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f Rise Africans Newspaper

ISSUE #13

MUSIC, DISCIPLINE & EXCELLENCE

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and maintain a
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RISE AFRICANS NEWSPAPER

Warm welcome to Rise Africans Newspaper (RAN), an independent newspaper for all Africans who feel left out because of poor background. After going on Facebook page as RAN, we proudly received much and continuity support from different Risers across an African continent as a whole. We started booming with a feature called "Rising Stars - which gave birth to our name (Rise).

In this feature we profiled more than 300 upcoming artists across Africa, most of them have never been featured on any newspaper. Our readers increased rapidly and are still sticking to us saying we give them clean content. There are lots of newspaper outlets and one has a choice of selecting whatever satisfy his needs.

We are now herding towards 24k followers on Facebook and would like to say much thanks to all of you Risers.

How can we forget **Devoted Magazine - Editor in Chief, Gerda Potgieter** for always encouraging and supporting us to push harder when days are dark. Her inspirational articles play significant role in our community and we are proud to have her as part of family.

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"Only Good News"



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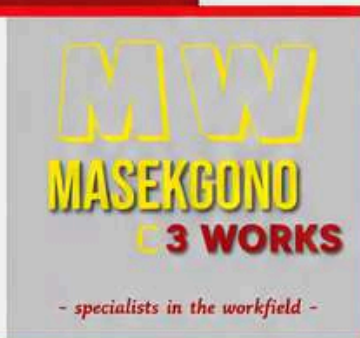


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2

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LOVE MADE A DIFFERENCE
WHEN ALL MEN SPEAK WELL OF YOU (PART 2)

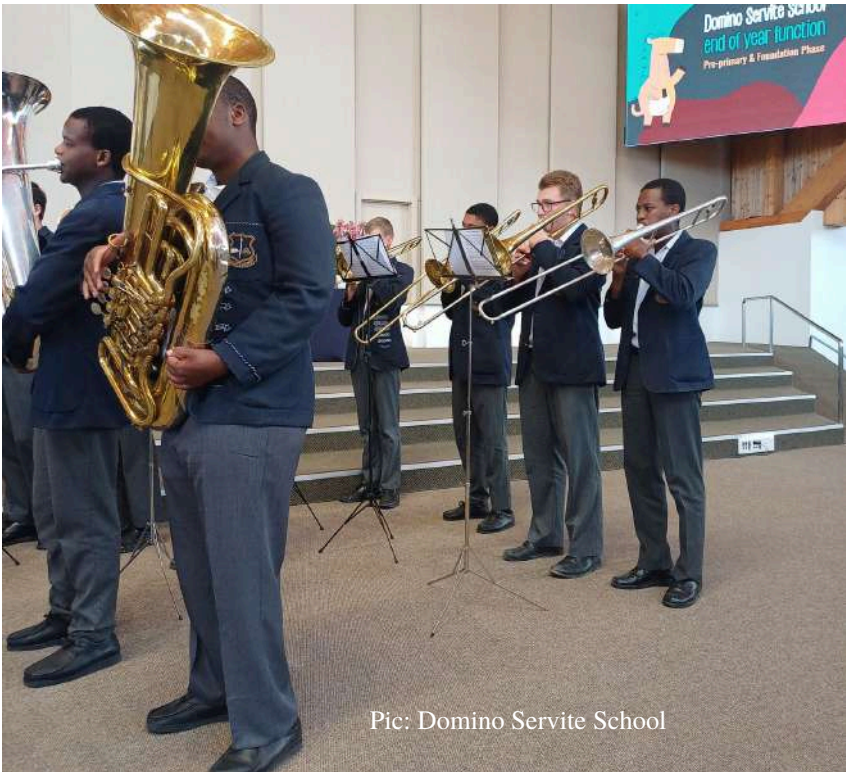
THE NEED FOR ABSOLUTE CLARITY ABOUT THE CRL MATTER

RESILIENCE AND RESTORATION

CAROL WUNDERLICH IS COMFORTABLE IN THE FIRE WITH JESUS
AQUELLE MIDMAR EVENT THROUGH STUNNING VISUALS
SHAUN NAICKER IS ON A MISSION TO CHANGE LIVES - ONE ADDICT AT A TIME

Many South African schools continue to thrive and maintain a strong reputation - we share a story about two of them..

By: Gerda Potgieter



Pic: Domino Servite School



Our readers can learn more about DSS on their website: www.dss.org.za or by following this link: <https://g.co/kgs/MIwMuU>

EDUPLEX SCHOOL

The Eduplex school in Pretoria (Gauteng) provides a world-class education for a world-class future. It is a Christian school with a biblical worldview. In general, its learners are top performers!

Eduplex is a unique school best known for its specialised inclusive education model, particularly for children with hearing loss. Its defining feature is integrating deaf and hearing children in the same classroom. Each class includes a small number of deaf learners alongside hearing learners. The goal is to help deaf children develop spoken language and integrate fully into mainstream society. Unlike many deaf schools, it emphasises speech and listening rather than sign language.

Eduplex, consisting of a pre- primary and high school on the same campus, is known for high academic results, including strong metric pass rates. Classes are kept relatively small to allow individual attention and support. This includes classrooms that are acoustically designed for users' FM systems and sound amplification, and teachers are trained in hearing-inclusive teaching methods.

The school's philosophy includes a Christian worldview and a set of values that are explicitly part of its identity. Its focus is on discipline, structure, and a safe environment, with an emphasis on critical thinking and independence. Holistic development includes academics, sport, and culture.

One of Eduplex's biggest contributions is expanding educational access for children with hearing loss. Eduplex was the first to integrate deaf learners into mainstream classrooms, a practice that was historically rare in South Africa. Eduplex's positive impact lies in advancing inclusive education, improving opportunities for deaf children, and influencing educational practices. It is a high-performing private school with a very specific mission: integrating deaf learners into mainstream education through speech-based technology.

NOTE FROM EDITOR: Our sister publication, Devoted, *Issue 57*, has a great story about the founder of Eduplex and DSS. You can read the full story by following the link: <https://www.devotedmag.co.za>. If you know about a successful school, please share the story with us.

Mainstream media frequently highlights chaotic incidents in our schools, often painting a bleak picture that leads many to believe our entire education system is faltering. However, amid the often-overwhelming stories of strife and turmoil, an inspiring tale of success occasionally emerges, restoring our faith in the potential of our schools. These uplifting narratives remind us of the resilience, dedication, and passion that thrive within the walls of educational institutions, highlighting the positive impact they can have on learners' lives.

To understand why some schools succeed while others grapple with chaos, I embarked on a research journey to uncover the key elements that define effective educational institutions. During my exploration, I discovered compelling narratives about Domino Servite School and Eduplex—two private Christian-based schools that seem to embody the foundational principles of success. This revelation prompted me to consider whether their religious foundation or their status as private schools plays a pivotal role in their achievements. Let's take a closer look at these stories and, together, unravel the factors that contribute to their success.

DOMINO SERVITE SCHOOL

Domino Servite School (DSS) is situated in the small town of Kranskop, in KwaZulu-Natal. The school's motto is 'serving with integrity'. With years of experience, it has educated generations of learners within a strong faith-based tradition, fostering close ties among school families and the community. The school provides pre-primary, primary and high school education, offering grades RRR to 12, all on one campus at the KwaSizabantu mission station. It serves both day and boarding students. This school recently celebrated its 40th anniversary since it began educating the children of missionaries and locals. Since then, it has grown tremendously and now also has learners from overseas. DSS works closely with parents and the community to achieve shared goals. It is therefore no surprise that the school maintained an exemplary 100% matric pass rate for many consecutive years. Many local families have made KwaSizabantu Mission their home and workplace over the years. This led to the need for a school, which the mission built in 1986 to benefit the missionaries and the community. When the school was established, about 85% of the pupils were from the local Zulu community, making it one of the first schools that were racially integrated during the dark Apartheid years.

DSS is an independent school, and learners receive a globally relevant education. The learners benefit from experienced and dedicated staff and a value-based curriculum that prepares them for the challenges of the 21st century. Learning goes beyond the classroom. It has a strong academic record and a values-based education that blends classroom learning with practical skills, such as vegetable gardening and community service.



Pic: Eduplex School

My husband abused me and tried to kill me

By: Senzo Msenge



Pic: Cikizwa Makiva

“My husband abused me and tried to kill me. By the grace of God, I survived, but the abuse left me in a wheelchair”

Cikizwa Makiva is a 41 years old woman who was born and raised in Ndisane Location, Mthatha, in the Eastern Cape, South Africa. That is where she went to both junior and high school.

After high school, she worked as a cashier in the retail industry. "In 2017, I met a man and started dating. We moved to Gauteng Province together from uMthatha and got married in 2018. I was only happy for a year in that marriage then it became a place of pain. My husband abused me and tried to kill me. By the grace of God, I survived, but the abuse left me in a wheelchair", said Cikizwa.

Today, she lives with a disability caused by gender-based violence. The challenges are real, and some days are heavy for her, she refuse to let this wheelchair define her or be the end of her story.

"Now, I am rebuilding my life and giving back to my community, I am a netball coach for under-12, under-15, and under-17 teams. I am also a GBV awareness speaker, sharing my story to encourage and strengthen other women who have walked the same painful road as me", she said.

"On top of that, I am an activist for people with disabilities and serve as a committee member for disability in my community", she added.

"My mission is to motivate others like me not to give up, and I want them to know that life does not end because of disability, and that you can still rise and have purpose even when you feel like you have no one to support you, she concluded.

Cikizwa kindly request a sponsorship transport to take her team to games and to reach communities for awareness talks. She also beg for sports kits, training shoes, and netballs for her team so the girls can train with dignity and confidence.

She can be found at:

Phone: 073 9657 265 / 071 444 77 35

Email: makivacikizwa38@gmail.com

Presence Matters More Than Perfection

By: Letlhogonolo Kotsedi

Nthabiseng Maponya is an auspicious creative writer born and bred in Mentz, Polokwane, Limpopo Province. An award-winning author, with a deep desire to empower creatives through storytelling and cultural heritage.

"I discovered my passion for writing as early as 8 years old, when I would write summaries of the books I read. By 12, I was entering poetry competitions in primary school-and winning-which sparked my passion even more and motivated me to keep growing as a write", she said.

"From that point, I never stopped. Writing became more than expression; it became a way of anchoring my identity and vision, which later led me to pursue a career in Creative Writing", she added.

Nthabiseng is a founder of an online bookstore "Novalit", designed to pave a way for authors, especially from rural communities. The biggest challenge has been balancing her creativity with entrepreneurial journey.

"Novalit was born from a desire to give authors a digital home-a sanctuary for voices, a stage for stories, and a home of healing. It's not only about accelerating sales but also connecting authors with readers. Novalit has not yet received financial endorsement which makes the journey both demanding and character-building."

Focus on building community. Earn trust with both readers and authors. And most importantly, let creativity guide the uniqueness of your brand. Nthabiseng believes that the bigger things are yet to come.

"Novalit is a work in progress, constantly being polished. We are upgrading it with features such as ratings and reviews, an Author's/Readers Corner, and plan to host literary exhibitions in the future. Many more features will unfold as the platform grows, offering authors and readers a vibrant space to connect", she concluded.

You can connect with her on Facebook: Nthabiseng Maponya, Instagram: nthabi_the_author, WhatsApp: 067 725 1860. Novalit: Novalit.co.za



Pic: Nthabiseng Maponya



PIC: LEHLOGONOLO CHUENE

She - He Connect & Support brings people together to achieve one goal

By: Phuti Ramaphakela

Lehlogonolo Chuene (34) is a multit talented lady all the way from Tzaneen, Limpopo Province in South Africa. Proudly born and raised in Ga-Mamanyoha village in Bolobedu, a founder of She – He Connect and Support, Environmental Scientist , an author and content creator went to PEPPS Primary School in Ga Matipane, Botludi Primary, Germiston High, Mudubatse High and University of Limpopo to study Environmental Science up to master’s level.

“I am just a normal person trying to make a better life, I grew up in a loving family with my mom and siblings. We experienced poverty and GBV back then but glad my mom remained strong and showed much love and support. I love to work with people, honestly my dream was to be a social worker. Even as an Environmental Scientist, I still love working with people and support them” she said.

Khosto, as popularly known, is a founder of “She – He Connect and Support”, an organisation established in 2019 with an aim of bringing people together and support each other. In 2020, Ms Geneva Motimele joined the organisation and make it stronger than before. The organisation introduced online sessions allowing people to share their experiences in 2023.

“Fortunately, we received exposure and growth mostly coming from men who wanted to participate in the sessions. As a result, the organisation evolved into what is now known as She–He Connect and Support, creating a space for both women and men to be heard, supported, and empowered” added Khosto.

However, time and consistency remains a challenge for Khosto due to her demanding work. “I am always on the road and this affect my plans, sometimes I face personal challenges which affect my availability. We also struggle with organising sessions and aligning speakers’s availability”, she said.

On Saturday, **30th May 2026, She – He Connect and Support will be hosting “Love and Life Dialogue: What Does the Law Say?”** It will be an elegant black-tie event where people can dress up, connect, and enjoy meaningful conversations around relationships, the law, trauma, and financial literacy. There will also be entertainment and networking, creating a space for both learning and enjoyment.

“We are grateful to engage with humble and understanding people, I call them my community. We support each other by sharing our experiences, encourage one another and allow a free space for expressions. We bring experts to guide people and create awareness. After all, the most interesting part about She – He Connect and Support is that we are a group strangers who became a family along the way and share life experiences”, said Khosto.

A message from Khosto to someone who want start an organisation is to never allow your background to define your future, have a vision, work hard, seek advice and believe in yourself.

Information regarding She – He Connect and Support upcoming event that will be held on the Saturday, 30th May 2026 @at Tzaneen Hotel from 10am – 17pm can be found : Call: 067 212 4095 | Facebook: Khosto Lehlogonolo

“MY MUSICAL JOURNEY IN REGGAE AND ROOTS”

By: Senzo Msenge



PIC: EMPRESS NAPHTALI

Empress Naphtali is a Roots Reggae Dub singer, songwriter and recording artist hailing from Wellington, Western Cape – South Africa. She uses music to spread messages of healing, love, and knowledge of self and social justice.

“My musical journey started back in primary school. I was in the school choir throughout primary and high school and learned how to play the violin there. I wanted to be singer at the young age and started as R&B recording artist in high school. My other love was writing short stories, plays, poetry and songs”, she said.

In 2011, Empress Naphtali started to rise in Rastafari and inspired to make Reggae music. Later on, she went on to release her first single titled “Trying Times” in 2012 which became popular in the dancehalls. A hardworking lady has four albums namely “From The Heart” (2015), “Evergreen” (2019), “Ebb and Flow” (2022), “Ignite” (2026). She is busy with two collaborations, one is with a band from Argentina and the other one with Junior Bee.

“I chose the path of Reggae music because it is a vehicle for truth, rights, righteousness, justice, love, unity and spiritual elevation. It helps the listener to rise above any tribulations and limitations. It is a music for the development of the people. To be able to glorify the Most High and uplift HIS children is the greatest honour” she said.

“The challenges I have faced is mainly getting bookings as a female artist, male artists get precedence over the female artists when it comes to performances. The line ups for shows and festivals is still heavily male dominated, she added.

Performing at Cape Town Jazzathon and making a history by being a first female Reggae artist to perform on the stage. The best artist she worked with is with Jalifa from Trinidad and Tobago. It was the highest being able to do a collaboration with such a powerful artist. My advice to someone who want to be like me one day, is to always persevere it does not matter how hard the journey may be the key is to never give up, another thing is to have self-belief you should never expect approval from others, your journey is unique and you offer something that no one else can. I would also say that you should also create your own opportunities, most importantly always have faith in the Most High”, she concluded.

Bookings can be done: email: empressnaphtalibookings@gmail.com and +27629066349



Pic: kids showing Jesus Messiah book

Feedback on the Jesus Messiah graphic novel project.

By: Gerda Potgieter

In the previous edition of RAN, Phuti highlighted the project I'm currently working on and assured readers that I would provide feedback about my journey to the Netherlands. This trip marks the start of my exciting project to write a book centred on the graphic novel Jesus Messiah: The Man Who Changed the World. The experience promises to be both inspiring and transformative as I continue to delve into the story and its impact.

The Jesus Messiah graphic novel presents the gospel of Jesus Christ in a universal language. It originated in the Netherlands with Willem de Vink, a Dutch Christian artist, illustrator, author of many books, and evangelist from Rotterdam. He is best described as an illustrator, focusing on ministry-inspired content. He is also a preacher with experience in youth ministry. His experience includes lecturing on various subjects at a Bible and Training school and serving as an editor for the youth magazine Jong & Vrij (Young and free).

Willem is married to Marian and the couple has three children. The couple both start to paint around four years ago but work together on all their projects for years, including the Jesus Messiah book.

“The format of a graphic novel for the book is perfect as it allows for a narrative told through sequential art (panels, images and text). As such, the book can best be described as a historical graphic novel – a book with a universal message in a universal language, accessible to even those who cannot read at all or read with difficulty. As a result, the book is widely used in marginalised countries to teach children, and even adults, to read, while learning about Jesus.

Christiaan Nieuwenhuisen of the Wycliffe Biibelvertalers organisation took responsibility for the project's logistics. He and his wife, Heidi, are totally committed to the project. He said, "The Jesus Messiah book opened doors for us. It is a privilege to do what God called us to do. For us, it was the right time to meet Willem when we did. It was a divine experience."

I was introduced to the project by Leo Baan of Swazi Vision in Eswatini (formerly Swaziland). When he told me about the book's worldwide impact and how it makes a significant difference in the country where he works, I volunteered to translate it into Afrikaans for the Western Cape population who prefer the language. Since then, thousands of Afrikaans copies have been distributed across the Western Cape, including in schools, prisons, hospitals, and through street ministries. I felt at the time the need to put the story of the project in a book because it is such a legacy project that impacts millions worldwide.

During my stay in the Netherlands, I first met Willem to get an overall picture of the project, and it still amazes me that one man can start a project that has been growing for over three decades worldwide, with the help of volunteers and missionaries. I have met some of those wonderful people who selflessly go to other countries to help the poorest of the poor and share the love of Jesus with them while doing it – without expecting anything in return.

I also met with Chris and Heleen Mak, a Dutch couple who have been working in China for many years. They currently work in Inner Mongolia in the North of China among the mountain people. I met with JanPiet and Wilma Ketting, who have been actively doing missionary work in Sri-Lanka for many years through their Love Care Foundation, which they founded specifically for this work. Both these couples are amazing people with a huge love for others. They use the Jesus Messiah book in their missionary work because it makes the story of Jesus more accessible for those who cannot read, and because of its impact.

I also met with the project's sponsors, who keep this project going. Frank and Gerda Geelen have been supporters for over eight years, sowing in God's work. The Dijkgraaf family (Martijn, Peter and Trix) has been financially contributing to the printing costs of the books, allowing others to distribute them where they are most needed. Even though it is not always easy for them financially, they continue to support the project and plan to do so in the future to ensure further growth.

This is a brief overview of this visit in the Netherlands for this exciting project, designed to inspire you to do your part in helping those in need. People sometimes tell me that one person can't make a difference, but the Jesus Messiah project shows that one man can start a project that spreads around the world, creating a ripple effect as others get involved. If you are interested in the project, follow Devoted magazine, which will regularly update on progress and share beautiful stories picked up along the journey (www.devotedmag.co.za).

LEEPEARL MDASHE: A STAR FROM NETFLIX TO MIRACLE EP

By: Senzo Msenge



Pic: Leepearl

Phelokazi “Leepearl” Mdashe (26) was born in Engcobo, a small village called Nkondlo in Eastern Cape – South Africa. She is a qualified Office Administrator, a musician and an Ambassador for several brands such as Dunhill, Whiskey and Mk Boutique.

“The love for music started in 2022 after being in a movie called “Collision” which played on Netflix. I worked with Del Productions owned by Richards Kabuya and did many music recordings for dramas and movies. I do Gqom music because is a very interesting sound that gathers people and it's easy to work on but also do Lekompo music”, she said.

Being in the industry for 5 years as model, actress and musician, led her facing challenges such as being rejected, undermined, bullied, which made her stronger and bigger. Leepearl's EP titled “Miracle” is out on all digital platforms.

“The best artists I ever worked with are Kushi Signs, Anonymous RSA and Master Dee. I am currently busy with another EP with big names I can't mention now. My advice to someone who want to be like me one day, please be confident and focus on getting better never give up, dreams come true,” she concluded.

The talented and beautiful lady is on all social media as Leepearl Mdashe |You can also stream her music in all music digital platforms

For Bookings: 083 308 6182 | Email Address: likuyemdashe@gmail.com

Beautiful and multitalented Yolwa Twins to the world!

By: Senzo Msenge



Pic: Yolwa Twins

The Yolwa twins, **Kwakhanya and Lathitha Yolwa**, (17) are based in Mthatha, Eastern Cape Province in South Africa. They are content creators, influencers, and models with over 100K followers across all their social media platforms.

"We are pageant models with titles such as International Miss South Africa 2024 and Miss Teen Planet SA. We are also commercial models and have worked with Jet, with our campaigns displayed in stores. Apart from modelling we are content creators and influencers. We had the opportunity to work with many big brands nationally and internationally, such as Puma and many others. Through social media, we had incredible opportunities and recognition from bigger brands", they said.

Inspired by Zozibini Tunzi, Miss Universe 2019, their mom and Dr. Andy, the beautiful young girls are always busy and won many hearts of fans across the globe. They are signed under Bright Stars Modeling Agency and busy gaining lot of experience about modelling. The industry is not easy, it requires passion, commitment, confidence, discipline, consistency financial investment and dedication.

"We constantly remind ourselves where we come from and where we want to be in the future, this motivates us to keep going and never forget our roots. One of the biggest challenges has been finances because pageants can be expensive. In content creation, we haven't faced many challenges besides having to stay consistent and always create fresh content", they added.

Yolwa Twins have achieved much so far:

Pageant Modelling

- * Miss Teen Planet SA (Kwakhanya)
- * International Miss South Africa (Lathitha)
- * Miss Teen Super Globe SA and represented South Africa in Thailand (Lathitha)
- * Miss Teen Eastern Cape 1st Runner-up (Kwakhanya)



“We constantly remind ourselves where we come from and where we want to be in the future, this motivates us to keep going and never forget our roots. One of the biggest challenges has been finances because pageants can be expensive. In content creation, we haven't faced many challenges besides having to stay consistent and always create fresh content”

Influencing

We’ve worked with over 20 brands and campaigns, including:

- Puma
- Skyworth
- Wimpy
- SHEIN
- TEMU
- Pedros Chicken

Commercial Modelling

- * Jet Activewear campaigns
- * Jet Winter Jackets campaigns

Academics

- * Consistently placed in the Top 5 throughout primary and high school
- * First in grade awards
- * Consistency awards
- * First in Science and more

And there’s something big on the way...

“An advice to someone who want to be like us is, please believe in yourself and never stop envisioning where you want to be at the end of your journey. Keep going and work hard for what you want because your efforts will eventually pay off. We see ourselves becoming highly educated, pursuing degrees in MBChB while continuing to grow our social media platforms and careers”, they concluded. People can connect them on Instagram and TikTok: @yolwa_twinz

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Emseni is contributing to food security through its diversified farming projects.

By: Gerda Potgieter

Emseni began its journey with vegetable gardens to nourish the hungry in the community. Over time, these gardens have blossomed and evolved, transforming Emseni into a thriving agricultural hub. The initiative has expanded into a diverse range of agricultural endeavours. Among these, avocado farming has emerged as a standout success. This crop is gaining global recognition, largely due to the avocado's high nutritional value and its versatility in culinary applications, making it a sought-after fruit on dining tables around the world.

But it is not here where its successes end. The slogan "Emseni, farming with grace" takes on more meaning when you visit the farm. Emseni is at the forefront of greenhouse farming in SA. It produces a wide range of products, of which bell peppers are by far the most noticeable. And what you see at the farm is hectares of greenhouses, a hydroponic agriculture system and beautifully coloured bell peppers growing in nutrient-rich solutions, oxygen, and water, using cutting-edge technology.

Emseni is diversified into a wide range of agricultural projects, including various vegetables and fruits, beekeeping, compost making, a dairy farm and more. When Emseni plans to initiate a new project, it carefully monitors its progress to determine its viability. If the project is unsuccessful, they will discontinue it without hesitation. However, if it flourished, they envisioned nurturing it into a robust enterprise. The goal is to reinvest the profits and benefits back into the community, fostering growth and support for local emerging farmers.

Emseni teaches local emerging farmers how to farm sustainably. The Mapumulo Advocate Farmers Cooperation has established a Memorandum of Understanding that formally governs its relationship with Emseni, and the mentorship programmes have delivered significant successes. The membership grows each year, and currently, more than 100 local farmers benefit from it.

And all these projects were started to help communities provide food for themselves, teach them to farm effectively, create much-needed jobs, and uplift local communities. The Emseni approach is a comprehensive sustainability model and a blueprint for addressing the challenges facing South Africa while uplifting communities. I hope others will follow this example and contribute to food security.

Pic: Emseni farm

Reliable access to sufficient, affordable, nutritious food should be a high priority for any developing country. Food security and agricultural development are key priorities. Locally driven projects that expand people's access to nutritious food are one way to address food insecurity. These projects can go a long way towards economically and socially empowering local communities.

Emseni Farming in KwaZulu-Natal is a prime example of visionary farming that contributes to food security. The Kranskop/Mapumulo area, where the farm is located, is one of the poverty-stricken areas where local people lack reliable access to nutritious food. Food insecurity is a problem in these areas for several reasons: social and economic factors, natural disasters such as drought, population growth, and cycles of poverty that hinder food production and distribution.

From dancing on the streets to social media sensation!

By: Phuti Ramaphakela



Pic: Zayoo TZ

Abdul Miraji (22), is a comedian, dancer and content creator from Katoro Geita in Tanzania. Zayoo tz, as popularly known by fans on social media platforms, attended Buseresere Secondary school before becoming famous.

“Thanks a lot for this amazing opportunity, I am a big fan of Michael Jackson, I followed and watched his moves since my Secondary School. I practiced hard so I can improve my dancing skills. Later on, I created a content on social media applying his style, the rest is history. It was just a risk, I mixed Michael Jackson moves in a funny way and posted a video on social media then boom! It went viral”, he said.

Zayoo is hardly seen talking on his videos and that’s make him more funny. “I like it that way, we talk a lot with my manager and the team when we are not shooting and you will just burst out laughing.” He added.

Speaking to his manager, Chasama about the challenges they face as a team, he said “there are many challenges we face, first is lack of proper equipments and being asked for a money by our fans thinking we are rich because of good engagements on social media. I am humbled to work with Zayoo, he is like my younger brother. I met him in a group of talented dancers on the street known as “Royal Dancers” and performed as their video director. He is just a funny guy in nature”

Zayoo tz boost about 2,1 million followers on facebook and 3 million on Tik Tok, and is proving to be one of the best content creator on social media. Asking Chasama about how they stay grounded, “We do not go out much, we created a content then stay at home for editing and publishing, sometimes we go live on Facebook or tik tok just to engage with our fans”, he concluded.

One can never bored, just google “Zayoo tz” and have some much fun. We love it when young Africans are trying hard to make a living.



KURTIUSS GIVING VOICE TO THE VOICELESS THROUGH REGGAE

By: Senzo Msenge

Ricardo “Kurtiouss” Wray, is a reggae artist and storyteller from St Ann in Jamaica. His music is rooted in truth, unity, and resilience and use reggae to speak for the voiceless, celebrate their culture, and remind people that hope is stronger than hardship.

“It started in my teenage years, singing in community gatherings and church choirs in the rural areas where I grew up. I didn’t have access to a proper studio, so I recorded on basic equipment and performed at local events. Over time I got a bit of exposure through word of mouth and street performances. The journey hasn’t been smooth, but every stage, even the small ones, shaped the artist I am today. I chose Reggae because it carries a message. It’s not just rhythm and melody, it’s resistance, healing, and conscience. While other genres entertain, reggae educates and unites. It reflects the African spirit of ubuntu and gives a voice to struggles that people feel but can’t always articulate”, he said.

The biggest challenge he faced has been an access to funding, professional studios, and fair platforms. As a male artist, there’s also an expectation to always appear strong and not show vulnerability, which can be isolating. Then there’s piracy and lack of royalties, which makes it hard to sustain a career without constantly touring. But those challenges pushed him to be independent and build directly with his fans.

Kurtiouss has released three full-length albums and two EPs, his most recent album titled “Roots Unbroken” came out last year and focuses on identity and cultural preservation.

“My best career highlight is performing at the Africa Roots Festival in a crowd of over 10 000 people. Seeing people from different countries singing every word of my songs in a language they don’t fully understand, but feel in their heart, that was unforgettable. I had the privilege of collaborating with a traditional mbira player from Zimbabwe. The blend of reggae and mbira created a sound that felt both ancient and new. That collaboration reminded me how powerful African instruments are in modern music. I am busy working on an acoustic project called "Village Echoes" which is recorded live with minimal instruments and features stories from elders in rural villages. The goal is to preserve oral history through music”, he added.

"My advice to someone who wants to be like me but does not know how to start, more especially someone in rural villages, please start with what you have. You don’t need expensive gear to start, your voice and your story are enough . Learn from the elders, practice daily, and use your phone to record and share. Connect with others in your community, art grows when people support each other. Most importantly, stay authentic. The world doesn’t need another copy, it needs your original voice”, he concluded

Fans can reach him through: Email: bookings@kurtioussmusic.com : Instagram: [@kurtiouss_official](#) : WhatsApp: +1 (508) 299 -9826

FROM St. MARY TO THE WORLD: Reggae legend Talmigila Carries the Torch of Jamaican Music

By: Senzo Msenge



Talmigila is a reggae artist hailing from the musical heart of St. Mary, Jamaica, a parish that birthed legends like Nicodemus, Capleton, Mad Cobra, Pan Head, Munga, and many more international voices. His journey mirrors the struggle and triumph of reggae itself.

“I grew up in reggae music and reggae music grew up in I,” Talmigila reflects. “I was there before reggae was born, when the people of Jamaica were singing folk songs.” He recalls a time when reggae was banned on the radio and fought by media companies. “Rasta was making the music and Rasta was getting a fight with the music. After all the changes, the struggle continues.”

His musical path took him out of St. Mary into Kingston, across Jamaica, to the United States, the Virgin Islands, and South Africa. Over the years, he has released 4 albums and many singles, collaborating with producers worldwide.

Talmigila has shared stages and studios with some of Jamaica’s greatest. “I had many great times with Jamaica’s greatest artists and musicians from Jamaica to America,” he said. His credits include legends like Sly Dunbar, Robbie Shakespeare, Firehouse Crew, Freddie McGregor, Culture, Everton Blender, Michael Buckley, Ras Shiloh, Michael Fabulous, and many more.

Currently, Talmigila is promoting his album **"TALMIGILA RISE"** now available on all major digital platforms. Latest singles include **"WIND OF CHANGE"** **"ABILITY"** and **"HALICE IN THE MOUNTAIN"**

“I notice your newspaper is also about ‘Rise’ I see something great is going on here. My advice to those entering music, I say practice and learn about the music business all you can. Build up the confidence you need to do your best. Last message to my fans is, I give thanks to the lovers of reggae music, my fans and supporters. I will do my best to give you more of the music that you love. Please keep the support coming”, he concluded

Stream Talmigila on all major digital platforms. For bookings/contact: banjosimmonds@gmail.com | Phone: 954-513-7767 | Facebook & Instagram:

PIC: AHLUME NTENGO



Deaf artist, DJ, professional dancer, fashion model, aspiring TV actor is living her life

By: Phuti Ramaphakela

Ahlume Ntengo (23) is arguably one of the best female Deaf DJ, professional dancer, fashion model, aspiring TV actor and South African Sign Language (SASL) user. Based in Umtata, Eastern Cape, the beautiful young lady never limits herself when coming to chase her dreams. After attending Efata School for the Blind and Deaf, she had to learn to adapt the life of living with disability.

“I am proud to be a Miss Deaf RSA 2023 finalist, I strive to represent and uplift the Deaf community through my work. I completed the Ultimate DJ Course at Rise Academy in 2024 and proud a Certified DJ. I am passionate about proving that music is felt just as much as it is heard and my love for Amapiano is endless. I just want to is to bridge the gap between the entertainment industry and the Deaf community while inspiring others to dream without limits”, she said,

When asking about her background, she added that, “I grew up as the only Deaf child in a hearing household in my hometown, Ngcobo. From a young age, I loved dancing so much, even when there was no music playing. I was a very quiet child, but also very neat and respectful, even while playing with others. My parents noticed early on that I was a special child. Although they loved me deeply, growing up was often lonely because they did not know sign language. Dinner table conversations would happen around me while I sat quietly, missing the jokes, family plans, and small updates that make someone feel included.”

I spent a lot of time listening to music whenever I felt bored or isolated. Over time, I became good at nodding and pretending I understood conversations, even when I did not. I felt different every single day — not broken, just left out. The hardest part was never being Deaf itself, but feeling invisible in my own home.”

Living as a Deaf person means navigating a world that is mostly designed for hearing people. It can be frustrating because many people assume one cannot do certain things simply because of disability.

“There is also a lack of interpreters, captions, and inclusive systems. However, being Deaf is normal to me because it is my everyday reality. I communicate through South African Sign Language, lip reading, and other adaptive methods. The hardest part is not being Deaf — it is dealing with the barriers that society creates”, she said.

Being a finalist in the Black Barbie Ambassador competition boosted her confidence and brought a good platform to inspire lot of people in Deaf community to believe in themselves. Ahlume said lack of accessibility, such as captions, interpreters, inclusive systems are the main challenges she faces.

“People underestimating me or speaking to my friends instead of speaking directly to me, limited access to assistive technology and educational support, which can often be expensive or unavailable. Despite these challenges, I continue pushing forward and proving that Deaf people are capable of achieving great things.” she said
Nothing beats good friends and family support more especially when you need them most. Her advice to someone who want to reach their dreams is to stop doubting themselves and leave their lives. Her ambition is to grow and get more exposure in the entertainment industry and media while advocating the Deaf community.

“Thank you for seeing me for who I truly am and not just focusing on my disability. To every teacher, interpreter, friend, family member, and supporter who made space for me — I changed my life. I carry your support with me into every room I enter, and I will always be grateful,”she concluded.

People can connect with Ahlume through Instagram at: 📍 @DJ_Pink Or via email: ✉️ *Ntengoahlume@gmail.com

19 year old model is making difference to the community

By: Phuti Ramaphakela



Kwakhanya Sibono is a founder and coach of Radiant Models Academy from Mthatha in the Eastern Cape – South Africa. At 19, she has already setting future and making difference to the community, mostly aspiring young models.

“I started Radiant Models Academy to create a space for young girls from our communities to learn how to walk with pride, speak with purpose, and see themselves as leaders. My mission is to train, uplift, and inspire the next generation of young women from the Eastern Cape, showing them that where they come from does not limit where they can go” , she said.

A gorgeous girl is also a reigning Queen of National Miss Endless Brilliance, which gives her much time to inspire young girls from rural areas. She believes Radiant Models Academy is the only platform that can be applied to improve the skills of young girls and open more doors for them.

“My best highlight so far, has been starting Radiant Models Academy at just 19 years old and seeing young girls from Mthatha walk into the space shy, unsure, and walk out standing taller with confidence. I created a platform where girls from our own communities can dream bigger and see that they belong on any stage—that is my proudest moment so far”, she added.

The powerful message to everyone out there is to start with the little you have, start where you are. Do not wait for connections or big opportunities. Start small and believe in yourself.

“My focus now is on Radiant Models Academy, I just wanna see it growing. Thanks a lot to all people who keep believing in me. You didn’t just support my dream; you helped create a space where other young girls can now dream too. I carry your support with me in everything I do, and I promise to keep working so that your belief in me is never in vain”, she concluded.

If you’re interested in joining Radiant Models Academy, it’s simple reach out to them, just contact them: 072 777 5175 | 060 349 7788



PIC: SPONCH MAKHEKHE

SPONCH MAKHEKHE MARKS 20 YEARS WITH FIRST EP ‘INKANUKO’

By: Senzo Msenge

Munty Derick Maseo who fondly known *Sponch Makhekhe* by his fans, is a musician hailing from Mzimhlophe Soweto, South Africa.

“The name Sponch Makhekhe was given to me by my grandmother after I was burned with hot water from a kettle while attempting to grab sponge cakes placed on top of a kitchen counter when I was a child. My friend took the name to the streets and everyone started calling me “Sponch Makhekhe”. My passion for music started at the age of 10 years while visiting my grandmother in Meadowlands, my neighbour was Picat from the legendary Group Alaska. I used to look up to him and the likes of legendary kwaito star Mzambiya and others.” He said.

“I stated music with kwaito music, then Amapiano, Afro house and deep house, it goes with age. I have been in the industry for over 20 years now, have faced lot of challenges where doors were being shut in my face while knocking but that didn’t stop me from moving, instead it shaped me to be who I am today and to respect people no matter their situation is,” he added.

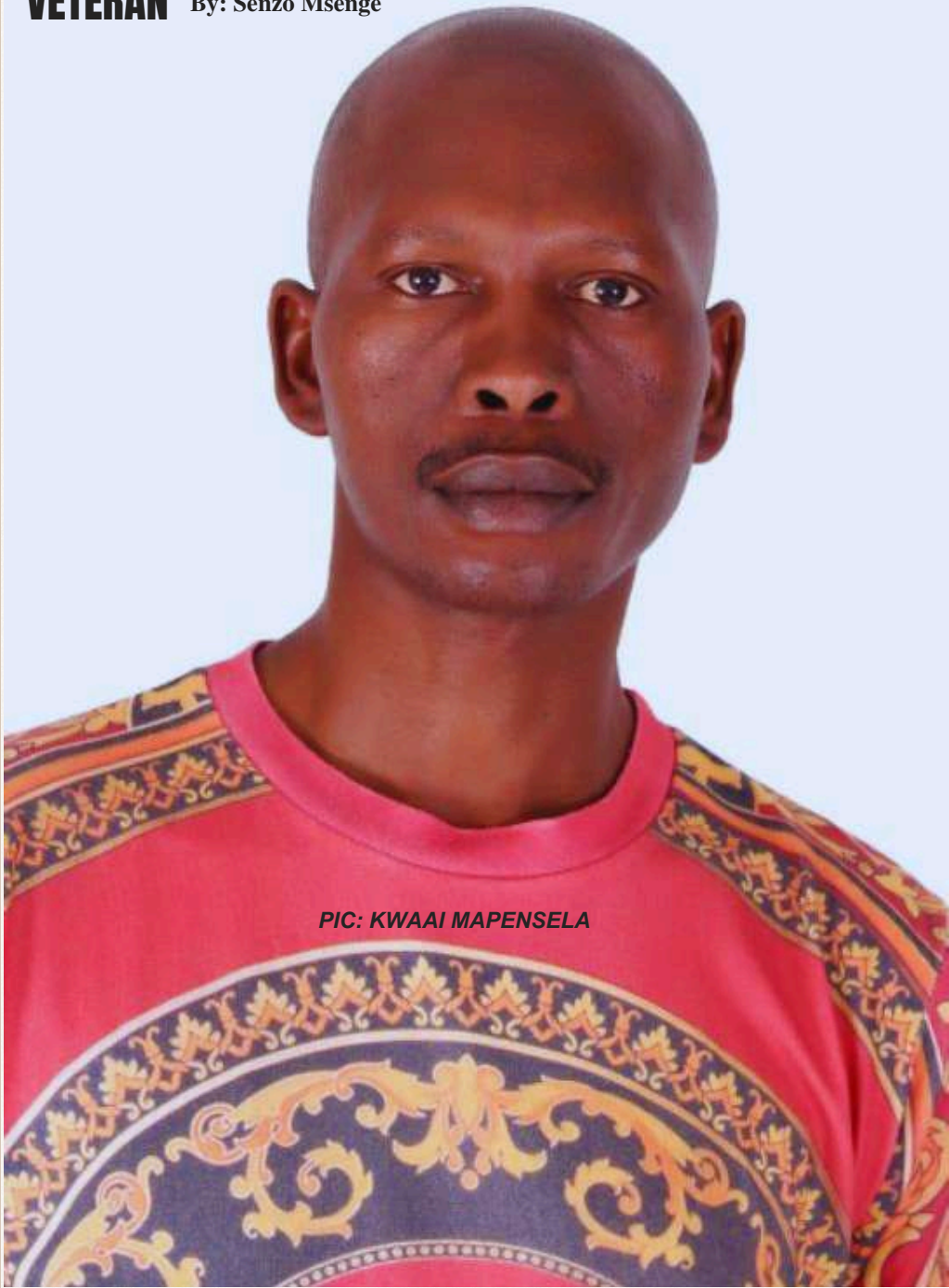
His fans can expect a hot EP titled “INKANUKO” which will be dropped on the 22 May 2026 and followed by his second music video. “Inkanuko is basically last and longing to be and loved and being told how important you are in a relationship”, he said.

Sponch worked with Dj Kent, Dj Ceubur, Bos Pianii, Dj SickY and many more artists. “My advice to someone who wants to be like me is that they must focus and never listen to negative comments because nothing is impossible. My fans, I’m so grateful for the love and support, there will be more music will be coming out and my promise is to be consistent and more humble”, he concluded.

For bookings please connect with Sponch Makhekhe | Instagram: @sponchmakhekheofficial | Tiktok: @sponchMakhekhe | Facebook: SponchMakhekhe | Youtube: Sponchmakhekhe | Call : 084 869 4896 | machthomasntuli@gmail.com

MAPENSELA: FROM SCHOOL CLASSMATE TO KWAITO VETERAN

By: Senzo Msenge



PIC: KWAAI MAPENSELA

Mduduzi Khoza, popularly known by his fans as *Kwaai Mapensela* was born in Zola Soweto. A legendary Kwaito artist started his music journey in 1997 with his former classmate at Kwadeda Ngendlela Sec. School. He formed a group in location with his friends and his brother and name it Travelers of Kwaito. In 2002, they signed by Dalom Music. “”, he said.

“We did kwaito music because it was dominating and have to move with times while not forgetting where belong. The urge to continue with kwaito comes from the fact that I take it as part of my culture. Challenges are there always, especial when you to grow to understand that music is part of business as well”, he said.

Kwaai Mapensela have 4 albums under his belt, the first album was recorded in 2016 called “*Dlala Kwaai*”, second one in 2022, “*INSIMBI YABELUNGU*” featuring Nezi, third album 2023 “*DALAS GROOVER*” featuring GTZ from Chiskop ,and fourth album 2025 “*JULUKA*” featuring Ma-Angel.

“The best artist I have ever worked with was General Simphiwe Sibisi from Chiskop and The late legendary Dan Tshanda, (producer of Dalom Kids and Patricia Majalisa). I’m busy with something special for my fans. My advice to all aspiring musician is to be positive all the time, even when they throw negative words to you and never lose the side of your dreams. Please keep on supporting Kwaai Mapensela music, I promise to always give you the best hits.”

For Bookings on social media Mapensela
Email Address:Mkhoza074@mail.com
Contact: 068 098 8819

ADVERTISE with us : 071 551 1531 (WhatsApp)

Buntingville’s Sisanda Njovu Rises to Top Model South Africa

By: Senzo Msenge



Pic: Sisanda Njovu



Sisanda Njovu, is a 21-year-old model from Buntingville, Ndindimeni in Ngqeleni, Eastern Cape Province – South Africa. She started modelling at the age of 11 in 2015, entered Mr and Miss Ndindimeni 2015 and won the title of Miss Ndindimeni Juniors 1st Runner-Up.

“Due to lack of funds, I couldn’t continue with modelling. In 2022, I entered Mr and Miss Mthatha 2023 and was crowned Miss Mthatha 2023 1st Runner-Up. I became 1st runner up for Miss Circus Triangle 2025 and was featured as one of the fashion models for the Mzimvubu Local Municipality Fashion Show in 2025. That same year, I went to Port St Johns for the Isingqisethu Festival auditions and was part of Isingqisethu Festival in December 2025. I pushed myself and auditioned for Nyandeni Local Municipality, unfortunately I was the 1st Runner-Up in the clusters, and each cluster takes only 1 model, the Queen”, she said.

A gorgeous model is now entered for Miss Top Model SA 2026 and have much faith that she will make it with all the support from friends and family. Modelling boosted the young lady’s confidence and became as a tool to inspire and make an impact on the society.

“I have been in the industry on and off since 2015 but consistently from 2022. There are lot of challenges, being a model from rural area is no child’s play, lack of funding, transport fee and being taken seriously brings lot of stress. I am thankful to have Mr Mzolisi Ndinga by myside, May God Bless him for all he does for me, it’s never easy”, added Sisanda

Her best highlight of her career was walking at the Mzimvubu Local Municipality Fashion Show and winning competitions. She has pushed herself and recently joined CBC Modelling Agency in Mthatha, the agency believes in developing local talent.

"My advice to someone who want like me one day, please start where you are, make use of your phone. Practice posing, watch tutorials, enter online castings, your village is not a limitation, it’s your story, stay safe, do your research", she concluded.

Sisanda is kindly asking everyone to **Vote for her to win Miss Top Model SA. All details are found on her facebook page @ Sisanda Nj**

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From Soweto Stages to Mzansi Wethu & eTV - 20+ Years as a Beloved SA Actress

By: Senzo Msenge



Pic: Phumzile Kubeka

Phumzile Kubeka is an actress who was born in Soweto, Gauteng Province – South Africa. She started her acting career in 2001 March under the late Mr Duma Duncan Mnembe and the late Nomazizi Moloso

"Honestly I don't know, but I think acting chose me I didn't choose it. I have been in the acting industry for a long time, at this moment there's nothing much I can say that is negative for female actress, because most of the roles I'm given I do best of my ability. I appeared in many soapies and drama series so far. I lost the count but think its plus minus 30 or so. I'm so fortunate in my career because whenever I go to auditions in most cases I get the role I audition for” she said.

A multitalented actress have worked with the legends such as the late mama Connie Chiume, mama Lilian Dube, the late Don Mlangeni _ Nawa, Duduzile Ngcobo, Khombi Sangweni, Thembinkosi Mthembu,Meshack Mavuso, the list is endless.

“The project I'm busy with at this moment is "Homecoming" airing at Mzansi Wethu, and uMbali just returned on the screens now on Etv. My advice to aspiring actors, is let them find casting agencies and make sure they attend workshops.Last message to my fans, I would like to take this moment and thank everyone who took time out of their busy schedule and fall in love with me and the characters I portray. Thank you for support and May God bless them in abundance”, she concluded.

She can be found on facebook : Phumzile Kubeka ka Sithole ... same as Instagram then TikTok it's Phumzi98

The Journey of an Independent Afro Soul & House Musician

By: Senzo Msenge

Thembakazi Mona is a musician originally from Qhukru/Nosanti in Eastern Cape but moved to Phumlani in 1995. *Thembi Mona*, as popularly known, comes from a musical family and church background, her grandmother use to compose songs and teach everyone how to sing.

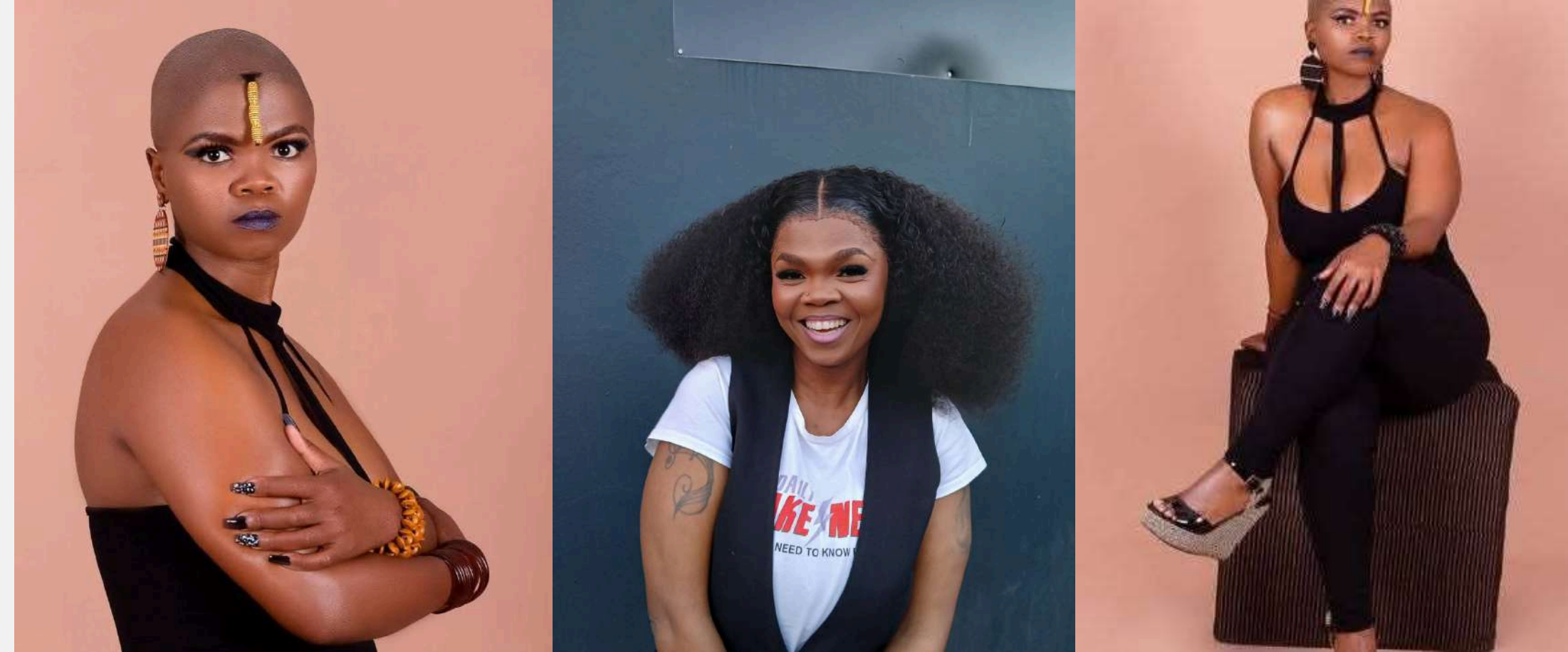
"I only do Gqom music once in a while, most of the time I am doing commercial house music and now switched to Afro Soul & Afro jazz on my new upcoming album. I am a versatile composer/musician. I have been in the music industry for 11years now, challenges are being exploited, females are being abused sexually and if they don't do it, they will close doors for you... that's the challenge I always had”, she said.

Thembi has released only singles so far and ready to release an album this year. Her biggest highlight in the music industry was being booked in Botswana as an Independent artist in 2019/2022, being one of the soundtrack writers in Shaka iLembe and to have “Sobonana Phambili” songs played on Netflix series".

“The best artists I ever worked with is Ishmael, Dj Sk, Zain SA, Cairo, Zintle Kwaaiman, Sdudla noma1000, Dj Eddie from Botswana and lot. My advice to someone who want to be like me one, please be consistent, if you're a writer keep writing music even if you don't have studio to record, so that when the time comes you're ready to deliver in studio. I am so grateful and honored, especially coming from nowhere and being independent, today I get paid for music and it's all because of my supporters, thanks to all of them".

Bookings can be done: **0650773225** or email: thembakazimona2@gmail.com

Pics: *Thembi Mona*





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 MEXICO  SOUTH AFRICA  KOREA REPUBLIC PLAY-OFF WINNER D	 CANADA PLAY-OFF WINNER A  QATAR  SWITZERLAND PLAY-OFF WINNER B	 BRAZIL  MOROCCO  HAITI  SCOTLAND PLAY-OFF WINNER C	 USA  PARAGUAY  AUSTRALIA PLAY-OFF WINNER C	 GERMANY  CURAÇAO  CÔTE D'IVOIRE  ECUADOR	 NETHERLANDS  JAPAN PLAY-OFF WINNER B  TUNISIA
11 JUN MEX vs RSA 15 JUN KOR vs PWD 19 JUN MEX vs KPW 19 JUN RSA vs PWD 23 JUN KOR vs RSA 23 JUN PWD vs MEX	12 JUN CAN vs PWA 16 JUN QAT vs SUI 20 JUN CAN vs QAT 24 JUN SUI vs PWA 24 JUN SUI vs CAN 24 JUN PWA vs QAT	13 JUN BRA vs MAR 17 JUN HAI vs SCO 21 JUN BRA vs HAI 21 JUN SCO vs MAR 25 JUN BRA vs SCO 25 JUN MAR vs HAI	14 JUN USA vs PAR 18 JUN AUS vs PWC 22 JUN USA vs AUS 22 JUN PAR vs PWC 26 JUN AUS vs PAR 26 JUN PWC vs USA	15 JUN GER vs CUW 19 JUN CIV vs ECU 23 JUN GER vs CIV 23 JUN CIV vs CUW 27 JUN CIV vs ECU 27 JUN ECU vs GER	16 JUN NED vs JPN 20 JUN PWB vs TUN 24 JUN NED vs PWB 24 JUN JPN vs JPN 28 JUN TUN vs PWB 28 JUN TUN vs NED

GROUP G	GROUP H	GROUP I	GROUP J	GROUP K	GROUP L
 BELGIUM  EGYPT  IRAN  NEW ZEALAND	 SPAIN  CAPE VERDE  SAUDI ARABIA  URUGUAY	 FRANCE  SENEGAL PLAY-OFF WINNER 2  NORWAY	 ARGENTINA  ALGERIA  AUSTRIA  JORDAN	 PORTUGAL PLAY-OFF WINNER 1  UZBEKISTAN  COLOMBIA	 ENGLAND  CROATIA  HUNGARY  PANAMA
17 JUN BEL vs NZL 21 JUN IRN vs EGY 25 JUN BEL vs IRN 25 JUN NZL vs EGY 29 JUN IRN vs EGY 29 JUN NZL vs BEL	18 JUN ESP vs CPV 22 JUN KSA vs URU 26 JUN ESP vs KSA 26 JUN URU vs CPV 30 JUN KSA vs CPV 30 JUN URU vs ESP	19 JUN FRA vs SEN 23 JUN PWR2 vs NOR 27 JUN FRA vs PWR2 27 JUN NOR vs SEN 1 JUL SEN vs PWR2 1 JUL NOR vs FRA	20 JUN ARG vs ALG 24 JUN AUT vs JOR 28 JUN ARG vs JOR 28 JUN JOR vs ALG 2 JUL ALG vs AUT 2 JUL JOR vs ARG	21 JUN POR vs PWF1 26 JUN UZB vs COL 29 JUN POR vs UZB 29 JUN COL vs PWF1 3 JUL UZB vs PWF1 3 JUL COL vs POR	22 JUN ENG vs CRO 26 JUN GHA vs PAN 30 JUN ENG vs GHA 30 JUN PAN vs CRO 4 JUL CRO vs GHA 4 JUL PAN vs ENG