

# THE FEATURE

*Youth Month Redefined*

JUNE 2022

# CELEBRATING YOUTH MONTH

6-19  
5-5

## YOUTH TODAY

Redefining the image of the youth  
featuring:

Thato Mashabela

Okuhle Zulu

Amogelang Thlowe

Kamogelo Koboyankwe

Thuasizwe Ngcobo

Palesa Malete

Uyanda Mabuza

Karabo Mokgalaka

20

~~AFRIKAANS~~

UNEMPLOYMENT IS A  
NEW STRUGGLE

# CELEBRATING PRIDE MONTH

# TABLE OF Contents

I am so delighted to share The Feature's youth month special edition. Not only that, but the entire magazine was put together by one of our talented interns Lesedi Makola. I personally enjoy the thinking that comes with working with young people. There is a certain element of fierce independent thinking that both small and big businesses can benefit from provided they are open minded about it.

In this issue, we showcase just a handful of South Africa's youth who have firmed up and secured their places in their respective fields whilst many others remain destitute despite having the qualifications to get their feet in the corporate door. We hope this special issue will be a reminder about not only why we celebrate youth day but the endless opportunities that exist today for all of us to make something of ourselves.

I too am a beneficiary of what the youth of 1976 went through, and because of it, I get to choose the life I live, the work I want to do, the house and neighborhood I live in. Thank you and may your dreams be realized as well in the near future.



# EDITORS NOTE


*Miriam Dube*



# CELEBRATING YOUTH DAY

*June 16*



A photograph of two women in black dresses standing in a desert landscape under a blue sky with clouds. One woman is in the foreground, looking towards the camera, while the other is behind her, looking away. The dresses are flowing and have a tulle-like texture. The background shows rolling sand dunes.

South Africa has to be the master of commemoration when it comes to our history, which was furtherly embedded into our calendar in order for us to feast in remembrance of each day. History is constantly enforced while forgetting our present ups and downs. On Youth Day, for instance, we wear school uniforms while feasting and drinking as usual, however, we never have a day to celebrate what our country currently is. At least celebrate the little optimistic parts we have left in our country.

While hoping to pick out the positive and optimistic bits in the mists of unemployment, corruption, and a steady decline in our economy, let's change the perspective this time. Let 16 June 2022, be the celebration of how the Youth of today has advanced upon challenges and continue to wholeheartedly fight blood and bone for opportunities in this country. Government aside, there is a large spectrum of an educated, business-minded, and goal-driven portion of youth amongst the labeled rotten apples which society is quick to highlight.

Here is a drive-through of what the youth of today actually is, off social media.

# YOUTH DAY

*Ironing out the positive*

Noluthando Mahlambi is a youth and student activist. Thando has been involved in many community youth activities that seek to empower the Youth of Nazo Mndeni Branch and Youth of Johannesburg in general and women in particular. She has struck as a feminist that fight for gender equity.

She believes that Leadership under “men” in general has resulted to what the country has come out to be, which is against what she believes as she believes that men and women can contribute the same way politically. She believes that women in politics are equally capable.

“Women have a lot to contribute in the current struggle”

Noluthando joined the ANCYL when she was 16 years of age in 2009 and became the branch deputy secretary in ward 52 (Nazo Mndeni Branch) 3 months after she joined until 2011. In the same year, she joined Cosas and became its active member, in the same year she then played an active role in launching COSAS at SouthView high school where she was a scholar.

She was elected as the branch chairperson of the ANCYL Nazo Mndeni branch when she was 17 years subsequently became the youngest chairperson until 2013. In 2013, she was elected as the branch secretary of the ANCYL Mndeni Branch and in 2014 was part of the zonal elections team (ZET) in Zone 8, where she was an administrator for the general elections committee. In the same year, she became the ANC Branch elections team fundraiser in Nazo Mndeni branch.

In 2022, She was elected as the branch secretary of the ANC at Nazo Mndeni branch and concurrently is serving in the ANCYL as both Branch coordinator (Nazo Mndeni) and zonal coordinator in her zone.

She is currently contesting the position of Regional Secretary of the ANCYL in Greater Johannesburg.

# YOUTH TODAY

*Noluthando Mahlambi*



This is Thato Mashabela mostly known as "Black Taydo", the CEO and founder of Black Tay Media. At Black Tay Media, they specialize in fresh media solutions, and their aim is to take new and innovative ways into creating content. They pride themselves on providing Mzansi with unlimited high-quality access to a new form of entertainment.

Their services include Photography, Videography, graphic design, and Filmmaking. He started videography in 2017 with a friend's smartphone and laptop to edit. Lack of resources and funds was one of his biggest challenges back then, but he didn't let that get to him. He went on to shoot sketch comedy with a friend's smartphone. Making those videos brought him close to what he loves the most which is filmmaking.

In the very same year, Thato bagged an award for "Best Videographer" at MLB Awards. His content was recognized by influencers like Ofentse Mwase and Kabza Da Small. Team Mosha even shared his content on its timeline. In 2018, he started getting bookings to shoot music videos even without his own equipment.

In 2019, August he started to collect the equivalent equipment and started attending gigs using this small equipment of which later led to him being able to collect all necessary equipment and thereof registering his business in October 2019.

In 2020, he created his own web series "Side Chick Saga" which played for 14 episodes on Youtube: Side Chick Saga | Season 1: of which was later converted it into a DVD series which was sold on the streets of Pretoria CBD, Hatfield, and Mamelodi. In the same year, he shot a short film that played for 50 minutes on Youtube and was featured in a Daily sun article titled "Thato's hustle inspires youth". His series Side Chick Saga recently played on Starsat TV.

Thato won an award at the Pheli Awards for "Best Photographer" and managed to expand his business by building a professional Photography/Videography Studio with zero funding or handouts. His company and brand are growing by the day and he is happy with the progress. They recently started a new venture which is Printing and branding solutions and he is now working on a Podcast. His series Side Chick Saga played on Starsat TV and he's now working on a Podcast.

# YOUTH TODAY

*Thato Mashabela*

Okuhle Zulu is a phenomenally driven individual who matriculated from Crawford North Coast in 2017, with 2 distinctions. During his time at Crawford North Coast, he represented the school at the Durban Youth Council, as a committee member in the Feeding Schemes and Disabilities Committee and was awarded Senior Full Colours (Service). He was also part of the Student Representative Council, Student Leadership Development Programme, as well as the Head of the Matric Fundraising Committee at Crawford North Coast. He also participated in Dale Carnegie and Toastmasters.

After he had matriculated, he then took a gap year in 2018 and got a job, with the intention to raise capital for his business. In 2019, he enrolled for a Bachelor of Business Science, specializing in Management and Political Studies from Monash University (South Africa), and completed it in 2021. During his time at Monash, he was afforded the opportunity to represent South Africa at the Asia Youth International Model United Nations in February 2020 in Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur) as a delegate for the Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian Committee. He won the Verbal Commendation Award at the conference, for having the most effective and practical solutions to the issues at hand (best speaker award).

In mid-2020 (while still at Monash) he officially started his Non-Profit Organization (Foundation), which is based in the impoverished community of KwaMashu (Durban) In hopes of giving back to his community. On 24 December 2021, the Foundation initiated a project, whereby it fed 300-350 individuals in KwaMashu, by cooking a delicious meal for the community as a form of an early Christmas Lunch. His business seems to keep on growing/expanding by the day and has a promising future. In an endeavor to help other SMMEs and enhance his experience, he has started doing consulting work with other SMMEs, which are youth-owned.



# YOUTH TODAY

*Okuhle Zulu*



**20%  
OFF**

# GET YOUR OWN GRADUATION PHOTOSHOOT

OUTDOOR PHOTOSHOOT

~~R600~~ **R400**

STUDIO PHOTOSHOOT

~~R600~~ **R480**

30 MINUTES SESSION  
GET UNLIMITED EDITED PHOTOS

**Valid until  
01/08/2022**

Terms and conditions  
For outdoor photoshoots,  
an additional transportation  
fee will be charged varying  
due to location.

**Contact Us For  
Inquiries**

065 844 5676

@BlackTayMedia



Soweto based Fezile Sithole commonly known as Elusiveboy SA, is known for his distinct delivery on the decks and turntables, most especially when dealing with the talent - spotting in Amapiano music. He started doing music at the age of 9 however he didn't have something concrete at the time, he had to find where he fits into the music scene.

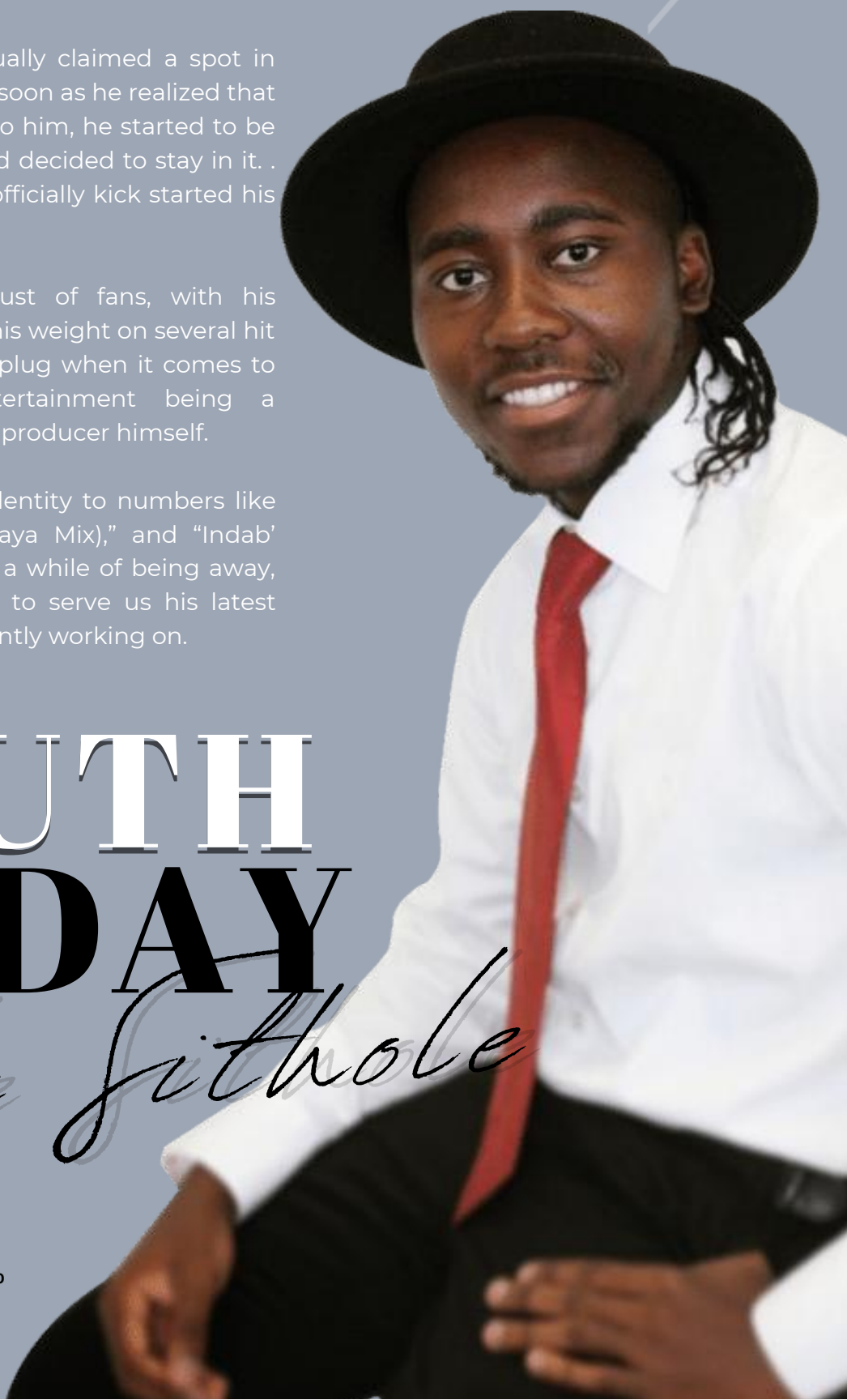
After a while, he eventually claimed a spot in the Amapiano genre. As soon as he realized that Amapiano made sense to him, he started to be creative in the genre and decided to stay in it. . It was in 2017 when he officially kick started his Career in music.

He has gained the trust of fans, with his consistency, as he pulls his weight on several hit numbers. Elusive is the plug when it comes to all-round musical entertainment being a remixer, disc jockey, and producer himself.

He has given a major identity to numbers like Gong Gong Gwam (Shaya Mix),” and “Indab’ Ingale,” and more. After a while of being away, Elusiveboy SA promises to serve us his latest project which he is currently working on.

# YOUTH TODAY

*Fezile Sithole*





Meet Amogelang Thowe, a 23 year old who strongly believes in Academic Excellence , a qualified Public relations at the second best ranked university in South Africa with 17 Distinctions. She is currently enrolling her second qualification in Communication management and has been honored to be on the Dean's list honour roll for 3 years in a row from 2019 - 2021 and the Vice chancellor honour roll 2021 (Ujenius).

She is a passionate entrepreneur in retail and shopping and owns an online boutique called A'mor wear, which sells elegant and quality clothes for females. She also provides personal styling services for her clients. She is excitedly introducing a male collection as part of the 1 year business anniversary! "I love what I do and I believe dressing up is a way of reclaiming happiness regardless of outside factors". She said.

On her career side, she does PR and content creation for Jodorry Fashion House. Amogelang believes that you can conquer anything you want with the right mindset and goals.

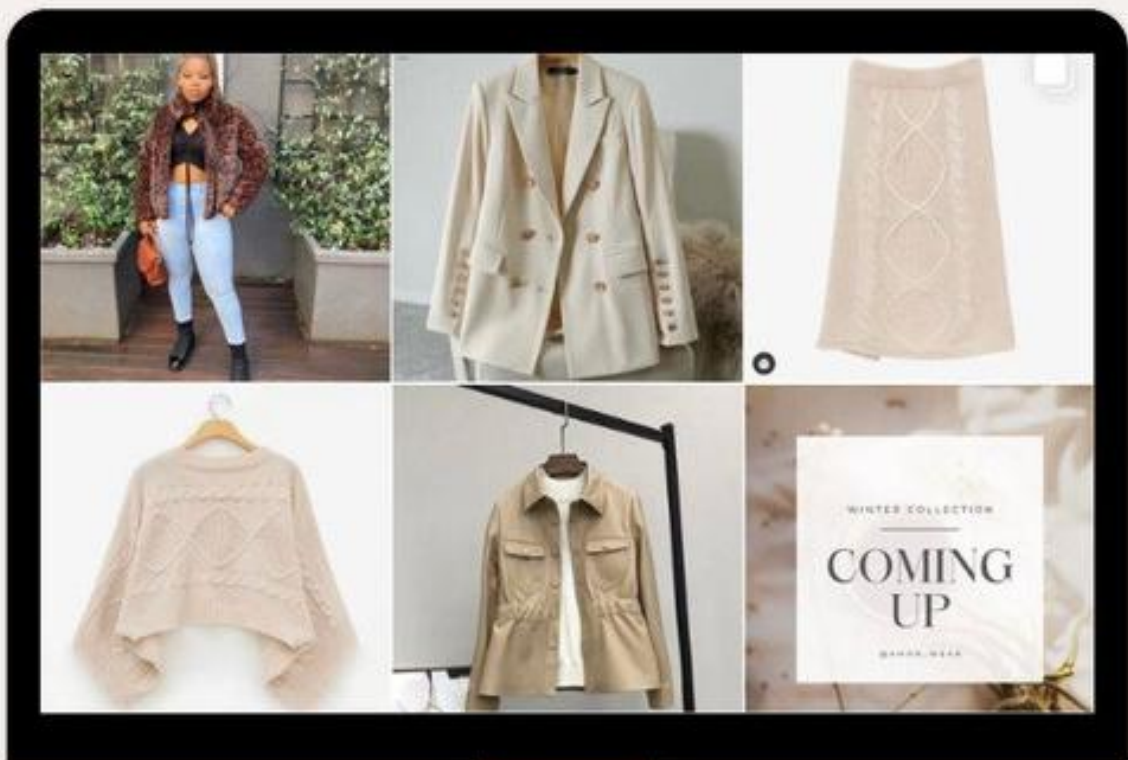
# YOUTH TODAY

*Amogelang Thowe*



# Winter Collection

## CHECK OUT!



FASHION

@AMO'R WEAR



Kamogelo Koboyankwe is the name that is definitely going to the history books. Kamo is a 23 year old non-binary, qualified PR Practitioner currently studying their advanced diploma in Communication Management, at the prestigious University of Johannesburg.

Through their journey at the University of Johannesburg which has now ranked as the Second best University in Africa, Kamo has achieved quite a few accolades in their name. The first ever Executive Spokesperson at the Student Public Relations Association (SPRA) (2020), an SRC member as the Sports, Arts and Culture (2021), a SASCO Branch Deputy Secretary (2021), currently SRC Secretary (2022), Radio presenter, MC and a Business Manager at Jodorry Haute Couture of which they have academically performed exceptionally well and has formed part of the Dean's Honors Roll (2021). Roll out the red carpet as we welcome a New Generation Award winner for a PR campaign (2019).

Kamo believes that one needs to start loving and appreciating themselves first and share that love with the world. Be kind always.

# YOUTH TODAY

*Kamogelo Koboyankwe*



Thulasizwe Ngcobo has been very passionate in ensuring and assisting students from all corners of the country irrespective of their background to gain access to institutions of higher learning especially at the University of Johannesburg where he participates as a student activist under the banner of South African Student Congress Organization.

He believes that program such as The Right To Learn Campaign, a SASCO program are an important tool of ensuring that students get equal access to education, they are not unfairly academical and financial excluded in the institutions of higher learning. He believes that education should never be made a commodity.

Meet Thulasizwe Ngcobo, a student activist that has been actively in student activism from high school which has seen him leading as the Representative Council of Learners (RCL). In University, he was deployed to the student parliament and the Student Representative Council where he served as the deputy secretary.

Thulasizwe Ngcobo is currently completing his 3rd qualification in Bachelor of Commerce in Transport Economics at the University of Johannesburg. Enrolling in the University after the #FeesMustFall Movement sharpened our student activism, the generation of #FeesMustFall did not only fight for fees to fall but also fought for inclusivity and access to Institutions of higher learning.

# YOUTH TODAY

*Thulasizwe Ngcobo*





CELEBRATING

PRIDE!

MONTH





Her majesty is Palesa Hope Malete, also known as a “flower that grows through concrete”. Palesa Hope Malete was born in Alexandra, on 18 March 1998, but she spent most of her childhood in the East Rand, Spruitview. She studied Architecture at the University of Johannesburg and is currently working as a content creator and digital marketer. She believes in following her passion more than anything, so she recently started pursuing her passion in music as a DJ in Deep/Afrohouse/Amapiano.

Black Orkhis is more than a stage name, it’s a brand to help curvy women feel confident in fitness clothing. She also believes in pushing your own hustle. She is the founder of Black Space Studio focusing on architectural designs, content creation, and digital marketing for all local businesses. She is currently furthering her studies with a BCom in Marketing Management and releases her own music and more gigs in and around Africa. She is also releasing a Fitness Clothing line tailored for curvy women.



# YOUTH TODAY

*Palesa Malete*



Meet Uyanda Mabuza, strong believer in creating a positive environment through art and design . With no plans of becoming a graphic designer and gratefully accepted a change of plan after enrolling in Communication Design (Graphic Design) at the second best University in Africa, University of Johannesburg. Not knowing what she was going to studying after matriculating, she nibbed the stereotypes of art and design being just a hobby.

Today Uyanda holds her degree in Communication Design (Graphic Design) after holding a final spot in the elite Assegia integrated marketing awards, the student Gold pack competition, and even participated in a Loeries and Woolworths mentorship program as one of the top creative students of 2021 in the Middle East and Africa.

She has gone as far as starting my own business For Art driven by passion and love for all things art and design, my brand and business is inspired by everything she can do and her ability to create. She hopes to grow and expand For Art far beyond any limits and further than how much it has already grown.

It believes in the ideas of self love and positivity , Moreover it is a brand that believes in complete inclusivity. For art is a brand and business that exudes happiness, creativity and passion. There is still so much more but in that one can experience a phenomena.

# YOUTH TODAY

*Uyanda Mabuza*



# MENTAL HEALTH

*End the stigma*



Prioritising your mental health is not a sign of weakness. No matter your race, skin tone, gender, or age, the good mental hygiene is a key to living optimal. Should you need assistance with this balance, help is available at [safmh.org](https://safmh.org) or contact Africa's largest mental health support and advocacy group at (011) 234 4837.

A native of South Africa, Gauteng. Karabo Mokgalaka currently serves as a Strategic Information officer at Wits RHI, a subsidiary health institute of the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg which helps many South Africans by providing quality HIV and TB treatment care in collaboration with the Gauteng Department of Health.

Prior to joining the Wits RHI. Karabo played an important role in health systems strengthening, monitoring, and evaluation under The Aurum Institute NPC, where his primary roles were the implementation of data quality and reporting needs, providing M&E technical assistance as per the requirement to Aurum's projects as well as monitoring PEPFAR (US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) project outputs closely, including at the facility level.

How he got introduced to health systems was through a program called EPWP, which looks to eradicate unemployment among the Youth of South Africa.

Aside from the stresses of work. He has dedicated most of his time to completing his degree. Karabo is a 4th year LL.B (Hons) student of the University of South Africa his main focus is International Humans rights Law and Medical Law. What the future holds for this lad is quite amazing.



# YOUTH TODAY

*Karabo Mokgalaka*



LOOKING  
FOR A  
JOB

~~AFRIKAANS~~  
UNEMPLOYMENT  
IS THE NEW  
STRUGGLE



There is always a struggle in the South African education sector. In 1976, the point of struggle was overthrowing Afrikaans as a main mode of instruction. The Post-Apartheid era bore its own dynamics and challenges in education and so does the current Era. In 2015, students took to the ground the urgent and disheartening grief of university fees not being inclusive and was dished out as the first debt the youth would have going, into the workplace.

Well, we are back to the ground yet again with the disheartening facts of being able to study but your qualifications ended up gathering dust in the room divider while returning to being yet another dependent in the household. Others struggle for years searching for employment in their field and even opt to moving into a career labeled as though it's smooth sailing in finding employment. Well news flash, there isn't a career smooth sailing when it comes to employment.

The country is ridiculously tied up in dilemmas that have a ripple effect on everything. The pandemic even added its seven cents while we were still arguing about those that were not employed before the pandemic. Retrenchment decided to bring more people to the party. Inflation tricked several businesses into closing and that too brings more than enough people to the party.

Funny enough, inflation breaks the charts, expenses increase dramatically but income never sees an increasing chart. The youth is encouraged to start businesses of which can at least decrease unemployment by a fraction, however entrepreneurship is yet another gravel road with the usual South African Potholes.

There are youth funding entities, such as NYDA, however these state-owned entities are not spared from alleged mismanagement of funds. It is therefore, much wiser and advised to start small with small change in order to make it. That's only if one actually has the small change.

Unemployment has led into large financial grievances of which affects the household largely. There is an Unemployment relief fund (apply at [www.sassa.org](http://www.sassa.org)) of which was implemented during the disaster Era in response to the effects of the pandemic. R350 is offered monthly to the unemployed public. Coincidentally, this is only 70% of the cost of 5 liters of cooking oil. Therefore, realistically speaking R350 cannot run the costs of the household.

This sparks panic to the household, even worse on those who have male figures. Society has built a toxic tiny but very influential sector of which is called "indoda must" in translation, "a man must". Stemming from our history and even our various religions, a narrative of a male being the head of the household and the sole provider, even in this unemployed society has put men under tremendous pressure.

Recognize the root of crime? Yes, however not justified. No one deserves to be injured or even terrorized to give away something that belongs to them. There are other ways of conquering hunger without cracking skulls and breaking arms. Literally.

*Jenyeki Makola*



*Celebrating  
Pride Month*