

Yo School Magazine

“Enable our Children now for Better Days”

Topics Inside:

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Editorial Note:

MAY is Africa Month, Africa Month is celebrated in May each year to commemorate the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) on 25 May 1963, now known as the African Union (AU). The highlight is Africa Day on May 25th.

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture have a critical and central role to play in shaping societies and building a desirable nation and the Continent we want, a continent free from Gender Based Violence, Racism, Crime, Conflicts and Poverty just to mention but few.

It is implemented as South Africa celebrates 31 Years of Democracy but also importantly as the country is presiding over the Group of 20 (G20).

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Enjoy the read, I am Mzukona Mantshontsho, Call or WhatsApp: +2773 777 4434, email: mzukona@nyakaza.org.za

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Factual – **A**ccountable – **I**ndependent – **R**esponsible

Children need to be taught about their rights and responsibilities – with rights comes responsibilities!



By Mzukona Mantshontsho

Care-givers, parents, step-parents and guardians should be taught about children’s rights.

Teachers in schools should be taught about the CHILDREN’S ACT.

The South African Police Service has to be taught about children’s rights and how to pick up the signs of abuse.

Our Social Workers should be more empowered with dealing with children’s rights; it should not be only left to ‘CHILD PROTECTION WEEK’.

Everyone ought to know **Childline Number 0800 055 555!**

Social Boundary

In any relationship, a partner has a right to confidently be able express their dislikes and likes without any fear of judgement, misinterpretation or being rejected for that. Love, respect, honouring the other, caring and remaining happy should be promoted at all times.

Spiritual/Religious Boundary

An individual’s spiritual or religious beliefs should not be imposed on children, siblings, families, communities or other spiritual or religious beliefs or non-beliefs for our society to thrive – we need to accommodate, not judge and respect each other’s spiritual or religious beliefs or non-beliefs for that matter!

The Street Committee Leaders in our Communities,

Our extended Families,

Our Churches,

Our Social Workers and other civil society groups and activists, and

Our nearest Police Station.

Conflict Management

Honesty about the relationship and what you expect,

Being open about where we stand with each other on pertinent issues,

Communicating any likes and or dislikes confidently,

Choosing Love over Anger, and

Be there for each other TRUTHFULLY and ALWAYS!

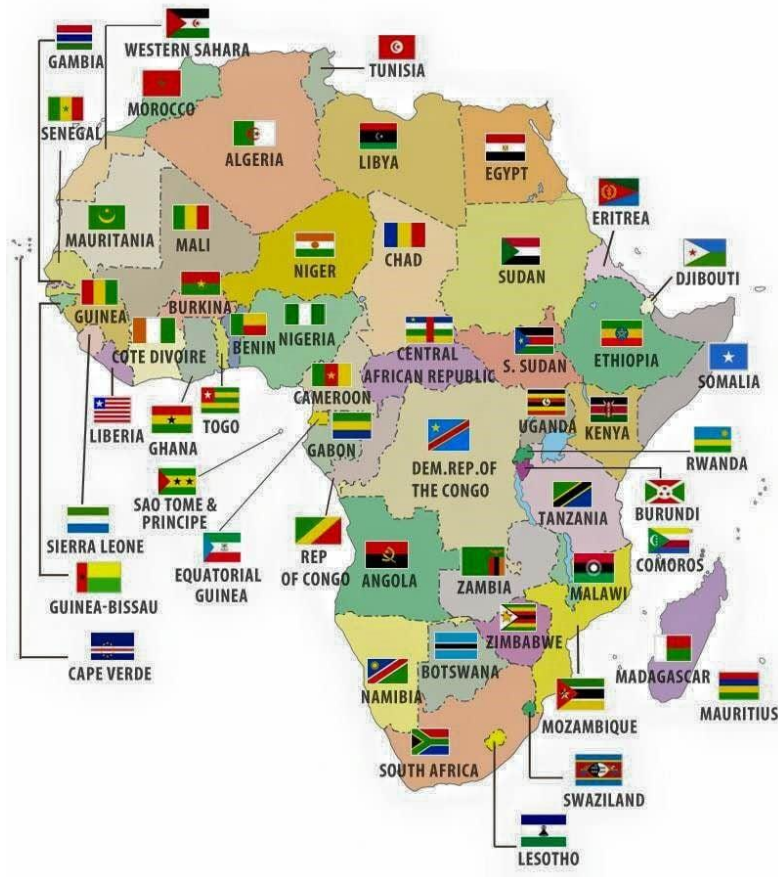
Positive Relationships are characterised by maturity about what we want in that relationship, honesty, respect, caring, loyalty, positive affirmation of each other, loving each other and always striving for HAPPINESS, and not by being always right. If we make an effort to do all the things I have mentioned on a daily basis, we can go a long way in avoiding and doing away with distrust.



Gauteng Premier Panyaza Lesufi and the MEC for Transport Kedibone Diale-Tlabela will pilot launch the province's highly anticipated tamper-proof number plate system on Thursday, 5 June. The launch is set to take place at the Nasrec Expo Centre in Johannesburg. The South African previously reported that in December 2022, Lesufi announced the province would roll out new vehicle number plates in 2023 to help combat crime, corruption, vandalism, and lawlessness. He further emphasised this during his State of the Province Address in February 2023. During the launch of the registration process for manufacturers of vehicle number plates in July 2023, Diale-Tlabela said they understand the importance of ensuring that manufacturers and embossers of number plates operate within the bounds of the law. "Over the years, we have witnessed numerous challenges arising from non-compliant number plates, such as compromised safety, an increase in vehicle-related crime, and a lack of accountability from manufacturers," she said. He said fraudulent number plates and cars without proper documentation are at the centre of crime in Gauteng, especially kidnappings, robberies, and murder, as criminals use undocumented cars to commit crimes.

"We are now ready to launch tamper-proof new number plates".

Why we celebrate Africa Month?



By Mzukona Mantshontsho

Africa Month is celebrated in May each year to commemorate the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) on 25 May 1963, now known as the African Union (AU). The highlight is Africa Day on May 25th.

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It is implemented as South Africa celebrates 31 Years of Democracy but also importantly as the country is presiding over the Group of 20 (G20).

Pan African Congress leader, Robert Sobukwe, was arrested after the Sharpeville anti-pass campaign of 1960 and harshly sentenced to three years in prison.

On 13 May 1969, Sobukwe was released from detention under strict house arrest. His impact was so powerful that he was prohibited from taking part in political activities because of the banning order, and as such could not be quoted by any person or by the press.

Today his legacy lives on! One of those ways is through exhibitions- you can visit Constitution Hill to learn a bit about the icon.

In celebration of Africa Month, Eldorado Park Ext. 2 Library welcomed little learners from ***Syringa Daycare*** for a fun and educational morning on 14 May 2025!

The children explored what makes our continent and country so special — from Africa’s unique plants and animals to South Africa’s rich resources like gold, coal, iron, and platinum. They also discovered our 9 beautiful provinces and learned what it means to be proudly African. Library staff read ***"Learn About South Africa" by Trevor Waller***, sparking curiosity and pride in our heritage. What’s your favourite thing about being South African?

1. Africa is the second-largest continent in the world, covering more than 11.7 million square miles, which is about 20% of the Earth’s total land area.
2. The Sahara Desert, the largest hot desert in the world, spans 11 African nations in North Africa, including Algeria, Chad, and Sudan.
3. Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania is the highest mountain in Africa, standing at 19,341 feet above sea level.
4. The Horn of Africa, including countries like Ethiopia, Somalia, and Djibouti, is one of the most drought-prone regions in the world.
5. The Congo River is the deepest river in the world, reaching depths of up to 720 feet.



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Financial Literacy in our Schools and Communities NOW!



By Mzukona Mantshontsho

It is important for parents to teach their children about saving and to encourage a savings culture as early as possible.

Instilling saving habits from an early age will serve children well for the future.

Although tricky – the idea of ‘putting money away to pay for something or even save for a goal whether big or small’ can be tough for an eight-year-old to understand – with a little help, and some fun games and tools, they can be well on their way to saving.

I am happy to take this opportunity for our learners and young people in Financial Literacy.

I am keen to be part of the team to empower our young people on Financial Literacy starting in Cosmo City, where I live, and surrounding areas that are keen.

Money is one of the most consequential parts of our lives, yet it is still one of the most awkward conversation topics for people to have.

Financial literacy is one of three pillars of focus, and yet when we take financial literacy programs to schools to teach children there is still significant level of reticence from parents and educators.

Teaching them about money will make them money minded, I’ve been told by a parent on more than one occasion.

How do we change mindsets about the perceptions of money?

We need to start talking about it early.

We need to discuss it openly. Personal finance and business finance are things every learner and young person should understand very well as they cut across every aspect of our lives.

From simple concepts, such as earning, saving, spending and even donating to more sophisticated concepts such as taxation, investments, banking, budgeting, fraud and the dreaded debt, the more we know, the better we do.

Unfortunately, these are concepts that most people understand after very costly mistakes both at a micro and at macro levels.

People, institutions and even governments have been crippled because they simply didn’t understand the consequences of these concepts.

We are reclaiming our streets – We Demand Fixing of Roads!



By Mzukona Mantshontsho

This is Central Africa Drive on the way to Sgodiphola Secondary School in extension 6 Cosmo City. The school was given the name S’godiphola Secondary School by the informal settlers who moved to Cosmo City.

S’godiphola Secondary School was established in 2008. It is the second high in Cosmo City –north of Johannesburg (the first public private partnership worth R3.5Billion in South Africa). Cosmo City emerged out of an urgent need to provide accommodation for the informal settlers of Zevenfontein and Riverbend who had been illegally occupying privately owned land 25km North West of Johannesburg CBD. The school was given the name S’godiphola Secondary School by the informal settlers who moved to Cosmo City.

This road is badly damaged, you wonder how damaged the scholar transport that uses the road everyday will be by end of the year, there is a bus that transports learners who live in ***Zandspruit Informal Settlement*** to school everyday. There are teachers who use their cars every morning to school, there’s private scholar transport cars that use the same road daily. We demand the immediate fixing of this road.

Local government sphere is critical for providing essential services to communities, promoting sustainable economic development, and ensuring a safe and healthy environment.

Voting gives citizens a voice in governance and decision-making processes. By casting their ballots, South Africans can contribute to the selection of leaders who will represent their interests, values, and aspirations in government.

The Patriotic Alliance (PA) on Sunday 18 May 2025, declared its commitment to solving South Africa’s pressing issues unemployment, crime, and service delivery failures during a packed national PA President Gayton McKenzie delivered a passionate address, stating:

“Our children are dying. We can’t just watch; we can’t outsource safety anymore. The PA is taking every municipality.

“I saw the potholes it’s a mess. Our country is in crisis: no jobs, no business funding, crime ruling our streets, and illegal foreigners acting with impunity. The solutions to SA’s problems are in the PA’s manifesto.” With the Local Government Elections approaching, the PA is positioning itself as the party of action.

31 years into our Democracy!

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.

2026 ONLINE ADMISSIONS

FOR GRADE 1 AND 8

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED WHEN APPLYING

Parents **MUST** submit certified copies of one type of identification document and **ALL** of the other documents listed below:

1. SA Parent ID / Passport and Child's Birth Certificate or Passport or
2. Refugee Permit / Asylum Seeker Permit / Permanent Residence Permit / Study Permit
3. Proof of Home Address
4. Proof of Work Address
5. Latest Grade 7 School Report (Grade 8 applicants only)
6. Clinic Card/Immunisation Report (Grade 1 applicants only)

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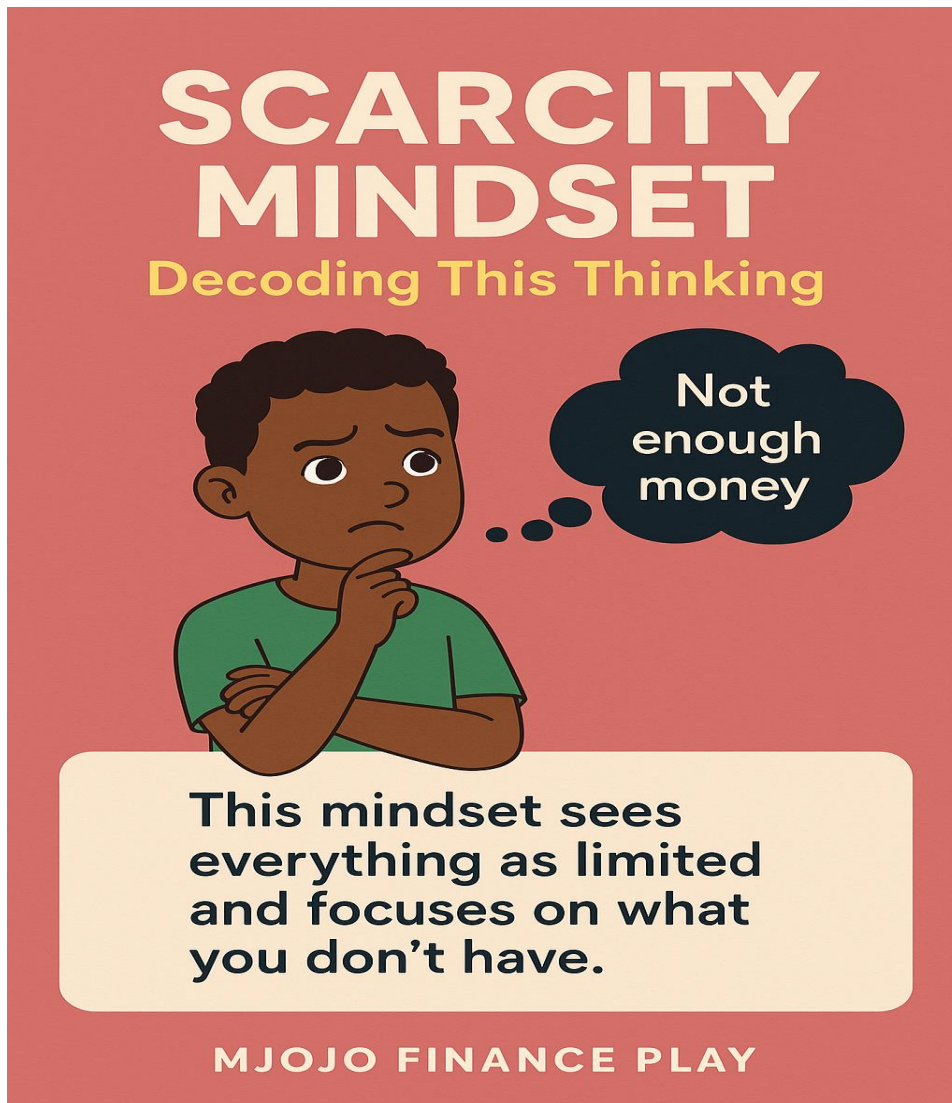
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"SCARCITY MINDSET" — What's That? And Why Is It Holding Us Back?



At **Mjojo Finance Play**, we believe that teaching financial literacy isn't just about money — it's about changing mindsets. One of the biggest blocks to wealth-building in our communities is the scarcity mindset.

What is it?

It's the belief that there's never enough — money, time, opportunities — so we must spend now, fear the future, and doubt our ability to succeed.

But guess what?

Mjojo is here to decode that thinking and replace it with a mindset of abundance, growth, and smart choices!

In our shows, workshops and storybooks, we help young people:

Shift from "I can't afford it" to "How can I save for it?"

Understand that saving R1 at a time builds wealth over time

See money as a tool, not a stress trigger

Let's raise a generation that knows: They have enough. They are enough. They can create more.

A Shining example of Resilience and Determination



By Lungisa Maseti

Meet Neo Marishane, (left) is a former learner at Isipho Sethu LSEN School who has defied the odds. In 2024, he took part in the *Maseti Luzipho Foundation's* Soap and Detergent Skills Development Training Programme—an initiative aimed at empowering intellectually disabled persons with practical and income-generating skills.

Fast forward to today, Neo is the proud owner of *Neo Detergents*, a growing business based in Katlehong. What started with dishwashing liquid has now expanded in the first quarter of 2025 to include car shampoo and wax, tile cleaner, and thick bleach.

We are incredibly proud to see individuals like Neo stepping into entrepreneurship, making their mark, and proving that talent knows no limits. His journey is not just inspiring—it's a testament to what can happen when inclusion meets opportunity.

Well done, Neo! The future of detergent manufacturing just got a lot more exciting!

Call Neo Marishane to place your order at +27 64 005 2812 or his Mother at +27 68 046 1284



Graduate Thanks NSFAS in Her Own Way



UKZN graduation ceremonies are often filled with music, dancing, and heartfelt tributes to parents. But Precious Dlamini chose a different path. When her moment on stage came, she held up a sheet that simply read: “Thank you NSFAS.”

Dlamini graduated on Friday, 9 May 2025, with a Bachelor of Education degree in the Senior and Further Education and Training (FET) Phase. For her, the moment was less about celebration and more about sincere gratitude.

“Without NSFAS, I wouldn’t have gotten this degree,” she said. “It was my main source of funding. I can’t sing or dance—this was my way of saying thank you.”

Dlamini's journey has been marked by hardship. Her father passed away when she was just four years old. In 2022, while she was in her second year of studies, her mother also passed away.

“If my parents were still alive, I would have thanked them too,” she said.

Left to navigate life on her own, Dlamini had to fend for herself and her sister. “Life was hard after my mom died. I had to make ends meet, but it wasn’t easy. My sister was studying at another institution and couldn’t get funding either.”

Despite these challenges, she remained determined. In 2023, she was elected as the Student Support Officer in the Edgewood Campus SRC. She used the role to help others like herself—students trying to stay afloat despite challenges.

Now Dlamini — who celebrated her 23rd birthday says she is optimistic about the future and ready to take on life after university.

We can't afford not to invest in our Children!



By Mzukona Mantshontsho

“The question is not whether we can afford to invest in every child; the question is whether we can afford not to,” said the Bosasa Youth Development Centre in Mogale City.

The National Children and Violence Trust (NCVT) and Far North Secondary School took 23 ‘of the rather unruly’ Grade 8 learners to the Bosasa Youth Development Centre (BYDC) for a day’s experience of how life is like out there.

The BYDC had eight delegates who are serving their time at the centre to share their stories, experiences, how they got there and some of lessons learnt.

This was all meant to shift the mindsets of the learners of the importance of great behavior at school and at home to achieve all your intended goals and dreams as a young person.

The BYDC currently has 150 sentenced and 60 awaiting trial delegates between the ages of 12 and 21 years who are getting a second chance at the centre as opposed to serving time in a prison as per the order of the courts.

The centre has substance abuse rehabilitation facilities, anger management programmes, aggression replacement training, vocational training and finding your purpose in life skills and workshops.

Chief Social Worker Mabaso at the facility had this to say: “The centre is about self-reflection for the delegates; the delegates come here ‘wild’ and leave here decent enough to return to society. We have taken away their freedom; we manage their time while they are here, we tell them what to eat and when, we teach them about peer pressure and how to say NO”!

The delegates stressed that the learners who had come should never want to be in BYDC, the teachers in school should be treated as parents and respected, avoid conflict at home and school, choose your friends wisely, and that the learners should avoid drugs and substance abuse.

Speaking to the learners after their visit to BYDC they said: “We have received a wake-up call, we will change our ways, we will not be going to BYDC, thank you very much to the BYDC, the NCVT, Mam Sithole and our school, we now realize that we are loved, having been sent to Bosasa”.

Far North Secondary School serves the Zandspruit Informal Settlement community though it is in Cosmo City. The school is located in ward 100 since its establishment in 2014. The school is Quantile 1 with a feeding scheme.

It has 4 Grade 8 classes, 4 Grade 9 classes, 5 Grade 10 and 3 Grade 11 classes and in 2016 will grow into Grade 12. When the school was established, there were 713 learners with 45- 50 learners per class and 16 classrooms in total.

The school has no school library, hall and playing fields for the learners.

Learners travel by buses from Zandspruit to come to school every day, a 10-minute drive. Learners’ ages range between 13 and 19 years.

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New classroom for Ogies Combined School!



Zibulo Colliery donated a fully equipped modular classroom to Ogies combined School. The school caters for learners from Phola, Ogies and surrounding farm communities.

This forms part of the mine's Corporate Social Investment initiatives aiming to improve teaching and learning at the school.

The new modular classroom boasts:

- ✓ Aircons, whiteboards, pin boards
- ✓ Security gate, a veranda, blinds
- ✓ As well as a vibrant mural by a local Phola artist.

We also co-funded key enhancements to improve safety, accessibility, and comfort, including:

- ◆ A brick foundation to secure the modular classroom
- ◆ Paving, gutters & handrails
- ◆ Fresh paint for a professional look

A big thank you to *Pulsar Africa* for the surface paving, and *Syncthor Engineering* for their contributions towards providing the labour aspect of the project.

Together, we're creating spaces that support learning, safety, and dignity for learners!

Human Rights in an Unequal Country!



By Simphiwe Ndlovu

I do not think that our teachers cover the history of human rights in-depth like they did with the early 90's generation.

I am willing to take my time and summarize the history of human rights, not that I am a teacher or something. I am just a youth member like you but just different because I am eager for our youth to know where we come from as a country and where we are and possibly where we are heading to in the future. Human rights are rights that everyone should have simply because they are human.

Let me take you back to the history of human rights. In 1948, the United Nations defined 30 articles of human rights. It established universal human rights on the basis of humanity, freedom, justice, and peace. The Bill of Rights guarantees rights, liberties to the individual and embeds the rights of all people in our country.

For instance, everyone has a right to life, equality, and human dignity. The Bill of Rights also protects the people from the history of oppression, colonialism, slavery, sexism and other forms of violations.

Human Rights Day in South Africa was marked or became iconic by the events of Sharpeville. On 21 of March 1960, 69 people died and 180 were wounded by the apartheid government, who fired on a peaceful crowd that had gathered to protest against the form of internal passport system designed to segregate the population, manage urbanization, and allocate migrant labour this act of action was called Pass laws.

Today we commemorate this day as Human Rights Day which is celebrated annually on 21 of March, it is a reminder of the sacrifices made for us to have our treasured human rights.

Above all, I think that every individual is still fighting for their human rights everyday of their lives from an innocent 6month old baby to a 65-year-old adult. I'm saying this because we hear stories of abuse, rape and murder almost every day of our lives.

Being given human rights does not only mean that people of different races can converse with one another, or for black people to be allowed in previously restricted areas. In my opinion, I think real human rights is being able to walk freely in the streets without being scared that something bad might happen. How can we as black people fight against each other? We should be the ones fighting together to help the generations to come be in a better place than we are. Yes, I understand that the likes of Nelson Mandela, Winnie Mandela, and Oliver Tambo fought for us to be free from the apartheid slavery/era. We also have to stand up for ourselves and fight our own battles.

Looking back at the days the youth used to have active young leaders (the likes of Nelson Mandela, Winnie Mandela and Oliver Tambo) that used to help them fight for what is right. What do we do today? ***‘We pounce to amapiano’***. We fight against each other instead of empowering each other, looking at our historic legends all I see is that they played a huge role of empowerment against each other. I say this because they went all out to better the future generations to come and if it happens that they were against each other I do not think that we would get talk about Human Rights Day.

We think that we are free because of the end to apartheid slavery/era but we are really not free. For us to show that we “EXIST” we need to make true change. Change whereby there is equality in every aspect from your school, home, and workplace. Our legends still exist in the books of history and in generations to come who will be in the books of history if we do not empower each other?

Our legends left us some iconic buildings or places to let us know what happened in the apartheid slavery/era.

These places include:

- The Constitutional Hill, which is a living museum that tells a story of South Africa’s journey to democracy. The site is a former prison and military fort that bears testament to South Africa’s turbulent past and today it is the Constitutional Court, which endorses the rights of all citizens.
- Kliptown, is most famously known as the site where more than 3000 people attended what became known as the Congress of the People in 1955

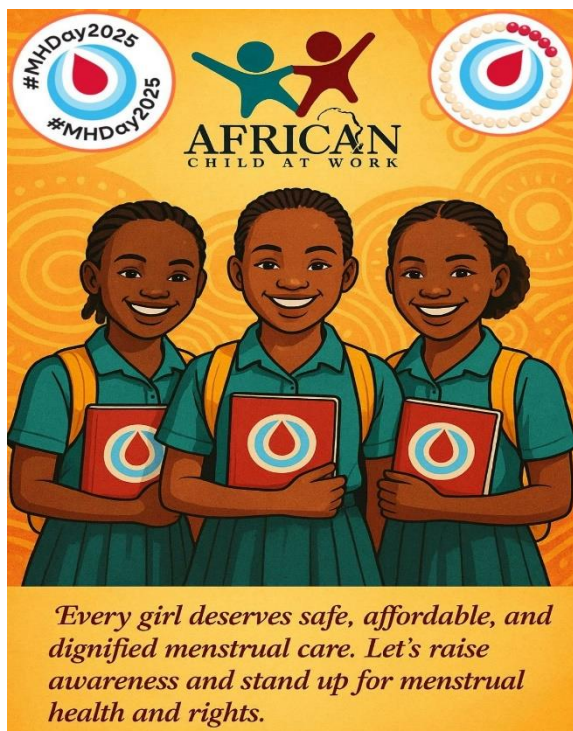


Image: African Child at work

Contrary to popular belief, Africa isn't always scorching hot!



In fact, it's a continent of diverse climates and landscapes, each with its own unique weather patterns. While some may associate Africa with year-round heat, the truth is that our continent experiences a variety of seasons, just like anywhere else in the world.

Climate change in Africa, however, is fast becoming a serious threat, as Africa is among the most vulnerable continents to the effects of climate change. Some sources even classify Africa as “the most vulnerable continent on Earth”.

Climate change and climate variability will likely reduce agricultural production, food security, and water security.

As a result, there will be negative consequences on people's lives and sustainable development in Africa.

Climate Change is one of the most pressing global challenges today, exerting detrimental effects on nations, individuals, and societies worldwide, exacerbating poverty levels by disrupting livelihoods. Although governments and other bodies have implemented policies to tackle this issue, mitigation, adaptation, and other initiatives have fallen short of delivering the desired positive outcomes.

There is, therefore, a need for awareness and comprehension of climate change among young people and communities to strengthen our ability to perceive the connection between our daily lifestyles and contribution to the adverse effects of climate change.



**Some say I should be in school.
But why should any young
person be made to study for a
future when no one is doing
enough to save that future?
What is the point of learning
facts when the most important
facts given by the finest
scientists are ignored by our
politicians?**
***Greta Thunberg,
15-year-old Swedish student***

Documentation of Foreign Nationals is Critical



The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs, Adv Bongani Bongo, has called for the full implementation of immigration laws and regulations to ensure that everyone within the borders of South Africa is documented.

The information that is gathered through documentation is essential for other government departments and non-governmental organisations to plan their work effectively.

The portfolio committee has committed itself to strengthening oversight on various aspects of the department's work, especially around immigration. The National Development Plan is clear on the advantages of legal and developmental migration, and the intention is to strengthen the department's work in this area.

"The committee is clear that immigration should be legal and it wants the department to strengthen procedures for processing immigrants' applications. It is untenable that a country can have large numbers of undocumented immigrants and nothing is done about it," Advocate Bongani Bongo said.

Firstly, the committee believes that completing the legislative-making process of the Border Management Authority is necessary to safeguard South Africa's borders. A seamless process in and out of the country is but one pillar in curbing illegal immigration.

Secondly, ensuring staff capacity at the Immigration Services Inspectorate should be a priority, as it is currently understaffed. "But enforcement must be preceded by properly working application systems that are not prone to inordinate delays," Adv Bongo emphasised.

Thirdly, the fight against forgery and corruption must be strengthened, by weeding out corrupt elements within Home Affairs. Accepting bribes to circumvent the system will not be tolerated.

During its oversight visit to Gauteng Province from 26-30 August 2019, the committee will engage with the Department of Home Affairs and other stakeholders, in an attempt to resolve some of the challenges around documenting foreign nationals.

The committee condemns in the strongest terms the attack on law enforcement officials in the City of Johannesburg. Police have an important role to play in securing the safety of all and must not be subjected to such attacks.

The committee also plans to engage with the Portfolio Committee of Small Business Development to ensure that regulations around small business trading are strengthened.

Brenda Fassie's Legacy Lives On!



By Mzukona Mantshontsho

When the *Sunday Times* turned 100 years in 2006 and as part of their celebrations, the publication embarked on an exercise to give back to South Africa. The publication was to build 40 memorial sites around the country to mark newsmakers and news events that occurred over the century and had an impact on the brand South Africa.

In total, 35 public, permanent and site-specific narrative memorials in South Africa around the country to mark the centenary of the publication were built. The publication selected local artists' free reign to make their own unique pieces. The researchers set out to identify and develop a number of stories, characters and sites across the news board – moments in science, the art, sport, politics, and society. The idea was to have a range of memories, often proud and even playful.

The project would show how history is interesting because it is always, in some ways, driven by fascinating humans whether they are fearless, flawed, heroic or badly behaved or a mixture of all the above. The *Sunday Times* is a popular publication in the country and so their angle on the narrative memorials was to hook the reader by making the historic news events that the publication was asking people to remember.

One such an example is the Brenda Fassie life-size statue that was unveiled outside the Bassline Club in Newtown on 9 March 2009, designed by Angus Taylor. The artifacts memorials on the sidewalks and even on the pathways have story plaques, on or alongside each artwork, which briefly describes the then action. The branding on the plaques is meant to give visitors some reminders or helping to teach, educate, entertain and inform the public – the sites are freely accessible to the public.

The final product of *Branda Fassie* is a 1.57m life-size bronze sculpture of her sitting on a stool, next to another empty stool and in front of a stand-alone microphone. The piece is mounted on a bronze stage, 350mm high with a 200mm step-up. There is text superimposed on the body, all quotes by Brenda Fassie on her relationship with the media.

Speaking to Head of the Sunday Times Heritage Project at the time Charlotte Bauer said: "Brenda is still relevant because her legacy lives on, despite the fact that she is no longer with us – through her music and through this very friendly memorial. It is a human-scale statue of South Africa's loved *Mbrrrrrrrrr!* That people passing by can literally 'embrace' – by hopping-up on stage next to her.

Afrikaans celebrates 100 years!



Yo School Magazine on Thursday, 8 May 2025, joined the nation in commemorating a century since the official recognition and standardisation of Afrikaans as an official language.

This milestone marks the passing of the Official Languages of the Union Act No. 8 of 1925 legislation that formally established Afrikaans, replacing Dutch as an official language of South Africa, alongside English with the exclusion of indigenous African languages.

Afrikaans emerged during the 18th century in the Dutch Cape Colony, evolving from Dutch dialects into a distinct language. Although often marginalised and referred to as “kitchen Dutch” (Afrikaans: Kombuistaal), it has since grown into one of South Africa’s most spoken languages, currently the first language of approximately 6.4 million people, or 10.6% of the national population and 60% of the native Afrikaans speakers are black and mostly Coloured in particular.

Globally, around 7.4 million people speak Afrikaans as their mother tongue, with significant communities in Namibia, Botswana, Eswatini, and diasporas in countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

“As we honour Afrikaans, we do so in line with our constitutional mandate to promote and protect all official languages in South Africa,” said PanSALB Board Chairperson, Prof Lolie Makhubu-Badenhorst. “Afrikaans continues to play a vital role in our social fabric, education system, and economic development. It is spoken in communities that actively contribute to the nation’s progress.”

Prof Makhubu-Badenhorst further emphasised that Afrikaans, like all South Africa’s languages, deserves equitable status and support: “Language is a fundamental part of our identity, culture, and heritage. Afrikaans is not the preserve of any one racial or ethnic group, but a shared linguistic resource shaped by all those who speak it.”

The celebration of this centenary also serves to promote multilingualism, linguistic diversity, and inclusive cultural expression. *Yo School Magazine* recognises the historical context in which Afrikaans gained official status as a process that excluded non-white Afrikaans speakers and denied official recognition of the varieties spoken by majority speakers of the language. This painful legacy underscores the importance of celebrating Afrikaans in a way that honours all its speakers and all its varieties standard and non-standard alike.

The Afrikaans National Language Body (ANLB), a legislative PanSALB structure, has taken a clear stance on this inclusive vision. It acknowledges that the development of Afrikaans occurred within a broader context of systemic exclusion but affirms that today, no single variety of Afrikaans should be regarded as superior. The ANLB is the custodian of all Afrikaans varieties and remains committed to serving the full spectrum of the Afrikaans-speaking community.

Yo School Magazine is encouraged by the inclusive direction of the Afrikaans 100 Roadmap. It notes with appreciation that the campaign recognises Afrikaans as a language that belongs to all its speakers, with roots stretching far beyond 1925. The recognition of contributions from historically marginalised communities such as the Khoi and San and enslaved people who shaped the earliest forms of Afrikaans is a step towards healing and unity.

Yo School Magazine supports Afrikaans 100 initiatives that reflect this inclusive spirit and remain aligned with its vision of equitable language development across all of South Africa's official languages.



Your idea doesn't have to be perfect, just purposeful!



By Mzukona Mantshontsho

MJOJO FINANCE PLAY is about making financial literacy fun, relatable, and accessible for children and youth in South African public schools.

Mjojo Finance Play uses the arts—storytelling, theatre, music, dance, and poetry—to teach money management in a way that speaks to young people's realities, especially in under-resourced communities.

I recently spoke to Founder at *Mjojo Finance Play* Victoria Ofentse Montshiwe about how her upbringing led to her journey in Financial Literacy today?

“Growing up in Soweto, I saw firsthand how a lack of financial knowledge affected families and limited opportunities. My own mother was resourceful and entrepreneurial, and she taught me the value of stretching every rand. That foundation, along with my experience as an educator in township schools, made me passionate about bridging the financial education gap through creativity”, she says.

What is your view in terms of success in Financial Literacy?

“Success in financial literacy is not about how much money you have—it's about what you do with what you have. It's being confident in your ability to make smart decisions with money, understanding value, and creating opportunities for yourself and others”, she adds.

Tell us about your early life, school, and qualifications:

I was born and raised in Soweto. I graduated from the University of Cape Town with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education and taught Creative Arts, Drama, and Choir in Soweto public schools for over a decade. I'm currently pursuing my Master's Degree in Cultural Policy and Management at Wits University.

What does your role mean to you?

It means being a bridge—between information and imagination, between education and empowerment. I take great pride in creating work that speaks to young minds and unlocks their potential.

What are the most critical resources for your successful leadership?

A strong team, community support, creativity, resilience, and a clear vision rooted in service. I also value partnerships with like-minded organizations who believe in our mission.

What can we expect going forward?

The very first *Mjojo Finance Play* was performed in 2016 at Soweto Theatre. Since then, we've reached over 100 schools, and we registered formally as a company in 2023. Going forward, we're launching a national campaign called "Start with One Rand", touring all nine provinces from September 2025.

Advice to young people, especially women, starting projects or businesses?

Start with what you have and where you are. Your idea doesn't have to be perfect, just purposeful. Ask questions, seek mentors, and don't wait for permission—create your own platform. Small steps become movements.

Thoughts on COVID-19 and small businesses?

COVID-19 taught us the importance of digital resilience and financial planning. Small businesses must invest in emergency savings, diversify income streams, and embrace technology to remain flexible and connected.

What legacy do you want to leave?

I want to leave a legacy of creative education—one that shows future generations that learning can be joyful, powerful, and transformative. I want to help raise a generation of financially literate, confident, and responsible citizens.

How does your work directly contribute to the community?

We educate children through school visits and performances, provide them with workbooks and resources in their home languages, and build capacity in youth through performance arts. We make financial knowledge accessible and relatable to kids who may not otherwise receive it.

Highs and lows of your career?

A high was seeing learners perform what they had learnt in their own languages and styles—it proved our model works. A low was having to self-fund and pause some programs due to lack of sponsorship, but this also pushed us to innovate.

When you're not at work, what do you do? Where can we follow the program?

I enjoy writing, attending performances, and spending time with my children. You can follow *Mjojo Finance Play* on: *LinkedIn and Facebook: Mjojo Finance Play*