

# Yo School Magazine

"Enable our Children now for Better Days"



*Inside:*

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### **Editor's Note**

The Class of 1976, lest we Forget! Monday 16 June 2025 was a reminder of the 49th year of the struggles by the Class of 1976 to bring democracy in our country.

The Class of 1976 was forced to learn all their subjects in school in Afrikaans. The learners of 1976 said NO MORE! The Class of 1976 was met by a regime of the day with aggression, bloodshed as well as fatalities. The Youth of 1976 fought so that we can enjoy the opportunities we have today. Let us take a stand to correct all the ills in our communities, workplaces, churches, and schools. The youth of 2025 must enjoy the fruits of liberation. Let's spend more time at school, work and less time at night-clubs, taverns and shebeens. Let us take a stand against Nyaope, Unprotected Sex, Xenophobia, Drug and Substance Abuse. Let us do our best as learners today to live up to the struggles that the Class of 1976 fought for!

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**I-MIDIYA  
EKHULULEKILEYO  
ABANTU  
ABAKHULULEKILEYO**



# The end result is always worth the journey – Matric Class of 2025!



By Mzukona Mantshontsho

The longer you give yourself time for your studies, the more time you have to discover and work on those areas that are weak.

You also give yourself more time to go and find the support you need.

Perseverance is critical. Even if you do not have a glowing academic record, it is never too late to give your best – when you start trying, and you’ll start succeeding.

For instance, the Covid-19 disruptions, impacted severely the disadvantaged boys and girls and their families.

I hope the current circumstances force a longer-term transformational shift in the way we educate our youth.

As the year begins, it sometimes seems as if there are more tasks that need to be done than there are too few hours in the day to complete them.

Be it assignments to submit or deciding which university to apply to, it can all become very overwhelming, and one would be tempted to just throw in the towel.

However, it is always helpful to remember the old proverb “you can only eat an elephant one spoon at a time”.

Therefore, cease every task with a conquering mentality, knowing that you can do it.

The completion of every assignment, no matter how big or small, will take you one step closer to your dream.

Work with passion and excellence, keeping in mind that it is not always about what you are doing but that it is also about what you are learning in the process and how it is changing you for the better.

When tough times come, and the temptation to give up is knocking at your door, always remember to keep focus on the end goals as this will give you strength to carry on.

When you come to the end of the year and you have passed your exams or have been awarded the scholarship you have been hoping for, you will realise that that the hard work, late nights and self-discipline were all definitely worth it.

## **Bottom Line**

Before you choose a career or pursue anything, you must first know your purpose, it is this purpose that will guide you and it this purpose that you must fight for and not give up on till the end and most importantly, it is this purpose that you must use to change the world.



## Choose what is Right!



By Balindile Ngobese

There comes a time in our lives when we want to see ourselves doing great and respected in our families and communities. We all have dreams and we must strive towards achieving our dreams, goals and ambitions. Choose what is right when you consider abusing drugs and alcohol over studying. Choose learning over crime. Choose a safe and good path over an unsafe path. Choose respect over disrespect, choose family over friends. Choose to focus and stay away from destructive behaviour. Don't let your life be run by others because we deserve happy endings. Do what is best to reach all your goals. Always do what is right, if you fail, ask for help. Community outreach programmes are there to help you whenever you get stuck. Use those programmes to become a success!

## G20 Education Indaba



Gauteng proudly hosted the Provincial G20 Education Indaba under the theme: ***“The Role of Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) in Improving the Quality of Foundational Learning.”*** This important gathering brought together everyone with a direct stake in the future of education and early learning — from dedicated educators and insightful researchers to senior management, policymakers and ECCE practitioners. The Indaba explored how quality Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) lays the groundwork for improved foundational learning outcomes, with robust discussions on strategy, equity, access, and collaboration. Yo School Magazine thanks the participants for contributing their voices and reaffirming our collective commitment to shaping a stronger, more inclusive foundation for every child.

## Social Issues of gender discrimination



By Osego Molose

Sexism prejudice discrimination is based on a person's sex or gender. It can affect anyone, but it mostly affects women or girls.

It has been linked to stereotypes and gender roles. Sexual harassment is an obstacle that many women and girls face; it may be in their work place or either at school or the community.

Racism is another definition of gender discrimination; race seems to play a major role in how women are treated or should be treated religious-wise. In their work place, not many women get to play around the men's table. Fear of asking to be paid what your job description is worth, well they are many different types of gender inequality like:

Unlawful touching,

Unwelcome sexual advances,

Trapping intimidating movements, and

Sexually charged comments or jokes.

Many successful women are feared by men, successful or not, if the man is successful, they would want to ruin your company or successful project you may be doing...being feared by men proves that you are a phenomenal woman.

## Harry Gwala MEC's Special Award



Principal Noko Selepe has served as the principal of Primrose Primary School since 2015, leading with integrity, discipline, and an unwavering commitment to quality education. Under his leadership, the school became a place of structure and hope, a space where learners were guided not only academically, but morally. As a principal, he understood the weight of his responsibility: to protect, to educate, and to shape young minds, even in the face of growing social challenges affecting schools across the country.

## Fears of a Teenage Girl!



By Charmaine Dube

A few days ago, I sat at the back of the classroom looking at my classmates and I noticed that as everyone was running around and doing sweet nothing, one girl was sitting alone doing nothing.

Staring at her I got the sense that something was bothering her and she lacked confidence. One of the challenges we face as teenage girls is loneliness and feeling ugly. Most girls are discouraged by their so called 'friends'. Instead of her 'friends' giving strength and encouraging her, they destroy the little confidence she has.

Looking at her I noticed that her only friends were her Mathematics book and calculator. She looked upset because people were always undermining her. As teenage girls, we smile and laugh our sorrows away, with the hope that no one will notice that we are feeling down. When we are told that we are fat by our peers we starve ourselves hoping to lose weight.

My Message to Teenage Girls: "Have faith, believe and tell yourself that you are beautifully made, that is a great start, which is what I do!



*MEC Matome Chiloane and Basic Education Minister Siviwe Gwarabe at the Recycle Zone by Mikateka Primary School*



## It all starts within YOU!



By Loyiso Jansen

For the years that I had been attending Cosmo City Secondary 1,  
I am pleased to say that I have experienced a lot during these few years.

As a Cosmo City Secondary 1 learner,  
I saw how very talented and smart people destroyed their lives every day.  
Some learners believe in words like 'I can't',  
Well, I don't believe in such words.  
It's either 'you don't want to', from my perspective.  
Everybody can do anything if they can just set their mind to it.

We sometimes let ourselves down by believing that we cannot do certain things  
Or we not smart enough as other learners,  
The truth is, those learners are just dedicated to their school work  
And are serious and committed to their future.

Some of us tend to do things to please our friends and perhaps to belong to a certain crowd,  
Yet we doing a disservice to ourselves  
And those consequences of those bad actions, could affect our lives negatively.  
We let peer pressure get in the way of our success  
We allow our friends to manipulate us into doing things that add no value to our lives,  
I say let's stop that!

# Are you encouraging or discouraging creativity in your child?



By Jonathan Darker

Just about every modern parent would like to think that they are encouraging creativity in their children.

They will tell you that they buy creativity stimulating toys, spend huge amounts of money on creativity classes in the form of drama classes, art classes or whatever other classes there may be. That in itself is laudable, but does it end there?

The answer, in my opinion, is simply no. There are many ways to stimulate creativity, which is extremely important these days and will be even more important when your child becomes an adult, simply because creativity is the number one catalyst for innovation.

But let's start with the basics.

When you teach your children to do a task, chore or activity, do you simply show them the method and say, "That's how it's done!"? Or "This IS the best way!" Or my personal favourite, "This is how we have always done it!"

If any of these ring a bell, then listen up. Simply changing the wording could make a huge difference to how your child thinks and will allow them to be more free thinking and creative.

Try something like, "This is one way of doing it, but I wonder if there are better ways?" By encouraging dialogue and facilitating freedom of thought, you leave the door open for possible improvements to the method, allowing a young creative mind to think about the process rather than simply accepting your method as "the only one". Be mindful not to word it like this: "This is one way of doing it. There has to be another way."

This choice of words makes the current method of performing the task invalid, which is not ideal either as sometimes the old methods are the best and there is no need to improve on them.

You want your child to have the freedom to decide if it is necessary to improve the method or simply identify that the current method is sufficient and requires no further changes.

I believe that this, in addition to having the patience to listen to proposals from your child, will encourage creativity in children.

Give it a go!



## Please be Aware!



There are so many triggers that can push mental health to the brink.

For me, one of the biggest is abuse of children, especially sexual abuse.

I speak up against it when and where I can. But when it hits me in the face unexpectedly, up close and personal, that is my brink.

People have different brinks. Please share. Please be aware. Please don't look away because it is too uncomfortable.

A life on the conscience is a lot more uncomfortable.



## **AVBOB Road to Literacy campaign gives hope to 1 000 schools and NGOs trolley libraries**



The 1 000 beneficiaries of the 2025 AVBOB Road to Literacy campaign, in collaboration with Oxford University Press South Africa (OUPSA) are announced. The campaign is a nationwide trolley library initiative that continues to improve access to books in communities across South Africa, with a focus on schools and non-profit organisations (NPOs). The announcement was made at an event hosted at the Sandton Hotel in Johannesburg on 29 May 2025.

The project addresses the ongoing challenges of low literacy and numeracy levels at foundation phase by providing young learners with culturally and linguistically relevant materials in all 11 official written languages.

This year's campaign reflects substantial growth from the 180 library trolleys distributed in its inaugural year, 2022. Each of the 1 000 mobile library includes 500 OUPSA books selected to support literacy and numeracy skills in alignment with the CAPS curriculum. The total number of books distributed this year will exceed 500 000, up from 250 000 in 2024.

Speaking on a panel alongside Carl van der Riet (CEO of AVBOB Group), Karen Simpson (MD of OUPSA), Gugu Ndebele (Executive Director of the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls), the Minister of Basic Education, Siviwe Gwarube remarked: "This initiative is a powerful example of what can be achieved through partnerships. The campaign addresses a pressing national priority, the development of foundational literacy and numeracy, while supporting policy frameworks aimed at integrating diversity into school curricula. It does so in a way that honours South Africa's linguistic and cultural richness, ensuring that no child is left behind."

Simpson added that the partnership reflects the organisation's core belief that literacy is a foundation for lifelong learning and opportunity. "Access to books in a learner's mother tongue has a profound impact on their ability to grasp foundational concepts, stay engaged in the classroom, and remain in the education system. We are steadfast on publishing our books in all of South Africa's official written languages, and the AVBOB Road to Literacy campaign enables us to place these resources directly in the hands of the learners who need them most."

Each trolley library is valued at R57 000, bringing the total investment for the 2025 campaign to R57 million. The trolleys are designed to be mobile, durable, and easy to access in shared or under-resourced learning environments. Along with books that promote reading for enjoyment, they include materials designed to develop numeracy, making the campaign one of the few national projects focused on both reading and mathematics at the foundational phase.

The campaign also continues to grow in reach and engagement. This year's campaign received 8 661 nominations from across all nine provinces, submitted by educators, caregivers, community leaders and members of the public.

Van der Riet said that although the campaign has grown substantially, its original purpose is to provide access to quality education materials, dignity and hope for a better future. "Literacy and numeracy are academic skills and critical tools for participation, for opportunity, and dignity."

"They are the building blocks of future learning and the means by which children are empowered to shape their own lives. The AVBOB Road to Literacy campaign embodies our belief that meaningful social investment must be both practical and purpose driven."

He added that AVBOB, as a mutual society, exists for the benefit of its members and the wider community. "At AVBOB, giving back to communities is more than a commitment — it's a core part of who we are. We remain deeply guided by our founders' promise of always putting people first, a principle that continues to be the golden thread in everything we do. Through the AVBOB Road to Literacy campaign, we aim to support underserved communities in a way that uplifts and empowers them, while respecting their dignity and fostering lasting impact."

Adding to this sentiment during the 29 May 2025 panel discussion, Ndebele said, "We believe that education is the most powerful tool for changing a learners' future. Literacy unlocks confidence, agency and opportunity. We are inspired by this initiative's focus, and we hope it will ignite a lifelong love of reading in every child who encounters one of these trolley libraries."

Since 2022, the campaign has evolved from a pilot initiative into one of the most extensive mobile library programmes in the country. Educational experts have long advocated for mother tongue instruction at the early stages of schooling. Research has consistently shown that when children learn to read in their home language, they are more likely to stay in school, perform better academically, and transition successfully to additional languages later in life.

Despite this, access to books in African languages remains limited, especially in underfunded schools. The Road to Literacy campaign helps address this gap, ensuring that the joy of reading, and the practical foundation of numeracy, is not restricted by geography or circumstance.





## Thing I wish I knew in high school!



1. Focus on your study: nothing else matter as this. Your education is for a lifetime and the wealth that nobody could steal from you. Your whole life is dependent on this.
2. Nobody marry their first love: you may be in relationship and think it's your everything now. Trust me, it's 1/100 to marry your school mate and we are not that lucky.
3. No everyone is going to like you and it's fine. You don't need approve from everyone, just live to be better person on each day is enough.
4. Friends come and go, it's normal. But if you're lucky have many good friends, take care of your friendship because you won't find somebody like them when you graduate high school. They are considered to be the people you grow up with.
5. Learn skills: it could be anything, art, language, martial art or music. Who know, your future career could start from your hobby instead.
6. Grades do matter but it is not everything. Share the answer with your friends and they get higher score than you are fine. There is no worth to argue with your friends about it. You'll only find that argument so meaningless when you are getting older.
7. Spend time with your family because university won't allow you to have that much of free time. After that, you will busy with work and life.
8. Enjoy your high school life. It is an experience which you could never try again in life. Young people should enjoy life in their own way.

# How to get your tertiary STUDIES FUNDED?



For many South African parents, sending their child to university is a dream that they are not sure they can attain. Of course, the ideal situation is to start saving for tertiary education when your child is born. But in reality, not many families have saved enough, or can easily afford to pay for tertiary education.

Fortunately, there are options for financing study expenses – but they take a bit of planning and paperwork.

If your child is nearing the end of high school, use this handy guide to work out how you will fund their studies as they take the next step in their academic career.

## **Life cover**

Applying for university funding Different universities have different financial aid solutions, including bursaries which are offered to students who have excelled academically, and subsidies offered to families who would struggle to pay fees.

In addition to the NSFAS funding (discussed in the next point) universities have discretionary funds to cover the fees of students in need.

Do your research - here is a list of university funding offices. Go through your preferred university's website or ask at the administration office where you should go and what the eligibility criteria are for the different types of funding.

## **Deadline:**

The closing date for applications is usually October, so you may have missed the deadline for this year – but it's worth being aware for next year if your child is a strong or in-need student.

How to pay it back: University financial aid is a discount on fees and does not need to be paid back.

Applying for government funding The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) is a government organisation that aims to provide a sustainable financial aid system for poor but academically able students.

The scheme works in conjunction with the public higher education institutions and technical and vocational education training (TVET) colleges nationally.

## **How to pay it back:**

It is possible to convert a portion of the NSFAS loan to a bursary that does not need to be repaid. A 100% pass rate results in a 40% bursary rebate.

Students who receive an NSFAS loan are required to start paying it back in the beginning of the year in which they first start earning an income.

The repayments start at 3% of their annual salary and increases on a sliding scale up to a maximum of 8% as their salary increases. The interest is subsidised at 80% of the rate that commercial banks would charge.

**Applying for corporate funding** Many South African and multinational companies offer students bursaries to study in the field the company operates in – and sometimes in any field of study.

If your child has excelled in the STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) subjects, they are particularly likely to find corporate funding.

Some organizations offer bursaries and or loans to children of their staff members - ask your employer if they do.

Bursaries South Africa is a good starting point for finding out the types of bursary and eligibility criteria that the different corporations offer.

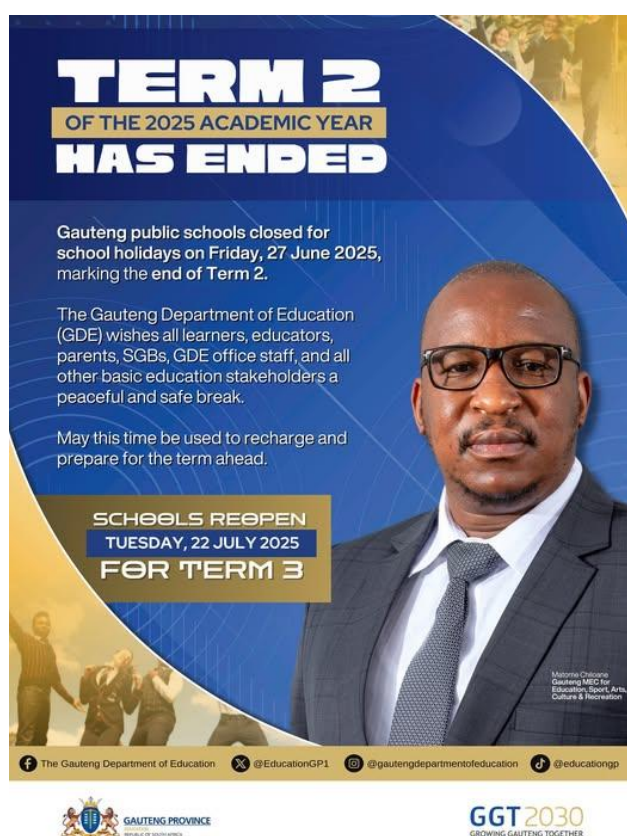
### **Deadline:**

These deadlines vary from bursary to bursary.

### **How to pay it back:**

Some bursaries require no repayment at all, while others require the graduate to “work it back” by working for in the donor company after they have completed their studies. Applying for bursaries offered by government departments in the same way as many corporates offer funding, so too do government departments.

Each government department provides bursaries in its area of focus - so for instance, the Department of Health offers bursaries in dentistry or pharmacy. These bursaries are offered on a national and provincial level, varying from department to department.



Gauteng public schools closed for school holidays on Friday, 27 June 2025, marking the end of Term 2. Yo School Magazine wishes all learners, educators, parents, SGBs, GDE office staff, and all other basic education stakeholders a peaceful and safe break. May this time be used to recharge and prepare for the term ahead



## Getting funding from a Banking Institution for tertiary Education



Borrowing from a bank South Africa's major banks offer specially packaged student loans.

Unlike NSFAS loans, banks are also willing to cover studies at private institutions. Your child will have to enrol at the university of their choice before you apply for the loan, as their registration number is required for the application process. They will also need their academic results from the previous year. Check with your bank what other FICA and identifying documents you may need.

You will need to sign surety for the loan.

**Deadline:** There is no specific deadline, but student loans can only be granted in advance of study – so find out when your child's fees are due and make sure you apply before then.

**How to pay it back:** While your child is studying, they (or you) will be required to pay back only the interest and service fees on the loan. Once they have graduated, they will be given a grace period on the capital repayment until they have found employment. Once the monthly repayment has been set, it will not be changed, but the term of repayment may vary with fluctuations in the interest rate. The term can also be reduced by paying back more than the agreed amount.

**Crowdfunding your education:** To allow individuals and corporates to get involved in helping university students to pay school fees, a number of crowdfunding platforms have been developed. These allow donors to donate small amounts of money - in some cases as little as R50 or R100 - towards various students' educations.

The most well-known is of these is **Feenix**, powered by Standard Bank. Students can create a profile and motivate for funding, and donors can make a selection. Other crowdfunding platforms include **Fundafuture** and the **Black Professionals Scholarship Fund**.

**Deadline:** The deadline differs from fund to fund, and in some cases funding is ongoing. The raised funds are paid over to the university at the end of each funding period (there are two per year) even if the funding target is not reached. Of course, this means that the student will have to find another way of coming up with any shortfall.

**How you pay it back:** Generally speaking, these crowdfunding platforms are philanthropic opportunities for donors, and students are not required to pay the loans back.

**Be warned!** Paying back debt of any kind is hard work - and for a person just starting out in their career, the additional financial burden can weigh heavy. Before you accept a university loan or bursary "at any cost" consider the long-term implications of the debt, and be very certain that your child's career and future will be best served by obtaining the degree of their choice. Ask yourselves whether they could do just as well by completing a cheaper and shorter course at a TVET college before committing them to paying back a significant amount of money on completion of their studies.

Also, bursaries are hard to come by and recipients are usually required to maintain a certain standard of academic achievement in order to keep the bursary. Take that first step into the future Tertiary education can broaden your child's mind, increase their prospects and open many doors. If your child has the opportunity to attend an institution of higher education, there are ways

# Deaf Unemployment is a National Emergency – Join me in Dismantling Systemic Lockout



By Uyanda Sibiya

Dear community—systemic thinkers, policymakers, and industry architects—I write to you not with sentiment, but with strategy.

Over 70% of South Africa’s Deaf community remains unemployed or underemployed.

This is not a skills gap. It is a systemic lockout, engineered through policy neglect, cultural ableism, and institutional silence.

## THE HUMAN COST

- Lisa Msiza (Wit’s grad, Miss Deaf SA) is pursuing more qualifications—not from ambition, but because employers don’t recognize her SASL-mediated journey.
- Khadeejah Hansrod (UKZN grad) walked the stage holding a sign quoting Dr. I. King Jordan: “Deaf people can do anything hearing people can do—except hear.”

These are not exceptions. They are indictments. Their brilliance is undeniable.

The system’s refusal to accommodate them is unconstitutional.

## WHAT I’M BUILDING THROUGH SANDA

For 7 years, I’ve donated my full salary to fund structural change.

Now, through a self-funded MPhil in Corporate Strategy, I’m drafting South Africa’s first White Paper integrating SASL into national education and workforce reform.

Execution in motion:

### 1 EMS REVOLUTION

- Launched Africa’s first Deaf-designed EMS model in Gauteng
- Embeds SASL in emergency response, proving Deaf systems save lives

## EDUCATION REDESIGN

- Only 10% of Deaf learners access quality education
- SANDA is lobbying for:
  - SASL-first instruction across Deaf-serving schools
  - A SASL-inclusive curriculum equal to other official languages
  - Compulsory bilingual education (SASL + spoken) from Grade R–3
  - Skills Fund to train Deaf educators

## 3 CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

- Deaf professionals are excluded via non-captioned meetings, no interpreters, and invisible promotion tracks
- We're co-creating:
  - Visual training protocols
  - Interpreter budget lines
  - Tax-incentivized Deaf hiring frameworks

Language is dignity. Unemployment reflects system failure—not Deaf incapacity.

## THE R8.4 BILLION CASE

Employing just 20% of Deaf adults could inject R8.4B annually into GDP. This isn't charity—it's economic recovery. Yet some job placement agents still profit from Deaf poverty.

## OUR CALL TO ACTION

*We call on you to:*

1. Audit your company's accessibility with SANDA's equity framework
2. Sponsor SASL visibility (e.g., Lisa Msiza's global campaign)
3. Fund Deaf-led models like Voiceout Farming Collective—not handouts

## THE LEGACY WE ARE BUILDING

“We don't need permission to exist. We need systems that recognize our existence.”

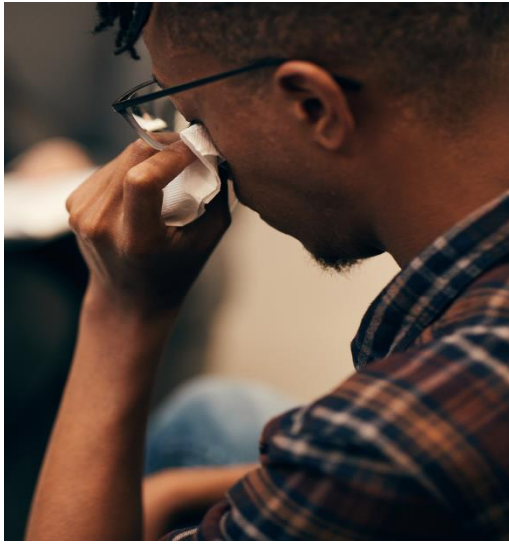
This is why we reject SASL being mocked for laughs. This is why we don't ask for inclusion—we build sovereign redesign.

**To the Khadeejahs and Lisas:** Your brilliance exposes system failure. To our allies: Stop applauding. Start building with us.

Join our Advocacy Program at the ***SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEAF ASSOCIATION (SANDA)*** —where we build with principle, not entitlement.



## Should MEN Cry?



I had a conversation with some friends about how men and women are perceived in society. So many things came up, but one thing really stood out for me: a lot of men don't even give themselves grace.

They've been so deeply shaped by the belief that they're built for strength; that they're made of iron and steel, that they've come to see emotions as something only women are allowed to feel.

For generations, we've passed down this idea that the boy must protect his sister, that a man must protect his woman. It's been drilled so deeply into our culture that many men don't even feel safe enough to express their emotions. They bottle everything up and are unbelievably hard on themselves.

Let me tell you a true story from when I was just 10 years old. I lost my school headmaster.

How?

Some robbers broke into his house. He didn't have a weapon, but he still tried to fight them off because he wanted to protect his wife and daughters. He was stabbed. He died.

More than a decade later, his wife and daughters are still without him. And they still say, "We wish he hadn't tried to protect us."

Now, I'm not saying men should stop being men.

But I am saying this:

Dear man, you are human. Give yourself grace. You don't have to be strong all the time. You don't have to protect everyone. You don't have to hide your pain. You don't have to fight when you don't feel like it.

Dear man, you can cry. You can feel. You can ask for flowers. You can crave love and appreciation.

# Your finances as a Teen!



By Mzukona Mantshontsho

South Africa continues to rate poorly in terms of savings among adults and youth.

The financial literacy baseline study, which was undertaken by the Financial Services Board (FSB), revealed several statistics about young people aged 16 to 19.

The study found that the majority of young people would prefer to spend money than save it; that the majority of young people never enjoy dealing with financial matters and that young people are least likely to stay within their budgets.

Your parents play a critical role in teaching you savings behaviour and if your parents are like most others, they put away some money for you and are responsible in doing so.

When parents do not teach teens to save, they inadvertently do not foster the right savings habits.

Your parents want to do everything for you, and by seizing the opportunity to foster financial literacy through education from a young age, they're setting you up for a financially secure future.

# 2026

## ONLINE ADMISSIONS

FOR GRADE 1 AND/OR GRADE 8

**APPLY ONLINE FOR GRADE 1 AND/OR GRADE 8**

to secure space for your child at a Gauteng public school.

**OPEN:**

THURSDAY  
**24**  
JULY  
**2025**

**CLOSE:**

FRIDAY  
**29**  
AUGUST  
**2025**

To apply, login to  
**[www.gdeadmissions.gov.za](http://www.gdeadmissions.gov.za)**

#2026OnlineAdmissionsCP  
**PLAY YOUR PART!**  
APPLY ONLINE! APPLY ON TIME!

The Gauteng Department of Education  
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**GAUTENG PROVINCE**  
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**GGT2030**  
GROWING GAUTENG TOGETHER

# 10

10th Year  
ONLINE ADMISSIONS  
Anniversary

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## Creating Sustainable Solutions that address real Societal Needs – Maseti Luzipho Foundation!



By Mzukona Mantshontsho

**MASETI LUZIPHO FOUNDATION** was launched in December 2023 as a commitment to empowering individuals, particularly those with disabilities, through skills development and entrepreneurship. Maseti Luzipho Foundation provides practical training and support to help marginalized communities become self-sustaining, thereby fostering inclusive economic participation.

*Maseti Luzipho Foundation* is a registered Non-Profit Company (NPC), Non-Profit Organization (NPO), and Public Benefit Organization (PBO) with Section 18A status. We are dedicated to empowering young people with disabilities—especially those with intellectual disabilities in LSEN (Learners with Special Educational Needs) schools—by giving them real skills that can help them build a brighter future.

Our *Soap and Detergent Skills Development Training Programme* teaches learners how to make products like dishwashing liquid, bar soap, vaseline, and candles, and more. But more than that, it gives them the chance to become entrepreneurs—able to earn a living, take care of themselves, and even support their families after they leave school.

We know that many of these learners can't go on to university, not because they're not capable, but because of the nature of their disabilities. That's why we started this programme—to fill the gap and give them hope, dignity and opportunity through practical, hands-on learning.

Our work supports South Africa's national goals and it's aligned with policies like White Paper 6 on Inclusive Education, the National Development Plan 2030, the National Disability Rights Framework, the Department of Education's Non-Formal Education Framework, and the White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the Department of Social Development.

We also work closely with families, offering ongoing mentorship and support so that learners are never on this journey alone. At *Maseti Luzipho Foundation*, we believe that everyone deserves a chance to shine—and we're here to help make that happen.

I recently spoke to CEO and Co-Founder at *Maseti Luzipho Foundation* Lungisa Maseti about his personal, professional and entrepreneurial journey thus far



“Growing up in Mdantsane township in the Eastern Cape, I was inspired by my parents, who were successful business owners. Their entrepreneurial spirit instilled in me a passion for business and community upliftment, which eventually led to the establishment of the Maseti Luzipho Foundation”. Success in entrepreneurship is about creating sustainable solutions that address real societal needs. It's not just about profit but about making a meaningful impact, especially in empowering those who are often overlooked, such as individuals with disabilities, “says Maseti

### **Tell us about your early life to your role today**

While specific details about my formal education are not publicly available, my early life in Mdantsane Township and exposure to my parents' business endeavours provided me with practical insights into entrepreneurship and community development, which have been instrumental in my current role.

### **What does your role of CEO mean to you?**

My role is deeply personal and fulfilling. It allows me to channel my passion for entrepreneurship into tangible programs that uplift communities and provide opportunities for those in need.

What are the most critical resources for your successful leadership?

Critical resources include a dedicated team, strong community partnerships, and a clear vision. Our collaborations *with Isipho Sethu LSEN School, Bata South Africa, SMD Technologies, Pick n Pay, and Shoprite* have been pivotal in expanding our reach and impact.

### **What can we expect from you going forward since you started?**

Going forward, we are committed to: Expanding our skills development programmes to more provinces, reaching underserved and marginalised across South Africa. Introducing additional skills training, including agriculture, to promote sustainable livelihoods and greater economic independence. Continue to integrate diverse and often overlooked groups – such as the Deaf Community – into our programmes, ensuring that no one is left behind. Strengthen partnerships that support our mission of creating inclusive, self-sustaining entrepreneurship opportunities. Our goal is to build a South Africa where everyone, regardless of ability or background, has access to the tools they need to thrive.

### **What are your words of advice for young people, particularly the girl-child, to take that first step and start community projects or small businesses?**

Believe in your vision and start with the resources you have. Focus on addressing real community needs, and don't be afraid to take risks. Collaboration and perseverance are key to making a lasting impact.

### **What are your thoughts on COVID-19 in terms of small businesses?**

COVID-19 highlighted the importance of adaptability and resilience in business. Small business owners should diversify their offerings, embrace digital platforms, and build strong community networks to withstand future challenges.

### **What is the legacy that you would want to leave when you retire?**

Myself and my wife, Ntombomzi Maseti (Co-Founder) our Managing & Project Director, we aspire to leave a legacy of empowerment, where individuals, regardless of their circumstances, have the tools and opportunities to build sustainable futures. The success stories of our beneficiaries, like Neo Marishane, who benefited from our program in 2024, who now runs his own detergent business, exemplify this vision.

### **How does your work directly contribute to the community?**

Our work directly impacts the community by providing soap and detergent manufacturing skills training, running soup kitchens, and initiating agricultural programs (hopefully with AgriSETA to implement crop and animal farming skills development training programme in the Eastern Cape, particularly in Peddie, Amathole District in the near future. The Maseti Luzipho Foundation has acquired 20 hectares of land to start the project. These initiatives not only address immediate needs but also equip individuals with the means to improve their long-term well-being.

### **What have been your highs and lows of your career?**

Highs include witnessing the transformation of our beneficiaries into self-reliant entrepreneurs. Lows involve the challenges of sustaining operations without consistent funding, which requires continuous innovation and resourcefulness.

### **When you're not at work, what do you get up to, and where can people follow the program online?**

Outside of work, I engage in community activities and spend time with my family. People can follow our programs and updates on our official *LinkedIn Page* where we are most active: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lungisamaseti>



# From Sweets to Startups: My Journey as a Young Entrepreneur



By Matebogo Dorothy Mokgatla

I'm so honoured to share my story with you — especially as a young, black, female entrepreneur still learning and growing in the world of business. Entrepreneurship, to me, has never been just about profit. It's about possibilities, independence, and building something that reflects your vision — no matter how small the beginnings.

My first experience with entrepreneurship came in high school. I needed money for a university application fee, and my mentor at the time advised me to start selling sweets at school. I did just that — and from the moment I earned my first profit, something in me clicked. That was my first taste of what it meant to create value and earn from it.

Later, in university, I faced a tough year where I had to pause my studies due to mental health challenges. But once again, I found myself turning to entrepreneurship. I began supplying local spaza shops with snacks sourced from a unique supplier. It wasn't a long-term business — I returned to my postgraduate studies the following year — but looking back, I sometimes wish I'd kept it going alongside my academics. Still, I learned a valuable truth: entrepreneurship is a calling. It kept showing up in my life, no matter what else I was doing.

Today, I'm a qualified accountant and work full-time as a specialist in my field. I also run a small accounting firm that assists emerging SMMEs (small, medium, and micro enterprises) with compliance and financial matters — and I manage a growing pub and grill restaurant business. Both of these ventures I manage part-time, alongside my full-time work. Balancing these roles has taught me discipline, patience, and just how much is possible when you commit to your vision.

Now, I'm setting my sights on real estate. I want to buy rundown buildings in the CBD and transform them into safe, affordable residential and recreational spaces. I know the journey will be tough, but I'm focused on improving my finances and tapping into funding aimed at previously disadvantaged female entrepreneurs like me.

To the young people reading this: You don't need to have it all figured out. I didn't. What you do need is the courage to start — even small. Most great ideas never see the light of day because their creators are stuck planning instead of doing. Remember: thinking is not doing. Be brave enough to take the first step.

Mistakes will come — but life gives us second chances, often disguised as “tomorrows.”

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Permit / Permanent Residence  
Permit / Study Permit
3. Proof of Home Address
4. Proof of Work Address
5. Latest Grade 7 School Report  
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6. Clinic Card/Immunisation Report  
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