

YO SCHOOL MAGAZINE

"Enable Our Children Now for Better Days"



Inside:

Turning Ideas into Impact: Anita Boo's Journey of Building a Legacy Through Community Empowerment

Taking care of severely disabled children – Hope and Home for Children

Nedbank GT's Thabo Lekgwathi on growth, grit & opportunity



Yo School Magazine



Editor's Note:

AUGUST in South Africa is Women's Month. We celebrate Anita Booi's journey at *Matmichmel Innovation Hub* to bridge the gap between potential and opportunity — especially in communities that are underserved, overlooked, and underestimated.

Matmichmel was born out of both necessity and conviction. As someone deeply committed to community transformation, I saw a gap between access to opportunity and preparedness. I wanted to bridge that gap - not with charity, but with capacity-building.

It began with offering appointment setting and lead generation services in the financial sector and evolved into a multi-division enterprise that now includes education and skills development, infrastructure services, and support for financial advisors globally.

To the **Matric Class of 2025**, 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, pass your Preliminary examinations, all the marks count, write your FINAL Examinations at the end of the year and Pass! Do away with peer pressure; choose the learners you want to associate with; peer pressure will not get the work done!

Enjoy the READ.

By Mzukona Mantshontsho, mzukona@nyakaza.org.za, call or WhatsApp: +27737774434.

**I-MIDIYA
EKHULULEKILEYO
ABANTU
ABAKHULULEKILEYO**

#OurVoiceYourPower

AIP | ASSOCIATION OF
INDEPENDENT
PUBLISHERS

Turning Ideas into Impact: Anita Booi's Journey of Building a Legacy Through Community Empowerment



By Anita Booi

Matmichmel Innovation Hub is in the business of building solutions that matter. We exist to bridge the gap between potential and opportunity — especially in communities that are underserved, overlooked, and underestimated.

Matmichmel was born out of both necessity and conviction. As someone deeply committed to community transformation, I saw a gap between access to opportunity and preparedness. I wanted to bridge that gap - not with charity, but with capacity-building.

It began with offering appointment setting and lead generation services in the financial sector and evolved into a multi-division enterprise that now includes education and skills development, infrastructure services, and support for financial advisors globally.

At its core, *Matmichmel* is about unlocking potential - especially among youth. *Matmichmel Innovation Hub* isn't just a company — it's a movement. It's a space where dreams are nurtured, and tools are given to help people rise. From appointment setting for financial advisors, to accredited education, digital skills training, and community upliftment — we're constantly evolving to meet the needs of the moment. Whether we're working on a global investment strategy or setting up CCTV for a local school, one question always drives us:

“How can we make lives better with what we have?”

I grew up in a home where education was everything. That foundation shaped my life. I went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and later a Bachelor of Education in English Language and Literacy. I also hold a GCSE Cambridge qualification and have long worked in the field of special needs education.

Over the years, I've worn many hats: Educator, Caregiver, Entrepreneur, Director, and Mentor. All of these roles gave me the depth and insight to start something meaningful. That “something” became *Matmichmel Innovation Hub* — born from both community-based training and corporate experience, and driven by a deep desire to do impactful, sustainable work.

What My Role Means?

Leadership, to me, is service. It's about listening, uplifting, mentoring, and creating platforms where others can thrive. I don't believe in being the loudest in the room — I believe in opening doors wide enough for others to walk through. It's deeply personal and purposeful. I'm not just running a business - I'm building platforms for others to thrive. Whether it's connecting financial advisors with high-net-worth individuals, helping youth become financially literate, or training individuals in practical trades, my role is about making real impact.

What I Lean on for Leadership?

Faith is my anchor. Community is my compass. And Integrity is my currency. You also need vision, discipline, and a strong, values-aligned team. I don't do this work alone — I'm backed by people who share the same heart for change. Strong networks of collaborators. Tech tools and AI. Continuous learning and adaptability.

Our Growth, Our Vision?

Matmichmel Innovation Hub has grown into a multi division enterprise spanning financial services, education, tech solutions, youth development, and international business expansion. Our focus remains rooted in impact - delivering training programs that equip young people with digital literacy, financial education, and access to global investment opportunities.

We're also deepening our reach internationally, especially through visa investment advisory and community upliftment partnerships. It's been over five years of transformation, and truly - the best is still ahead.

What's next?

We're taking *Matmichmel* to the UK, offering visa-linked investment pathways and rolling out AI-powered digital training tools for learners, entrepreneurs, and communities. Growth is happening - but it's intentional growth, with purpose at the heart of every move we make.

Word of Advice to the Youth — Especially Young Women?

Start with what's in your hands. Don't wait for the stars to align — they won't. If you're a young woman with a dream, know this: your voice matters. Your ideas are valid. And even the smallest step can change your future. Just begin. This August, during Women's Month, let's remind ourselves that leadership isn't about titles - it's about service, vision, and courage. Financial literacy is one of the greatest tools we can equip the next generation with. Youth must understand how money works, how to save, how to invest, and how to lead responsibly.

Hard-Won Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic?

COVID-19 tested us all. But it also taught us to be agile. Small businesses must be adaptable — online and offline. Build with flexibility. Diversify your services. Create an emergency fund. Keep learning. Because the world doesn't wait.

Legacy I Hope to Leave?

I want to be remembered as someone who sparked change. Someone who empowered women, youth, and people who are often ignored. I hope *Matmichmel Innovation Hub* continues to be a beacon — long after I'm gone.

Community Impact in Real Terms?

We've helped over 300 young people gain access to job opportunities through training and mentorship. We've created appointment pipelines for financial professionals and provided safety and tech installations for local schools.

Our education division offers tutoring, caregiving training, and entrepreneurial upskilling in underserved areas. At *Matmichmel Innovation Hub*, we always prioritize impact over profit.

Highs and Lows on My Journey?

Highs:

- Seeing my mentees grow into leaders
- Expanding across Africa and into international markets
- Being recognized for the impact we make

Lows:

- Facing delays in funding or red tape
- Navigating burnout as a woman leader

But every setback has been a setup for greater impact.

What do I do outside of work?

I love writing, mentoring, and spending time in reflective spaces. You can follow our work on our website, social platforms, or connect through our business directory. We also publish educational content aligned with national curricula.

About Matmichmel Innovation Hub

Matmichmel Innovation Hub (Pty) Ltd is a dynamic, multi-sectoral solutions company based in South Africa, with a growing footprint in the UK. We specialize in:

- Appointment-Setting for Financial Professionals
- Accredited Educational Training
- Youth and Entrepreneurial Development
- Tech Installations and Digital Support
- Drafting of all types of Business Plans

We are guided by purpose, powered by people, and passionate about changing lives through innovation.

Follow and Connect:

Website: www.mmminnovationhub.co.za

Email: info@mmminnovationhub.co.za

LinkedIn: Matmichmel Innovation Hub

Telephone: +27 11 431 0576

Cellphone: +27 79 796 9117 or +27 61 836 8862.



MATMICHMEL INNOVATION HUB (Pty) Ltd

Connecting High-Net-Worth Clients with World-Class Financial Advisors

Are you seeking trusted guidance for your financial journey?

At **Matmichmel Innovation Hub**, we specialize in making **qualified, pre-booked appointments** between discerning clients and experienced Financial Advisors, Property Investors, Property Brokers, Insurance Brokers, and Discretionary Fund Managers.

Our Expertise Includes:

- Offshore Investments & Global Visa Investments
- UK & Dubai Property Investment Opportunities
- Estate Planning & Trusts
- Life Cover & Retirement Annuities
- Insurance Solutions for HNWI's

Why Choose Us?

- ✓ Over 5 years' experience in professional appointment setting
- ✓ Strong footprint across **Africa, Europe & the Middle East**
- ✓ A trusted partner for both **Financial Advisors** and **High-Net-Worth Clients**
- ✓ Personalized, confidential, and results-driven service

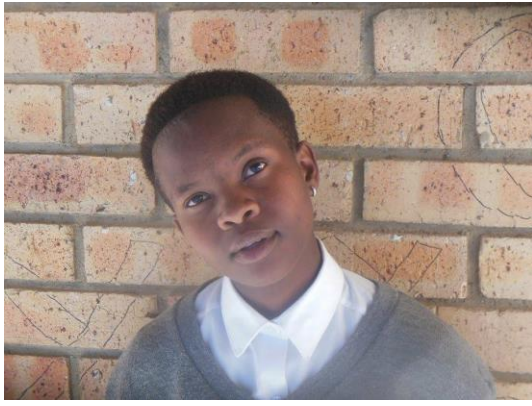
Let's Build Your Financial Future Together

✉ Email: info@mmminnovationhub.co.za / mmminnovhub@gmail.com

☎ Phone/WhatsApp: +27 11 431 0576 / +27 79 768 9117

🌐 Website: www.mmminnovationhub.co.za

The New Me!



By Thina Sotyantya

How about I take you for a walk into the journey of my new life.

I am sure there's a lot you would like to know about this new me!

Life hasn't been easy for me lately

I've been through high mountains, crossed deep seas, past dark resorts

It wasn't a walk through the park or an adventure

Pain was there, fear was playing along, and threats were there to bring me down

I kept walking like nothing was happening, but the pain was all over my face

A blind man could look at me and see the truth

Most didn't anything believe about the journey I was taking?

I am talking about the journey to my newer life

I believe life will never be the same again!

My name is. Okay; let me not talk about names,

They do not matter because you will know me like never before

This soul is down to Earth, honest, a good looking female who lives life to the fullest

An energetic person with a good sense of humour

Get this, I am not a Poet, I live life and always loved writing

It might be about good and bad things, might be natural or supernatural

Nice or bitter, hard or easy. I just love writing

If you know me, I am sure you know what I am talking about

If you judge me about my past, you probably belong in the past

I made it to the life I always wanted, but you don't know me yet

Life has a lot of changes. Well, my name is Thina Sotyantya. Thank You!

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!

Continually challenge yourself and always act with integrity!



By Mzukona Mantshontsho

Paragon Architects is an internationally-active African design business, based in Johannesburg, South Africa. It is the originator of the **Paragon Group** of design businesses, delivering commercial architecture, master planning

Spoke to Amit Nanoo at *Paragon* about this personal and professional journey.

How did you get into Architecture?

I was fortunate enough to be exposed to the world of art and design from an early age by my mother, an art teacher, as well as from a close family friend, an architect. I was always interested in the spaces I inhabited, building cardboard/blanket tents, rearranging my bedroom over and over again, and together with my obsession with Lego, it was a natural progression to designing buildings, space planning offices, and furniture design.

What do you say about Architecture to high school learners and young people?

The profession of architecture begins at high school, most universities requiring top marks accompanied by a portfolio of work to be submitted in order to be accepted. There are a limited number of positions available at universities to study architecture, and it would be prudent to apply to more than one institution. The portfolio of work is a combination of artworks, essays, and models. This is used by universities to demonstrate your abilities to think spatially, to illustrate, and to translate an idea into something tangible. Unfortunately, these entrance requirements are often realised too late. My advice to any high school student is to establish the portfolio requirements at least one year in advance of applying.

What do you say to those doing Architecture at Tertiary institutions?

University is not only about obtaining a degree, but also about establishing your identity as a professional. Architecture is a degree that requires you to be hands-on all the time, and it cannot be taught through textbooks. It is a dynamic degree in which your work is constantly assessed and critiqued by working architects and academics. It is a highly competitive industry, therefore from the beginning, as a student, your aim should be to set yourself apart. The first way to do this is to get as much work experience as early on as possible in a reputable firm. The second is to get involved in voluntary associations that organise exhibitions and lectures, as this is a great way to network and see the varied types of architecture practices that exists. Finally, take your collective experience and channel it into creating a unique architectural sensibility that will be your signature. Be bold, be passionate, take calculated risks, and work smart.

What do you say to those starting a new job as an Architect?

Your first few years should be about gaining as much experience in all spheres of the industry, in large and small firms, involve yourself as much as possible in all stages of the building process. Constantly upskill your technical abilities, this is fundamental in staying relevant in any career.

My personal ethos is to value add in all opportunities; take on projects in the company that are not necessarily part of your skills set, such as organising mentorship programs. The architectural field is only one part of the built environment eco-system, find your niche and become an expert at it. Continually challenge yourself, always act with integrity and understand what it means to be a professional.



Conversations around career guidance should be introduced to learners as early as Grade 8!



By Siphosethu Plata

High school and being a teenager is a very tempestuous time in any young adult's life. It is a time of coming of age and self-discovery. A major part of that journey of discovery is questions around career choices.

I believe the conversations around career guidance and counselling should be introduced to learners as early as Grade 8 where the learners' talents, gifts and interests are identified and honed. Many a time, learners get to have the career guidance conversation at Grade 12 when applying for institutions of higher learning such as universities, universities of technology, FET colleges etc. At this point, the learner would've spent four years possibly focusing on subjects, extra mural activities and the consumption of knowledge in areas that might not assist them or give them an edge towards the career path they eventually choose in Grade 12.

Not everyone is fortunate and self-assured enough to pursue what they are passionate about. In high school I did Mathematics, Science, Geography and Art. This came as a surprise to my teachers at the time as I chose Art over Accounting which I was actually very good in.

However, I knew that there was no room for Accounting (which was at that level mainly just book-keeping) in what I wanted to study after high school. I wanted to be an Urban and Regional Planner/Developer and I had a keen interest in how human settlements develop, function and evolve over time. I had conducted some research from the various universities on what their requirements are for the course I wanted to study, which was a BSc in Urban and Regional Planning. It takes 3 years to complete this course at a university and 4 years at a university of technology.

Thereafter you can work at either the public or private sector. As I completed my studies from Grade 10-12, I already knew which subjects I needed to have studied to qualify for acceptance at my preferred university and the marks I need to strive for, for admission. Equipped with this knowledge at hand, I kept my eye on the prize.

I had, and still have, a high aptitude for numbers and science; however, my interests and dare I say passion lies with development planning and design. It is very important for one to search within themselves and find a balance between their talents or gifts and what they are passionate about. Purpose and fulfilment can be found where these two intersect. When you are doing what sets your soul and heart on fire, excellence will surely follow.

After completing my BSc in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, I went on to be a project manager within the built environment. I manage the design and construction of building projects, the interaction with stakeholders and community members. Together with the professional team, we ensure that the construction is completed on time, within the budget and passes quality requirement. Majority of the work that I do is within your previously disadvantaged communities in collaboration with state-owned entities to bring services and public environment upgrades to these areas.

What I love about Urban Design/Planning is that you can choose to focus or specialise in different areas e.g. transport planning, urban design, policy planning, development planning, housing etc. I consider myself very fortunate to have discovered my passion at an early age and that I had the courage to pursue it at a time when my parents did not even understand or had heard of “Urban Planning”.

I would encourage every high school learner to visit their local libraries, visit educational websites and read newspapers to research possible career options based on talent and passion. Attain knowledge and research your options. There are so many platforms that you, as a learner, are exposed to in 2019 as opposed to 2005, we are living in an information age.

Siphosethu Plata was Urban Design/ Planning Professional at AKWENI GROUP in Johannesburg.



City Power honours youth energy Innovators and launches Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) for City of Johannesburg municipal buildings



City Power marked two major milestones in its drive towards a sustainable energy future by celebrating the winners of the 2025 Schools’ *Energy Efficiency and Demand Side Management (EEDSM)* competition and launching the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) for the City of Johannesburg municipal buildings.

The event, hosted on Wednesday, 13 August 2025 at City Power’s headquarters, was officiated by City Power CEO, Tshifularo Mashava. It brought together learners, educators, municipal officials, and energy officials from the City of Johannesburg to celebrate education-driven climate action.

The *EEDSM Schools’* competition is a national initiative implemented by City Power in collaboration with the Department of Electricity and Energy (DEE), and funded through the *EEDSM* grant programme. It is designed to promote a just and sustainable energy transition by fostering awareness, innovation, and environmental stewardship among high school learners. City Power CEO, Tshifularo Mashava, praised the young participants, emphasising that the event represents a commitment to provide the resources, mentorship, and platforms needed for their innovations to thrive, alongside the City of Johannesburg supporting them every step of the way.

“City Power is about keeping the lights on for our people, and also for the progress of society. The progress of society is guaranteed with the brilliant minds in this room. We’ve seen that the future is truly in the hands of our youth. The submissions that we received completely blew us away and exceeded our expectations. Our responsibility is to nurture and support young minds, ensuring that the inspiration they have shown here doesn’t end today,” said Mashava.

“We also congratulate and celebrate young girls entering the energy space. All it takes is the mindset to say, ‘I can be wherever I want to be,’ especially as we observe Women’s Month. Today it is not just about the event or the competition; it’s about our ongoing commitment to supporting these young minds. We will be calling on businesses to support future initiatives like this one. These learners are not just future leaders; they are already innovators shaping how our city uses and saves energy. Their work proves that climate action starts in our classrooms and can inspire change in our communities, added Mashava.

This year’s competition engaged 19 schools across all regions of Johannesburg. The learners competed in three practical and creative categories, including poster design to showcase renewable energy and energy-saving ideas, short videos promoting efficiency at home and school, and prototype models demonstrating innovative, often recycled, energy-saving solutions.

Sgodiphola Secondary School clinched first place, winning R35,000 for their cost-effective solar water heating model, followed by *Seanamarena High School*’s impactful household energy conservation video in second place, which earned them R25,000, and *Jabulani Technical High School*’s automated classroom lighting system in third place, winning R15,000. The *EEDSM Schools’* competition will be expanded to integrate with key platforms such as the 2025 Energy Indaba, youth internship programmes, and ensure that winning ideas are shared widely and young innovators are supported in their career pathways.

While accepting his award, Lesedi Mokone from Jabulani Technical High School said he was honoured to be part of the competition, as he has always been curious about fixing things around the house and pursuing innovation.

“Thank you to City Power for this opportunity. It is my dream to become an electrical engineer, a passion I’ve had from a young age. I was always curious and wanted to fix things around the house. During the load shedding periods, I would think that if I were an electrical engineer, and companies listened to us as people, we could find solutions to these problems,” said Mokone.

During the ceremony, City Power unveiled its newly issued EPC and 28 additional EPCs for municipal buildings, which are now certified under the national Regulations for the Mandatory Display and Submission of EPC for Buildings.

“The Environment and Infrastructure Services Department (EISD), in partnership with City Power, has been leading efforts to ensure the City of Johannesburg complies with the Regulations for the Mandatory Display and Submission of Energy Performance Certificates for buildings. These national regulations require qualifying nonresidential buildings to display an EPC, which rates a building’s energy efficiency based on 12 months of actual consumption. EPCs serve as a tool for transparency, accountability, and long-term energy savings,” said Olga Chauke, EISD Head Energy at the City of Johannesburg.

“Achieving EPC compliance is about more than meeting regulations. It is a statement that Johannesburg is serious about transparency, energy efficiency, and climate resilience. Our leadership in this space sets the tone for other municipalities and the private sector,” added Chauke.

Promulgated under the National Energy Act in 2020, the regulations require qualifying government and non-residential buildings to display an EPC showing their energy performance based on actual consumption over 12 months. The certificates must be issued by a SANAS-accredited inspection body and recorded in the National Building Energy Performance Register, managed by SANEDI. The City of Johannesburg has made significant progress with 57 buildings identified for EPC certification, 54 registered with SANEDI, and 29 buildings officially issued with EPCs to date.

These include facilities such as the Joburg Theatre, Joburg Market, Johannesburg Roads Agency, Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo, and the Department of Community Development, to name a few.

The dual celebration reflects the City Power’s integrated approach to the energy transition, combining youth education, community engagement, infrastructure efficiency, and regulatory compliance. Through the EEDSM Schools’ competition, City Power is building a pipeline of informed, skilled future leaders who can contribute to national energy policy, technology, and sustainability efforts. Simultaneously, through the EPC programme, the city is reducing municipal energy consumption, improving operational efficiency, and aligning with its Climate Action Plan (CAP) goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. Meanwhile, the EPC compliance programme will continue, with remaining municipal buildings targeted for certification before the extended national deadline of 7 December 2025.

Heartfelt Condolences on the passing of Legendary Actress Nandi Nyembe



The Gauteng Provincial Legislature’s Portfolio Committee on Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation (SACR) join the nation in mourning the passing of legendary actress Nandi Nyembe, affectionately known as Mam’ Nandi, who passed away on Saturday, 23 August 2025AA at the age of 75.

The Committee extends its deepest condolences to her family, loved ones, colleagues and millions of fans across South Africa and beyond, who are left heartbroken by this loss. Her passing marks not only the departure of an extraordinary actress, but also a cultural icon whose artistry touched generations.

Mam’ Nandi’s career spanned decades, during which she graced South African stages and screens with performances that were both powerful and timeless. She became a household name through her memorable role as Nandi Sibiya in Zone 14, and further enriched South African storytelling with her outstanding portrayals in Yizo Yizo, Izoso Connexion, Isibaya, Isithembiso, House of Zwide, and numerous other productions. Her versatility also shone through in feature films such as Reasonable Man (1999), Saturday Night at the Palace (1987), and the award-winning Yesterday (2004).

“Mam’ Nandi was more than an actress she was a cultural torchbearer whose work reflected the resilience, struggles and triumphs of South Africans. She gave voice to our stories and left an indelible mark on the nation’s artistic and cultural landscape.

Her passing is a tremendous loss not only to the creative sector, but to the soul of our country,” said Honourable Disebo Tlebere, Chairperson of the SACR Portfolio Committee.

The Committee salutes Mam’ Nandi for her remarkable contribution to the performing arts and her role in shaping South Africa’s cultural identity. As the country bids farewell to this icon, her legacy will continue to inspire artists and audiences for generations to come.

ISSUED BY GPL MEDIA SERVICES On behalf of the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Honourable Disebo Tlebere

Start small, start now. Don't wait for perfection; take that first step with the resources you have



By Mzukona Mantshontsho

At the heart of **MOSETSANA PADS** is the desire to empower menstruators, particularly in underserved communities, by providing them with access to menstrual hygiene products and education.

Mosetsana Pads formation story is rooted in the understanding that menstruation is a natural part of life, but for many, it remains a barrier to education, health, and dignity. We aim to break this cycle by providing inclusive, sustainable solutions and promoting menstrual health awareness.

Yo School Magazine spoke to Founder at *Mosetsana Pads* **Neo Cholo** about his upbringing and childhood life as a boy from Mamelodi Township, and how attending *Ribane-Laka School of Specialisation* impacted his life.

Growing up in Mamelodi taught me resilience, community, and the importance of education. Attending *Ribane-Laka School of Specialisation* was a turning point; it honed my leadership skills, especially as RCL President. This foundation prepared me for the University of Johannesburg, where I'm pursuing my B. Com in Marketing Management. These experiences have shaped me into the leader and entrepreneur I am today.

What does your role mean to you?

As an entrepreneur, author, speaker, and young leader, my role is about creating impact, inspiring others, and driving positive change. It means empowering others through my work, sharing knowledge, and fostering innovation. Each aspect of my role allows me to contribute uniquely to my community and beyond, leaving a lasting legacy.

What are the most critical resources for your successful leadership?

My successful leadership is rooted in my family's unwavering support, a strong network of mentors and peers, access to educational resources, and a resilient mindset. My family's support provides emotional stability, while my network offers guidance and opportunities. Education equips me with the knowledge to make informed decisions, and resilience helps me navigate challenges. I don't think I would be where I am without all those components that have been part of my journey.

What can we expect from you going forward?

You can expect continued innovation in my work, particularly with *Mosetsana Pads*, where I will keep pushing boundaries in menstrual health solutions. I will also continue to share my experiences and insights through speaking engagements and writing, aiming to inspire and empower more young people, especially women, to take leadership roles and start their own initiatives.

Words of advice for young people, particularly young girls and women to take that first step and start community projects or businesses this Women’s Month?

Start small but start now. Don't wait for perfection; take that first step with the resources you have. Surround yourself with supportive people who believe in your vision. Be prepared to learn and adapt along the way. Most importantly, believe in yourself and your ability to make a difference.

Thoughts on Covid-19 impact on small businesses, and what measures should be taken for future pandemics?

Covid-19 severely impacted small businesses, especially in terms of cash flow and operational continuity. To mitigate future impacts, small businesses should have contingency plans, including digital transformation, diversifying revenue streams, and access to emergency funding. Governments and organisations should also provide targeted support, such as grants, low-interest loans, and training programs, to help small businesses navigate crises.

What legacy would you like to leave behind when you retire?

I hope to leave a legacy of empowerment, particularly for women and girls in indigent communities. I would like to be remembered for making a tangible difference in menstrual health, education, and economic opportunities. My legacy would be one of service, innovation, and inspiring future generations to continue the work I have started.

How does your work contribute to community development?

Through *Mosetsana Pads*, I contribute to community development by addressing menstrual health disparities, promoting education, and empowering menstruators. As an author and speaker, I share knowledge and inspire others to take action. My entrepreneurial work creates jobs and stimulates economic activity, contributing to the overall development of the communities I serve.

What are the highs and lows of your career?

The highs include moments of impact, such as seeing the positive change *Mosetsana Pads* has brought to communities and receiving recognition for my work. The lows have been facing challenges like funding constraints, setbacks in project implementation, and the emotional toll of working on sensitive issues. However, each low has taught me valuable lessons, making the highs even more rewarding.

When I'm not working, what do I get up to?

I enjoy spending time with family and friends, reading, and exploring new interests. I also like to stay active through sports or outdoor activities. These moments help me recharge and maintain a balanced life.

Where can people follow the Mosetsana Pads initiative online and donate, if they can?

Mosetsana Pads is available on all social media for engagements and support and can also use our website (www.mosetsanapads.co.za) to make purchases. We are always ready to collaborate and with communities in eradicating period poverty.

Taking care of severely disabled children – Hope and Home for Children



By Mark Waddington

And that fight is constant and exhausting. Struggling to find the money for transport for regular hospital appointments. Learning how to administer their medication.

Finding schools that will take their children. Dealing with stigma and bullying.

In fact, just putting the right kind of food on the table. They really are incredible. The alternative is grim. Confinement in an orphanage, where mortality rates for children with disabilities escalate catastrophically.

Orphanages concentrate and confine money. Lots of money. our brilliant team is working to try and unlock that cash and get local authorities as well as other NGOs to channel it into family strengthening. And we're winning. As a consequence, this group of parents have just become eligible for local authority funding. And we're taking this model to scale.

Visit: www.hopeandhomes.org



Thungela and the University of Pretoria sign MoA to strengthen psychosocial support in Mpumalanga schools



Thungela has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with *University of Pretoria’s* (UP) Educational Psychology Department. As part of this collaboration, the Department of Educational Psychology at the university will deploy master's students to various schools to offer essential psychosocial support to both educators and learners in the foundation and intermediate phases.

Thungela launched the education initiative in 2024, a five-year program that aims to improve the quality of education for Grade R to Grade Four learners in 45, no-fee schools in Nkangala and Gert Sibande districts, and aims to improve school readiness, literacy and numeracy outcomes for learners.

Mpumi Sithole, Executive head of corporate affairs at Thungela said, “We recognise that educational performance is not only shaped by access to resources but also through the psychological and emotional well-being of both learners and educators. Working with the University of Pretoria, we are equipping schools with the professional support needed to respond to the complex realities facing learners and educators.

“This MoA is an important step in Thungela’s journey to strengthen the impact of the Thungela Education Initiative, and we are proud to contribute to a model that will provide the much-needed psychosocial support to the learners and teachers, while empowering the master’s students at the same time.”

The mutually beneficial partnership will offer the master’s students hands-on experience as they conduct learner assessments and identifying the necessary remedial actions and interventions, under the supervision of the district educational psychologists. This will help reduce the workload of the district's educational psychologists, while the master’s student gain valuable practical work experience to help them complete the practical components of their academic training.

Through this agreement the University of Pretoria is supporting the implementation of the Department of Basic Education’s screening, identification, assessment and support (SIAS) policy. Professor Mampane from the University of Pretoria, said, “This community engagement partnership with Thungela exemplifies a strategic alliance that amplifies our capacity to make a meaningful difference beyond academic boundaries. By bridging the gap between theory and practice, this collaboration not only empowers our students with invaluable real-world experience but also addresses critical community needs, particularly in Mpumalanga.”

“It further fosters a ripple effect of positive change, enhancing emotional resilience, academic achievement, and life skills among young learners. This model underscores the transformative potential of synergy among academia, government, and the private sector. Together, we are laying a robust foundation for sustainable development and social upliftment, reinforcing South Africa’s path toward a more equitable and prosperous future,” said Professor Mampane.

Thungela will fund and manage the program, overseeing its implementation with a dedicated project structure. To uphold governance and accountability, a management committee has been set-up. The committee will ensure consistent engagement with stakeholders across various levels of the Mpumalanga Department of Education, emphasizing ethical principles throughout the partnership.

Thungela’s purpose, which is to responsibly create value together for a shared future is the cornerstone of this partnership, as we continue investing in building resilient communities through meaningful and impactful interventions.



Seaton House School to Bolster Education on KwaZulu-Natal's North Coast!



A bold new chapter in South African education is underway with the official launch of Seaton House — an independent, co-educational school set to be built north of Ballito on KwaZulu-Natal's coastal belt. Construction will begin in the first quarter of 2026, with the school scheduled to open in 2027.

Designed to meet the needs of one of South Africa's fastest-growing regions, Seaton House promises an inspiring, future-focused education grounded in academic excellence, strong values, and meaningful community upliftment.

Set in Salt Rock, a coastal region experiencing exponential growth, with as many as 60 new families arriving each month — Seaton House has been purposefully conceived to offer a continuous, co-educational journey from Grade 0000 to Grade 12.

Learners will write the National Senior Certificate examinations through the Independent Examinations Board (IEB). The Seaton House vision is clear: to provide a holistic education that integrates academic rigour with sporting and cultural opportunities, preparing globally competitive scholars.

Speaking at a media event at the Manor House, Seaton House Project Lead and former Kearsney College Headmaster, Elwyn van den Aardweg, noted,

“It's an immense privilege to build a school from the ground up. Working alongside an experienced and passionate team. We are laying traditional foundations while thoughtfully innovating to meet the evolving needs of a changing world.”

Founded on a non-profit model, Seaton House ensures that all surplus is reinvested into the school.

In collaboration with *Khanyisa Inanda Seminary Community Projects* (KICP), a KwaZulu-Natal based non-profit focused on teacher development and education leadership, the school aims to serve not only as a centre of learning but also as a catalyst for mentoring new teachers and strengthening educational capacity across the region.

Seaton House will cater to all learners with a strong offering in traditional school sports, a vibrant arts and cultural programme, and immersive outdoor learning. The campus will include two fields for rugby or soccer, a cricket oval, a full-size hockey astroturf,

multipurpose courts, an indoor arena and swimming pools - providing facilities that support a full school sports curriculum.

The school also features onsite forest trails and ecological zones that connect students with the environment and support outdoor

learning and recreation. Surrounding mountain biking routes and nearby equestrian centres further extend the range of opportunities available.

Collins Residential, a leading developer of exceptional real estate, lifestyle, and leisure destinations, is proud to be part of the professional team supporting the Seaton House build.

Geoff Perkins, MD of Collins Residential, expressed support for the school’s vision and the team leading it, noting the clear need for additional high-quality schools in the area.

The school’s 25-hectare campus has been designed by Phil Thornhill of TCRPV, with landscaping by Bernice Rumble of Land Art Studio - both well known for their environmentally conscious and context-sensitive design. Learners living within the Seaton and Lalela estates will enjoy secure, biometric access to the campus - with dedicated routes enabling them to walk or ride their bikes safely to school.

Plans are also in place to introduce boarding facilities, broadening access to students from further afield.

As KwaZulu-Natal’s North Coast enters a new phase of growth and development, Seaton House stands poised to become an anchor of excellence, integrity, and innovation in education.

Interested families and education stakeholders are encouraged to visit www.seatonhouse.co.za or contact info@seatonhouse.co.za for further information and to register interest.

The school will also provide ongoing updates, events, and key milestones through its social media platforms.

About Seaton House:

Seaton House is a new, independent school launching on KwaZulu-Natal’s North Coast.

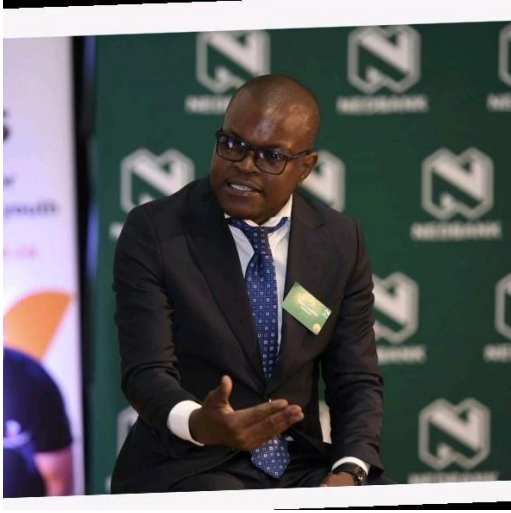
Set to begin construction in the first quarter of 2026 and open in 2027, the school offers a continuous co-educational journey from Grade 0000 to Grade 12, underpinned by the Independent Examinations Board (IEB) curriculum. Seaton House responds to urgent educational demand in one of South Africa’s fastest-growing regions.

Chairman of the Board & Project Lead - Elwyn van den Aarweg



Seaton
House

Nedbank GT's Thabo Lekgwathi on growth, grit and opportunity



When Thabo Lekgwathi arrived for his first interview at Nedbank three years ago, he was early. Ninety minutes early. Wearing worn jeans and carrying a quiet determination, he was applying for a place in the bank's NQF Level 5 Client Services programme.

He didn't yet realise that this day would mark the beginning of a long-term career in technology.

He got the role. Today, Lekgwathi is a valued member of Nedbank's Group Technology (GT) division, contributing to platforms that support the bank's digital strategy and client delivery.

His journey reflects Nedbank GT's commitment to nurturing internal talent, enabling upward mobility, and fostering a culture where learning and growth are embedded.

"I came into the programme with no prior corporate experience," says Lekgwathi. "What made the difference for me was the environment, there was support, mentorship, and a culture that allows you to develop at your own pace."

That environment is no accident. Nedbank GT has intentionally built internal pathways for talent development, creating opportunities for young professionals to grow into specialist and leadership roles.

Initiatives such as the GT Hackathon series, mentorship networks, and graduate readiness programmes are designed to enable practical growth and long-term careers in tech.

Today, Lekgwathi plays an active role in that ecosystem. He mentors new recruits, participates in internal learning forums, and champions inclusive career development. His story reflects a broader shift within the division, where values-led leadership and capability-building go hand in hand.

"Thabo's journey exemplifies the kind of growth we want to enable within GT," says Nedbank Group Technology Divisional Executive for Strategy, Thando Lukhele. "He entered the business with potential, and through the right environment, that potential was realised. Now he's creating space for others to follow a similar path," Lukhele adds.

Inclusive development is a strategic priority for Nedbank GT. Programmes such as *Wired4Women*, *GirlCode Career Days*, and university partnerships signal an ongoing commitment to creating accessible entry points into technology careers. The focus is not only on attracting talent but also on building and retaining it.

Lekgwathi's growth from service desk support to full-time technology contributor practically demonstrates that strategy. At a time when the industry faces both a youth unemployment crisis and a widening digital skills gap, his story offers a model of what's possible when companies invest in people and potential.

"We often speak about transformation and talent pipelines," he says. "But real change happens when businesses build structures that help people grow, not just when they arrive, but throughout their careers."

One of his highlights earlier this year, says Lekgwathi was visiting the headquarters of tech-giant Microsoft in Seattle, United States.

"My trip to the United States for Microsoft Build (the annual conference for software engineers) from May 17 to May 24 was more than just attending a global tech event. It was a deeply personal milestone. As my first international journey, it reshaped how I see myself and my potential. I never imagined that I'd one day travel abroad to represent the work I do.

Lekgwathi adds the learning opportunities from the trip were immense. "Gaining deeper insight into Dataverse Model-Context Protocol (MCP) setups has opened the door to stronger, more secure platform environments at Nedbank by ensuring Custom Copilot Agents have access to the data that's only needed.

It complements the Copilot Studio Kit I deployed, which helps us better govern custom copilots' inventory and amplify the value of AI-assisted solutions across the bank. These tools strengthen our ability to innovate with accountability and that's the kind of work that drives me."

As South Africa strives to promote opportunities for Youth, Thabo's story stands as a reminder of what can be achieved when opportunity, purpose, and support converge.

"Working for Nedbank has given me that opportunity, to make a purpose-driven impact through innovation. As the administrator of the Power Platform, I'm privileged to be at the core of how we empower teams to build, automate, and improve their work, all while ensuring governance, compliance, and security," he concludes.



Get ready to serve an ace against period poverty

Mosetsana™
FEEL CONFIDENT AND SECURED WITH US **PADS**

INTERNATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY 2025
PADEL SOCIAL

ACE PERIOD POVERTY - PADEL FOR A PURPOSE

Get ready to serve an ace against period poverty! Mosetsana Pads invites you to a fun-filled Padel social where every shot you play will help provide a year's supply of sanitary pads for young menstruators at three local schools and one orphanage, ensuring they stay in school and learn with dignity.

Saturday
11th October 2025

Starts at
14:00 PM - 16:00 PM

INDOOR PADEL REVOLUTION
HONEYDEW, JOHANNESBURG, 2175

R350
INDIVIDUAL

R600
2 PAX (TEAM)

All Rates Are Inclusive of Lunch & Goodie Bag(s)

BANK DETAILS:
Account Number: **16411113484** | Bank: **Discovery Bank** | Account Holder: **L Smith** | Type: **Savings Account** | Branch Code: 679000
Reference: **MSP PADEL SOCIAL**
Email Proof of Payment (**POP**) to padel@mosetsanapads.co.za

For further information or enquiries, contact our Head of Communications, Ms Asiphe Mjongile on asiphem@mosetsanapads.co.za

[WWW.MOSETSANAPADS.CO.ZA](https://www.mosetsanapads.co.za)

Join Mosetsana Pads for a fun-filled Padel Social this International Girl Child Day. Every shot you play will help provide a year's supply of sanitary pads for young menstruators at three local schools and one orphanage, ensuring they stay in school and learn with dignity.

Date: Saturday, 11th October 2025

Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Venue: Indoor Padel Revolution, Honeydew, Johannesburg

Price: R350 (Individual) | R600 (Team of 2).

All fees include lunch and goodie bag(s) in courtesy of Mosetsana Pads!
Secure your spot! Bank details are in the flyer below. Email your POP to padel@mosetsanapads.co.za include your name on the email. Let's smash period poverty together!

Calling all learners in South African Public Schools



2025 NATIONAL TEACHING AWARDS: MINISTER'S SPECIAL AWARD

Are you a learner in one of South Africa's public schools? Help the Minister of Basic Education, Ms Siviwe Gwarube, find and reward one of the thousands of phenomenal teachers who continuously demonstrate a unique blend of skills, heart and dedication to their job.

Participating is easy; all you must do is tell us—via text and video—about a teacher who has made a lasting, positive impact on your life; someone who has gone above and beyond their duties! The teacher must have demonstrated perseverance, determination and resilience, care and support in responding to the setbacks or difficulties encountered by you or other learners. These can include challenges that may have potentially posed a threat to the learner's education and academic progress.

THE CONTENTS OF THE MOTIVATION SHOULD COVER THE FOLLOWING:

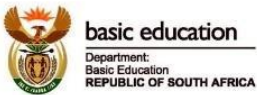
- Great encouragement and motivation received from the teacher in shaping learners' lives.
- The impact the teacher has had in the academic success, personal growth, and even future career paths of learners.
- How the teacher has assisted the learners to be innovative, creative and use critical thinking skills.
- The teacher's contribution to assisting learners cope in disastrous situations.
- How the teacher supported the learner to overcome his/her challenges.
- How the teacher has demonstrated empathy and patience towards learners.

CRITERIA

- The entries must be in English.
- Foundation Phase teachers will have to translate learners' motivations to English.
- The learner and teacher must be from a public school and still in the basic education system.
- The learner must write a mini motivation of not more than 250 words for high school learners, and 100 words for primary school learners, accompanied by a 60-second (1 minute) video.
- The teacher will confirm his/her acceptance and acknowledgement with a 60 second (1 minute) video and forward a SACE certificate.
- The closing date for entries is 8 September 2025.

Participation in the Minister's Special Award is conducted via social and digital media platforms.

The terms and conditions for participation are available on <https://www.education.gov.za/MinistersSpecialAward.aspx>



Stand a chance to win great prizes at the 2025 National Teaching Awards (NTAs) in October. All you have to do is write a short motivation about your favourite teacher, telling us why they deserve to be recognised at the upcoming NTAs. Then, record a short 60 second video (wearing your school uniform) sharing your story).

1. INTRODUCTION

The Minister of Basic Education has initiated a Special Award which will be presented as the **Minister's Special Category** on the 9 October 2025 during the National Teaching Awards Ceremony.

The Award aims to celebrate the exceptional work of educators who have made a positive and lasting impact on their learners. By participating in this campaign, you agree to comply with and be bound by the following terms and conditions.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1. The Minister's Special Award is open to all learners currently enrolled in public schools across South Africa.
- 2.2. Video can be recorded at school or at home, BUT learners **MUST** be in their school uniform.
- 2.3. Employees of the Department of Basic Education, their immediate family members, and anyone else directly connected with the organization or judging of the campaign are not eligible to participate.

3. HOW TO ENTER

- 3.1. Participants must write an motivation of between 100 and 250 words explaining why their chosen teacher is the "best teacher" and the impact the teacher has had on their life. The Motivations must not exceed 100 for primary school learners and 250 words for high school learners.
- 3.2. Participants must record a video of not more than 60 seconds (1 minute) video explaining why their chosen teacher is the "best teacher" and the impact the teacher has had on their life.
- 3.3. The video AND motivation must be uploaded to the specified link.
- 3.4. The motivation AND video submission must be made between 19 August 2025 and the closing date of 8 September 2025.
- 3.5. Multiple entries are not allowed; Only one entry per learner.

4. VIDEO SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- 4.1. The video must be original content created by the participant and must not infringe on the intellectual property rights of any third party.
- 4.2. The video must not contain any inappropriate, offensive, or discriminatory content. Any such entries will be disqualified.
- 4.3. The video must not exceed 60 seconds (1 minute) in length.
- 4.4. The participant's name, grade, and school name doesn't have to be stated in the video.
- 4.5. The video can be recorded anywhere and the participant must be in their school uniform.

5. MOTIVATION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- 5.1 **Word Count:** Motivations for primary school learners must not exceed 100 words, while for high school learners, motivations should be between 200 and 250 words.
- 5.2 **Font:** The motivation should be typed or handwritten in Times New Roman, size 12, with double spacing.
- 5.3 **Language:** The motivation must be written in English.
- 5.4 **Originality:** Motivations must be original work and not plagiarized.
- 5.5 **Submission:** Entries should be submitted as a PDF or Word document and uploaded onto the specified link.
- 5.6 **Identification:** Enter your name and surname and name of school on the motivation.

6. JUDGING CRITERIA

- 6.1. The submissions will be judged based on the following criteria:
 - Emotional impact
 - Clarity of message
 - Creativity
 - Relevance to the theme of the campaign
 - A 60 second video has been submitted AND an motivation of 100 words for primary school learners or 200 – 250 words for high school learners, written originally has been submitted. Only entries with BOTH submissions will be considered.
- 6.2. The decision of the judging panel is final and binding. No correspondence will be entered into regarding the outcome of the competition.

7. PRIZES

- 7.1. The teacher featured in the winning video will receive the Minister's Special Award at the National Teaching Awards on the 9th of October 2025.
- 7.2. The winning participant will receive a certificate of recognition from the Department of Basic Education.
- 7.3. The Department of Basic Education reserves the right to substitute the prize with another of similar value if the original prize is not available.

8. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- 8.1. By submitting a video for the award, the participant grants the Department of Basic Education a non-exclusive, royalty-free, worldwide, perpetual license to use, reproduce, distribute, and display the video in any media, including but not limited to the Department's website, social media platforms, and promotional materials.
- 8.2. The participant warrants that they are the original creator of the video and that they have obtained all necessary permissions and consents to grant the rights mentioned above.

9. PRIVACY

- 9.1. The Department of Basic Education will collect and process personal information (such as the participant's name, grade, and school name) solely for the purposes of administering the Minister's Special Award.
- 9.2. Personal information will not be shared with third parties except as required by law or as necessary for the administration of the campaign.
- 9.3. By participating in the campaign, the participant consents to the collection and use of their personal information in accordance with these terms and conditions.

10. DISQUALIFICATION

- 10.1. The Department of Basic Education reserves the right to disqualify any entry that does not comply with these terms and conditions or that violates any applicable laws or regulations.
- 10.2. The Department of Basic Education may disqualify any participant found to be tampering with the entry process, submitting false information, or engaging in any other fraudulent or inappropriate conduct.

11. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

- 11.1. The Department of Basic Education will not be liable for any loss, damage, or injury arising from participation in the campaign or from the acceptance or use of any prize.
- 11.2. The Department of Basic Education is not responsible for any technical issues, including but not limited to network failures, server failures, or other disruptions that may affect the submission of video or motivation entries.

12. AMENDMENTS

- 12.1. The Department of Basic Education reserves the right to amend these terms and conditions at any time without prior notice.
- 12.2. Any changes to the terms and conditions will be posted on the Department's official website.

13. GOVERNING LAW

- 13.1. These terms and conditions are governed by the laws of the Republic of South Africa.
- 13.2. Any disputes arising out of or in connection with the #MyBestTeacher campaign will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the South African courts.

14. CONTACT INFORMATION

For any inquiries or questions regarding the Minister's Special award, please contact:

Department of Basic Education via its official social media pages

The Transformation of South Africa's Naming Landscape



The South African Geographical Names Council (SAGNC) was established under the South African Geographical Names Act, No. 118 of 1998. Its mandate is to lead the transformation of South Africa's naming landscape to reflect our country's languages, cultural heritage, and democratic values.

Many names of our villages, towns, cities, and roads still reflect colonial and apartheid legacies. Provinces such as the Eastern Cape, Limpopo, and Mpumalanga have made notable progress in transforming major town and city names. In Gauteng, the recent road name changes include:

Houtkop Road to Duma Nokwe Road

William Nicol Drive (R511) to Winnie Mandela Drive

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, together with the SAGNC, encourages all South Africans to participate in ensuring that the names of places they live in, reflect indigenous languages, natural heritage, and cultural history. These initiatives also form part of symbolic reparations, as recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to restore pride and dignity and address historical imbalances.

To date, over 1,500 geographical names have been standardized across the country. Notable recent changes include:

Solomon Linda (formerly Pomeroy, KZN)

Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape) Kariega (formerly Uitenhage, Eastern Cape) The SAGNC is conducting Awareness and Capacity Building Campaigns to inform communities about the process of changing, correcting, or registering names. If a village, town, city, or geographical feature has a name that local people wish to change to reflect their language or cultural heritage, affected and interested parties can approach their nearest Provincial Geographical Names Committee or visit the SAGNC website at www.sagnc.gov.za for guidance.

“We need to leave our children and grandchildren a legacy of places with names that reflect a democratic South Africa, its languages, and cultural heritage. Please play your part.” We need to leave our children and our grandchildren a legacy of places with names that reflect a democratic South Africa in terms of its many languages and cultural heritage.”

PLEASE PLAY YOUR PART