

The Feature.za

JUNE 2023

MAGAZINE

LOUD IN
MY PRIDE

FEATURING
KARABO PORORO

#5

PROVEN
STRATEGIES
OF SUCCESS

FEATURING
REFILWE FOSU-
AMOAH

NOMAZIBULO
TSHANGA



MEET THE CREATIVES



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The Feature.za

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CONTENTS

4 Editor's Note

LOUD IN MY PRIDE

6 Defining LGBTIQI+

NOMAZIBULO TSHANGA

12 More about Nomazibulo
Tshanga

IN CASE YOU'VE MISSED IT

20 5 Proven strategies of success

FOOD O' CLOCK

34 Braised short rib



— *Editor's Note*

PAGE 4



Dear Feature Readers,

The month of June has become synonymous with the issue of our youth and the struggle they went through for the betterment of education for all members of South Africa. The youth of today has given birth to leaders that have changed the game for South Africans and made a better future for those that follow. In our minds, every fresh generation gives birth to new ideas and enacts those ideas in a continual change. For example, the youth of June 16 changed the narrative about the language that we were instructed in, and this caused a spillover effect into higher education today.

In our magazine, we continuously seek to both celebrate the youth and showcase there are more than the struggles they fight against. Instead, they are champions. They are future leaders and vision makers. They are the people that look at society and say to themselves that something needs work and do the work themselves. By honoring the youth and grooming them, the world will only continue to grow to be a better place with every iteration. The work done by the born free generation has only been evolved by generation alpha and this will continue in a beautiful symbiosis.

The future rests in the hands of the youth, so why not give them the credit that is due?

Miriam Dube
Editor-in-Chief



LOVE YOURSELF.

Loud in my PRIDE!

The Feature.za

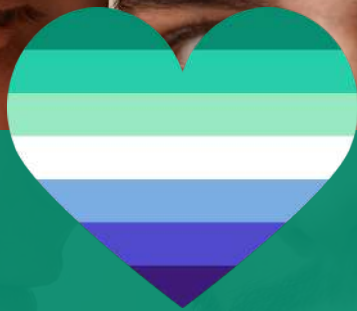


LESBIAN

LES-BEE-ANNE (N)

A lesbian is a woman who is romantically, emotionally, or sexually attracted to other women. Lesbian individuals form meaningful relationships and can experience love and intimacy with other women





GAY

GE-YI(N)

Gay is a term often used to describe men who are romantically, emotionally, or sexually attracted to other men. However, it can also be used as an inclusive term for the entire LGBTQ+ community. Gay individuals, like all people, seek connection and love.





BISEXUAL

BY-SEC-SH-WAL(N)

Bisexuality refers to individuals who are attracted romantically, emotionally, or sexually to both males and females. Bisexual individuals recognize that attraction and love can transcend traditional gender boundaries.





TRANSGENDER

TRANS-JEN-DAAR(N)

Describes individuals whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. Transgender individuals may transition through various means to align their gender identity with their true selves.





QUEER

KWI-YE(N)

Queer is an umbrella term that includes various sexual orientations and gender identities outside of heterosexual and cisgender norms. It can also be used by individuals who are still exploring and questioning their own sexual orientation or gender identity.





INTERSEX

IN-TER-SEC-S (N)

Refers to individuals who are born with biological characteristics (such as reproductive or sexual anatomy) that do not fit typical definitions of male or female. Intersex is a natural variation of human biology.





NOMAZIBULO TSHANGA

Nomazibulo Tshanga is an extraordinary individual who defies categorization. With a brand that continues to evolve in various directions, she wears many hats, making it challenging to pinpoint a single focus. However, let us introduce you to her philanthropic persona—a woman whose heart overflows with compassion for making a tangible difference. Through her unwavering dedication to philanthropy, she has touched countless lives and uplifted communities. Beyond her charitable endeavors, Tshanga also aspires to inspire and empower the next generation of leaders, believing in the transformative power of providing opportunities and guidance for young minds to flourish. In this cover article, we delve into the captivating story of Nomazibulo Tshanga, an inspirational force driving positive change and leaving an indelible mark on the world.

1) What made you decide to venture into philanthropy?

Extending my hand in community development where there is a need is a value that has been embedded in my family values growing up. I have been accustomed to the concept of giving to the less fortunate and disadvantaged communities even before I knew about philanthropy. Only later as a professional, I realized that my dad was a philanthropist at heart and involved us as his children in his philanthropy work. Around December each year, he would prepare large food parcels that he would give to his local communities, and we would be tasked to pack the food parcels orderly and ensure each member of the community family receives one. He would further buy Christmas clothes and shoes for children in our neighborhood. Showing this altruistic act became part of me. I am naturally a giver and I do this effortlessly and whole heartedly. I share my resources easily without filling that I'll ever run out. I am abundance and I live in abundance. It was only natural for me to start my philanthropy work and perhaps put a structure into it as I have been doing it for years, hence I co-founded the Ziyana Foundation which was formally established in 2022 as a non-profit organization to ensure that economic stability and growth is inclusive for all communities, especially those that are disadvantaged (young, black, women and disabled). The foundation focuses on 6 programmes, namely:

- **Bursary Programme**
- **Entrepreneurship Development**
- **Community Development**
- **Skills Development**
- **Women Empowerment**
- **Community Development**
- **Mentorship Programme**

Lastly, I believe that philanthropy is a means of adding sustainable value and impact in our societies focusing on an immediate need then moving up the Maslow Hierarchy of needs to help further over a period of time, that's what made me to venture into philanthropy.



2) In your own words, what defines good thought leadership when the world is experiencing an absence of good original thoughts?

A good leader for me is someone that has a high level of self – awareness, garners credibility, influential, exhibits humility, has the ability to empower others, someone who is authentic and can make decisions (popular and unpopular). Most importantly, a good leader is someone that has a heart of SERVICE. Now, good thought leadership is an expression of ideas that demonstrate you have expertise in a particular field, area or topic. This takes time, experience, patience and commitment. I believe that nothing is totally new under the planet, however how one experiences it is different to another’s experience. Authenticity becomes critical in good thought leadership; this is how your own ideas and experiences will come to life in everything that you do which will be totally different to those of others.

3) What inspires you to be the best version of yourself that you can be on a daily basis?

God inspires me. I know you’re probably wondering.... but knowing that I was uniquely formed in my mother’s womb to fulfil a unique purpose here on earth is truly what inspires me. Knowing that every day when I wake up is an opportunity for me to fulfil my highest calling. I guess life and living inspires me. Having the urge and curiosity of seeing what is beyond and opening myself up to an entire realm of possibilities inspire me. Colouring outside the box and breaking boundaries inspires me. Going for what seems to be impossible with human eyes inspires me. It challenges me to evolve in becoming a better version of myself. Touching people’s hearts inspires me. SERVICE inspire me.



4) What has your experience of running your podcast, Leaders in Conversation, been like?

It has been a wonderful experience and a great teacher. Having C – Suite executives from different professional background and industries sharing their career journeys has been a wholesome experience. The purpose of the Leaders in Conversation is to cultivate the intelligence needed to create corporate value through intentional and authentic leadership conversation. It is also to equip aspiring C – Suite leaders with the leadership tools, resources and attitude to navigate corporate South Africa.

5) What led to the decision to deciding to start your NGO, Ziyana Foundation, and how have you been finding it?

Running the Ziyana Foundation is fulfilling. It's a constant reminder that it can start with me, but it doesn't have to end with me. Impacting the lives of people, leaving a lasting legacy and touching people's heart is at the core of my values. It's been quite interesting and we're taking our time in growing the Foundation as ultimately, we would like the impact to be felt by each African child.



6) Through research, I can see that women empowerment is a matter you are passionate about. What experiences highlighted that women's empowerment is a necessity in our contemporary African Society?

The status quo excludes many women from the societal and economic mainstreams. We see this through the inequalities experienced where women are the minority and unrepresented. In South African corporate alone, there are about 277 companies listed in the Johannesburg Stock Exchange that does not have women representation. Between January 2020 and June 2022 there were 208 top executives' appointment made in JSE listed companies and only 25% are female. In 2022 it was reported that only 7 out of the top 100 listed companies have women CEO and this is said to be due to skills shortage and bidding war for talent. All of this tells us that as women (and men) need to work together to ensure this societal shift so that women can take their rightful place and contribute to the country's socio – economic growth and development. I believe that through the inclusion of more women in the economy, we can stop generational poverty and, in the process, stimulate economic growth. It is for this reason that I continuously strive to promote women's sense of self – worth, their ability to make their own choices and their right to influence social change for themselves and others.

7) Who were the women that inspired you to become the person that you are today?

My school teachers, Sunday school teachers and community leaders of where I come from in the dusty streets of Zwile where teenage pregnancy, alcoholism, drug abuse were prevalent, inspired me to be the person that I am today. In corporate, my former women leaders such as Phumeza Pepeta, Aninka Wessels, Nobuntu Tshem and Akhona Ngcuka inspired me daily to tackle adversity through being authentic, values driven, and groomed me to be the leader that I am today.



8) What was the biggest highlight you had in your journey thus far?

My biggest highlight in my life has been my ability to stretch myself beyond my wildest imagination.

9) What instilled the business acumen and drive you possess currently?

My business acumen was founded in my early childhood through my father being an entrepreneur. This was at the time where entrepreneurship was not common especially from black people. My father involved us in the full operations of running his businesses. I watched my father build from nothing and grow to multiple businesses and I watched him fall and rise again. This then shaped ideas and curiosity in me. My father taught me the spirit of creating rather than consuming and little did I know that his teachings would become a big part of my own entrepreneurship journey. I always knew I was going to be an entrepreneur, but both my parents advocated for education and gaining the necessary skills, experience, expertise and hence I worked for 12 years climbing the corporate ladder to become a director and a board member. I only moved to entrepreneurship when I knew that I had reached my ceiling in corporate and this has given me and my business credibility, professionalism and earned us as Ziyana Group(Pty) Ltd global clients that we are servicing in Sub- Saharan Africa.





10) Finally, what message would you like to leave women reading this article?

Commit to pursuing the possibilities of YOU. The moment you commit to changing and transforming your life, then providence follows you. Now is the TIME.

In Case You have missed it

Follow us on instagram to keep
up-to-date

#WISDOMWEDNESDAY

#5

PROVEN
STRATEGIES
FOR SUCCESS

Supercharge Your Career

#01

DEFINE YOUR CAREER GOALS

To chart a path to success, start by defining your career goals. Consider your long-term aspirations, passions, and areas of interest. Set specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) goals that align with your vision. Having clear goals provides focus, direction, and motivation.

#WISDOMWEDNESDAY



#02

SEEK OUT MENTORS AND NETWORKS

Surround yourself with supportive mentors and build professional networks. Seek guidance from experienced individuals who can provide valuable insights, advice, and support. Engage in industry associations, attend networking events, and join relevant professional communities to expand your network. Building relationships with mentors and peers can open doors to new opportunities, collaborations, and career growth.

#WISDOMWEDNESDAY

#03

CONTINUOUS SKILL DEVELOPMENT

In today's fast-paced work environment, continuous skill development is crucial for career advancement. Identify the key skills required in your field and invest in acquiring or enhancing them. Take advantage of training programs, workshops, online courses, or certifications. Proactively seek opportunities within your current role or projects to develop new skills and broaden your knowledge base.

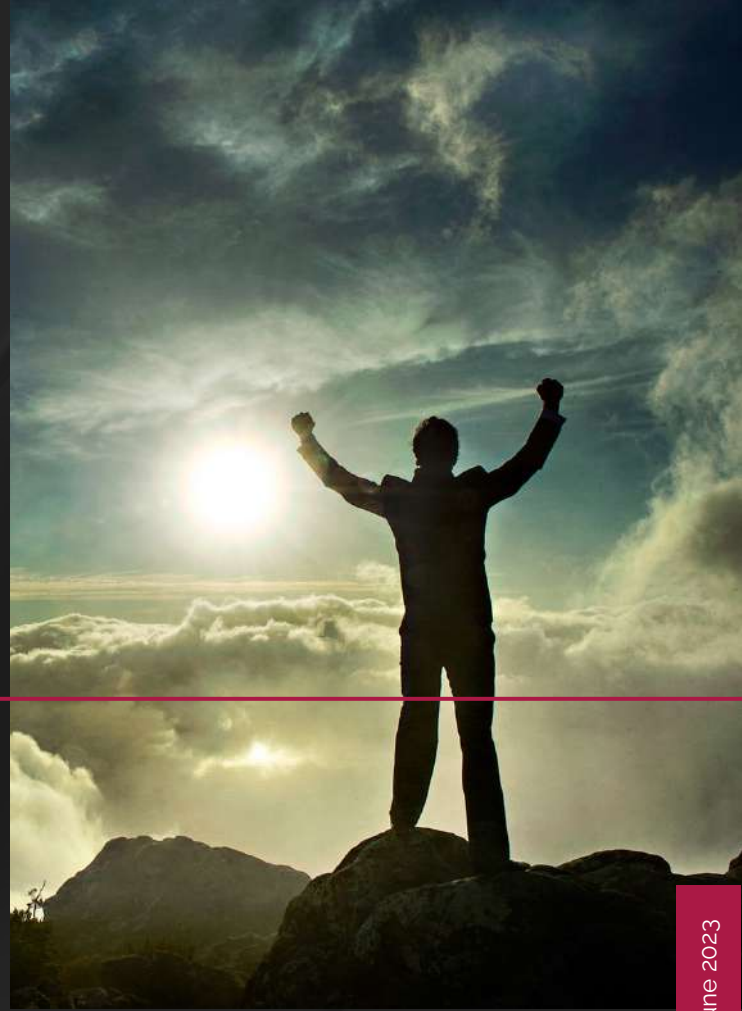
#WISDOMWEDNESDAY

#04

EMBRACE
NEW
CHALLENGES

Stepping outside your comfort zone and embracing new challenges is essential for professional growth. Volunteer for challenging projects, take on leadership roles, or explore lateral moves that expose you to different aspects of your industry. Embracing new challenges allows you to expand your skillset, gain valuable experience, and demonstrate your willingness to take initiative.

#WISDOMWEDNESDAY



#05

CULTIVATE A GROWTH MINDSET

A growth mindset is the belief that abilities and intelligence can be developed through dedication, effort, and learning. Embrace a growth mindset by being open to feedback, embracing failures as learning opportunities, and continuously seeking ways to improve. Cultivating a growth mindset enables you to adapt to change, overcome obstacles, and seize new opportunities.



#WISDOMWEDNESDAY

JUNE INTERVIEW SEGMENT

Karabo Pororo

Whenever there is mention of beauty pageants in South Africa, the first pageant that will always spring to mind is the annual Miss South Africa. The modern woman has watched Miss South Africa with awe and acclaim for quite some time since its establishment in 1956. Although racial overtones were evident due to Caucasian pool of contestants, Miss South Africa evolved through the times leading to the first pageant competition allowing all racial groups to participate in 1977, which led to the first African Miss South Africa, Jacqui Mofokeng, being blessed with the opportunity to represent South Africa in 1993. However, many beauty pageants in South Africa allow women of all ages and backgrounds to showcase who they are about the dynamic rainbow South Africa has always been.

More about



KARABO PORORO

Olwethu Mokonyane



Karabo Pororo is an example of South Africa's underground beauty pageant scene and is the founder of 33 & Me, a talent agency that strives to give organic South African talent an opportunity to shine, backing her standing as a talent. Karabo's passion and poise prompted participation in this year's Miss Grand South Africa, a pageant dedicated to showcasing South African women in all their glory. However, Karabo Pororo began her journey with a love for modelling from a young age.

"Growing up, I've always been passionate about modelling. I've always loved modelling. I started modelling in primary at the age of eleven. That's where my modelling journey started. Ever since then, I've always chased the dream of modelling," she states.

As shy as she was as a child, Karabo chose to put herself out there in the modelling sector and participate in pageants that forced her out of the comfort zone. Challenging herself out of her comfort zone has not only made her confident, but also fuelled the fire burning within and instilled the poise she is known by today. In her retrospect, the modelling sector has come a long way since its infant stages in South Africa due to a more significant amount of representation of not only different skin tones but also different people. Yet, she maintains her stance in showcasing her African roots.

"I'm proud to be an African woman. I'm proud to be an African model," she says. "I feel like we are now taking space...At first, it used to be different. Modelling back then wasn't easy, and I feel like now, in this day and age, as an African model, we have more opportunities."

In Karabo's eyes, beauty should always be matched with substance and personality. Although beautiful in her own right, she also possesses a keen mind which allowed her to obtain an Advanced Diploma in Marketing Management from the Vaal University of Technology.



KARABO PORORO

"You can be beautiful but still at the same time have a cold heart. Or be a beauty without a brain. So, I feel like beauty is just a plus. You need to have a good heart," she affirms.

"You can be beautiful but still at the same time have a cold heart. Or be a beauty without a brain. So, I feel like beauty is just a plus. You need to have a good heart," she affirms.

These thoughts speak to her mother, who Karabo cites as being resilient and powerful in her own right. "I am where I am today because of her," she states proudly.

For Karabo, young women need to be seen as beautiful for who they are, yet more importantly, women need to understand they are enough for themselves and should always invest in themselves at every opportunity. Karabo brought this to herself and used it to push her modelling career further by running in Miss Grand South Africa.

"So far, it (Miss Grand South Africa) has been amazing. I'm learning a lot. Like I said, I'm a very shy person, but I feel like being part of Miss Grand South Africa has helped me gradually come out of my comfort zone," she states.

Currently, as a participant in Miss Grand South Africa, she's doing her philanthropic bit by giving back to the community through number of initiatives. This passion runs in tandem with her modelling. With both of these loves in mind, Karabo chooses to make her next goal.

"I want to have my own establishment, my own modelling agency because I have a passion for training young girls in my community. I'm hoping in the next five years to have my own agency and host my own pageants. And to be a well-known businesswoman in the modelling industry."



For the women reading this article not only should they be spurred on by Karabo's fighting spirit and use her as an example, but she also has a message for the women reading this article.



KARABO PORORO

"My message would always be your dreams. No matter how hard it may be or how hard it may seem. Always follow your dreams."

JUNE INTERVIEW SEGMENT

Refilwe Fosu-Amoah

In the past, pageantry have always been synonymous with beauty or had an age requirement that limited a potential pool of contests. However, the world soon began to realise that beauty pageants need to be inclusive of women of all ages. The likes of Miss Galaxy pageant have been one of the pageantries that fostered diversity and inclusion in the market.

More about



REFILWE FOSU- AMOAH

Olwethu Mokonyane



In the past, pageantry have always been synonymous with beauty or had an age requirement that limited a potential pool of contests. However, the world soon began to realise that beauty pageants need to be inclusive of women of all ages. The likes of Miss Galaxy pageant have been one of the pageantries that fostered diversity and inclusion in the market.

Refilwe Fosu-Amoah, is among those who have harvested the seeds of the diversity of age in the industry through Miss Galaxy. She says she considers herself as blessed for having had the opportunity to be one of the participants.

"I have been in my comfort zone, and I felt that at the time I had always wanted to enter a big pageant, specifically Miss South Africa. Now I'm married with kids, and I thought that the opportunity has passed."

As a 36-year-old with three children, Refilwe would not have been allowed to participate. However, with the spirit of reinventing pageantry, Miss Galaxy offered Refilwe the opportunity to live out her childhood dream. Initially, Refilwe was awarded a scholarship by Miss Galaxy International during the turbulent time following George Floyd's death and the Black Lives Matter protests.

"The owner of the International Galaxy system felt that her contribution to the Black Lives Movement was allowing women of colour the opportunity to compete in her pageant system because she didn't have a correct representation," she says.

Refilwe's decision to participate in a pageant also had a knock-on effect on who she was by allowing her to be her authentic self. As we know, previously there was a consensus that pageantries are solely based on aesthetics. However, the true beauty of pageantry is its ability to inspire and change.

Although Refilwe's interest in pageantry began with a love for the competition, she soon realised that pageantry could be combined with philanthropic efforts. Refilwe is a proud co-founder of Hope 4 Childhood Cancer, which was prompted a friend who lost her daughter to childhood cancer.

Miss Galaxy South Africa allowed me to amplify my voice in terms of the things I was passionate about and causes I was into. Also, it allowed me to get more for communities."

Hope 4 Childhood Cancer seeks to educate the community about the true nature of cancer and give light on early warning signs.

"I lost two family members in one year to breast cancer. One of them was actually my cousin, and it hit home as well. And I thought to myself, in their honour; I am also going to focus on breast cancer awareness," she states.

Some of Refilwe's outreach activity taps into sports and literacy, with hopes of reaching disadvantaged communities. Although her philanthropy is evolving and gaining traction, she does possess a viewpoint for her future.

She strives for her cancer outreach to have the effect that one-day, early warning signs of childhood cancer be a part of the physical health curriculum, as well as seeks to demystify breast cancer for women so that access to education and healthcare is seamless.



"It's been amazing, the love, the support. You know, I think the best way to describe it is that it has been an honour," she acclaims.

Her role as Ambassador has given her the validation that the excellent work she does for the world through her charity and philanthropy initiatives is worth the work.



REFILWE FOSU-AMOAH

"I would like every single individual, and I don't want to put a gender to it to know that your dreams are worthy. That you are worthy of achieving those dreams as well. And that whatever you believe you are, that you should chase it with everything that you are irrespective of your challenges," she states.



FOOD 'O CLOCK

Braised short rib

Ingredients:

- 6 whole beef short rib
- 1 tsp of garlic
- 1 large diced carrots
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 large onion diced
- Handful of chopped green pepper
- 1/2 cup of dry red wine
- 2 cubes of beef stock dissolved in 2 cups of hot water
- 2 sprigs rosemary
- SALT&PEPPER to taste
- 1 tbsp of bbq spice
- 1 tsp of paprika
- 2 tbsp of tomato paste
- 1 tsp of curry powder

Method:

1. In a cast iron pot, add olive oil, short ribs and bbq spice
2. Brown the meat then set aside
3. In the same pan, add onion, green pepper and carrots, fry them over medium heat then add paprika, curry powder, salt&pepper
4. Add tomato paste and wine, continue cooking over medium heat
5. Add the browned short ribs and fresh rosemary, mix well until all the ingredients are well incorporated
6. Add the beef stock then cover the pot and transfer it into the preheated oven
7. Cook it in the oven for 3hours 200-240 degrees

