informative, illustrated Good Men Guide workbooks, MENTorship and a free online platform called Primestars Digital.

Vital to the programme’s success has been the qualitative and quantitative data gathered before and after the programme’s implementation. Before going through the programme:

- 16% of boys agreed with the statement that ‘There are times when a woman deserves to be beaten’
- 30% agreed with the statement that ‘It is okay for a man to hit his girlfriend or wife if she won’t have sex with him’.
- 74% agreed with the statement ‘A man can have sex with his wife whenever he wants’.

Post-assessments with the same learners showed that these percentages had dropped dramatically.

It has been said “If we educate our sons, we won't have to protect our daughters. We won't have to teach them how to defend themselves.”

Primestars cannot do it alone and the tangible change in our young men is due to the commitment by the action-leadership of our partners from various private, public and civic organisations. This commitment continues to build a strong foundation for sustainable change and positive societal transformation.

## Vote on Wednesday 29 May 2024



By Mzukona Mantshontsho

All South Africans will hold national and provincial elections on Wednesday 29 May 2024, President Cyril Ramaphosa's office said on Tuesday 20 February 2024.

"I call on all South Africans to exercise their democratic right to vote and for those who will be campaigning to do so peacefully, within the full observance of the law," Ramaphosa's office said.

Political analysts say record power cuts, poor service delivery and high levels of unemployment are likely to hurt the governing African National Congress (ANC) party that Ramaphosa leads at the polls, threatening its parliamentary majority for the first time since the end of apartheid in 1994.

The final voter registration happened on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 February 2024, and there's 27.4 million eligible voters on the voter's roll.

Every time new leadership is introduced, it allows for new enthusiasm, innovations, ideas and a change of mindset.

Observing the politics, emotions and theatrics at play every time there is a change in leadership; people react either with enthusiasm or strong resistance.

Our reaction to new leadership is based on the reputation of the existing leadership, combined with expectations and hopes of improvement from the new one.

Either way, the introduction of new leadership brings with it a weird mixture of uncertainty, combined with hope and excitement.

If we do not like our leaders, we must banish them,

If we do not like our government, we must fight to change it,

If we do not like the way things are going, we must speak out and stop it,

Building a great South Africa is the job of each one of us. We can never entrust that to just a few people seated in the comfortable seats of our BURNT parliament – but we can direct them.

# The Importance of Plants?



By Ishmael Phalane

From towering trees to delicate wildflowers, plants are the backbone of our environment, playing a crucial role in maintaining the balance of ecosystems.

On the 13th of April, we celebrated the incredible contributions of plants to our environment and wellbeing. Plants are not only beautiful, but they also play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance, purifying our air, and providing habitat for countless species. As a company that is passionate about the environment, we understand the critical importance of preserving and nurturing our planet's greenery.

Take a moment to appreciate the lush greenery around you. Whether it's a potted plant on your desk or the majestic trees in your neighbourhood, let's recognise their invaluable role in creating a healthier, more sustainable world.

**Oxygen Production:** Did you know that plants are the primary producers of oxygen on Earth? Through photosynthesis, they absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, providing the very air we breathe.

**Carbon Sink:** Plants also act as natural carbon sinks, absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

**Biodiversity Support:** Plants provide habitats and food sources for countless species, contributing to the rich tapestry of life on our planet. From insects to mammals, many creatures depend on plants for their survival.

**Soil Health:** Plant roots help prevent soil erosion and maintain soil structure, promoting fertility and supporting agricultural productivity.

**Water Cycle:** Plants play a crucial role in the water cycle, absorbing water from the soil and releasing it through transpiration, which helps regulate local and global climates.

**Medicinal Properties:** Many plants have medicinal properties, offering potential treatments for various ailments and contributing to human health and well-being.

Let's remember to cherish and protect these invaluable members of our ecosystem. Whether it's planting trees, supporting conservation efforts, or simply taking a moment to admire the beauty of nature, every action counts!

## Dear Generation Z!



By Aviwe Melane

In Today's world, social media platforms can sometimes make us feel inadequate and unworthy.

However, amidst the constant noise and pressure, there is a powerful tool that can help you fortify your mental resilience and nurture self-confidence: the art of affirmation.

Here are seven effective ways that you can leverage this tool to boost your self-esteem and cope with the whirlwind of social media.

### **Start your day with a positive affirmation and set the tone for your day:**

- Create a digital sanctuary that reflects your aspirations and values.
- Replace self-critical thoughts with affirmations that validate your strengths and progress.
- Create a visual affirmation board that reminds you of your aspirations and reinforces positive beliefs.
- Engage with peers in affirmation challenges or groups to create a supportive network focused on growth and encouragement.
- Combine mindfulness practices with affirmations to regain focus and confidence in moments of stress or overwhelm.
- Cultivate gratitude through affirmations and foster resilience by emphasizing gratitude amid challenges.

Remember, you are capable, resilient, and enough. Use these affirmations to build a stronger sense of self-worth and healthily navigate social media.

*To read more of my blogs, go to [www.aviwemelane.com](http://www.aviwemelane.com).*



## Protect the Girl Child - Parents Urged!



It is important for mothers and teachers to teach young girls about gender-based violence and various social ills affecting women.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to championing the rights of the girl child. Every girl deserves access to education, happiness, and freedom from discrimination, as well as protection from all forms of violence, including child labour, trafficking, and molestation.

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is an egregious violation of human rights. It inflicts deep and lasting harm on individuals, families, and communities, undermining their well-being and perpetuating cycles of trauma and injustice. We remain steadfast in our commitment to ending SGBV, fostering a culture of respect, equality, and accountability.

*Yo School Magazine* strongly believes it's the responsibility of grown men to protect a girl child in our communities. Asking out a girl who is young enough to be your daughter is damaging. Their education, hopes and aspirations will fade away. Yes, we know they're out there thinking they're ready but it remains the older man's responsibility to protect them. The same society we are not taking care of is the same society our daughters will grow up in. Imagine someone standing in front of your daughter few years to come.

School going children should refrain from drugs and acquire as much education as they can.

The Gauteng Department of Social Development funds more than 2 500 NPOs to deal with issues that affect women and offer them counselling.

## Let's keep fighting Gender-Based-Violence (GBV)!



By Thabisile at Amandla.mobi,

The office of the Presidency released a statement asking men all over the country to pledge their names in an effort to curb GBV. How have men pledging to end GBV ever solved a GBV crisis? It is really unfortunate that the President and Deputy President minimised GBV solutions to performative exercises, while women's shelters are closing due to budget cuts.

There have been hair-raising reports of how female traffic officer Bianca Khuzwayo was fatally stabbed by her boyfriend, who then recorded her taking her last breath and posted these graphic images on social media. This level of cruelty should be meted with the punishment it deserves.

Our government, law enforcers and those whom we are supposed to feel safe around have failed us as women. We should all be worried at how the scourge of GBV has spread uncontrollably when enforcers of the law can be so brazen and unashamed in how they harm women.

Demand Justice for Relebohile Mofokeng, who was brutally murdered last month in Evaton, add your name to this petition: <https://awethu.amandla.mobi/p/justice4mome>

The rate at which intimate partners in this country kill women is five times higher than the global average. GBV is a multi-sectoral issue further exacerbated by the widening inequality gap, lack of adequate service delivery and unequal access to resources, among many other issues. For it to be resolved, it means that the police should be capacitated to do their jobs properly, people must have access to employment opportunities, and rape culture should be minimised across all spheres of society. For this to be a reality, the government and society at large must work hand in hand, we all have a role to play.

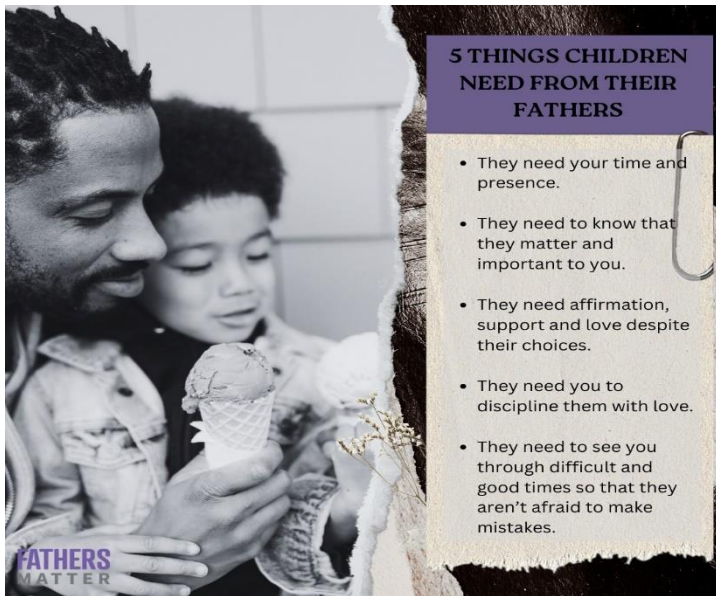
The National Strategic Plan to combat GBV and femicide was adopted in 2020 and has made some strides, especially towards reforming our justice system to protect and deliver justice for victims. More still has to be done to ensure all the structures put into place are funded, fully functional and remain accessible to victims.

We are calling for a denial of bail for the perpetrators in the murder of Relebohile Mofokeng (19), whose life was brutally taken this past month, add your name to this petition: <https://awethu.amandla.mobi/p/justice4mome>

The fight to end GBV should be intensified, and strategic ways adopted to aid victims and the families of those who lose loved ones to abuse. We can once again come together to put pressure on law enforcers such as the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) as we did with former Minister Bathabile Dlamini to commit to implementing the National Strategic Plan on GBV.

Together for justice!

## Join the Quest for Inner Peace



### 5 THINGS CHILDREN NEED FROM THEIR FATHERS

- They need your time and presence.
- They need to know that they matter and important to you.
- They need affirmation, support and love despite their choices.
- They need you to discipline them with love.
- They need to see you through difficult and good times so that they aren't afraid to make mistakes.

By Youth Hub Africa

April remains my favourite month because there is so much to reflect on. One of them is its recognition as National Stress Awareness Month, which brings attention to the negative impact of stress.

According to the APA's 2023 Stress in America survey, young adults (18-34) are scoring a stress level of 6 out of 10, while their wiser counterparts (65+) are cruising at 3.4.

But guess what? It's not just a U.S. thing—it's a worldwide stress fiesta! From career crossroads to financial frolics and future follies, stress knows no borders. But hey, we've got each other's backs, so let's tackle this global stress game together!

Africa is bursting with vibrant cultures and traditions, each offering golden nuggets of wisdom on how to handle stress and boost well-being. Let's take a journey together and uncover these gems!

### **Sound Therapy:**

The rhythmic melodies and vibrations of drums aren't just music to our ears—they're a one-way ticket to inducing relaxation and mindfulness.

Did you know that in Zimbabwe, the Mbira (also known as Dzavadzimu, the Voice of Ancestors) is still used today to kick off healing ceremonies in Shona culture? Imagine the vibes! And the Atenteben!

Crafted from bamboo and native to Ghana, this flute has been a sacred staple in ceremonies for centuries. Take a listen and allow yourself to Feel the rhythm, feel the connection!

## Meditation and Nature Connection

Picture this: African landscapes, with their awe-inspiring beauty, are like nature's masterpiece gallery! From the vast savannas to the lush rainforests, every corner holds serenity. Imagine yourself basking by a tranquil waterfall, finding your zen under the shade of an ancient tree, or striking a yoga pose amidst nature's symphony of calm. These moments aren't just scenic—they're soul-soothing! And let me tell you about Plateau State, Nigeria—oh, the memories! The sight of those majestic mountains takes your breath away. Check out this stunning snapshot!

Here's a teaser... <https://elements.envato.com/aerial-riyom-rock-boulder-formation-riyom-town-pla-J5FX8UE>

## Storytelling and Oral Traditions



Ah, the sweet nostalgia of childhood, nights spent huddled under the moon's gentle glow, surrounded by family and wrapped in Grandma's captivating tales.

In Africa, storytelling isn't just a pastime—it's a cherished tradition woven into the fabric of our culture. These tales, passed down through generations, hold a special kind of magic. They're not just stories; they're gateways to another world, offering a temporary escape from life's hustle and bustle.

And herbal tea? Yep, it's not just a trend—it's a vibe! Sip on some tonight and thank me later.

You know, I'm grateful to be part of **YouthHubAfrica**, an organization that prioritizes mental health and well-being.

With 80% of its members being young people, training and workshops on stress management and work-life balance are an integral part of our culture.

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7078028556429123584>

As I join this quest to reconnect with my roots and explore traditional stress-busting methods, I'd love to have you by my side as my accountability partner. Will you join me?

Let's support each other on this quest for inner peace and well-being.

## April Fool's Day 2024?



By Youth Hub Africa

And at last, we bid farewell to the month of March! What an eventful period it has been; marking the celebration of Women's Month and the successful convening of the 68th annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68), the UN's foremost annual assembly dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment. That being said, let me officially welcome you to April. Unlike every other month, I consider April to be really special. Want to know why?

April is the only month where we celebrate a valuable aspect of human culture that reminds us to not always take life too seriously and to find joy in the playful and absurd. April Fool's Day!

April Fools' Day is an annual custom on 1st April consisting of practical jokes, light hearted fun, and creative humour that provides an opportunity for individuals to momentarily step outside of societal norm. Jokesters often expose their actions by shouting "April Fools!" at the recipient.

I remember taking a run for my life many years ago, back in secondary school when my friends shouted "**look, there is a lizard on your back**", without looking to verify, I ran for my dear life, only to hear "April Fool" after reaching about a mile. Lol!

That is one of the many experiences I can remember, and I bet memories are flashing before your eyes as we speak. I used to look forward to the 1st of April, because it permits me to prank anyone, it doesn't matter the age, no one would scold or get upset.

Unfortunately, on April 1st 2024, no one pranked me, neither did I make move to prank anyone. It leaves me with quite a number of thoughts,

1. Is life getting too intense that we no longer consider the need for a break?
2. Are we losing our sense of humour?

Can we do this thinking together, take a break from your desk and tell me, three things...

1. What is the silliest April Fool's moment you can remember?
2. Did you get pranked yesterday or prank someone?
3. What do you think of my thoughts?

While I hope that 1st of April 2025 will be a lot more fun, let me leave you with this thought "In a world where there's often pressure to be perfect and serious, embracing foolishness allows people to let go of their flaws and vulnerabilities".

## The Tswana People of Southern Africa



By African Way of Life,

Living mainly in South Africa and Botswana, the Tswana people (also known as the Batswana) are one of the more prominent ethnic groups in southern Africa. They originated in Central and Eastern Africa and migrated south between the 1300's and 1500's.

The Tswana then developed powerful kingdoms and had vast influence and authority before European empires colonized them in the 18th and 19th centuries.

They engaged in numerous conflicts with colonizers & African neighbours in the 19th century, with the most famous being the Battle of Khutiyabasadi against the Ndebele Kingdom in 1884.

The Tswana people's victory in this battle brought about a period of peace & economic growth.

Today, the Tswana people have gained independence from colonial rule and have a rich culture based on cattle herding, agriculture, trade, and artisanry.

Their ancestral homeland was called Bophuthatswana, which is located within modern-day South Africa. Their language is Setswana.

## 10 things about Zulu People of South Africa



- (1). The Zulu people are the largest ethnic group in South Africa, primarily residing in the province of KwaZulu-Natal.
- (2). The Zulu language, isiZulu, is one of the 11 official languages of South Africa.
- (3). Renowned for their warrior tradition, the Zulus played a significant role in various historical conflicts, including the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879.
- (4). The Zulu monarchy, led by King Goodwill Zwelithini until his passing in 2021, holds cultural significance and plays a ceremonial role in modern South Africa.
- (5). Traditional Zulu society is organized into clans, each with its own chief and distinct identity.
- (6). Zulu traditional attire, including brightly coloured beadwork, is a vibrant and integral aspect of their cultural expression.
- (7). Music and dance are fundamental to Zulu culture, with energetic and rhythmic performances often accompanying important ceremonies and celebrations.
- (The Zulu Reed Dance, an annual event, celebrates young women's coming of age and emphasizes cultural pride.
- (9). In rural areas, many Zulus maintain a connection to their ancestral beliefs and practices, incorporating rituals and ceremonies into their daily lives.
- (10). Zulu cuisine features staple foods like maize, with dishes such as "Umfino" (wild spinach and maize porridge) being common in their diet.

## La Mano" (The Hand) by Chilean artist, Mario Irarrázabal



By Malaika Mahlatsi

This sculpture is called "La Mano" (The Hand) by Chilean artist, Mario Irarrázabal. It is one of the most famous sculptures in the world.

It is the right hand of a woman emerging from the sand on *Brava Beach* in *Punta del Este*. The meaning of this sculpture is fascinating. According to our guide, its unofficial meaning is an ode to Mother Nature.

The right hand means women, the protectors of nature, hold up the earth to give life. It is said to also mean that the hand of a woman is the hand of God.

**Interesting point:** Argentina, which is right across the *Rio de la Plata*, is the home country of Diego Maradona, the soccer legend who, in the 1986 FIFA World Cup quarter-finals, scored a goal against England using his hand.

When criticised about the illegal goal, which was allowed to stand as the referees didn't have a good vantage point (Argentina went on to win that game 2-1 and to win the World Cup), Maradona would respond that the goal was scored "a little with the head of Maradona, and a little with the hand of God". The goal is now known as "***The hand of God***".



# What is Autism? It's International Autism Day Today?



Autism is one of only four official health-specific days ever declared by the United Nations. April 2nd 2024 marks the 15th “World Autism Awareness Day” (WAAD)!

Autism is the only health-specific condition that has more than one resolution that has been passed at a General Assembly of the United Nations. The fact that Autism was highlighted for such prestigious and significant attention by the United Nations over and above so many other conditions that affects the global community, is due to the fact that this condition is significantly on the increase and is now classified as a global health crisis.

As of 2nd April, and for the month of April as “Autism Awareness Month”, around the world there will many public awareness initiatives to increase and develop world’s knowledge of the Autism epidemic and impart information regarding the importance of early diagnosis and early intervention.

Additionally, WAAD celebrates the unique talents and skills of persons with autism and is a day when individuals with autism are warmly welcomed and embraced in community events around the globe.

My Autistic child  
is perfect.  
  
I want to change  
the world.  
  
Not my child.  
  
[www.facebook.com/ParentingAutisticChildrenWithLoveAcceptance](http://www.facebook.com/ParentingAutisticChildrenWithLoveAcceptance)

## World Bipolar Day 2024!



By Dr. Samke Ngcobo,

As we commemorated World Bipolar Day on Saturday 30 March, I would like to reflect on the strength, support and resilience that it takes to lead a healthy, fulfilling quality of life with this potentially debilitating mental illness.

I'm incredibly grateful for my quality of life because I know what it was like to lead a suboptimal life as a result of my illness.

Four years ago, I experienced a public manic episode with psychotic features and not only did it leave me crippled emotionally by shame, humiliation and trauma but it led to me being booked off work on incapacity leave for 6 months due to cognitive impairment. This became my time of reckoning as I wrestled with issues related to identity, existentialism and purpose.

I can proudly say that I emerged on the other side stronger and more empowered, although it was painful and difficult to get through.

The stigma and judgment that I experienced became my fuel to soldier on and not be defined by the isolated incident. It became my turning point and I decided to not allow this illness to become my identity and place of shame.

I grieved the public humiliation but decided to use it as a catalyst to my emancipation.

In observing this day, I have to acknowledge and attribute the incredible power and importance of the multidisciplinary team in mental health. My psychiatrist entered my life and transformed it for the better. The trajectory of my life changed positively when our paths crossed. I'm grateful for my psychologist who continues to hold my hand as I navigate the complex odyssey to myself. When I needed rehabilitation, my occupational therapist helped me rebuild my shattered life and equipped me with tools to lead a better life. For this I am immensely grateful.

I'm thankful for my friends and family who have weathered the turbulence and turmoil of my illness. Their patience, empathy and unconditional love and support truly humble me. I credit myself for getting up every time that I have fallen. Bipolar Disorder is not easy to live with but I am passionate about redefining the narrative of the illness.

Most importantly, I thank God for granting me the grace to navigate my illness with dignity and allowing my life purpose to shine and flow through my illness. One does not need to be negatively defined by their struggle but can rise above it.

Indeed, I am not suffering from Bipolar Disorder; I am thriving despite it.

## With GOD Nothing Is Impossible



By Dimakatso Sowana

I became an orphan at age 12, after losing both parents.

I fell pregnant while at the university, dropped out of school to take care of my son and returned to start from scratch 2 years later.

Against all odds, I obtained a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) in International Law and Legal Studies from the University of Limpopo, a Certificate in Risk Management from the University of the Witwatersrand, and a Certificate in Commercial and Contract Law from the University of Cape Town.

I am currently studying for a Master of Management in Governance and Management at the University of the Witwatersrand. I am an Admitted Attorney, Contracts Guru, Legal Advisor, and Risk Management Expert, with a solid work ethic and an unwavering attention to detail. Inspired by my creative and innovative personality, I excel as an Entrepreneur and Corporate Speaker. Motivated by my compassion to help and care for others, my dedication as a Humanitarian speaks values.

Never Give Up on Yourself. What God cannot do, Does Not Exist!

## Investing in Property!



By Silindile Lesezana

What some people forget when investing in property is that it's a business like any other and you need to treat it as such. Just like the businesses that are listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE), all businesses carry risk.

What's important for you as an investor or business owner is to identify those risks and find a way to reduce or mitigate them. Dealing with defaulting tenants is one of the biggest risks in your property business. So, before you even think about putting tenants in your place you should think about what will I do if my tenants don't pay?

### **So here is how you deal it:**

#### *Prevention is better than cure*

It's better to have a vacant property than a bad tenant. Screen your tenants properly! If you don't know how, rather get an agent to assist you. Check their credit records, payslips, bank statements, references from previous landlords etc.

#### *Consequence management*

If you are doing this by yourself and not via an agent, register with TPN, a credit bureau for landlords. When the tenant moves in you can send them a letter from TPN that states that you are registered with them and that you will be monitoring their payment history and if they don't pay, they will be blacklisted. This sets the tone that you are a professional landlord and you won't be taking chances.

#### *Ask for the money!*

Some landlords don't even send the tenants an invoice. There are many free apps that you can use to send an invoice and make sure there are penalties for late or non-payment.

#### *Act quickly!*

Send your invoices on time and when a tenant is late even by one day, start your eviction processes. The longer you delay to start, the longer it will take to evict.

## A Threat or A Blessing?



By The Youth Hub

I remember having to spend hours putting thoughts together to write an essay, another long hour proofreading just to be sure it was void of errors, so time-consuming and mentally tasking!

In recent times however, I have found myself collating ideas in split seconds, expanding my thoughts into pages within minutes, and getting so much brain work done with minimal mental stress. I lay emphasis on thoughts because writing makes up 80% of my daily tasks.

What is my secret? We all now use it! Artificial Intelligence; AI!!

Elon Musk once said, “There will come a point when no job is needed – you can have a job if you want for personal satisfaction, but the AI will be able to do everything.”

This got me thinking a lot.... Where exactly is this supposed help tool taking us?

Stay with me!

In March 2024, the BBC reports Alexandrah, a London-based model, who is taking another chance in her career by creating a virtual, AI-generated version of herself. She hopes it will secure her future in modelling.

In her words, “You don't have to travel, you don't have to do the airport runs, you don't have to do anything. It gives people an opportunity to also just live their lives and do other things, and be in two places at the same time.”

There is also Kenza Layli, who made headlines in December 2023 when she emerged as Morocco’s first virtual soul artificial Intelligence (AI) influencer.

## Discovery Corporate and Employee Benefits for exactly 100 days!



By Nonku Pitje

It's been an exciting journey loaded with different emotions.

But the most overwhelming emotion I've felt in the past couple of months is that of gratitude – gratitude for being the first black female CEO in the Discovery Limited Group, and for being given such a huge responsibility; gratitude for the incredible executive team and broader team that I am partnering with; and gratitude for the opportunity to build and shape a business that I have no doubt will be part of Discovery's growth story.

The Corporate and Employee Benefits (CEB) business is the newest business unit within the Discovery Group, but it is already a very important part of the organisation. Our vision is to be a pivotal force in South Africa's growth story, enabling people and business to thrive.

What excites me the most is that we've spent the past 100 days truly understanding what employers want and how best to provide what employees need to cope with the current state of the world we operate in and the challenging economic times.

Once we knew what our clients wanted, we looked at our business' needs. We focused on our own people within the CEB team and making sure that we had all the right skills in place because, without the right team, you can't possibly be expected to play your best game. I'm confident now that – at 100 days - we are where we need to be not only to get the job done but also to play a bigger and important role in our economy and in our country. We are now at a point where we can see the architecture that we'd drawn on paper coming to life. I am so excited about all the things we are going to do in the next 100 days and beyond.

## Ria Ledwaba believes only Legend Doctor Khumalo can change School Sports



By Mabaleng Sports Centre,

Former SAFA vice-president Ria Ledwaba believes in Kaizer Chiefs and Bafana Bafana legend Doctor Khumalo so much that he has called on him to stand up and be counted to change South African football.

“I will not be silenced, I will stand up,” she said.

“I’m not standing up because I’m Ria Ledwaba, I’m standing up for football. The fight that I put here, the fight of the legends... it should not stop with me and they should not fight the same fight I’m fighting.

“At the funeral of Siphwe Mkhonza – Mkhonza was my son because he played for Ria Stars, he lived where I lived, he played for my team – I said to legends and I will say it again, Doc [Khumalo]: ‘The legends of this country have got the power to change the status quo in SAFA but you can only do it if you are united.

“This thing of you not being united, divided, being called – Doctor you are being called to the office and [asked] ‘Doctor, tell me which position do you want, which national team you want to coach?’ It must stop!”

“Only the legends can take school sports to the level that we want, only you Doctor,”

“If you are not standing up and be counted, you will remain where you are, you will remain complaining all the time.”

Ledwaba's attorney Leslie Sedibe confirmed that SAFA’s lifetime ban of Ledwaba, who the association had declared a “persona non-grata” earlier in March, had been lifted by SAFA.

## The first Black Africans to compete in the Olympics were Tswana tribesmen from South Africa



By One Africa,

August 30 1904, two Tswana tribesmen, Len Tau (Len Taunyane) and Yasmani (Jan Mashiani), they were referred to as LenTau and Yasmani because officials could not pronounce their surnames, became the first black Africans to compete in the modern Olympics when they ran in the Summer Olympics men's marathon held in St Louis.

They had been in St Louis on a Boer Ear Exhibit in Louisiana Purchase Exposition held alongside games when they decided to enter the marathon at the last minute.

Tau ran barefoot on an unsuitable course and over dusty roads, so dusty that it caused many of the athletes to collapse. Tau finished 9th and Mashiani came 121st. This was a disappointing to Tau as many observers were sure he could have done better if he had not been chased nearly a mile off course by aggressive dogs.