

# PublicSector MANAGER

THE MAGAZINE FOR PUBLIC SECTOR DECISION-MAKERS

AUGUST 2017

PSM

## Lifetime of resistance

Dr Mandu  
Ramakaba-Lesiea  
on sacrifices made  
by women

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# DELIVERING BETTER ROADS FOR A BETTER SOUTH AFRICA

The South African National Roads Agency SOC Ltd (SANRAL) has been making headlines largely because of its toll projects. But outside of tolling, what does SANRAL do?

Roads, the world over, facilitate mobility and access. Without them, and critically their preservation and maintenance, the achievement of economic growth and social targets will be compromised.

At a basic level, a government can provide healthcare facilities but if citizens cannot access these because of lack of roads or their poor condition, the achievement of health targets may not be realised. A farmer can have a good harvest but if he or she cannot get the produce to the market, his or her economic ambitions may never come to fruition.

In South Africa, there are three types of road networks: national, provincial and municipal. National roads are the responsibility of the national government's Department of Transport (DoT). The DoT's implementing arm is SANRAL, which was established by Act No. 7 of 1998 to plan, design, build, operate, manage, control, maintain and rehabilitate our national roads.

At the helm of SANRAL is its CEO Skhumbuzo Macozoma, accountable to the Board of Directors which in turn accounts to Minister of Transport Joe Maswanganyi. The Minister approves the annual business and financial plan and the agency enters into a performance agreement with him. The agreement sets key performance indicators to be met each year.

The agency currently manages 22 197km of the national road network, made up of both toll and non-toll roads. The non-toll roads account for some 87 percent of the national road network (financed from the fiscus) and the toll road network accounts for about 13 percent (2 952km).

The limited involvement of the private sector, which manages and finances only about 1 271 km of the national road network, is an indication that South Africa follows this funding route only when it is really necessary.



**CEO Skhumbuzo Macozoma**  
**SANRAL**



**Building South Africa through  
better roads.**



**Minister Joe Maswanganyi**  
**Department of Transport**

But the involvement of the private sector is an important part of the funding model SANRAL is striving for.

South Africa is contending with an infrastructure backlog with limited funding available directly from the fiscus. Tolling and private sector capital make it possible to use future revenue streams to build and maintain infrastructure today. The agency cannot shut out private sector capital.

While this is where the focus has been over the last years, SANRAL's founding act actually identifies 12 sources of possible funding. These are: the capital invested; fuel levy; loans granted to or raised; interest on the agency's cash balances or on moneys invested by it; income earned from participation in joint ventures; income derived from the sale of assets; all tolls payable; fines payable by persons convicted of offences created by the SANRAL Act, and all civil fines or penalties payable; income generated through developing, leasing out or otherwise managing its assets; any other levies and any fees, rentals or other moneys charged; moneys appropriated by Parliament; and moneys received by way of grant, donation or inheritance from any source, whether inside or outside the Republic.

The agency is looking to an integrated balanced funding model.

SANRAL was the first to experiment with public-private partnerships when in November 1999 it entered into a 30-year concession contract with N3 Toll Concession (Pty) Ltd. Over this period, the latter is responsible for managing the design, construction, financing, operation and maintenance of the N3 between Heidelberg in Gauteng and Cedara in KwaZulu-Natal without any subsidy from government.

And investments continue. The N3TC invested a further R450m just this last financial year, while the other two concessionaires followed suit: Bakwena with R510m on the N4 between Pretoria and the Botswana border and TRAC R950m on the N4 to the Mozambican border

But it is not all about roads. From the word go, the agency was also passionate about transformation and the development of small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMMEs). Added to this is its commitment to using local labour, and preferably, local SMMEs, transferring skills and training.

For SANRAL, it is not just about building the best roads, but serving the communities living alongside its roads and leaving a legacy.





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*"It is our responsibility to break down barriers of division and create a country where there will be neither Whites nor Blacks, just South Africans, free and united in diversity."*

(Source: SA History Online)

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# Wathint' abafazi wathint' imbokodo

**S**ixty-one years ago 20 000 women marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest against the pass laws.

The march on 9 August 1956 is today celebrated as Women's Day. It was led by former textile factory worker Sophia de Bruyn, clothing machinist Lilian Ngoyi, social worker Helen Joseph and shop steward Rahima Moosa.

Only a few have lived long enough to witness the progress women have made since the dawn of our democracy.

Before 1994 women made up less than three per cent of Members of Parliament. Following the first democratic elections, their representation in the National Assembly climbed to almost 28 per cent.

Today half the Cabinet is made up of women, and 42 per cent of MPs are female - the sixth-highest ratio in the world - behind only Rwanda, Bolivia, Cuba, Iceland, Sweden and Senegal, according to the World Bank.

Before 1994, South Africa had only a single woman judge. Today female judges make up about a quarter of the judiciary.

More than this, many South African women have held high roles on the global stage. In 2012 Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma became the first woman to chair the African Union Commission, while Navi Pillay was UN High Commissioner for Human Rights until 2014. Former Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka heads UN Women.

The World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index ranked South Africa at 15th out of 144 countries in 2016.

Much of this high score is down to the promotion of women in political positions and attempts to achieve gender equity in education. Girls and young women have overtaken their male counterparts in terms of literacy, educational attainment and mean years of education.

However, in the labour market women are still disadvantaged relative to men. Women make up just 45 per cent of the workforce and just 22 per cent of top management. This has remained largely unchanged over the last three years, according to the Commission of Employment Equity's 2015/16 annual report.


Women also tend to be clustered in less-skilled occupations and earn less than men doing the same work.

The UNDP's 2016 Gender Inequality Index ranks South Africa close to the global average when it comes to gender inequality: 90th out of 188 countries, down from 83rd in 2014. Women's position in society is also weighed down by poor health, with the maternal mortality ratio of 138 deaths per 100 000.

To tackle this, the Department of Health has made a number of interventions to improve women's health, increase their life expectancy, decrease maternal and child mortality, combat HIV and Aids and lower the burden of tuberculosis.

Above all, violence against women remains a significant stumbling block to women achieving gender parity with their men.

We need to celebrate the women who have led the way. But we also need to do more to overcome the obstacles that hold women back. Above all, we need to speak out against the violence against women that plagues our society.

This will make South Africa a better place to live - for not just women, but men too. 

Minister of  
Communications  
Ayanda Dlodlo





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# Progress on the road to gender parity

Over a century ago, and before the now-famous 1956 Women's March, social worker Charlotte Maxeke led a few hundred women to the Bloemfontein City Council to protest the carrying of passes.

In this 1913 march, women burned or tore up their passes before about 80 of them were arrested.

Maxeke, who later led the way in establishing the ANC Women's League, was an incredible woman. In 1894 she was offered a scholarship to study at a US university after travelling there on a choir tour. Seven years later she became the first black South African woman to be awarded a college degree.

As we celebrate Women's Month this August we should reflect on the long road we have travelled. It is women like Maxeke who paved the way to better rights for women.

Today women are making their own inroads into business leadership. Government is providing support by doing much to promote women in business.

The Department of Trade and Industry's Technology for Women in Business programme, for example,

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Network, helps fast-track support for women setting up and growing their enterprises by providing networking, training and capacity building.

More recently the Women in Maize programme – a partnership between the Department of Small Business Development, South African Breweries (SAB) and the Agricultural Research Council – aims to boost female farmers.

The programme aims to empower 5 000 women-owned farming cooperatives and small enterprises over the next five years by bringing them into SAB's supply chain.

Government is also helping prepare young women and girls for the world of business. A Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services programme will train 50 Eastern Cape girl learners in developing ICT innovations.


After the training the girls will take part in a challenge to create technology innovations that will benefit their communities.

## The road ahead

South Africa still has much to do if it is to meet UN Women's goal for all countries to achieve gender parity by 2030.

A 2015 government report, *The Status of Women in the South African Economy*, revealed that women account for about 37 per cent of South Africa's gross domestic product, while making up between 40 and 45 per cent of all hours worked by South Africa's labour force between 2008 and 2014.

We as South Africans should celebrate how far we have come in the promotion of women's rights. But we still have much to do to achieve gender parity.

As OR Tambo said at the conclusion of the Conference of the Women's session of the ANC in Luanda in 1981: "The mobilisation of women is the task, not only of women alone, or of men alone, but of all of us, men and women alike, comrades in struggle." 



Phumla Williams GCIS  
Acting Director-General

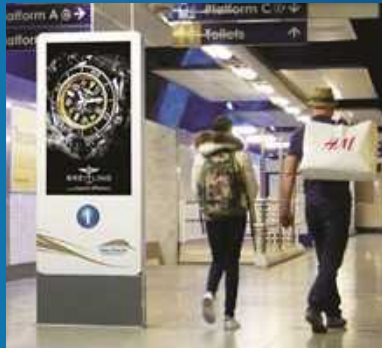


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# Minister Ayanda Dlodlo leads with distinction

People who live in or visit South Africa and those in other African countries are interested in the South African Government's work, and it's important to keep them informed, says the Minister of Communications.



**W**hen Minister of Communications Ayanda Dlodlo heard that she was one of the extraordinary women leaders who the Rainbow PUSH Coalition would recognise for their humanitarian work she saw an opportunity to market South Africa to the Americans.

Social justice activist and founder of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition Reverend Jesse Jackson presented the Leadership and Humanitarian award to Minister Dlodlo at a recent event in

Chicago in the United States.

"It was a huge honour receiving an award from a world icon and a champion for peace and justice across the world.

"Reverend Jackson was part of the US civil rights movement from a very young age and he worked alongside Dr Martin Luther King and other leaders of the civil right's movement in the United States. He was one of the people who were there when Dr King was killed."

The Minister says that getting a leadership and humanitarian award is huge. "I try to do the best that I can to lead and also to accept authority of leadership in others with grace."

The Rainbow PUSH Coalition is a non-profit organisation that resulted from the merging of two non-profit organisations founded by Reverend Jesse Jackson, namely Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity) and the National Rainbow Coalition. The organisations pursue



social justice, civil rights and political activism.

## Wearer of many hats

Minister Dlodlo has worn many hats in her capacity as a leader in the private and public sector. Equipped with a qualification in Shipping and Transport Management from the London Institute of Shipping she began her career at Portnet and later joined Telkom as the Regional Fleet Manager for Gauteng.

She was headhunted to lead the Department of Safety and Security in the Gauteng Provincial Government and was then asked to serve as Deputy Head of the Directorate of Special Operations – a successful appointment, she believes.

In 2009 she became a Member of Parliament and was appointed as President Jacob Zuma's Parliamentary Counsellor. The following year President Zuma appointed Minister Dlodlo as Deputy Minister for Public Service and Administration.

In the same year she was also appointed South Africa's Envoy to the Open Government Partnership and last year she was given the responsibility to lead the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Africa Regional Meeting, a task that took all her skills in leadership "because there were different ideologies and different ways of doing things".

The event provided a platform for civil society representatives and governments to engage as equal partners, as ratified in the Open Government Partnership on the role of open government in the implemen-

**“Women must speak on land and racism issues. Women must speak on poverty, inequality and unemployment. Women must speak on issues that nobody talks about.”**

tation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development with the focus on Africa's development priorities.

A network of over 600 reformers from across the continent and globe who are committed to Open Government for Sustainable Development in Africa attended the OGP.

As the lead chair of the OGP, there was a time when Minister Dlodlo was responsible for leading some 60 countries.

## Putting South Africa on the international stage

In the spirit of women moving South Africa forward Minister Dlodlo asked the Minister of Tourism Tokozile Xasa to accompany her on her trip to Chicago to accept the Leadership and Humanitarian award.

"I invited her because there are huge African American numbers and these are people who have roots in the African continent." She believed that, with Brand South Africa and the Department of Tourism, the South African team would "put up a formidable team that will sell our nation's brand".

The two Ministers used different media platforms to tell Americans what South Africa and the African continent has to offer. "We had meetings

with industry players in the tourism sector. It really was a collaborative effort of selling South Africa with my counterpart who heads tourism. I must say Minister Xasa is a very easy and warm person to work with; we were on a mission to make our country look good."

Minister Dlodlo had numerous meetings with people who distribute and produce content such as the Tyler Perry studios, Horizon, and Tammy Williams films, and returned with many contacts that could assist in turning the SABC around and others that could help Brand South Africa sell South Africa.

Referring to the film-makers, she said: "I want to link them with South African actors and content producers so that the burden of selling South African content does not become the burden of SABC alone."

South African productions for the small screen are extremely good, she said, adding that local productions for the big screen are also doing well. "Everyone talks about Terry Phetho's movie Ayanda."

## Being among the crème de la crème of humanitarian leaders

The most important part of the 



Minister's experience was being alongside the *crème de la crème* of humanitarian leaders – also award recipients. Maxine Waters and Senator Elizabeth Warren stole Minister Dlodlo's heart for their work in leadership and humanitarian endeavours.

Waters was among those who advocated for disinvestment from South Africa during apartheid. This was directed at American state pension funds doing business in South Africa. She helped pass legislation with guidelines on disinvestment.

Senator Warren is a former professor of law at numerous universities and well known for specialising in bankruptcy law. She is also an active consumer protection advocate whose voice led to the establishment of the US Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

"These are people who believe in justice and the good of mankind and ... are not afraid to put their voices out there. Another woman who was supposed to share the stage with

me was Aretha Franklin but due to ill health she couldn't make it."

### 100 days in office

But, having just completed 100 days in office, Minister Dlodlo is focused on communicating Government programmes and successes. "We inform South Africans on what the Government has done and what is to happen in the week to come."

People who live in or visit South Africa and those in other African countries are interested in the South African Government's work, she points out.

With this in mind, she has been working closely with the Government Communications Information System (GCIS). GCIS is the mouthpiece of government and talks to South Africans every week through the Government at Work programme, a concept she introduced.

There are plans to translate *Vuk'uzenzele*, a government newspaper published twice a month, into

French and Portuguese – widely spoken languages in Africa. The newspaper is already published in Braille and the 11 official languages.

In addition, she is making sure that she too contributes to sharing the information. Her social media presence has created a buzz as she interacts with more than 2 500 followers. She says that the social media statistics show that, since she has joined the department, people have been talking positively about the Government

When Minister Dlodlo delivered her budget vote she reached over 50 000 people, with 48 reactions which consisted of likes and shares. There were also 97 tweets that were updated using the twitter accounts @GovernmentZA, GCIS\_Media, SAGovNews, BrandSA and SABCNewsOnline.

With the hashtag #CommsBudgetVote over 400 000 people were tweeting positively about the budget vote. ➡



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## On the SABC

Regarding the SABC, Minister Dlodlo has put in place a team of people whose focus is on turning the organisation's financial situation around. She has requested that the board, supported by her team, draw up a new proposal for financial intervention. The document has been presented to national Treasury.

"I have also asked that all labour relations matters are sorted out. This has been done."

The resolution of labour issues means the organisation can now start searching for new talent to join the SABC at executive level.

"I would not want a situation where people who have been tainted with problems in the SABC are the ones that are expected to roll out the programmes that I have in mind for the SABC.

"We are looking for a new team of people and the first thing that I want them to do is to develop a change management programme. The turnaround strategy is fine but I want to see sustainable change."

Minister Dlodlo has also met with Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services Siyabonga Cwele to discuss Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) and the issue of the set top boxes. "Treasury, through their procurement office, must deal with procurement issues."

She said the two also spoke about ways to decrease data costs, and that she has asked the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa to put together a process for public hearings on the matter.

As part of her vision moving forward, the Minister would like to see the Media Development Diversity Agency intensifying their work on media diversity and media development, including financial support for small media houses in radio, print or television.

Messages disseminated through community radio stations make a far larger impact than commercial radio stations or even Government izimbizo. One imbizo would reach about 4 000 people and cost the Government about R4 million for the

planning associated with putting together such an event, whereas "to reach almost six million South Africans you pay R350 000 on community radio station's".

She commended Minister of Social Development Bathabile Dlamini and the Department of Justice for constantly using these platforms.

## August is Women's Month

Commenting on August being Women's Month, Minister Dlodlo said the plight of South African women has improved compared to that of the women of 1956 because there are laws that protect women.

But, she added, women need to take on a cause like the women of 1956. "I for one have made the land issue my cause. I speak and write on land. Women must speak on land and racism issues. Women must speak on poverty, inequality and unemployment. Women must speak on issues that nobody talks about."

With regards to the recent killing of women reported in the media earlier this year Minister Dlodlo said it was disappointing that GCIS had not yet come up with a programme on this.

Such a critical social issue should be something tackled 365 days of the year. "In an organisation lead by women it is sad that this GCIS and Department of Communication have done nothing on the plight of women whilst women keep dying. It doesn't have to wait for Women's Month." ●







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**Carina Wessels**, Group Company Secretary & Legal, Exxaro Resources Ltd, *Being strong and neutral in dealing with difficult situations, whilst ensuring your protection and sanity*

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# SA women not yet where they should be

As South Africa celebrates Women's Month, Jenny Schreiner, the Director-General of the Department of Women, takes a look at the status of women, the successes and the challenges still faced.

If South Africa is to tackle issues related to patriarchy and the violence against women and children, there needs to be a greater culture of respect for women.

This is according to the Director-General of the Department of Women, Jenny Schreiner.

"Respect should play a fundamental role in how the society views the status of women. If we all respect each other, a lot of things could change in the plight of women."

Patriarchy, which is a system of society in which men hold the power and women are largely excluded from it, is still very prevalent in South Africa. If women are to be treated with greater levels of respect and equality, patriarchy cannot be allowed to continue, she says.

Schreiner says the socio-economic conditions that characterise the country feed into violence against women and children. High levels of inequality, unemployment and the recession, which impacts job security, cause social distress, she explains.

"We put our families under enormous stress. When you are under stress, it comes out somewhere," she says, adding that it is inexcusable when this stress manifests as violence against women and children.

She adds that South Africa has a social security policy that enables social distress to be moderated through the accessing of social grants.

Schreiner explains that her department helps mitigate gender-based violence through advocacy programmes, including the National Dialogues initiative, which raises

awareness about how unacceptable it is to raise a hand to women and children.

The country is faced with a gender issue rather than a women's issue, she believes. "We need men to be role models and for boy children to know that there are other solutions besides violence against women. To change things, South Africa needs to start in the home."

She says the culture of family members keeping quiet when someone is abused needs to stop and calls on faith-based organisations and religious leaders to play a part in moral regeneration.

"Violence of any description is morally wrong. Our Constitution says we have a right to be safe."

## Financial inclusion of women in the economy

Financial inclusion must be broadened to enable women to play a greater part in the South African economy, says Schreiner.

She shares that the South African government has made notable advances through public and private sector programmes.

These programmes are aimed at the empowerment of women and include the earmarking of funds to provide more affordable, usable and responsive financing for women.

While South Africa has some of the most progressive policies for advancing women empowerment and gender equality, the challenge is in their translation and





implementation in order to bring about real and material change.

Schreiner says the *Status of Women Report* published in 2015 stated that a large number of women are dependent on a social grant for income whereas men are dependent on jobs.

"Social grants are important in terms of the social protection policy but we need to look at how we can migrate people from the social grant system to the skills sector." They will then contribute to the economy and gain a greater sense of independence and self worth.

The Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) provides a good platform for helping women gain skills and enter the labour market.

"We need to develop the skills needed to channel women into the EPWP. Currently, the EPWP is looking at how it can work with Social Development to target fami-

**"To change things, South Africa needs to start in the home."**

lies that are social grant-dependent. The next challenge is how to migrate people out of the EPWP."

### Techno girls

A success story is the Techno Girl programme. Schreiner is delighted at its growth. The programme has empowered over 12 000 young women who have been absorbed by different industries.

She adds that this exciting initiative needs to be expanded to get more companies involved.

Her department has been able to trace girls who started with the programme when they were in Grade 10 and who are now finished with their university studies and mentoring other young Techno girls. The Techno Girl programme creates job shadowing opportunities during school holidays for girls in partnership with private sector companies, state agencies and organisations. ➔

In 2016, a record 720 corporates partnered with Cell-C to host an estimated 50 000 schoolgirls from Grades 10 to 12.

The Techno Girl programme is a partnership between the Department of Women, public and private sector institutions and UNICEF.

"What we are noticing is that we need a Techno Boy programme where young men can be mentored on what it means to be a man."

## Sanitary dignity for women

A pressing challenge facing young girls is the lack of sanitary pads. This forces them to miss school or use a variety of undignified alternatives.

Schreiner says that efforts are under way to sustainably implement President Jacob Zuma's promise – expressed in 2011 – to assist girls from disadvantaged backgrounds to access sanitary products.

"We realised it would be unsustainable if this programme was based on individuals mobilising resources. What we realised is that we need a policy. We have been working with the departments of Social Development, Basic Education, Health and the National Treasury.

"We now have the policy; it has been through the cluster and had a positive response from the director-generals of the different departments."

This process is now expected to go through Cabinet. Schreiner expects that thereafter, government will be able to ensure that girls receive SABS-approved sanitary pads at state expense.

## Women's Month message

Schreiner says as the country celebrates Women's Month, women should be proud of how far they have come but also conscious of the challenges that still need to be dealt with.

"Women need to ensure that they are actively playing a role to protect and guide girls, boys, young women and young men. Inter-generational discussion and dialogue needs to be intensified."

She says unless the issues of inequality, poverty and patriarchal attitudes are addressed, the gains made will be for individual women and not for women as a whole.



## Women unite to move South Africa forward

This year's Women's Month theme is 'Women unite to move South Africa forward', which Schreiner says speaks to the core of women emancipation. She believes that it is critical for women to organise themselves properly to ensure that they receive what is due to them as stated in the Constitution.

Women of today have the ability to move the country forward, just like the more than 20 000 women of 1956 did, when they marched to the Union Buildings in protest against the extension of pass laws to women.

The march against the pass laws was organised by the Federation of South African Women which famously challenged the idea that a woman's place is in the kitchen.

The main 2017 National Women's Day celebration was held in Galeshewe in the Northern Cape.

According to Statistics South Africa, in 2011 the Northern Cape had a population of 1 145 86.1, of which 50.69 per cent were female and 49.31 per cent were men.

The Provincial Growth and Development Strategy further indicates that the Northern Cape faces chronic underdevelopment with its social, economic and cultural manifestations through poverty, unemployment and rural-urban income inequality, which still continues.

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# Phaliso champions biodiversity

Although the humble vygie is valued for its food and medicinal properties, many of the plants in the Aizoaceae family are under threat. Fortunately, a trailblazing female scientist is devoting her days protecting and advancing this indigenous treasure.

**N**tombikile Phaliso is passionate about natural biodiversity.

Working for the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Phaliso, 30, is situated in the biotematics division, where she spends her days researching the Aizoaceae plant family. This group includes mesembryanthemums, the beloved water-wise plants South Africans often refer to as vygies.

There are around 1 800 species of these succulent plants which are largely endemic to southern Africa. As with all indigenous plants, it is vital that they are protected because of the essential role they play in the ecosystem, says Phaliso.

"If we do not protect these species, the effects would show in various ways. For example, we would lose much of the colour that people love so much in the Karoo, along the Garden Route, because mesembryanthemums are responsible for many of these vibrant flowers.

"We also risk the complete loss of species and populations through the illegal collection and sale of mesembryanthemums," she explains.



Complete extinction of the Aizoaceae family is one of Phaliso's greatest concerns because of the medicinal, food and cultural value of these plants.

Phaliso, who grew up in Johannesburg, says SANBI is mandated to safeguard the biodiversity of South Africa and the research undertaken by her team feeds directly into that mandate.

"Research done by scientists in the biosystematics division provides the baseline data which forms the basis of SANBI's research activities. Our collections are an invaluable source of information which must be kept current and accurate for all our end users."

## Important things about the Aizoaceae family

According to Phaliso, there is little information available on many of the mesembs. Some have remained unstudied since their discovery.

What is known, however, is that over 1 000 of the species within the Aizoaceae family are either under threat or vulnerable to threat.

"Aizoaceae species form part of the indigenous cultures of South Africa as food or medicinal plants but also because of the natural beauty that are typical of mesembs.

"These plants are highly sought after horticulturally which has led to illegal trade and cultivation. This could result in the extinction of some species which would directly affect the biodiversity of this country."

While she is adamant that any and all biodiversity in South Africa should be protected, she is particularly concerned about the conservation of the Aizoaceae family.

"The loss of diversity within this genus would be detrimental as over 90 per cent of the Aizoaceae occurring in the world are endemic to southern Africa, which means that they only occur here."

## Curator for the herbarium specimens

Apart from finding out all she can about the Aizoaceae, Phaliso is also curator of the herbarium specimens.

A herbarium is a collection of preserved plant specimens used for scientific study. The term herbarium can also refer to the building or room where the specimens are housed or the scientific institute that not only stores

them but uses them for research.

SANBI has over two million specimens which are housed in three herbaria: National Herbarium (PRE), Compton Herbarium (NBG) and the KwaZulu-Natal Herbarium (NH).

Phaliso adds that over 1.2 million species are being housed at PRE. Included in this collection are extremely old specimens, with some having been collected as early as the 1800s.

The collection is constantly growing and is maintained quite closely through physical curation.

She explains that the pressed specimens are a representation of the plant biodiversity in the country and some neighbouring regions.

"Scientific curation of the specimens in a particular family means that one is responsible for ensuring that the information on the specimens is accurate, current and that it is represented in our database."

This means that any changes in the classification of species or groups need to be identified by the scientist through assessing scientific publications and comparatively looking at what is currently known about the subject.

"This process ensures that those who rely on this data for their own research have the benefit of and access to the most accurate and up-to-date information. We are able to provide this service thanks to the large number of specimens available at our herbaria and our commitment to providing the best possible biodiversity information to all South Africans and people all over the world who may need it."

## Imparting knowledge to young scientists

While climbing the SANBI ladder, Phaliso noticed that some up-and-coming scientists were finding it difficult to grasp knowledge within the scientific world.

She decided to take it upon herself to initiate a skills transfer programme that allows newcomers to the field a chance to learn and gain insight from experienced scientists and researchers.

"I noticed that many of the students, particularly non-English first language students, struggled with contextualising the scientific process and keeping up with ➡



the demands of the field and its output.”

She started the Intern Research Forum within SANBI which is focused on equipping young scientists with skills related to the scientific method and research outputs.

“The forum is four years old this year and I couldn’t be more proud that it is still ongoing.

“Many of the ‘alumni’ from this forum have since gone on to pursue further post-graduate degrees and have used the forum as a platform for their pursuits. Many people in more senior positions have now begun to see the value in it and have started taking advantage of its availability.”

She adds that the forum has allowed her to address people and teach at various levels, ranging from high school learners to fellow scientists.

“The milestones have not come in the form of major prizes or accolades but the difference the forum has made in the lives of the participants.”

Phaliso believes that it is important to provide mentorship and access to younger people who are interested in pursuing a research career. She advises young people who want to enter this sector to research their career options and contact the relevant people.

“Do all you can to inform yourself and don’t be scared to let your individuality show in all that you do, particularly your work.

“You are the difference and the more you express your individuality, the more the sector will grow and your innovative ideas and work ethic will be the fuel that moves this sector in the most progressive direction.”

## Gender and race challenges

Phaliso concedes that being black, a female and young have all posed challenges. “Having started in this industry as a professional at the age of 26, I have found that my race, gender and age have often had me on the back foot.

“It has been very difficult to be heard or to necessarily feel like I have a voice in certain settings. I have found that I have had to work at justifying my presence by working harder, being more assertive or carving my own way.”

With August being Women’s Month, Phaliso thanks all those women who came before her and created the path she is now negotiating.

## Proud to work for SANBI

She adds that she is very proud to work for SANBI, which is an organisations which embodies the spirit of ubuntu. This is the main ingredient in the organisation’s motto, she says.

“As a student, SANBI was where I always wanted to end up, so it makes me very proud to be here, adding to an already astronomical track record.

“I know there are very few of us doing this work. I am proud because of the impact that my work has on the wellbeing of this country. I’m proud that young people can look at me and see it’s possible.”

Phaliso’s future plans include a PhD and growing the Intern Research Forum to make it available to more young people. ○

## This and that

### How do you relax?

I like to relax by spending time alone reading and listening to music.

### What is your favourite food?

You can’t go wrong with a good steak.

### Your favourite book?

Hugh Masekela’s autobiography *Still Grazing*

### What is your favourite holiday destination?

Mpumalanga is the most beautiful place on earth.





# LEAN HEALTHCARE SUMMIT

Lean management is a management system that applies to every business and every process. It's a way of thinking and practice that underpins sustained continuous improvement. Originally developed within manufacturing, lean has been adopted successfully in a wide variety of industries, including the service industry, with significant results in healthcare, such as cost reduction, improvements in process flow and reduced patient waiting times. Specifically in South Africa, examples include improving from 30% to 70% theatre on-time starting time, and reducing average waiting time for triage in the emergency unit from more than 24 minutes to 12 minutes.

The pioneer of lean in healthcare, Dr John Toussaint, CEO of Catalysis – a healthcare improvement centre in the USA – will be the keynote speaker at Lean Institute Africa's second Lean Healthcare Summit on 7th September 2017 in Johannesburg. The theme of the summit is 'Empowering Healthcare Professionals Through Continuous Improvement' and it aims to inspire the South African healthcare community by demonstrating the benefits of using lean management in healthcare, and to motivate those already adopting lean management. This is a summit for leaders and managers in both public and private healthcare.

The National Department of Health officially recognises Lean Institute Africa's value-adding work in the health sector and supports the Institute's continuous improvement initiatives, including the Lean Healthcare Summit 2017.

Gauteng MEC for Health, Dr Gwendoline Ramokgopa, will give the opening address at the summit. The latest lean thinking and practice in private and public health will be presented alongside valuable case studies. The one-day

event consists of plenary presentations in the morning, including keynote sessions with lean healthcare leaders Dr Toussaint, and Dr Stefan Metzker, CEO of Männedorf hospital, who is a driver of lean healthcare in Switzerland and is supporting the change in European healthcare with a group of hospital CEOs. The Gauteng and Western Cape Departments of Health will present on their lean improvement journeys, and University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business specialised unit, Spark Health, will present on health systems strengthening.

Breakaway sessions in the afternoon will allow for focussed workshops in smaller groups, including 'Lean Leadership in Healthcare' with Dr Toussaint and Dr Metzker; a joint provincial government session including 'Lean and Lean Leader Coaching' from Gauteng Department of Health and 'Reality Lean: Watch this Space' from Western Cape Department of Health; and 'Introduction to Lean Thinking in Healthcare', with an experienced lean healthcare practitioner.

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# Capt Neethling: SAPS's crime chopper

Women have what it takes to fly high, police helicopter pilot proves.

**I**t's a cold, quiet winter's morning at the South African Police Service's Air Wing in Pretoria West when the serenity is disturbed by the sound of sirens and a rush of adrenalin.

Within seconds, the pilots working at the Air Wing are rushing out and climbing into the AS 350 Squirrel helicopter.

Word is out. A car hijacking has gone down in Centurion, Pretoria, and a crew from the SAPS has flown out on a mission to find this car using the SAPS helicopter.

For Captain Tillanie Neethling, 29, the only female pilot at the Air Wing, this is all in a day's work.

She explains that when police officers on the ground receive a call from 10111 or when someone has

**“There are those old school people who feel that this is not a woman’s job so I have experienced a little bit of that, but things have changed in South Africa and women are being recognised for the job they do, regardless of their gender.”**



reported their car missing at their nearest police station, the message is transmitted to the Air Wing control room, informing them that they need to fly out and find the car.

“We also do cash-in-transit robberies; it’s like James Bond stuff,” she giggles.

“We could also be asked to assist in finding suspects involved in robberies or to lend a hand in search and rescue operations or in locating bodies. If the police officers on the ground need air support, we are the people they call.”

An average day for Captain Neethling begins at 7.30am with a planning meeting to discuss operations and plans for the day.

“We have one helicopter and six pilots. I am the only female here in our office. If I am first on call, I will take the first call-out of the day.”

The last call-out Captain Neethling was involved in was tracing a suspect who had just hijacked a car.

“We got a call and boom, we were in the chopper. We received the GPS co-ordinates from the officers on the ground and were able to track

the suspect, who was driving into Atteridgeville in the stolen car.”

Captain Neethling and another police officer in the helicopter, whose job it is to communicate with the police on the ground, were quickly able to spot the stolen car.

“The suspect realised that he was being followed by a police chopper. He then decided that he was not going to drive anymore because he could see that we were on his tail. He stopped the car and decided to try and get away on foot.

“After a while, he realised that he could not outrun us and he surrendered by stopping and putting his hands in the air. This particular call-out made me happy because we were able to get the car and give it back to its owner.”

Captain Neethling, who grew up in Meyerton close to Vereeniging, started working for the police in July 2012 and has amassed around 2 500 hours of flying.

“I am licensed to fly nine different helicopters.”

After completing matric, Captain Neethling started training in 2007 at

Henley Air, where she did two different licences, a Private Pilot Licence (PPL) and Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL). She had obtained both within a year.

“With the CPL, you can start working and earn money.

“I worked for car tracking companies Matrix and Cartrack after receiving my CPL. Then, in 2011, I got the opportunity to fly tourists in the Okavango Delta in Botswana; this was a great experience. I did this for nine months before joining the SAPS.”

## Importance of community members reporting crime

Captain Neethling explains that a lot of what they do as the police is heavily reliant on the community reporting crimes to the police.

“South Africans need to report crime to the police otherwise we won’t know of criminal activities happening on the ground.”

According to Captain Neethling, reporting crime immediately is also essential. She gives as an ➔





example her unit's night flights to crack down on cable theft.

"Cable thieves hide in the bushes but because we have nice camera equipment and lights with thermal heating, it is easier for us to find the perpetrators."

Again, she stresses the importance of the community working with the police to curb cable theft.

## A proud cop

Captain Neethling says she is very proud of the work that she does and loves being a police officer. She calls the SAPS her second family.

"It makes me proud to know that I can give back to the community, save people and make a difference in their lives. The passion for the police has always been there. This is something I have always wanted to do."

As a woman in what is perceived to be a male profession, Captain Neethling says the tide is turning and she does not often experience discrimination based on her gender.

"There are those old school people who feel that this is not a woman's job so I have experienced a little bit of that, but things have changed in South Africa and

women are being recognised for the job they do, regardless of their gender."

## A passion for flying

Captain Neethling adds that for as long as she can remember, she has had a passion for flying.

"I went for my first introduction flight when I was 18 years old at Henley Air aviation school and when the aircraft took off at Rand Airport, I knew that this was what I want to do.

"Once I took off, there was kind of a calmness and adrenalin at the same time that I felt. I thought if there is adrenalin and calmness that I feel, why would I go do something else?"

Acquiring her CPL at 19 years of age, immediately after matric, is one of Captain Neethling's greatest achievements.

She advises young people who want to venture into aviation that this profession needs tons of passion because it is not for everyone.

"If there are bursaries at the police, apply because it's easier to go that route; it's very costly to learn to fly privately. Do research about the career and be aware of what it entails."

Captain Neethling's plans for the future are to do her Airline Transport Pilot Licence, which will allow her to pilot large commercial aircrafts.

"I would also like to do my instructor's licence so that I can teach other people to fly."

With South Africa celebrating Women's Months she wants to remind women that they are capable of achieving anything and they don't have to live in someone else's shadow.

## High jump medalist

Apart from cracking down on crime, Captain Neethling is a high jump champion. She recently earned a silver medal at the Athletics South Africa National Senior Championships in Potchefstroom.

She did the SAPS proud with a great 1.80m jump, which placed her second in her category. She was one of only three athletes who represented the SAPS as a jumper.

She says that she is now training hard for the Commonwealth Games. ●

## This and that

### How do you relax?

I like to go to the movies.

### What is your favourite food?

Sushi.

### Favourite holiday destination?

Salt Rock in KwaZulu-Natal.

### What is your slogan that you live by?

Life is too short to be little, follow your dreams.



Pabalelo Security Services and Projects is a 100% black-owned and -managed company that was established in 2006 by a dynamic and visionary couple. Mr and Mrs Sekae are both hands-on in the day to day running and management of the company, both in sales and operations. Naomi Sekae is however playing a critical role as the face and operational head of Pabalelo. The company specialises in the supply, installation, maintenance and servicing of security X-ray machines and walkthrough metal detectors.

Having clientele such as National Treasury, Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) and Jo'burg Market amongst others, Pabalelo is showing signs of rapid growth in the industry, and is making a tremendous contribution to the reduction of youth unemployment – in particular among young black women, as the sector is generally under resourced with female technicians.

With the government's support through entities like ACSA, we can only grow from strength to strength and in the process tap into the scarce skills of our youth. The company aims to be a major contributor to the radical transformation and industrialisation programmes of our country. We aim to grow beyond the boundaries of South Africa and the continent.

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Please feel free to check out our website: [www.pabalelo.co.za](http://www.pabalelo.co.za)



Naomi Sekae

# RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LAND REFORM **EMPOWERS WOMEN FARMERS**

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform is making steady progress in ensuring that women benefit meaningfully from the land reform programmes in the country. Since its inception, more than 67 000 women have been allocated land through the department's Redistribution of Land Programme.

As part of efforts not only to redistribute land but as a vehicle toward the empowerment of women in rural areas, the department has allocated land to female emerging farmers and other categories of historically disadvantaged persons.

Two women beneficiaries who have beaten the odds to claim their space in the male dominated world of farming say they wish to encourage other women to venture into farming.



*Candice Bostander, proud of her flock.*

Candice Bostander, 32, is a young award winning female farmer from Griekwastad in Northern Cape, currently farming on Banksfontein farm which has been leased to her by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. Having been a farmer for over 10 years, Candice says it is her passion and credits her late grandfather for teaching her the basic principles of successful farming. Despite her youth, Candice has created a thriving business – outperforming some of her male counterparts. In 2016 she won the Youth Female Entrepreneur award for her achievements in livestock farming, producing sheep, goats and cattle. She has also created employment in her community whilst growing and expanding her business significantly.

The department, through its Pro-Active Land Acquisition Strategy, purchased the Banksfontein farm for R5.5-million in 2015, after the District Beneficiary Selection Committee had recommended Candice as a potential lessee to lease the farm.





*Yet another delivery to the market, Candice Bostander is unstoppable.*



*You have got to be involved to make it happen, Nomvula Maya does it herself.*

## "A VEHICLE TOWARD THE **EMPOWERMENT** OF WOMEN IN RURAL AREAS"

Mpumalanga farmer Nomvula Maya is another land reform beneficiary whose business has seen growth over the years despite tough conditions. She was allocated a 490 hectare farm by the department in the Balfour area. Nomvula prides herself for being one of a few female farmers in her community who runs a successful poultry business.

She says despite the challenges she has faced, her chickens are sold to major chicken franchises like KFC and Rainbow Chickens, among others. The nine chicken broiler houses on her farm can accommodate 25 000 chicks each. In addition to this she also produces soya beans and red corn. The farm currently has goats, sheep and cattle.

## South African Innovation Summit

Date: 6 to 8 September 2017

Venue: Cape Town Stadium, Cape Town

The SA Innovation Summit is a platform for nurturing, developing and showcasing South African innovation, as well as facilitating thought-leadership around innovation. The summit brings together businesspeople, inventors, entrepreneurs, academics and policy makers to sharpen South Africa's renowned competitive edge.

The SA Innovation Summit has grown into a premier event on the annual South African innovation calendar. Created to support and promote innovation and facilitate collaboration among multi-helix actors, the SA Innovation Summit is a crucial tool to inspire sustained economic growth.

Find out more at [www.innovationsummit.co.za](http://www.innovationsummit.co.za) | For more information visit: [www.satc.org.za](http://www.satc.org.za)



## Tax Indaba

Date: 11 to 15 September 2017

Venue: Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg

The Tax Indaba is now the largest annual gathering bringing together the entire tax community – tax practitioners, in-house tax staff members, government tax officials and tax academics. The Tax Indaba seeks to involve all tax professional bodies in South Africa, including SAICA, SAIPA, the Law Society, the IAC, CIMA and ACCA.

Every year, the Tax Indaba seeks to add new variety and talent to benefit tax professionals who are seeking to refresh their knowledge and to learn about new tax-related developments.

To ensure continued relevance, the event is put together with the assistance of the whole tax community. The five-day event is broken down to cover various topics throughout the week, allowing attendees to either choose to attend particular days involving their specialties or to attend the five-day event as a whole.

Find out more at [www.taxindaba.co.za](http://www.taxindaba.co.za)

## CGMA Africa Inaugural Conference

Date: 20 to 22 September 2017

Venue: Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg

Economic downgrades. The outcome of the US election. Brexit. Fluctuating exchange rates. All shocks

we have witnessed that are signs and consequences of a changing world: a volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous – Vuca – world.

Are we fully prepared to address them? Are we sharing lessons learned on how to tackle uncertainty? Have we acknowledged that no amount of planning can equip us to

adapt to these challenges? With the rate of change in technology and speed at which information is disseminated, are existing approaches and business models sufficient?

At the Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) Africa Inaugural Conference prominent speakers and business leaders will discuss forging ahead, defining new and exciting approaches to strategy and the future of business within the highly volatile, uncertain, and complex environment that is Africa today.

Find out more at [www.cimaglobal.com/caic2017](http://www.cimaglobal.com/caic2017)



## Credit Regulator warns of illegal credit practices

The National Credit Regulator (NCR) has urged consumers not to enter into loans with credit providers that keep their bank or social security cards as a way to collect the debt.

"Consumers are warned not to enter into loans with credit providers that use unlawful collection methods such as the retention of bank and South Africa Social Security Agency cards, as well as the retention of identity documents. Further, consumers are urged to only enter into loans with registered credit providers," NCR spokesperson Lebogang Selibi said.

The warning comes after the National Consumer Tribunal heard a case between the NCR and Hua Xiang Cash Loans, a registered credit provider operating in Makhado and Malelane.

The NCR argued that Hua Xiang had contravened the National Credit Act by failing to conduct proper affordability assessments or provide its customers with pre-agreement statements and quotations.

The company had also failed to provide consumers with credit agreements on the prescribed form, charged an interest rate in excess of the imposed limit, and used prohibited collection and enforcement methods.

The tribunal found Hua Xiang's contraventions to be so severe and serious that they warranted the immediate cancellation of the company's registration. A decision by the tribunal has the same status as one made by a high court.

The NCR continues to conduct industry-wide investigations on credit providers who use prohibited collection methods. It recently announced that 11 people had been arrested in an operation to curb the illegal retention of Sassa social security cards.



## Spotlight on draft tourism strategy

Tourism industry role players recently met with Minister Tokozile Xasa to share their views on the Draft National Tourism Sector Strategy (NTSS).

The consultative session was aimed at soliciting inputs, as well as stimulating the public and private sectors to ensure alignment and sharing of resources in the implementation of the strategy.

The NTSS is a tourism development framework that envisages South Africa to be a top 20 tourist destination in the world by 2020. It is a guiding document for economic growth and job creation in the tourism sector.

"As we finalise the review of the strategy, we want to ensure that we contribute directly to the economy of the country. Key among our targets is to achieve an increase of direct jobs to one million by 2026.

"We hope to have interactions with all stakeholders, including those outside our sector because tourism takes place in these spaces too, and in order for our strategy to be realisable and realistic, these interactions are critical," Minister Xasa said. – [SAnews.gov.za](http://SAnews.gov.za)



# Life expectancy on the rise – fast facts

Life expectancy in South Africa is now 64 years, up from 53 years in 2006, and putting us on track to achieve the NDP goal of a 70-year life expectancy by 2030.



**S**outh Africa now has a population of 56.5-million people, according to the 2017 mid-year population estimates released by Statistics South Africa in late July.

A key finding of the report is that our life expectancy is now 64 years. This is an extra decade of life expectancy since a decade ago. In 2006, life expectancy was 53.5 years: women could expect to live to 54.7 years, and men to just 52.3 years.

This gain can be credited to the massive rollout of antiretroviral (ARV) therapy since 2006, according to

Stats SA. We are on track to achieve the National Development Plan goal of a 70-year life expectancy by the year 2030.

The success of the ARV campaign is also shown in the number of South Africans living with HIV. Today, according to the Stats SA estimates, 7.06-million South Africans are HIV-positive – 13 of every 100 people. That may seem high, but it's a sign that HIV is being brought under control. It's now more of a chronic condition, not a fatal one.

"Improved access and uptake of

ARVs in South Africa has enabled HIV-positive people to live longer and healthier lives, leading to an increase in the HIV population over time," Statistician-General Dr Pali Lehohla said in a presentation of the estimates.

While more people are living with HIV, the rate of infection in young people is dropping. "HIV prevalence among youth aged 18 to 24 has declined from 7.3 per cent in 2002 to 4.6 per cent in 2017," Dr Lehohla said. "The decline in prevalence among the youth is an indication of decline in the rate of new infections."

## South Africa's population in 2017

### GENDER

In our population of 56.52-million people, 28.9-million are female (51 per cent) and 27.6-million are male (49 per cent).

### POPULATION GROUPS

- Black South Africans: 45.7-million (81 per cent)
- Coloured South Africans: 5-million (9 per cent)
- White South Africans: 4.5-million (8 per cent)
- Indian South Africans: 1.4-million (2 per cent)

### PROVINCES

- Gauteng: 14.3-million (25 per cent)
- KwaZulu-Natal: 11-million (19 per cent)
- Western Cape: 6.5-million (12 per cent)
- Eastern Cape: 6.5-million (12 per cent)
- Limpopo: 5.8-million (10 per cent)
- Mpumalanga: 4.4-million (8 per cent)
- North West: 3.9-million (7 per cent)
- Free State: 2.9-million (5 per cent)
- Northern Cape: 1.2-million (2 per cent)

### CHILDREN

Thirty per cent of South Africans are 15 years or younger.

The working age population in Gauteng is significantly larger than that of the Eastern Cape, which has a younger population with more children.

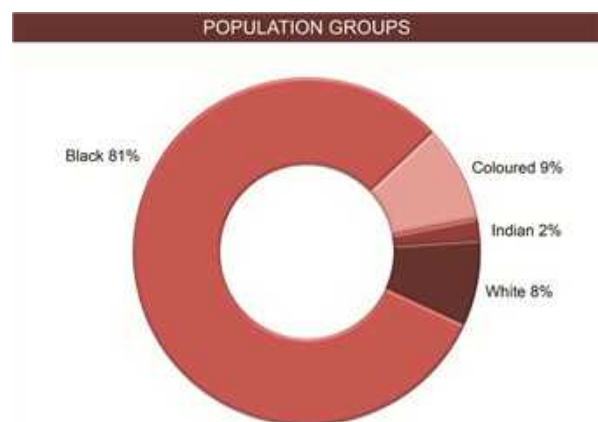
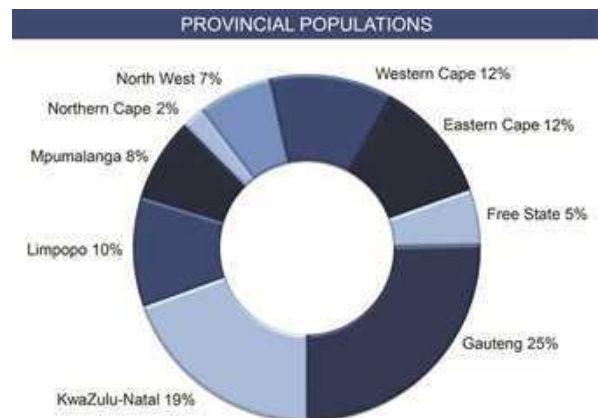
Limpopo (35 per cent) and the Eastern Cape (34 per cent) have the highest proportion of people aged 15 and under.

Gauteng (25 per cent) and the Western Cape (26 per cent) have the lowest.

### BIRTHS

The birth rate is an average of 2.41 children per woman, down from 2.73 children per woman in 2007.

"As the rate at which births occur declines, the young dependent population grows smaller in relation to the working-age population," Statistician-General Dr Pali Lehohla said. "With more workers and fewer young




people to support, a country will have a window of opportunity for accelerated economic growth."

### MORTALITY

Infant mortality has declined from 48.1 infant deaths per 1 000 live births in 2002 to 32.8 per 1 000 in 2017. The crude death rate is down from 13.4 deaths per 1 000 people in 2002 to nine deaths per 1 000 people in 2017.

### MIGRATION

Stats SA estimates that from 2016 to 2021 South Africa's population will be swelled by 1.07-million immigrants from elsewhere in Africa, and 59 432 immigrants from Asia. It also estimates that over the same period, 112 740 white South Africans will emigrate from the country.

Over the past five years, one of every two international migrants has settled in Gauteng. 



# DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## ADVANCING SCIENCE TOURISM

Connecting science and tourism formed the heart of the 2017 National Science Week activities hosted by Department of Science and Technology. The 2017 instalment of this nationwide science, technology and innovation extravaganza was held under the theme 'Advancing science tourism', in recognition of the United Nation's International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. The theme explored the country's numerous scientific attractions. Activities ran from 5–12 August.

This year's launch took place at the Nelson Mandela University Missionvale campus in Port Elizabeth. The newly re-named university embraced this theme enthusiastically with an array of exciting events. Port Elizabeth locals were able to participate in a virtual tour of CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, where they discovered more about the Large Hadron Collider. Residents also experienced a hitchhiker's guide to the universe.

The Amazing Missionvale Race took place on 29 July and

focussed on touring the human body. This fun run saw participants take breaks at various stops along the 5km route where they received various physiological tests. At the end of the race participants attended interactive talks that included looking at the physiological and chemical changes that runners' bodies underwent during the race.

These were only some of the many activities the university had planned, with other topics focussing on discoveries at the frontiers of science, ocean science, Earth stewardship, diversity and inclusion in science, indigenous knowledge systems, the history of science and the human body.

With science and tourism already connected, this year's theme highlighted the connection between the two. Over 15 million foreign travellers arrived in South Africa in 2015 for adventures, cultural experiences and sightseeing. With science, scientific initiative and innovation, we hope to improve and secure the tourism industry.



science  
& technology

Department:  
Science and Technology  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





## “ TOURISM HAS ALSO PRESSURED SCIENCE TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS FACING THE INDUSTRY ”



### SCIENCE ADVANCES TOURISM

Each passing year sees innovations in the transportation of people and ideas. Faster and bigger planes and trains increase the accessibility of the beautiful African landscapes; faster and smarter devices allow visitors to find new places and hidden places in their own cities. They can share their experience with many others across the world in an instant. What technologies will we see in the future?

### TOURISM ADVANCES SCIENCE

Tourist attractions involve and advance science. There is the chemistry of the winemaking process, the physics

of skydiving and the biological and environmental sciences linked to nature reserves. Advances in medicines, vaccines and antibiotics allow us to travel to places that were originally high-risk zones. Without malaria prevention medications, Kruger National Park would receive fewer visitors. In this way, tourism has also pressured science to find solutions to problems facing the industry. What is the next barrier to travel and adventure that science needs to remove?

### SCIENCE IS A TOURIST ATTRACTION

The cultivation and care of plants and animals bring visitors to botanical gardens and zoos. Science centres around the country create new and exciting places to visit. The research around the human genome and interest in the history of humanity brings people to see the Cradle of Humankind. What scientific discovery will be next to inspire new visitors?

The South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA) has been appointed by the DST to coordinate the countrywide celebration of science, involving numerous players in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics innovation. About 100 regional and national exhibitors were involved in this annual initiative aimed at raising awareness of the importance of science to society.

# A life of activism not in vain

**D**r Mandu Ramakaba-Lesiea's contribution to the struggle for gender and racial equality in South Africa has been a life-long one that has seen her be the first woman to be incarcerated in Pollsmoor Prison, earn the highest honour the country can bestow on a citizen and, most recently, receive an *honoris causa* Doctorate of Technology in Public Management from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT).

The 84-year-old was awarded the honorary degree for dedicating her life to the liberation struggle and championing women's rights, as

and a non-racial, just and democratic South Africa. She received the award in 2005 from former President Thabo Mbeki.

Her strength of character and determination became evident at a young age.

With the help of her elder sister Ednah, the 16-year-old Ramakaba-Lesiea narrowly escaped being put on a train from Cape Town to be married off to an unknown man in Potchefstroom.

At the time, her sister got wind of news that a husband had been arranged for her younger sibling and did not

ask her clueless younger sister, come and hid her until the

their step-father, James Khomani, decided to leave home as teenagers. They would become activists in the

struggles, including helping with the historic 1956 Women's March to pass laws, drew attention to

her family's home in the Western Cape. She told PSM that when newly-arrived Thandi Modise capped her off, she did not expect to have received recognition ahead of other stalwarts in the country.

She was a guest speaker at the graduation ceremony attended by 900 people.

She was the first woman from the academic field to be first called her last year saying she had been proposed as a candidate for the doctorate, and



that there was a strong feeling that the Western Cape “has its own heroine”.

Dr Ramakaba-Lesiea says the woman from CPUT later sent her an on-line profile that they had found and wanted her to check it for factual accuracy. She was told that the graduation would take place this year. “They said I was being conferred [with a Public Management Honorary Doctorate] because I have been working with people my whole life,” she said.

## Her rise to activism

While rain poured down in Gugulethu in mid-August, Dr Ramakaba-Lesiea sipped her tea and reflected on how she grew up in a home that she believes prepared her for a life in politics.

Born in 1933 in Langa, Cape Town, Dr Ramakaba-Lesiea grew up in Kensington, which was a racially-mixed area.

Unfortunately, her father Sello Ramakaba died when she was nine years old. Her mother Francina Pretorius – whose mother was an Afrikaner – married James Khojana, who saw an opportunity to make money out of marrying Ramakaba-Lesiea off at the age of 16. She was in Standard Six at the time.

“This was a tough life that we were living,” Dr Ramakaba-Lesiea said.

Her mother moved to a racially mixed area called Marabastad in Elsies River and Ramakaba-Lesiea found work first as an assistant at a doctor’s consulting room and then as a domestic worker.

She became a political activist while living in Elsies River, when the apartheid government introduced Bantu Education in 1954. She joined the African National Congress, which was organising meetings to campaign against Bantu Education.

“When I joined, my late sister and her husband were in the ANC and we used to attend meetings and you get to understand the issues. It touches you when you realise

the laws will affect your personal life and your children [and coming generations]. That is when I joined the ANC.”

Eureka African Primary School in the Elsies River area was the first school in the Western Cape where the Bantu Education policy was enforced.

Ramakaba-Lesiea joined the Elsies River Civic Association, which had organised a march against the board of education.

She said she was later recruited to join the underground structures of the then banned Communist Party of South Africa, which was “a very powerful political movement” feared by the apartheid regime.

In 1954 she was appointed treasurer of the ANC

Women’s League (ANCWL). This coincided with the Anti-Pass Campaign which was rooted in public opposition to recently-introduced pass laws.

Elsewhere in South Africa, ANC leaders such as former President Nelson Mandela lead the national Anti-Pass Campaign.

In the Western Cape, Ramakaba-Lesiea, who had also participated in other struggle efforts such as the 1956 Treason Trial Hands Off

Our Leaders campaign in opposition of the, went door-to-door to obtain signatures against the pass laws.

She was instrumental in raising funds for a Western Cape delegation of women to join the 1956 Women’s March. She, however, did not have the funds to go to Pretoria. Instead she participated in demonstrations in the Western Cape while other colleagues, including Helen Joseph, represented their cause in Pretoria.

Her political activism led to her joining the labour movement, and volunteering to organise the Brick, Cement and Quarry Workers’ Union, which was affiliated to the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU).

It was during this period, as an attractive young woman, she would sneak into quarries and beer halls to unionise workers without being caught by employers. ➡

**“Even the fight for equality, we got 50/50. But a lot still needs to happen because now we are faced with another struggle of men hitting women, killing children.”**



**“It touches you when you realise the laws will affect your personal life and your children.”**



In 1963, she was amongst those detained under a new 90-day detention law, which allowed the apartheid government to hold people for three months without trial. Throughout her interrogation during her time in detention she refused to cooperate with her captors.

In 1964, after spending five months in detention, she and 44 other people were charged with sabotage under the Suppression of Communism Act and sentenced to six years' imprisonment. She became the first woman to be held at Pollsmoor Prison, but after an appeal in 1965, her sentence was overturned.

Ramakaba-Lesiea recalls that during a meeting with Port Elizabeth trade unionist Vuyisile Mini the last words Mini uttered to her: “The struggle has reached a point of life and death.” This realisation kept Ramakaba-Lesiea going while in solitary confinement; it made it possible for her to stomach interrogation, and put up with the bugs and flies in her prison cell.

Mini died in police custody.

When police planted spies in the liberation movement, the armed struggle took a knock.

In 1981, Ramakaba-Lesiea founded the United Women's Organisation, which used women leaders like Nomandla Mfeketo and Zou Kota-Fredericks to campaign for service delivery issues. The growing organisation later invited men to participate, and became the Western Cape Civic Association.

The new organisation spread to other provinces and became a precursor to the United Democratic Front in the late 1980s.

## Meeting Mandela

Dr Ramakaba-Lesiea recalls visiting former President Mandela in Victor Verster Prison. “He said to me ‘whatever you do, look after your health. The struggle continues but your health comes first’.

“From then, every year I went for a medical check-up and one year they found that I had got cancer, and it had just started. This was after the ANC was banned. So it was detected very quickly and they took it out. Even now, I still go every year for a check up.”

## Championing women's issues

Looking back on her years as a member of the struggle, Ramakaba-Lesiea is very happy to see that the rights she fought for were achieved in the end.

“Even the fight for equality, we got 50/50. But a lot still needs to happen because now we are faced with another struggle – of men hitting women, killing children. It is a struggle by itself which everybody must [take on]. We need to mobilise more women. Even those that are in power today, they must not stay up there, they must come down [to the masses] ... so that we can reach every woman.”

And, after the advent of democracy, after Mandela was sworn in as President in 1994, she served as a ward councillor in Gugulethu from 1995 until 1998.

In 1997, she was elected onto the national executive of the ANCWL, and in 1998 she was elected as an ANC MP to Parliament, representing Gugulethu in Cape Town. ●

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# LISTING FOR GROWTH

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# CONTINUING TO SERVE

Alexander Forbes listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange on 24 July 2014. We are confident this will accelerate the growth of our business while providing for new investors to support us. The listing will serve to strengthen our pledge to create, grow and protect our clients' wealth and assets. We thank you for your support and remain committed to securing your financial well-being.



# Women deserve education, dignity, equality





**"T**he fight goes on."  
Apartheid has been dismantled and replaced by a democratic government but the flame of activism still burns strongly in the souls of struggle veterans Ramnie Naidoo-Dinat (75) and her sister Shanthie Naidoo-Tweedie (82).

Shanthie was awarded the National Order of Luthuli in silver in April 2017. Announcing the award, President Jacob Zuma said she was one of the "22 ANC political trialists of 1969" who received the award for "their brave fight against apartheid. They suffered but stood fiercely with the courage of their convictions for their freedom."

The National Orders are South Africa's highest awards that the President gives to individuals in recognition of their contribution to the country. There are six orders. The Order of Luthuli is awarded to South Africans who have served the interests of South Africa by making a meaningful contribution in any of the following areas: the struggle for democracy, human rights, nation-building, justice, peace and conflict resolution.

Shanthie and Ramnie have never met me but have agreed to an interview. After I have stopped to pick them up and drive them to the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, I hop out of the car. They greet me with smiles and hugs, and then chat to me comfortably during the short drive. They are affable and easy to chat to.

We're off to see the special "Resistance in their Blood. The Naidoo-Pillay Family: Pacifists Protectors Prisoners

Patriots" exhibition that is on at the museum until the end of August. The exhibition is expected to tour other venues in South Africa.

The sisters walk me through the exhibition, pointing out family members in photographs and drawing my attention to specific documents and artefacts such as the toilet paper on the back of which Shanthie created a calendar while in solitary confinement during her detention without trial.

High school children and others visiting the exhibition draw closer, ask questions and listen attentively. The petite sisters are happy to tell their stories and answer questions. During our photo shoot, a woman visiting the museum hands our photographer her cell phone and asks him to take a picture of her with the sisters. Their enthusiastic presence brings the touching, poignant exhibition to life.

## Generations of activism and sacrifice

They speak freely about their experiences and the sacrifices made by several generations of their family. They are proud of their family's reputation for standing up to injustice. Activism and service to others is written into their DNA and continues in that of their children. Their story covers such a long period in time and includes so many people that they would like to see it recorded for posterity in the form of a book, but for now funding is holding back the realisation of this goal.

Their grandfather, Thambi Naidoo,

collaborated with Gandhi in non-violent resistance in the early 1900s. He helped mobilise the Indian community in Durban to oppose British laws between 1906 and 1913. The sisters tell me he was known as the "lion of Africa" because of his brave nature.

**"Everyone should experience equality. Modern women are struggling to attain dignity, safety and financial survival."**

Thambi and his wife Veerammal had nine children. One of them, Naransamy (born in 1901), was a trade unionist who organised the campaign against the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act. He was instrumental in the 1952 Defiance Against Unjust Laws Campaign and served as vice-president of the Transvaal Indian Congress and chairperson of the Transvaal Peace Council.

Naran married Manonmoney Pillay in 1934. She had five children: Shanthivathie (Shanthie), Indresena (Indres), Mithrasagram (Murthie), Ramnie and Premanathan (Prema); all of them joined the freedom movement. She was known as "Ama" ➔

(mother) not just to her children, but also to countless other people. She and Naran participated in political activities and so the children were raised in a household where activism and political meetings were normal.

"We learnt to be activists from our parents. Where other kids played with dolls, we played meetings as kids," says Ramnie. "Each generation raised the next activist generation. We were raised in a struggle home and had to go to meetings."

Prema was detained in 1981, Indres was imprisoned on Robben Island and Shanthie was detained and tortured.

After her husband had been detained and left for life in exile, Ramnie and her two children also left the country and went into exile in England.

## A house always open for guests

The Naidoo family's home was in Rockey Street in Doornfontein, Johannesburg. It came to be called "People's House" because of the regular

stream of visitors. "Struggle people visited our house all the time; ours was a house where people like Moses Kotane, Walter Sisulu, Nelson Mandela and Uncle JB Marks would meet. Our mother was sometimes part of the meetings, or she was cooking. There was always food in the house and always enough for guests," says Ramnie.

"Journalists would turn up at our house unexpectedly to interview people like Winnie Mandela," recalls Shanthie. And when Madiba was arrested, the Mandela children stayed with them. "Our mother registered Zeni and Zindzi at a local Indian school, but the Special Branch intervened and the children had to leave the school," the Naidoo sisters recall.

The girls' mother attended the Congress of the People in June 1955, which adopted the Freedom Charter. In 1956, she was among the 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest against the proposal to institute pass laws for women. Shanthie was writing exams at that time, but Ramnie, then aged

14, participated in the historic event with her mother. Looking at the photos at the "Resistance in their Blood" exhibition, Ramnie spots an image that includes her mother – "and that's me!"

Shanthie committed her first act of defiance at the age of 16 or 17 when a school child was arrested. Ninety-five per cent of school children heeded a call for a stay away to demand the child's release.

Shanthie did not get to finish school. After her father became ill she and Indres had to find work and support the family. Shanthie says she found employment with the Congress of Democrats and, when the Congress was banned, she worked for the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU). When she was subjected to a banning order months later, she left SACTU and worked at a book shop. With her brother Indres now in prison on Robben Island for blowing up a railway signal box, she was the family's sole provider.

## Detention and isolation

Shanthie recalls that she was first detained at the age of about 36, supposedly for aiding Winnie Mandela. "The authorities wanted information on Winnie and thought Shanthie was working closely with her," says Ramnie.

Shanthie was held at The Fort in Johannesburg for two weeks in 1969. That year she was also detained under the Terrorism Act and held in isolation in Pretoria Central Prison. She had a jug for water, a bucket and two mats. She had no idea if it was day or night, winter or summer. She ➔



Image: Courtesy of Resistance in their Blood. The Naidoo-Pillay Family: Pacifists Protectors Prisoners Patriots" exhibition.



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the best service in the management of their waste. We are committed to ensuring that our clients are our priority; we strive to provide them with an efficient, reliable and cost-effective service that is in the best interests of our clients, their staff and their communities.



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was cut off from her family and the world. Explaining how bizarre it was, Ramnie says her sister was oblivious to massive moments in history such as Neil Armstrong walking on the moon in 1969.

Detained for 371 days, Shanthie was expected to give evidence in the "trial of twenty two". This was the trial at the Supreme Court in Pretoria of 22 Africans, including Winnie Mandela, accused of pro-Communist and subversive activities, of instigating guerrilla warfare and of organising Africans in communist countries. Winnie Mandela refused to enter a plea.

"I had been banned in 1963 and the ban was renewed in 1968. I was detained in 1972 and wanted to join Ramnie who was then living in London but I couldn't get an exit permit. Eventually, with the help of Helen Suzman, I received an exit permit. I was confined to the magisterial district of Johannesburg and had an exit permit but was unable to travel to the airport," she says wryly. The exit permit meant she could leave but never return to South Africa.

"The laws were so ridiculous," says Ramnie.

Eventually Shanthie did leave South Africa and join her family in England. She went to the Soviet Union for nine months of political education then returned to England where she met her future husband and worked for the International Defence and Aid Fund in London. She was also active in the ANC and the anti-apartheid movement.

## Modern-day challenges

While today everyone has the vote, the sisters concur that there is still work to be done to overcome the triple challenge of poverty, inequality and unemployment holding many South Africans back from a life of dignity and equality. They would like to see the principles of the Freedom Charter upheld and want women to enjoy social, political and economic equality in South Africa.

While they believe strongly that their efforts to bring about political change were not in vain, they feel that there are still hurdles. "Life is better than it was 20 years ago, but


there are challenges and we have to face up to them," says Ramnie candidly.

She feels passionately about the establishment of a system for distributing sanitary towels to young girls and women across the country, especially those in rural areas who do not have access to such products and therefore stay away from school when they menstruate. She would like to see a sustained nationwide system that gives young girls dignity.

Shanthie feels strongly about the abuse of women, of women dying, violence against women, children being raped and family violence.

"Women should be treated with respect and be educated. Children should have access to safe transportation to and from school. People should be provided with homes, water, sanitation ... The fight goes on," says Shanthie.

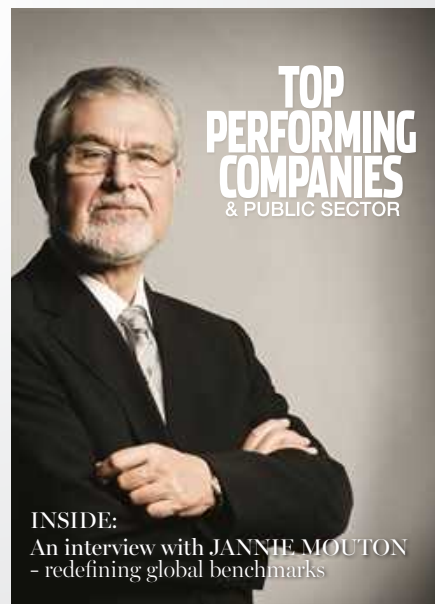
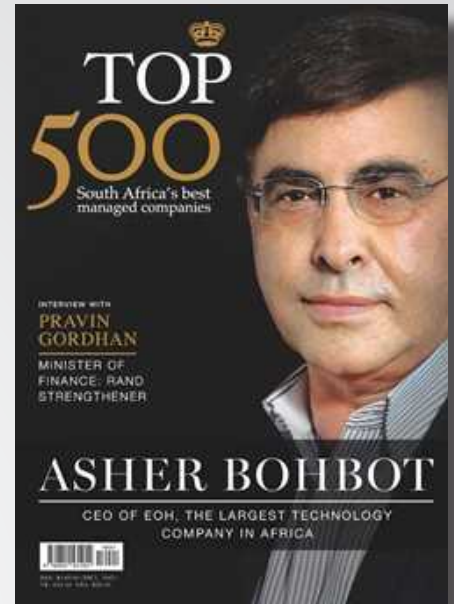
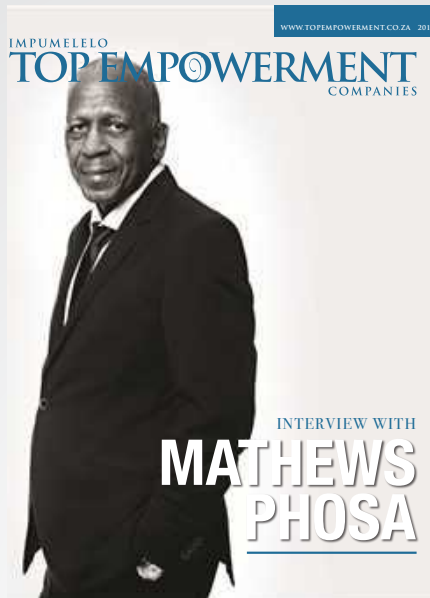
Today Shanthie is free from persecution and racial laws. Life is better. "We can live where we want and we are free to be educated and enjoy freedom of association." She no longer has to look over her shoulder or avoid communicating with another banned person. Yet, she says she still has nightmares about the torture she experienced in prison.

The sisters have a message for the women of South Africa: "Women of today: go out there and face the challenges of inequality and abuse. Everyone should experience equality. Modern women are struggling to attain dignity, safety and financial survival." 

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Top Women in Business, Impumelelo – South Africa's Top Empowered Companies, Top 500, Vision 2030, Top Performing Companies.

# Celebrating the vision of the Women's Charter

**T**his year we celebrate five years since the launch of the National Development Plan (NDP), which sets out the goals we must work towards to achieve our vision of South Africa in the year 2030.

It is known that the NDP takes its Vision 2030 from our Constitution and its Bill of Rights, signed into law in 1996. The Constitution, in turn, is informed by the Freedom Charter, adopted by the Congress of the People in 1955. But few know that before all of these plans for a better life for all, came the Women's Charter. Adopted on 17 April 1954, the charter laid the groundwork for later visions of nonracialism, equality and human dignity.

Sixty-three years ago women from all population groups, representing 230 000 women from struggle organisations and trade unions, gathered in Johannesburg for the 1954 National Conference of Women, the first nonracial gathering of its kind.

The aim was to come up with a way to fight the National Party government's plans to extend the influx control laws and hated pass books to women. Its other aim was to draw up the Women's Charter.

## The founding of Fedsaw

The conference saw the formation of the Federation of South African Women, or Fedsaw. The organisation would play an important role in the struggle for freedom over the following decades.

Fedsaw brought together members of the African National Congress Women's League, as well as African, Indian, coloured and white political organisations in the Congress Alliance.

Fedsaw was the brainchild of Ray Simons, a leading intellectual, trade union stalwart, and secretary of the South African Communist Party. It was steered by struggle icons such as Lilian Ngoyi, Amina Cachalia and Helen Joseph, who would lead the famous Women's March to the Union Buildings in Pretoria in August 1956.



Image: BrandSouthAfrica

The organisation's aims were set out in its constitution: "To bring the women of South Africa together to secure full equality of opportunity for all women, regardless of race, colour or creed; to remove social and legal and economic disabilities; to work for the protection of the women and children of our land."

The Women's Charter was adopted on 17 April 1954, setting out the philosophy and vision of the newly formed federation. For the time – the mid-1950s – its tone was defiantly feminist.

The preamble read: "We, the women of South Africa, wives and mothers, working women and housewives, African, Indians, European and Coloured, hereby declare our aim of striving for the removal of all laws, regulations, conventions and customs that discriminate against us as women, and that deprive us in any way of our inherent right to the advantages, responsibilities and opportunities that society offers to any one section of the population."





Image: Fedsaw - Centre for Humanities Research, University of the Western Cape

Fedsaw explicitly stated that while the primary struggle in South Africa was for democracy and an end to apartheid, that struggle would not be won without the participation – and liberation – of women. The charter addressed not only the apartheid system but also patriarchal men in the struggle against that system, challenging the “large

section of our menfolk” who would not “concede to us the rights and privileges they demand for themselves”.

“We shall teach the men that they cannot hope to liberate themselves from the evils of discrimination and prejudice,” it continued, “as long as they fail to extend to women complete and unqualified equality in law and practice ... freedom cannot be won for any one section or for the people as a whole as long as we women are kept in bondage.”

## Demands for equality

The more specific demands of the charter were the right of men and women of all races to vote, equal job opportunities, equal pay for equal work, equal property rights, and equality in marriage and childrearing.

It also called for paid maternity leave, childcare for working mothers, and compulsory free education for South African children of all races.

The Women’s Charter was a groundbreaking document, bringing women’s rights into the broader human rights demanded by the liberation movement.

Its stipulations were eventually incorporated into the Freedom Charter, the blueprint of the anti-apartheid struggle, adopted at Kliptown in June the following year. ●

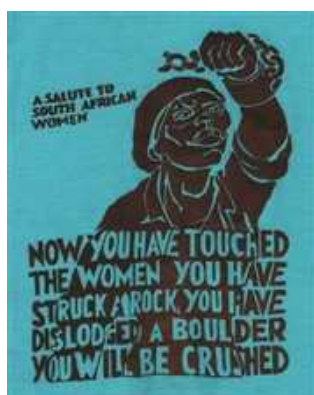


Image: Women's March – Judy Seidman, Medu Art Ensemble, African Activist Archive

## The aims of the Women’s Charter

The Women’s Charter opened with this statement: “We women do not form a society separate from the men. There is only one society, and it is made up of both women and men. As women we share the problems and anxieties of our men, and join hands with them to remove social evils and obstacles to progress.”

It concluded with setting out the aims of the Federation of South African Women:

This organisation is formed for the purpose of uniting women in common action for the removal of all political, legal, economic and social disabilities. We shall strive for women to obtain:

- The right to vote and to be elected to all State bodies, without restriction or discrimination.
- The right to full opportunities for employment with equal pay and possibilities of promotion in all spheres of work.
- Equal rights with men in relation to property, marriage and children, and for the removal of all laws and customs that deny women such equal rights.
- For the development of every child through free compulsory education for all; for the protection of mother and child through maternity homes, welfare clinics, crèches and nursery schools, in countryside and towns; through proper homes for all, and through the provision of water, light, transport, sanitation, and other amenities of modern civilisation.
- For the removal of all laws that restrict free movement, that prevent or hinder the right of free association and activity in democratic organisations, and the right to participate in the work of these organisations.
- To build and strengthen women’s sections in the National Liberatory movements, the organisation of women in trade unions, and through the peoples’ varied organisation.
- To cooperate with all other organisations that have similar aims in South Africa as well as throughout the world.
- To strive for permanent peace throughout the world.



# Turning commodities into jobs: the Black Industrialist Programme

A higher level of inclusive economic growth in South Africa requires two things. The first is industrialisation, to radically change the colonially defined structure of our economy as one which only produces and exports primary commodities.

The second is greater inclusion of black people in positions of ownership, management, leadership and control, particularly but not only in the productive economy.

The Department of Trade and Industry's (the dti) Black Industrialist Programme aims to achieve both of these radical economic objectives.

When the policy was launched in 2015 with a R2 billion fund, the expectation was that 100 black-owned companies would benefit from access to finance and markets, skills development, and standards, quality and productivity improvement by 2019.

By the middle of 2017, 46 companies had already benefited. And the dti's timeframes are being accelerated.

PSM sat down with Minister Rob Davies to find out more about the Black Industrialist Programme.

**PSM:** How do companies become part of the Black Industrialist Programme?

**Minister Davies:** Around the country, in the industrial parks, you will find a number of small black-owned industrial enterprises operating. It's our intention to identify the best of those and to support those moving up into a higher yield, and a higher income-generating part of the industrial space, so that we have some real and genuine black industrialists.

The ones that we have supported so far – we are proud of for what they have achieved. These are people who have been applying themselves. They have seen the opportunities. We are working with them to take them to the next level.

We put in place a fairly rigorous set of tests to get in.

You have to be an industrialist. It has to be a majority black-owned company. It has to be a company where personal risk is being taken by leaders of that company. They have to be personally involved in the business.

It's not a passive shareholding opportunity for someone to come in and front.

Hopefully, it's changing the game on how we see empowerment. We are identifying those who are the best in the industrial space and supporting them to move further forward.

We haven't had a shortage of applications. We have, in fact, accelerated the timeframe for the initial target of supporting 100 black industrialist by the end of March 2019. We have brought it forward to the end of March 2018.

**PSM:** Does slow economic growth threaten companies in the Black Industrialist Programme?

**Minister Davies:** We need to acknowledge that slow growth and the low levels of consumer and investor confidence in this economy have an effect on manufacturing generally.

In the black industrialist space, one of the features of the people involved is that their horizons are South Africa and the South African economy. They are committed to the South African economy. Their future depends on the performance of the South African economy.

The 46 companies we support through the Black Industrialist Programme are all eager to invest and are moving forward with those investments. Through the programme we have enabled companies to move up the scale to some degree.

They get incentive support from the dti, there could be additional funding from other partners in the funding forum such as the Industrial Development Corporation

and the National Empowerment Fund.

These funds could be invested in competitiveness-raising machinery and equipment.

They are making those investments because they also have to contribute to the growth of the economy, no matter the overall conditions in the economy.

**PSM:** How will the programme affect rural and township economies?

**Minister Davies:** There are quite a lot of things that can be done, and need to be done. The lead responsibility for township economies lies with our sister department,

the Department of Small Business Development.

The township economy contains a number of people who are often described as entrepreneurs of necessity. They are not there because they're looking for an opportunity and they have a choice. They are doing it because they can't find a job. It's the way they make a living.

Trading opportunities are quite important. There are a number of ideas around improving the infrastructure for trading opportunities for informal traders. There's a programme we launched that has been taken over by Small Business Development, the Informal Business Upliftment

Programme, that provided infrastructure and a decent trading area for informal traders.

There are other opportunities. People involved in vehicle repair, recycling tyres. Things like that. There are knowledge and skills that can be drawn into some kind of more formalised industrial activity. We are working with the Department of Small Business Development. Their Gazelles Programme looks at all kinds of small business opportunities. We are looking at the Gazelles that are appropriate – not all of them are – that can feed into the Black Industrialist Programme. ●

**“In the black industrialist space, one of the features of the people involved is that their horizons are South Africa and the South African economy. They are committed to the South African economy.”**





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# SA gets ninth World Heritage site



**A**n ninth South African World Heritage site – the !Khomani Cultural Landscape – has been added to the United Nation’s Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation’s prestigious list of sites.

Now recognised by UNESCO as a site of universal value, the area covers the entire Kalahari Gemsbok National Park and is part of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park bordering Botswana and Namibia.

The !Khomani and related San people are the direct descendants of an ancient group of people who inhabited southern Africa about 150 000 years ago.

“This exciting announcement brings with it prospects of development for South Africa and our neighbours, but it has global significance that extends far beyond our region,” said Tourism Minister Tokozile Xasa.

The recognition will focus world attention on this iconic

site and its role in the development of modern humans. “It’s where humans came from,” Minister Xasa said.

The vast, sandy region holds archaeological evidence of human occupation from the Stone Age to the present. The nomadic people adapted to the harsh desert conditions, developing specific survival strategies. According to UNESCO, “They developed a specific ethnobotanical knowledge, cultural practices and a worldview related to the geographical features of their environment.”

“The !Khomani Cultural Landscape bears testimony to the way of life that prevailed in the region and shaped the site over thousands of years.”

The landscape has remained relatively unchanged since humans were hunter-gatherers, and is managed by South African National Parks.



## A heritage to share with Africa

While the Minister of Environmental Affairs Edna Molewa and the department were the official custodians of the site, "this achievement belongs to all the people of South Africa", Minister Xasa said.

"This is the heritage that our entire nation should treasure and preserve."

Any development would take into account the need to protect and preserve this unique environment, the cultural practices of the local people, and all the heritage aspects of this amazing cultural landscape, the minister added.

"We must work together to convert these assets into economic and social benefits, without negatively impacting on the environment, the culture and the dignity of people past and present."

The minister applauded local communities for their efforts to preserve their culture.

She added that this acknowledgement of the universal significance of the site would formalise and consolidate the continued preservation of ancient cultural practices and traditions.

The benefits of tourism development in the region would make a big difference in the lives of the local communities, the minister added.

It also opened up the possibilities of exploring the inte-

grated development of tourism in the southern African region, especially with Namibia and Botswana.

The interest in this site was likely to spread further north through the African continent.

"We are always willing to work with our African counterparts to link and co-develop cultural and heritage products for the benefit of regional tourism, which makes a significant contribution to many economies on the continent," Minister Xasa said.

## Other African UNESCO sites

The minister also congratulated Angola and Eritrea for the sites in their countries that have inspired UNESCO recognition. "These announcements once again demonstrate the unique cultural and heritage tourism assets we have in Africa."

UNESCO has added the City of Asmara in Eritrea and the town of Mbanza Kongo in Angola to the list of World Heritage sites.

Mbanza Kongo was the capital of the Kingdom of Kongo, one of the largest states in southern Africa between the 14th and 19th centuries.

Asmara, the capital of Eritrea, developed from the 1890s to become "an exceptional example of early modernist urbanism at the beginning of the 20th century", according to UNESCO. ●



## UNESCO World Heritage in SA

South Africa's other eight World Heritage sites are:

- Cape Floral Region Protected Areas
- Fossil Hominid Sites of South Africa
- iSimangaliso Wetland Park
- Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape
- Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape
- Robben Island
- uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park
- Vredefort Dome



# Ranching abalone holds big promise

**E**aten fresh, dried or canned, South African abalone, or perlemoen, is regarded as a delicacy especially in the Far East where it fetches high prices because demand for this prize product is intense.

The market for abalone, also known as White Gold, is so great that natural stocks of this creature have been severely depleted or even collapsed along South Africa's South and East coast as well as the Western Cape coastline because of overfishing and illegal harvesting.

Abalone has a single ear-shaped shell with a row of respiratory pores. It is lined with mother-of-pearl, which can be used to make buttons. "Abalone lives in shallow coastal reefs and feeds on drift algae," writes Warren Witte, who completed his Master of Science degree at Rhodes University in 2016.

The name abalone is derived from the Nineteenth Century American Spanish word *abulones*, while the word *perlemoen*, as it is commonly known in South Africa, is derived from the Dutch word for mother-of-pearl due to the pearl-coloured inside of the shell.

## Cooking abalone

The fleshy part of the gastropod is what connoisseurs are after. It requires special preparation but some say it can simply be wrapped in a kelp bulb and cooked over the coals or grilled over a braai.

South African Encyclopaedia of Food and Cookery suggests soaking the animal overnight in water to which vinegar has been added. This cleans the flesh. Next the flesh is removed from the shell and the tentacles scrubbed until white, but not removed. It can be crumbed and fried, crisp fried in batter, fried or grilled.

Producer of farmed greenlip abalone, Pure Australian Abalone (Ausab) says "abalone not only tastes great, but is also an excellent source of many vital nutrients. Farmed abalone is low in fat and a good source of omega 3, iodine and phosphorous (phosphate) ([www.ausab.com.au](http://www.ausab.com.au)).

## Asia adores abalone

South Africa's abalone stocks are exported primarily to China, which is the biggest consumer and also producer of this seafood treat. Abalone is also popular in Japan, the United States and Taiwan.

"In 2014 more than 1,115 metric tonnes was supplied to these countries," says researcher and doctoral candidate Andrew Witte of Rhodes University. He surmises that this translates into truckloads of shelled abalone.

Witte is one of the researchers involved in an abalone research undertaking in the Eastern Cape. The project leader is Professor Peter Britz from Rhodes University who is collaborating with Dr Paul-Pierre Steyn of Nelson

Mandela Metropolitan University and Dr Niall Vine of the University of Fort Hare.

The Cape Recife research programme is part of a collaborative endeavour involving researchers, commercial enterprises and government to restock natural abalone populations and produce stocks for export.

## Ranching project has government support

Given the size of the market for abalone, being able to meet the demand for it would benefit the South African Presidency's Ocean Economy Phakisa.

Besides restoring natural stocks another reason for this research and marine aquaculture project is the obvious economic value to South Africa of abalone as an export product. "Abalone is the largest of the invertebrate fisheries (animals besides fish) ... making up approximately 90 per cent of the total export," says Witte.

The Technology and Human Resources for Industry Programme (THRIP), which is a flagship research and development programme of the Department of Trade and Industry and part of government's Ocean Economy Phakisa, funds the Cape Recife programme.

Operation Phakisa is government's fast results methodology borrowed from Malaysia and launched in 2014 to advance the implementation of the National Development Plan.

According to the Ocean Economy Phakisa, the oceans have the potential to contribute up to R177 billion to the gross domestic product and create just over one million jobs by 2033.

The multi-institutional research project began in 2014.

"As one of the Operation Phakisa initiatives rights for ranching were granted to black-owned fishing company Ulwandle Fishing (Pty) Ltd in partnership with broad based black economic empowerment firm Wildcoast Abalone (Pty) Ltd and Lidomix Investments (Pty) Ltd. The required permits were granted by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF).

"The purpose of the rights and permits are to encourage the establishment and development of a sustainable fisheries industry as well as drive community upliftment and ensure the health and protection of reef systems along the South African coast," explains Witte.

Ranching is a new and experimental industry that provides an alternative to traditional land-based abalone farming. With ranching, abalone are reared in a hatchery and released into the wild within an allocated area and harvested by the permit holder when they have reached "market size".

## Tons of protected abalone seeded

Before the current project started, researchers assessed the habitat and population status for Cape Recife, Port Elizabeth, in 2012 and 2013.

Researchers from Rhodes University established experimental plots, released animals and monitored them. In June 2014 the project grew into a pilot commercial seeding undertaking. The focus now is on the dispersion and migration of seeded abalone and the goal is the establishment of the first stages of a harvesting programme, explains Witte.

More than 170 heavily poached and depleted plots along reefs in Port Elizabeth have been seeded with 30 tons of abalone, which translates into 1.7 million abalone, Witte says.

A service provider, Tactical Task Force, DAFF and the South African Police Service protect the ranching areas.

According to estimates by the World Wildlife Fund, a staggering 95 per cent of abalone shipped out of South Africa comes from poachers. In 2016 more than 3 000 tons of the delicacy were taken from South African waters, the allowable quota for the past three years has only been 100 tons.

This collaborative project has "reduced poaching and promotes sustainable resource use and benefits for coastal communities". Witte says the expanding abalone farm employs more than 160 people.

## Project has socio-economic benefits

The hope is that the ranching project will create jobs and sustainable fisheries practices within communities while contributing to the local economy, community upliftment and education. For farming to be profitable the research is important.

"The profitability will depend on the survival, growth and migration of the stock being released," says Witte.

Since the project started, and poaching declined, it ➡





Researcher Andrew Witte.

has become safer for recreational users to go back to the coast between Cape Recife and Noordhoek during the daytime in the company of others. Previously, poachers intimidated beach users.

## Different kinds of abalone

"Abalone naturally occur from St Helena Bay to just north of Port St Johns, but there is a genetic break in the species making two reproductive stocks" along the East Coast and the West Coast respectively. There are scientists doing research into abalone in Port Nolloth, says Witte. "Ranching research is also taking place in countries such as Japan, Korea, Australia and New Zealand," adds Witte.

Abalone is not exclusive to South Africa. Witte says it occurs "from sub-Arctic to Antarctic waters but the majority are in temperate, sub-tropical and tropical waters. Worldwide there are an estimated 75 species of commercially valuable abalone and about 90 species in total."

Witte's fellow researcher Warren Witte writes that "the status of wild abalone stock remains an ecological, responsible and economic concern".

## Responsible, sustainable marine industries

"The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations has identified the management of marine capture industries in a more responsible and sustainable manner as of priority concern on their agenda."

The organisation reports that marine aquaculture is fast becoming recognised as a priority global sector.

South Africa has suitable environmental conditions for aquaculture development and opportunities for commercial production of various cultured species. Marine


aquaculture in South Africa involves such things as abalone, mussels and prawns with abalone's current value being over R355 million per annum.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the growth of aquaculture in South Africa "has the potential to contribute significantly to the economic activity, poverty reduction, empowerment, employment and the sustainable use of coastal and inland resources to the benefit of local communities".

The Cape Recife abalone ranching project is making two additional contributions to South African society. To beat the triple challenge of poverty, inequality and unemployment South Africa requires, among other things, people with certain scarce skills, people such as scientists and researchers. The National Development Plan foregrounds the need for, among other things:

- Sustainable Livelihoods: provision of life skills programmes, entrepreneurship and community development programmes
- Education and Training: increasing the pool of Mathematics and Science teachers at all levels in the system
- Research and Development: increasing the skills pool of scientists, including the number of PhDs, for knowledge production and innovation.

The Cape Recife collaborative ranching and research project certainly ticks the NDP boxes and is contributing not only to the restocking of collapsed abalone communities but also to entrepreneurship, employment and an increase in the number of people with science, engineering and technology skills in South Africa.

How did Witte end up researching abalone? He says as a boy he would go fishing, snorkelling and exploring on the rocks at the beach. "I chose science because I wanted to know more about the marine life around me." He says that being introduced to finfish farming in East London helped him decide to pursue a career in Marine Sciences and Ichthyology (the study of fish). 

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**More information: If you would like to know more about abalone poaching and conservation efforts take a look at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ld6248PXzkY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ld6248PXzkY)**

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# Youth must continue

## Solomon Mahlangu's fight

Solomon Mahlangu was a young soldier who, at the age of 23, gave his life in our struggle for freedom. Taking inspiration from Mahlangu, today's young leaders should continue the fight to achieve a better life for all.



Thabo Rametsi plays the title role in *Kalushi*.

A year later he was back, ready to fight. But on 13 June 1977, Mahlangu and his comrades Mondy Motloutung and George "Lucky" Mahlangu were accosted by police in Goch Street, Johannesburg. In the gun battle that followed two civilians were killed. Mahlangu and Motloutung were arrested. "Lucky" Mahlangu escaped.

Mahlangu and Motloutung were charged with murder. The judge accepted that Motloutung was responsible for the killings. But Motloutung had been so brutally beaten by the police he was brain-damaged and unfit for trial. So, under the doctrine of "common purpose", Mahlangu was instead found guilty of murder. He was sentenced to death.

Appeals to the court, global protests and condemnation from the United Nations did nothing to stop the South African authorities from carrying out the sentence. On 6 April 1979 Solomon Mahlangu was executed by hanging.

His final message to South Africans is written on his tombstone.

"My blood will nourish the tree that will bear the fruits of freedom. Tell my people that I love them. They must continue the fight."

**S**olomon Kalushi Mahlangu would have been 61 years old this year. But he was only 23 when apartheid authorities sent him to the gallows, a young martyr to the struggle for freedom.

Mahlangu was born in Pretoria on 10 July 1956. In 1976 he was 20 years old. Two months after the bloodshed of the June 16 1976 student's uprising he, like so many youth of his generation, left South Africa to train as a soldier for Umkhonto we Sizwe.





The wreath-laying ceremony in

## Fighting the triple challenges

Mahlangu died for an ideal he believed in. His last words call out for all of us, particularly the youth, to continue his fight.

Today, that fight for the fruits of freedom is against the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

This July, Mahlangu's birthday was commemorated by the laying of wreaths on his grave in Mamelodi. The event was attended Minister in the Presidency Buti Manamela, Mahlangu's family, local chiefs and recipients of the Solomon Mahlangu youth scholarship run by the National Youth Development Agency.

At the same time, the film *Kalushi – The Solomon Mahlangu Story* was screening at cinemas across the country. The film was written and produced by South Africans, and has an all-South African cast. In telling the story of the life of Solomon Mahlangu, it reminds young people the freedom we enjoy was not free, we should never take it for granted.

It also shows that young people have always been at the forefront of our struggle. As the movie shows, Mahlangu was among young friends and comrades when he went to exile and when he was charged after his return from military training in Angola.



Solomon Mahlangu

Mahlangu's generation of leaders were driven by the desire to make South Africa a better place for all to live in. They identified their mission as the attainment of freedom in their lifetime in a country where all people were treated equally. They succeeded in moving other young people to action, inspiring them to fight for a cause greater than themselves.

## Young black industrialists


Their mission was largely accomplished in 1994 when we held our first democratic elections and adopted the Constitution. It is now time for a new generation of youth to take the baton of leadership and fight to grow our economy faster, to the benefit of all.

Our people need decent jobs, to reduce poverty and improve living conditions. To grow the economy and create jobs, the youth must be at the forefront of starting new businesses. We need more youth like the black industrialists who in 2014 established United Industrial Cables and turned it into a multimillion-rand establishment within three years.

These risk-takers, headed by managing director Andy Matakanye, identified a need in the market and applied their skills and expertise to fill that need. It was founded by a group of young black professionals with expertise in cable manufacturing, finance and project management.

The Ekurhuleni-based company provides products such as high voltage transmission lines to power utilities, and has created jobs for many people in the area. This year, United Industrial Cables received R46 million in funding through the Department of Trade and Industry's Black Industrialists Programme.

As we pay tribute to Solomon Mahlangu, we should also celebrate the courage of all youth who challenge injustice. Our task now is to take this fight forward and deliver economic freedom to all.

There is no other way of doing that than to organise ourselves and start businesses like these young black industrialists. We owe it not only to the older generation or ourselves but to the next generation to fulfil our nation's promise of a better life for all. 



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# Tributes to Ronnie Mamoepa, dean of communicators



**T**he sudden passing of legendary activist and government communicator Ronnie Mamoepa late on the evening of Saturday 22 July has united media, government and broader society in mourning.

"We have lost a brother, an intellectual, a technical expert and worker, combined," his former colleague Lisa Combrinck wrote.

"He was a unifier and an engine driver. How sad that we have lost his heartbeat, his electrical energy that activated some of us who worked with him, jolting us like a shock out of the silence of bureaucratic complacency."

Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa delivered the eulogy at Mamoepa's funeral in Pretoria on 29 July.

"Molopyane Ronald Mamoepa was a remarkable person who, more than most, gave real meaning to the

expression, *Motho ke motho ka batho*. His abundant humanity in many ways affirmed and celebrated our shared humanity," he said.

Mamoepa was Deputy President Ramaphosa's spokesperson and head of his communications team.

"Ronnie Mamoepa was a product of our struggle. He was born into a generation that was destined to rise up and challenge the might of a repugnant and reviled system, and to rouse the people of this country to throw off the shackles of oppression and exploitation.

"His character, his consciousness, his resilience and his capabilities were forged in the crucible of that struggle."

## Generosity

At Mamoepa's memorial service, government communicator Nomfanelo Kota remembered his generosity and love of people.

"He loved South Africa and its citizens, and he wanted us to show that love through our work. Ronnie's work was about serving the people of our country. He loved people. He was generous.

"He expected a lot from us. There were no weekends, there were no holidays, there was no Christmas, and it was only work and more work. We took him away from his family. He invested in a lot of government communicators, who today occupy various positions in government. We will miss him."

Communications Minister Ayanda Dlodlo has announced that the GCIS Press Room in Pretoria will be renamed the Ronnie Mamoepa Media Centre in his honour.

## Man of resolve

Ronnie Mamoepa was born in Atteridgeville, west of Pretoria. From humble beginnings he grew to an activist, and a fiercely intelligent and independent-minded communicator who left his mark on the many government

departments in which he worked.

In the 1970s Mamoepa's high school education was interrupted by his political activities. From 1976 to 1979 he was involved in the Atteridgeville-Saulsville student movement and frequently detained under the terrorism laws.

At the age of 19 he was arrested on a charge of conspiracy to overthrow the state, and sentenced to five years on Robben Island.

"When he arrived on Robben Island as a teenager he was a tabula rasa – blank slate," Deputy President Ramaphosa said at Mamoepa's funeral.

"He had been drawn to political activity, he said, by a combination of anger, youthful bravado and a burning desire to be free.

"Over the course of five years of incarceration – toughened by hardship and deprivation, nourished by solidarity and friendship, educated by the great leaders of our

movement – his political thinking matured and his resolve hardened.

"Ronnie went into prison an activist. He emerged from prison a revolutionary."

## Communicating the revolution

Mamoepa was released from Robben Island in 1984, and returned to Atteridgeville. He served on the executive of the Atteridgeville-Saulsville Detainees Support Committee and the Pretoria Youth Congress.

He was responsible for mobilising young people behind the banner of the ANC and United Democratic Front, organising political lessons for township youth. He also managed media and publicity, ensuring the work of the Civic Organisation and Detainees Support Committee was profiled.

From 1986 to 1990 Mamoepa was a journalist for 



Ronnie Mamoepa's family speak at his funeral.

Saspu National, the South Africa Students Press Union publication, writing to promote the objectives of the broad democratic movement. He was also a provincial executive committee member of UDF Southern Transvaal region and its spokesperson, tasked with developing its media and communication strategy.

After the ANC was unbanned in 1990, Mamoepa became a member of the Atteridgeville-Saulsville branch's executive committee.

In 1990 Mamoepa served on the media team of the National Reception Committee. Working under Zwelakhe Sisulu, he developed and implemented the communication strategy to support the release of political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela, from prison.

Former President Kgalema Motlanthe shared a cell with Mamoepa on Robben Island, and became the young activist's mentor.

"It is not often that individuals who make history at a very tender age will rise the way he did," Motlanthe said at the memorial service.

"It was almost as if his life was purposed to make maximum impact in a very short period of time before he transitions to the other dimension."

Motlanthe recalled that Mamoepa's love of reading meant that, in the cell they shared, he was always the last to go to sleep at night.

"I ended up assuming the responsibility of waking him up before the morning, as he was a heavy sleeper due to his habit of sleeping after everybody else, always in the wee hours of the morning." ●



## Ronnie Mamoepa: Timeline of public service

**May 1994** – After the first democratic elections, Mamoepa was elected a member of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature. He also helped set up the communications unit in the Office of the Premier.

**August 1998** – Appointed as Chief Director: Communication in the office of Deputy President Thabo Mbeki. Mamoepa also worked closely with the newly formed Government Communication and Information System (GCIS).

**June 1999** – Spokesperson for President Thabo Mbeki. After a few month he transferred to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

**February 2000** – Appointed to head the Public Diplomacy unit at the Department of Foreign Affairs and spokesperson for Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma. Mamoepa travelled the world profiling South Africa's international relations strategy and programme.

**May 2009** – Mamoepa became head of communications at Home Affairs after Dr Dlamini-Zuma was appointed Minister of the department. He is credited with improving the profile and reputation of the Home Affairs by contextualising its role in improving the lives of the people.

**June 2014** – Mamoepa was seconded to the Presidency as Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa's spokesperson and head of his communications team.



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# Steering Ekurhuleni onwards and upwards



Appointed in November 2016, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality's City Manager Dr Imogen Mashazi is applying her decades of local government experience into steering the Gauteng city to greater heights.

**D**r Imogen Mashazi briefly loses her balance as she enters the room. She smiles as if to mask the pain but discomfort is written across her face.

Her commitment and dedication to her job have seen her defy her doctor's instruction to recuperate at home after an operation to both legs.

This is the attitude that has seen her rise through the ranks to occupy two of the most senior positions in the administration of the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality. She is the current City Manager, a position she has acted in before, and previously held the post of Chief Operations Officer.

When the former administrations of nine towns in the former East Rand were amalgamated to form the Ekurhuleni metro in 2000, Dr

Mashazi was already in the picture, having started working at one of the former East Rand town councils in 1996.

She has held various posts through the years and has seen Ekurhuleni evolve from a fragmented, fledgling entity into a fully-functional and unified metro with a strong service delivery model.

Among her major achievements, is a business case developed by Dr Mashazi for the review of municipal operations. This model is intended to modernise the delivery of municipal services.

She says that because of all the years she has been in the employ of the metro, it is a big part of her life and she is determined to do her bit to help the current administration succeed. She adds that the municipality cannot transform the

economy without growing it.

"We shall therefore be maximising our capabilities in smart and advanced manufacturing, aviation, aerospace, logistics and transportation industries and leverage this to drive transformation for the benefit of the community of Ekurhuleni."

## Skilling young people

Dr Mashazi says young people of Ekurhuleni will be glad to know that the municipality will continue to invest in their skills and capabilities.

"Our efforts include the placement of 1 500 unemployed youth interns to complement the over 3 000 already in the system. We will provide learnerships to an additional 315 deserving learners; over 275 are already in the system."

She adds that the municipality has set aside R50 million for a youth

programme. "To support the development of emerging contractors, we recruited 100 learner contractors and 100 learner supervisors to the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) Vuk'uphile Programme to the tune of R500 million per annum over the next three years."

## Support to small businesses

Job creation and the support of small businesses have also been prioritised. Dr Mashazi says that the municipality has set aside funding to assist small businesses owned by young people, especially women.

"In this regard, the city has resolved to allocate R12 billion of procurement to local entrepreneurs and service providers." Out of the allocation, R3.5 billion has been made available in the current financial year.

R1 billion will go to 2 000 youth-led enterprises, R500 million will go to emerging construction companies, R500 million to black industrialists, another R500 million to community trade in service and R112 million to community-based planning.

The Mintirho ya Vulavula Community Empowerment Programme continues to give hope to local companies owned by women, young people and people with disabilities.

"This programme is anchored in the resolve to stimulate economic activity and drive radical economic transformation and job creation as envisaged in the city's 10-point-plan," she adds.

The programme will focus on ring-fencing local procurement, empowering communities and entrepreneurship and black industrialist development.

Dr Mashazi adds that it's important for the municipality to work closely with other stakeholders. "In order to support the development of young entrepreneurs, we are developing a comprehensive enterprise development strategy and securing strategic partnerships with

## **"Gone are the days of people landing at OR Tambo International Airport and scattering all over the country without experiencing Ekurhuleni."**

the Small Enterprise Development Agency, Gauteng Enterprise Propeller, Technology Innovation Agency, University of the Witwatersrand and the Industrial Development Corporation."

She explains that the city is also trying to position itself as a tourist attraction and use its proximity to the OR Tambo International Airport to its advantage.

The city will invest an amount of R38 million towards its tourism strat-

egy. The bulk of the funds will go to the upgrading of the Khumalo Street Tourism Hub with R3 million channelled to the development of the Ekurhuleni Liberation Route.


"Gone are the days of people landing at OR Tambo International Airport and scattering all over the country without experiencing Ekurhuleni," she says.

Township economies remain one of the important sectors that can revive the region. About R269 million of the Capex has been allocated to township economies over the next three years. "This issue has been elevated by the provincial government because of the urgent need to improve the economy of our previously disadvantaged communities."

## Honouring women

Dr Mashazi adds that at the beginning of August, she launched a legacy programme aimed at honouring the uniformed women of Ekurhuleni. The programme will target members of the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Police, Ekurhuleni Disaster and Emergency Management Services and traffic departments.

"This annual event will motivate female officers to do even better in the line of duty while empowering them academically so that they can be ready to assume senior positions."

With a dedicated staff and her work ethic, Dr Mashazi says she is sure that the city is moving in the right direction. 







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## Vuyani Jarana

### Chief executive officer of South African Airways

South African Airways has appointed Vuyani Jarana as its new CEO.

From a childhood spent in the Transkei, Jarana has grown his passion for technology into an impressive corporate career. He moves to SAA after five years as CEO of Vodacom Business.

Jarana has been a member of the board and executive director at Vodacom South Africa for the past 10 years, and previously served as chief operating officer of the telecoms company. He has been chairman and non-executive director of Vodacom Business Services Nigeria, and has also worked as executive director of Regional Operations for the Vodacom Group and Vodacom South Africa, and as board member and non-executive director of Vodacom Lesotho.

He is a non-executive director of the Eastern Cape Rural Development Agency, and chairs the board of two technology companies.

Jarana has an MBA from the University of Stellenbosch, a BCom from the University of Transkei, and graduated from the Vodacom Advanced Executive Programme through the Unisa Graduate School Of Business Leadership.



## Steve Thobela

### Chairperson of the Statutory Council of the Newspaper, Printing and Packaging Industry of South Africa

Printing SA CEO Steve Thobela has been appointed chairperson of the Statutory Council of the Newspaper, Printing and Packaging Industry of South Africa. Thobela joined Printing SA as deputy CEO three years ago, after working as director of print production at Unisa.

Thobela started his career in the printing sector as an apprentice typographer and was regional chairman of the Media Workers Association of South Africa. He went on to work at Pretoria News, Perskor, the Sowetan, the Newspaper Printing Company and Independent Newspapers in the Western Cape.

He holds a Christian Ministry Diploma, a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, and recently completed his MBA.

Thobela has also served as the founding general manager of the Mandela Rhodes Foundation in Cape Town, and on the board of Oxford University Press. ●

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# Be wary of unreliable tax return preparers

In these troubled economic times, some are seeking to earn extra earnings as tax return preparers despite their lack of training and experience. Others are seeking to use their so-called expertise to defraud SARS and / or you as the client.

When seeking tax advice and assistance with the preparation of your tax return, we strongly suggest care be taken to ensure that the preparer is of high quality and of good repute.

## Typical signs of trouble include:

- Questionable preparers are quick to promise refunds or compile returns without looking at underlying documentation. Refund claims and deductions must be justified. Don't get caught-out when SARS conducts an audit for you alone will bear the price.
- Questionable preparers set fees that are wholly or partially based on percentages of promised refunds. This arrangement often creates the wrong incentive to inflate or falsify refunds, which will again fall squarely on you.
- Questionable preparers often do not sign returns because they lack legal status. Preparers must be registered with SARS as tax practitioners via a recognised

controlling body (see section 240 of the Tax Administration Act).

Note that while the South African Institute of Tax Professionals is the only recognised controlling body dedicated solely to tax, there are other professional bodies that tax preparers may belong to.

A tax preparer's signature is the key sign that they are willing to stand by their return.

You can verify a practitioner's status by:

- Obtaining their practitioner registration number; and
- Verifying their practitioner registration on the SARS website <https://secure.sarsefiling.co.za/TaxPractitionerQuery.aspx> or with their stated professional body.

Verification of practitioners registered with the South African Institute of Tax Professionals can be found on the website under the icon "Verify/Find a tax practitioner".

<http://sait.site-ym.com/search/>

## Forewarned is forearmed

Questionable preparers lack experience. To be a practitioner at the South African Institute of Tax Professionals, members must have a minimum of three years of tax experience if they have a university degree.

Members without a university degree must generally have five years of tax experience and provide the South African Institute of Tax Professionals with a logbook of practical tax experience.

Other professional bodies have their own requirements that must similarly meet SARS standards of expertise.

Questionable preparers may ask for cash to resolve a dispute with one of their "friends" inside SARS. While this offer may sound tempting, it could just as easily be part of a scam to falsely take money from you. Even if the preparer does have someone on the inside, these insiders are known to have placed your tax debt on "suspension". This suspension provides a false delay and can be lifted at any time.

In short, don't cheat the system – the cheaters will more often cheat you or leave you with SARS criminal penalties.

That said, there are many good tax practitioners in South Africa that can help you.

Fees for Individual (IT12) returns are often very reasonable (typically from R1 200 to R6 000) depending on the complexity of the return. These rates are a very small price for a good night's sleep. ●



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# Dishes from Cape to Cairo

**A**frica is a continent of riches from the beautiful landscapes to the melting pot of cultures – and, of course, the food. From English-inspired dishes in southern Africa to the French-flavours in the west and the Indian fusion in Kenya and Tanzania in the East, there is something for everyone.

We have chosen some delicious dishes from around Africa that are quick and easy to make for the whole family.

## Bobotie (South Africa)

### Ingredients

750 g minced meat

Oil (for frying)

2 slices white bread

1/2 cup milk (125 ml)

1 large onions

4 teaspoons curry powder

1 tablespoon breyani spices

1/2 teaspoon turmeric

1 tomatoes, ripe, peeled and chopped

1/2 teaspoon sugar

1 apple, peeled and coarsely grated

1 tablespoon finely grated lemon rind

1/2 cup seedless raisins

2 teaspoons salt

2 tablespoons apricot jam

1 egg

3/4 cup milk (200 ml)

12 -16 almonds, whole, blanched (or use split almonds)

Extra

1 egg, plus

1/2 cup milk, and

1/3 teaspoon turmeric

### Directions

1. Set oven at 350 degrees C
2. In a small bowl, break bread and pour over the 1/2 cup milk. Set aside.
3. Chop onions, heat 3 tablespoons oil in a large pot. Sauté onions.
4. Add the curry powder, coarsely crushed breyani spices and turmeric. Stir, and let the spices fry for a few minutes. Add more oil to prevent sticking.
5. Add the chopped, peeled tomato, sugar, grated apple and lemon rind and stir







through. Fry for a minute, then add the meat.

6. Break up the minced meat in pot. Add the salt and mix through with the spice mixture. Stir occasionally.
7. Add the apricot jam, and stir so it melts into the meat mixture.
8. When the meat is medium done, remove the pot from the heat, stir and let cool a little.
9. Add the bread mixture to the pot and mix.
10. Whisk 1 egg in a bowl and add the milk, mix and add to the pot.
11. Pour into a greased oven dish, and add almonds on top.
12. Bake for 40 minutes in the pre-heated oven.
13. Whisk the last egg with the milk and enough turmeric to turn the mixture a nice yellow colour. Take the meat out of the oven, pour over the custard, and bake about 15 minutes longer, or until

the egg custard has set.

14. Serve with yellow rice and salad.

## Lamb Pilau (Tanzania)

### Ingredients

500g mutton, cut into medium pieces, washed and drained  
 500g long grain rice, rinsed, soaked and drained  
 150g finely sliced onions  
 225g yoghurt, whisked  
 120g round sliced tomatoes, medium thickness  
 2 teaspoons crushed ginger  
 2 teaspoons crushed garlic  
 9 crushed green chillies  
 1 teaspoon garam masala  
 100 ml milk  
 2 tablespoons ghee  
 100 ml cooking oil  
 1 teaspoon oil  
 salt

### Directions

1. Boil about 1½ liters of water with a little salt and add 1 teaspoon

of oil. Once water boils, add the rice and cook for 5 minutes or until half done.

2. Drain the water and transfer the rice into a flat pan and set it aside.
3. Heat the oil and add the sliced onions. Fry until golden brown.
4. Add ginger, garlic and green chillies and fry for about a minute. Then add the mutton with the garam masala and salt and fry on a medium flame for about 5 minutes.
5. Add the yoghurt and keep stirring till it comes to a boil. Cook for about 5 minutes. Then add water, just enough to cover the meat and cook for a further 15-20 minutes or till the meat is tender.
6. When done make sure the meat has thick gravy.
7. Take a heavy bottomed pan, smear it with the ghee and add the cooked mutton. ➡

Then place the sliced tomatoes over the meat and cover with the par boiled rice.

8. Sprinkle the milk and dot with ghee. Cover it with a tight fitting lid and seal with dough.
9. Cook for a further 2 minutes on a high flame and then on a low flame for about 10-12 minutes or until the dish starts to steam and the rice is done. Serve steaming hot.

## Umm Ali (Egypt)

### Ingredients

400g puff pastry

¼ cup shelled pine nuts

¼ cup chopped pistachio nuts

¼ cup blanched and slivered almonds

¼ cup chopped seedless dates

¼ cup raisins

3 cans evaporated milk

115g sugar or to taste

1 teaspoon cardamom powder


1 teaspoon cinnamon powder

4 drops rose essence

½ cups double cream

2 tablespoon light brown sugar

### Directions

1. Pre-heat oven to 190 degrees C.
2. Place puff pastry sheets in a baking tray and bake until golden brown and crisp. Let cool.
3. Crumble into large pieces.
4. Add nuts, dates and raisins. Stir all together.
5. Transfer the mixture into a 32 cm oval dish.
6. Combine evaporated milk with sugar.
7. Bring to boil on medium-high heat, stirring continuously. Lower the heat.
8. Simmer, uncovered for 4 minutes or until the sugar is completely dissolved.
9. Remove from heat. Add cardamom, cinnamon and rose essence and stir gently.
10. Pour milk mixture over the pastry mixture and let stand for 30 minutes.
11. Pre heat oven to 204 degrees C.
12. Whip cream and pour on top of milk and pastry mixture. Sprinkle evenly with brown sugar.
13. Bake, uncovered, on the middle rack of the oven for 20 minutes.
14. Serve hot. 





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# Immersive tale of toxic love

Chwayita Ngamlana's debut novel *If I Stay Right Here* is a bent romance exploring the dark attraction of destructive relationships.

**T**he novel opens with Chwayita Ngamlana almost comforting the reader: "To those who have lost themselves in unhealthy destructive relationships, it's never too late to glue the fractured pieces back together again." This sets the tone for the theme of *If I Stay Right Here*: emotional abuse, toxic relationships and the difficulties faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities.

Ngamlana was born and raised in Grahamstown in the Eastern Cape and holds an MA in Creative Writing. *If I Stay Right Here* is her feisty debut novel. It isn't the best text-

The story is told through the eyes of Shay. We meet Shay as she clumsily makes her way to prison to interview an inmate for a story she's covering as a student journalist. There is something innocent about her in the first chapter, an innocence that fades as you delve into the novel.

There is a significance in the first chapter being set in a prison. What Shay is about to go through is its own kind of imprisonment. That prison is the relationship that develops between her and Sip, the convict who becomes her girlfriend. "My heart beat faster as I drove towards the entrance. I passed the high fence with the barbed wire and felt the coldness that came from within, a coldness that somehow summoned me."

The coldness attracts her, and she embraces it. There is an unhealthiness here: falling into the darkest part of ourselves and staying there. In this book you will find two people determined to make a dead and dark relationship work.

As characters, Shay and Sip are very different. They also come from different social classes and have different career goals. Shay is a fulltime journalism student, dedicated to her work, while Sip is a university dropout and ex-convict.

Sip initially comes across as confi-

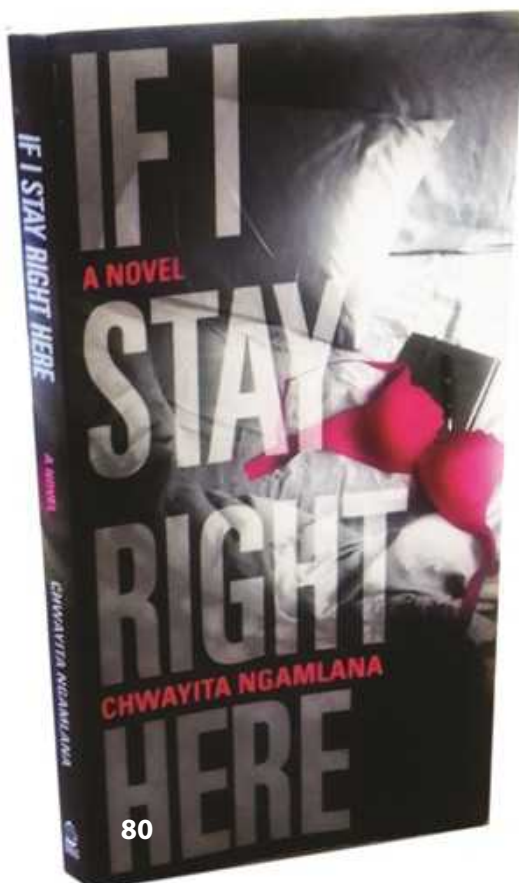
dent, someone who knows what she wants – until she is confronted by her past. She was a victim of abuse in a society battling to accept LGBT communities. Her abuse of Shay is like a retaliation, inflicted on the wrong person. Sip is testament to the saying, "Broken people break people. Wounded people wound people. Hurting people hurt people."

As the novel progresses their characters transform into something more painful than before. As the reader you get the sense that someone needs to save Shay – give her a shake and tell her she deserves better. Some friends try, as they pop in and out of the novel. But no-one is able to. In the end she might need to save herself.

In *If I Stay Right Here* Ngamlana has created believable characters – painfully believable characters. The plot is generous and immersive. We see Shay in her innocence and, as the innocence leaves her, we experience it with her.

It is a romance novel, but the romance is not beautiful. It exposes our condition as a society, it exposes insecurities and abuse, and it shows us what a toxic relationship looks like. ●

*If I Stay Right Here* is published by BlackBird Books, an imprint of Jacana Media. ISBN 978-1-928337-44-7





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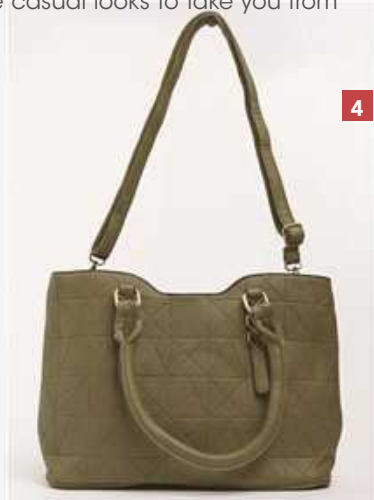
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# Olives and berries for winter

It's the heart of winter and everything around us is a shade of brown. But that does not mean you have to be! Give your wardrobe a pop of colour with this season's hottest colours. We have selected two shades, which work perfectly this season with any colour in your wardrobe. Get these casual looks to take you from drab to fab.



3



4



5



6



1



2



7

## Olive

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3. David Jones Straight Leg Chinos R270
4. Moda Scapa Tote Bag R299
5. Soviet L Viper Fashion Sneakers R299
6. Only Adette Zig-zag Poncho R499
7. Joy Collectables Bold Buckle Belt R169





8



9



12



11



10



13

## Berry

- 8. Studio W Mesh Inset Bodycon Dress R599
- 9. Miss Black Lake Burgundy Heel R144
- 10. H&M Large Scarf R149
- 11. Moda Scapa Patent Shopper Bag Red R299
- 12. Queenspark Bell Sleeve Mesh Knit Jacket R299
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# The benefits of breastfeeding

Many medical studies highlight the importance of optimal breastfeeding practices during infancy and early childhood, emphasising its contribution to increased health and wellbeing and lower mortality rates.



**W**ith its many benefits, breastfeeding is arguably the best start in life a mother can give to her newborn baby. And while it is not always easy, seeking advice or help from a professional in the early stages will be well worth the effort for you and your baby further down the line.

## Why breast is best

Not only is breast milk easily digestible, but it also contains the perfect mix of vitamins, protein and fat, ensuring optimal nutrition for infants by providing them with everything they need to optimally grow. Breastfed infants are more likely to gain the right amount of weight with

less risk of becoming overweight as the transition into early childhood.

In addition to containing all the vitamins and nutrients your baby needs in the first few months of its life, breast milk is packed with disease-fighting substances that protect your baby from a long list of illnesses.

The antibodies in breast milk not only help your baby fight off viruses and bacteria, but also reduces your baby's risk of developing allergies or asthma. A number of studies also indicate that stomach viruses, lower respiratory illnesses, ear infections, and meningitis occur less in breastfed babies and are less severe when they do occur.

Furthermore, exclusive breastfeeding – where the baby is not fed any solid food, formula or water – is deemed to offer the most protection in the first six months.

What's more, the physical closeness in the form of skin-to-skin touching and eye contact promote mother-and-child bonding and helps your baby feel secure. Certain studies have also linked breastfeeding to higher IQ scores in later childhood.

## Benefits for mom

Although breastfeeding can prove hard work initially, besides the many health advantages for your baby, you also stand to benefit in many ways.

Firstly, the baby's sucking during breastfeeding causes the mother's uterus to contract and reduces the flow of blood after delivery. In addition it releases the hormone oxytocin, which not only promotes a feeling of warmth and calm, but also helps your uterus return to its pre-pregnancy size.

In terms of health benefits, breastfeeding lowers your risk of breast and ovarian cancer and research indicates it may also lower your chances of osteoporosis. In addition, it burns extra calories and mothers who breastfeed tend to get back to their pre-pregnancy figure more easily than mothers who bottle feed.

And of course when it comes to cost, breastfeeding is the most economical way for you to provide your baby with the nutrition needed without having to spend a

cent. It is also convenient and saves you the time and trouble of having to prepare formula and sterilise bottles, allowing you more time to bond with your baby instead.

## Breastfeeding tips

- 1) Many new mothers worry that they don't have enough milk, and stop breastfeeding in favour of formula when they see their baby's weight dropping. However you need to remember that some weight loss in the first few days is completely normal and most babies return to their birth weight within two weeks of delivery.  
Following that, if your baby is not steadily gaining weight every week, your midwife or nursing professional will be able to advise you whether you should be topping up with formula.
- 2) Everyone will have their own varying opinion when it comes to how you should breastfeed your baby. However when it comes to breastfeeding, what works for someone else may not necessarily work for you. It's best to take it day by day and find what works best for you and your baby.
- 3) It is important to remember that your baby is not a machine and will want to eat when hungry. Trying to force a schedule will not only be stressful for you but also your baby. Rather let your baby feed when it is hungry or you will risk decreased milk production for yourself and poor weight gain for your baby.

## Where to get help and support

La Leche League of South Africa is a voluntary organisation that provides information and support to women who want to breastfeed their babies.

[www.lilli.org/SouthAfrica.html](http://www.lilli.org/SouthAfrica.html) 

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**info@motherinstinct.co.za provides a list of lactation experts and support groups.**

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# Kitchen essentials for healthy eating

They say summer bodies are made in winter. But if you haven't been as healthy as you'd have liked this winter, no worries: there's still plenty of time left. We've gathered up some of the best kitchen must-haves available from YuppiefChef.com that make eating healthy as easy as pie.



1 - The nifty Nutri-bullet is perfect for making smoothies and juices in seconds with its compact design and high-speed blender. YuppiefChef.com, **R1 749**

2 - Grilling is one of the healthiest ways to prepare food. Try the legend-



ary George Foreman range that can



Steaming is another healthy option and this Phillips steamer has a unique aroma infuser that adds the delicious tang of herbs and spices to food. YuppiefChef.com, **R599**

cook up to five portions at a time.

YuppiefChef.com, **R589**

3 - Try your hand at making your



own yoghurt fresh and from scratch with this Severin yoghurt maker.

YuppiefChef.com, **R469**

4 - There's nothing quite like the smell of freshly popped popcorn. Instead of microwave popcorn or using lots of



butter and oil, opt for this Severin air popper instead and enjoy a delicious and healthier snack variation. YuppiefChef.com, **R749**

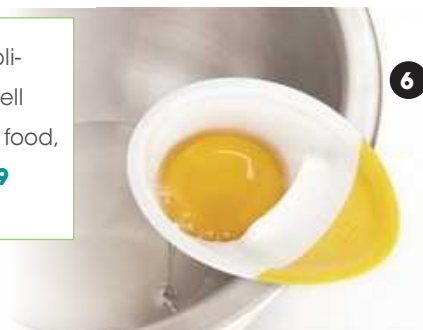
5 - With this Oxo spiraliser, veggies just got more fun. Turn a variety of fruit and veggies into spirals in minutes. Now there's no excuse

for not trying zucchini spaghetti. YuppiefChef.com, **R239**

6 - For the perfect egg-white omelette use this handy yolk extractor by OXO that fits onto the side of a bowl. It also provides the perfect edge to crack eggs and keeps shells from falling into the bowl. YuppiefChef.com, **R89**



Air fryers have become the go-to kitchen appliance if you're avoiding fat-fried food. This Russell Hobbs air fryer allows you to prepare all types food, from chips to chicken. YuppiefChef.com, **R2039**







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[www.luminanceonline.com](http://www.luminanceonline.com)





# All hail the king of hatchbacks

**A**fter 43 years the VW Golf still dominates the category of quality, family-sized five-door hatchbacks, as the new GTD and Golf R clearly demonstrate.

Four decades later VW's Golf continues to reign supreme in a category they created with the original Golf Mk 1, the spiritual successor to the much-loved VW Beetle.

Despite formidable competition from the likes of Ford's Focus, Renault's Megane and Opel's Astra, not to mention many other pretenders to the throne, the Golf remains the global bench-mark for a quality, family-sized five-door hatchback.

Following the launch of the new Golf TSI and Golf GTI facelift in May, Volkswagen has introduced two more performance models in the Golf range: the Golf R and Golf GTD.

With over 350 000 Golfs sold in South Africa since its launch back in the late seventies, the updated version of the seventh generation Golf is once again redefining its market segment by bringing "big car" technology to

the compact family car class. The Golf R's popularity in South Africa continues to strengthen and, together with the GTI, makes up nearly 60 per cent of Golf sales in South Africa.

## Most powerful

Traditionally, the Golf R has always been the most powerful model in the comprehensive Golf range. The power output of the latest Golf R moves to 213 kW, making it the most powerful series Golf ever sold in South Africa.

Meanwhile, the GTD – Volkswagen's only performance diesel derivative hatch to be launched in South Africa – combines the performance of a sports car with the fuel economy of a sub-compact car in a most enticing way. This "GTI among the diesels" is driven by an entirely new four-cylinder TDI of the EA288 series which can also be found on the Volkswagen Passat. The 2.0-litre TDI engine develops 130kW at 3 600 to 4 000 rpm. Its torque is a substantial 350 Nm.

Visually, the Golf GTD looks similar to the new GTI, with

**Recommended retail prices (VAT and emissions tax included)**

2.0 TDI 130kW GTD DSG:

R506 700

2.0 TSI R 213kW DSG:

R647 300

The new Golf model range comes standard with a 5 year/90 000km Service Plan, 3-year/120 000 kilometre warranty and a 12-year anti-corrosion warranty. The service interval is 15 000 kilometres.



a few individual nuances. The differentiating characteristics are the chrome strip on the GTD, which now extends into the headlights compared to the red trim strip on the GTI radiator grille. At the rear, the GTD can be made out by the dual tailpipes on the left side, in chrome.

The Golf GTD is exclusively equipped with new 18-inch wheels in Sevilla design as standard. Like the GTI, the GTD has additional air inlet openings in the front bumper, a honeycomb structure of the air inlet screens, LED headlights with an unmistakable light signature, and a pronounced roof spoiler.

## Sporty performance

The engine line-up of the models includes the all-new GTD with 130kW and the Golf R with 213kW.

The new EA288 engine spurs the Golf GTD on to extremely sporty driving performance. It sprints from 0 to 100 km/h in 7.4 seconds. It can also accelerate from 80 to 120 km/h in a short 7.5 seconds (in fifth gear) and reaches a top speed of 230 km/h.

This GTD is driven by an entirely new four-cylinder TDI: a transverse-mounted, charged two-litre engine with common rail direct injection. Its maximum torque is 350 Nm which is available over a broad rev range between 1 500 and 3 500 rpm.

With a 6-speed DSG, the GTD has a combined fuel consumption of just 5.3 litres per 100 km – the fuel consumption of a highly efficient car.

The new Golf R rockets to 100 km/h in a swift 4.6 seconds. This gain in dynamics is not only attributable to the new and extremely fast-shifting 7-speed DSG, and the standard Launch Control feature of this model; rather, it is also due to the overall high engine output. That is because the DSG version offers a maximum torque of 380 Nm (between 1 850 and 5 300 rpm). Fuel consumption on the new Golf R is 6.9 litres per 100 kilometres.

While critics may lament the evolutionary progress of the Golf, it is clear that owners around the globe want nothing else. Strong resale values of Golfs bear testimony to this. ●



# Unique *UK attractions*

If you're looking for a holiday with a difference, look no further than the UK, where you'll be greeted with some rather unique tourist attractions. But be warned, you might have to get dirty, opt for a novel form of transportation or chase after cheese to truly enjoy the activities on offer.

## Horse-drawn barge

Could there be a more peaceful way to spend a summer afternoon than gently gliding along a canal while the beautiful English countryside floats on by? Britain is criss-crossed with an intricate canal system which was started by the Romans and developed further during the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century.

Today the canals are used for more leisurely pursuits. On a sunny day you

are likely to meet walkers and cyclists along the banks, while picnickers and families relax in the shade and boaters splash about on the water.

One of the more novel ways to enjoy the scenery is to take a horse-drawn barge ride, a system that was widely used for commercial purposes, such as transporting coal and wood, up until the 1950s.

These days, it's a popular tourist attraction and there are four places where this activity can still be enjoyed – Tiverton in Devon, Kintbury in West Berkshire, Llangollen in North Wales and Godalming in Surrey, a short train ride from London and therefore the location for my adventure.

The barge, Iona, is a 19.5 metre narrowboat that was built in 1935 by

the same company as the Titanic; thankfully it has fared a lot better. It can seat 46 guests and must be very difficult to steer, although Kevin the captain has been doing it for 25 years and makes it look easy.

Buddy is our beautiful Clydesdale gelding who enjoys every minute of his walk along the River Wey, especially the parts that involve grazing. He is so big and strong that he does not seem to realise that he is pulling a boat behind him. Although the ride only takes two hours, the leisurely pace of the walk and the relaxed atmosphere makes the afternoon feel like a welcome mini-holiday.

The excitement of the ride comes from navigating the lock system, an ingenious way of varying the water level to raise or lower the boat.





## What you need to know:

Godalming Packetboat Company offers barge rides from Easter until September. Prices are £9 per person and scones can be booked for afternoon tea. Trips leave at 2pm and last two hours. Call 01483 414938 to book or visit [www.horseboat.org.uk](http://www.horseboat.org.uk) for more details.



## Rolling with cheese

Tucked away in the beautiful Cotswolds of Gloucestershire, the annual cheese-rolling race at Cooper's Hill is without a doubt one of the more absurd traditions to somehow stand the test of time. These days the event is flourishing, drawing thousands of enthusiastic spectators from across the UK and beyond. The idea is simple – a nine pound (four kilogram) round cheese is rolled down a hill with competitors chasing after it and a prize is awarded to the first competitor to reach the bottom of the hill. Actually catching the cheese is unlikely as it can travel at speeds of over 110km/h).

The event takes place annually on the late May Bank holiday at Cooper's Hill, a terrifyingly steep hill with panoramic views of rolling countryside. The order of events follows a similar pattern each year, with the ever-eccentric MC of the event, Jem Wakeman (resplendently dressed in white coat and matching bowler hat) getting the race under way.

Bayed on by the 4 000-strong crowd of rowdy spectators and with adrenaline pumping through their veins, competitors charge down the hill with the enthusiasm of excitable

puppies. Within seconds most resemble rag dolls as gravity inevitably plays its part as competitors lose their footing and cartwheel down the slope. Some, such as 15-time winner Chris Anderson and 20-time winner Stephen Gyde, manage to remain sure-footed and somehow reach the bottom in one piece.

For the locals of Brockworth Village, cheese rolling is an important tradition. Dating back to the 1800s, it is thought the event was originally held to celebrate the birth of the New Year after winter. Due to the extreme nature of the event and the inevitable injuries that follow, the event is not officially managed. However, that does not mean it is not well run. Countless volunteers make the event a success, from the rugby club players 'catching' out of control competitors at the bottom to the medical teams patching up the injured afterwards.

Many races are held on the day, including ladies-only races and children's races. There is also a (safer) race up the hill, which, I found out first-hand, involves extremely hard work climbing up, memorable views from the top and a new-found appreciation for those who dare to race down.

## What you need to know:

Entrance to the event is free and you can enter a race on the spur of the moment. The first race starts at noon, although it is advisable to arrive earlier to get a good view. See [www.cheese-rolling.co.uk](http://www.cheese-rolling.co.uk) for more information.

## Bog snorkelling

It takes a special sort of person to be attracted to the idea of wading and lumbering along a cold, muddy and weed-filled peat bog just for the fun of it. However, these people do exist and once a year they return to the birthplace of the sport - a 55-metre bog in the middle of Wales for the grandly named World Bog Snorkelling Championship.

The competition is straightforward in principle - competitors must complete two lengths of the bog in the shortest time possible. Competitors have to wear snorkels and flippers, and they can only use flipper power to navigate along the bog so no swimming strokes are allowed. Wet-suits are allowed but not compulsory.

The muddy and dirty nature of the sport, combined with the often cold and miserable Welsh weather, means this is never going to be the 🏊‍♂️



world's most popular sport. However, it does enjoy a small rather fanatical following, with races taking place in Ireland, Sweden and Australia.

The world championship events all take place over the Bank holiday weekend in August, and it's a weekend of festivities not easily forgotten.

The town of Llanwrtyd Wells is filled to bursting with competitors and spectators and on event day the bog is lined with cheering on-lookers.

On the one hand, the event is competitive, with serious athletes hoping to complete the race in less than 1 minute 22 seconds and, in doing so, break the world record currently held by Kirsty Johnson. On the other hand, it's simply a weekend of novel fun. Competitors are encouraged to complete the race in fancy dress and there are no shortages of quirky costumes and colourful wigs splashing about in the bog.

For those who just can't get enough of the mud, other events include the mountain bike bog snorkelling and the bog snorkelling triathlon, which involves a 110 metre swim, a 30 km bike ride and an 11 km run.

### What you need to know:

If you are planning to attend the event, you should to book accommodation in Llanwrtyd Wells in

advance. Bookings for the snorkelling and the triathlon can be made online ([www.green-events.co.uk](http://www.green-events.co.uk)). The snorkelling events costs £15 per person and entries are open to anyone (although they do close seven days before the event).

### Isle of Wight

Since Victorian times there haven't been many better places to enjoy a summer holiday than the Isle of Wight.

In fact, Queen Victoria enjoyed it so much she had a summer residence on the north part of the island.

England's largest island, the Isle of Wight, boasts more hours of sunlight than anywhere else in the UK.

The holiday feeling kicks in as soon as you leave the mainland. Located just four miles off the south coast, visitors can travel to the island by ferry or by a 10-minute journey by hovercraft on one of the world's last remaining commercial routes.

The island is diamond shaped and protected by the famous Needles landmark to the west (three distinctive chalk stacks) and the Culver cliffs to the east. Between those points lie 92 kilometres of stunning and varied coastline.

The Isle of Wight is designated an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.


Visitors to the island are met by the

sandy shores of Ryde beach, and most will not feel the need to move any further. Great for families, at low tide the sand reaches almost all the way to the end of the 681 metre pier and this collection of beaches stretches all the way along to Appley and Puckpool.

To the east of the island lies Sandown Bay, a sheltered beach well protected by both the red cliffs of Luccombe and the white cliffs of Culver.

Showing the diversity of the island, Ventnor (further to the south) has a main esplanade of buzzing pubs and cafes and is well known for beautiful coastal hikes, while the picturesque Alum Bay Beach on the west coast is great for swimming. With such a wide variety of attractions on offer, the Isle of Wight will no doubt continue to be Britain's summer playground for many generations to come.

### What you need to know:

Visit [www.visitisleofwight.co.uk](http://www.visitisleofwight.co.uk) to plan your trip and find out about upcoming events. Transport to the island is via ferry ([www.wightlink.co.uk](http://www.wightlink.co.uk)) or hovercraft ([www.hovertravel.co.uk](http://www.hovertravel.co.uk)). The Seaview Hotel ([www.seaviewhotel.co.uk](http://www.seaviewhotel.co.uk)) is perfectly located close to the ocean. 



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