



## SCHOOLS NOT SAFE IN GQEBERHA

By Yonelisa Mabotyi

Between bullying, physical and sexual abuse upon learners in Gqeberha schools, it is safe to say schools are no longer conducive for pupils. In the five months from January to May 2021, media reports of school violence and physical bullying have continued unabated across the country.

These include male teachers violating pupils; a pupil committing suicide after being bullied at school; cyberbullying outrage in schools; and a teen sentenced to a year of community service because of bullying in school.

Learners, teachers, and parents of the James Jolobe High School in Gqeberha, in the Eastern Cape, gathered on a Monday, calling for improved security at the school. Their action came after reports of two separate robberies on the school premises. It is reported that the school is not fenced. Learners and teachers are at the mercy of criminals.

A DF Malherbe high school teacher who later resigned, was accused of sending inappropriate WhatsApp messages to two pupils from the school. This is seven years after he was fired from another Gqeberha school for a similar offence.

A row has erupted at the Khanyisa School for the Blind in KwaDwesi, Gqeberha, as the cook allegedly keeps burning the food, which pupils refuse to eat. Parents claim that when their children refuse the food, the cook berates them and sometimes tosses the scorched meals at them.

Eastern Cape Education Department officials were said to visit Astra Primary School in Gqeberha, where a 13-year-old pupil was reportedly called out for her Afro hairstyle. The mother of a 13-year-old pupil is awaiting feedback from the Eastern Cape education department.

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News for the students, by the students

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Over the past month, we had a writing competition running on the theme of 'effects of COVID-19' and the participants had to produce an opinion piece. We received numerous entries and it proved difficult in selecting the winning piece because of how impeccable the pieces were. We thank all the participants who showed interest in the competition.

In this edition, the spotlight is on the winning article from the writing competition titled 'The Effects of COVID-19' by Siyolise Gqongwana. Congratulations!

In the spirit of celebration, I would like to thank our team who managed to deliver content even under the immense pressure of exams. It is greatly appreciated.

To our readers thank you for taking time to go over the edition and we hope you love and appreciate the work produced, do not forget to visit our blog for more content as well. Also, we would love to hear from you, so hit us up on our socials.

**Ashley Malepe**

# CORONAVIRUS SAFETY

## What to do to keep yourself and others safe from COVID-19

**Maintain at least a 1.5-metre distance between yourself and others** to reduce your risk of infection when they cough, sneeze or speak. Maintain an even greater distance between yourself and others when indoors.

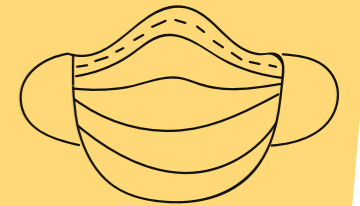
**Make wearing a mask a normal part of being around other people.** The appropriate use, storage and cleaning or disposal are essential to make masks as effective as possible.

**Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub** or wash them with soap and water. This eliminates germs including viruses that may be on your hands.

**Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.** Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and infect you.

**Cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze.** Then dispose of the used tissue immediately into a closed bin and wash your hands.

**Clean and disinfect surfaces frequently** especially those which are regularly touched, such as door handles, taps and phone screens.



**CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK NATIONAL HOTLINE**

**0 800 029 999**



# KHULA COSMETICS BRINGING US 100% ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS #R2bP



By Khomotso Skosana

Khula Cosmetics is a 100% natural, plant-based cosmetics business that was founded in 2020 by co-founders Charnelle Davids and Ayanda Ngwenya. They started this company in a kitchen at a student digs. This hair cosmetics company is focused on helping women grow and repair their dry and damaged hair naturally. The name "Khula" is derived from the Xhosa/Zulu word which means 'grow'. They mentioned that after they have witnessed the remarkable results due to their products from their customers in a short amount of time, which is a matter of weeks, that is when they found this name fitting for their business.

What inspires them most is that they wish to sell products of high-quality products, which yield results, and which are sold at competitive

prices. Both Ayanda and Charnelle have a passion for achieving long-term sustainability and growth for Khula Cosmetics.

"Fear in entrepreneurship is usually correlated with failure. People are afraid to start something because their minds are already set on the outcome instead of the little steps that they must take to start the process. They should start with whatever they have and multiply on that, they should not be hesitant to ask questions or for advice from people who have achieved what you would be working towards. Be open to being teachable", this is Charnelle's advice for students that want to start their entrepreneurship journey but are afraid of failure.

Charnelle and Ayanda have entered Khula Cosmetics in the EDHE 2021 Competition and Charnelle has been nominated to become a mentee for the Women@Dior international program in 2021, we wish nothing but more milestones for these young entrepreneurs.

Khula Cosmetics is a Port Elizabeth and East London based hair cosmetics company, they have various delivery methods such as Uber connect for surrounding areas in Summerstrand/Humewood and they are also working with a courier company for Nationwide deliveries. For more information visit their Instagram page on Khula cosmetics and they can be contacted on WhatsApp on 064 790 3810, where you can also view their catalogue.

Photo: supplied

# THE PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION ACT

By Ashley Malepe

What is POPIA?

The Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013 (POPIA) is the comprehensive data protection legislation enacted in South Africa. POPIA aims to give effect to the constitutional right to privacy, whilst balancing this against competing rights and interests, particularly the right of access to information. What this means is that POPIA as a South African domestic law, any personal information recorded by a company or any responsible party that is domiciled in South Africa or not domiciled in South Africa but makes use of non-automated/automated means in South Africa, should afford the person/s whom the personal information belongs to, the right to privacy. There are also exclusions and exemptions to POPIA such as if the information is purely for personal or household activities, personal information that has been de-identified and cannot be re-identified again or for literary, journalistic, or artistic purposes.

What are the conditions of POPIA?

- **Accountability** - The responsible party must ensure that the conditions and all the measures set out in the Act that give effect to such conditions, are complied with at the time of the determining the purpose and means of the processing.
- **Processing Limitation** - Personal information may only be processed in a fair and lawful manner and only with the consent of the data subject.
- **Purpose Specific** - Personal information may only be processed for specific, explicitly defined, and legitimate reasons.
- **Further Processing Limitation** - Personal information may not be processed for a secondary purpose unless that processing is compatible with the original purpose.
- **Information Quality** - The responsible party must take reasonable steps to ensure that the personal information collected is complete, accurate, not misleading and updated where necessary.
- **Openness** - The data subject whose information you are collecting must be aware that you are collecting such personal information and for what purpose the information will be used.
- **Security Safeguards** - Personal information must be kept secure against the risk of loss, unlawful access, interference, modification, unauthorized destruction, and disclosure.
- **Data Subject Participation** - Data subjects may request whether their personal information is held, as well as the correction and/or deletion of any personal information held about them.

What are the non-compliance consequences?

Failure to comply with the requirements of the POPI Act could have dire consequences. If someone is alleged to be in breach of the POPI Act, a complaint may be submitted to the Information Regulator. This complaint will be dealt with by an adjudicator. Non-compliance for less serious offences, for example, hindering an official in the execution of a search and seizure warrant the maximum penalty would be a fine or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 12 months, or to both a fine and such imprisonment. Non-compliance for the more serious offences the maximum penalties are a R10 million fine or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years or to both a fine and such imprisonment.

For more information, visit: <https://www.popiact-compliance.co.za/popia-information/16-offences-penalties-and-administrative-fines>

Photo: precumedia.com





By Ashley Malepe

Earlier in April, it was revealed in an answer to a parliamentary question to the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Blade Nzimande that Since 2010, more than 120,000 South African students have not received their qualification certificates and transcripts due to student debts.

After 21 out of 26 universities in South Africa submitted their records, it was found that the total outstanding fees by graduates who are yet to settle their debts, was more than R10-billion rands, with Tshwane University of Technology having the highest student debt at R4,4-billion by 11 255 graduates. Walter Sisulu University has the highest number of students with outstanding fees as 20088 students owe the university totalling R526-million.

Furthermore, Nelson Mandela University has 820 students owing the institution with a total of R62.86-Million of outstanding fees by graduates and Qamani Mafika is one of them.

Qamani, a graduate in Bachelor of Architectural studies, graduated in 2019 and is yet to settle his fees at Nelson Mandela University. He took up a clerking job to try and pay the debt off. "I have been trying to pay off my outstanding fees since 2020. Although it was not a hefty amount due, it was still difficult for me because I do not have much to my name. luckily, I am almost done paying it off, then I can start applying for my dream job. But my heart still breaks for those who cannot settle their debts," Qamani said.

Many other students who have their certificates withheld cannot apply for their intended jobs, leaving most without employment and no hope to ever settle their debts. Only CPUT does not withhold certificates and some universities do assist former students who are looking for employment by providing proof of completion of their qualification or academic record to the potential employer, if the student who has outstanding fees approaches the university with such a request.

Nzimande said that his department was collecting data from universities to provide a profile of the students that have historical debt at each institution, this was being done to see whether the government can "urgently" do something to assist the students with genuine cases.



## UNEMPLOYMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR STUDENTS

By Shitshembiso Mahlathi

Unemployment particularly among South African youth was a serious dilemma, long before COVID-19 became a reality. Millions of people, desperate for work, had to face the stark reality of unemployment. COVID-19 only exacerbated the problem with an alarming rate of 46,3% unemployment rate, among youths aged 15-34.

Student entrepreneurs are driven by a variety of factors that lead them to becoming entrepreneurs while still in school. Some students are motivated because they are parents, and they need to care for their children while they are in school. Others are motivated because they are suffering financial difficulties in their households, and they need to pay for things like rent and extras for their studies. Some students began enterprises on campus or while still in school because they could not find work, while others just wanted to work for themselves and liked selling things.

With the high unemployment rate, it is time for most students in universities to invest in practical ways of earning money. You may become a student digital entrepreneur by taking use of the internet's various prospects. Blogging, website development, social media, online surveys, being an internet life coach, uploading films to YouTube, and getting paid to write and create content are just a few of the online careers.

South African universities have traditionally focused on the distribution of knowledge and research. Job placement alone has been shown to be insufficient in previous youth employment programs in South Africa. Now is the time for them to shift their focus to implementing entrepreneurship programs within their institutions.





Photo: gallo pictures

## SOUTH AFRICA'S CORRUPTION EMERGENCY

By Liyema Mpompi

Several South African heads of state and political leaders have been implicated in countless corruption scandals. One is the Former President of the Republic of South Africa, Jacob Zuma, who is currently facing 16. 1 is for racketeering, 1 for money laundering, 12 for fraud, and 2 for corruption. In exchange for the protection of the company from being investigated into a deal, the former president, allegedly accepted R500 000.00 annually from French's arms company sales. Ace Magashule, the African National Congress Secretary-General is also facing corruption charges for allegedly being involved in \$15M(over 200 million rands) worth of contract to find and steal asbestos from vulnerable households in the Free State.

A journal article by a business & management, Aye Mengistu Alemu Characterises corruption as the "abuse of public office for private benefit or the abuse of true position, rank, or status by an office bearer for his or her very own benefit". This insinuates that corruption has a negative and denting image on a country's reputation. It blocks potential foreign investments, which would have had improved the economic situation of the country.

The covid-19 global pandemic has created a platform for corruption to take up space, as a result, massive resources like personal protective equipment have been appropriated.

The biggest concern is the impact of this on the students who happen to be future generation taxpayers. It arguably means that the South African judiciary system has become weak to a point where people who are in higher positions feel like they are way above the law. As it is visible if you compare the number of people who steal state funds versus the number of people who face the arm of the law for that stealing and misusing of state funds. Overall, the long lengthy legal processes it takes for people to be charged for criminal cases has always been questionable.

The state capture National Prosecuting Authority, Hawks, Office of the public protector, and the office of the auditor general etcetera are the future of this country as they have proven to work tirelessly to hold public officials accountable.

## WRITING COMPETITION WINNER

### THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19

By Siyolise Gqongwana

On Thursday, 5 March 2020, South Africa received its first case of the Coronavirus and consequently had to enforce physical distancing restrictions to prevent the further spread of the unprecedented disease. Over 1,700,000 cases later, the torment of Covid-19 is still among us. "You don't know the value of something until you lose it" could not be more fitting, as everyone, in some shape or form, has had certain aspects of their 'normal' lives expropriated by the virus.

The concern for my loved ones together with the feeling of restriction and being in constant isolation started taking its toll on my mental health. On a few occasions I would find myself gazing at the depressing scene of the deserted street outside my home, with the occasional military truck patrolling the area. The frequent reports of education institutions shutting down caused great uncertainty over my future, which also triggered my mild anxiety attacks. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recorded statistics claiming that around 40% of adults reported at least one adverse mental health concern, including anxiety, depression and suicidal ideation.

Furthermore, due to the lack of direct human contact, people had to start getting used to 'being alone together' – which meant an inevitable incline in social media activity. This would obviously lack the same emotional quality and need fulfilment, which saw specific relationships in my life being put to the test. Additionally, online learning, a product of the pandemic, also saw my chances at socializing and meeting new people significantly lessened.

Covid-19 has had a great psychological impact on people and has caused a huge shift in our social lives. Mobility restrictions have left people painfully conscious of how much their well-being is dependent on others and how being with others has been taken for granted. If I were to extract a lesson from this pandemic, it would be to appreciate the little things a bit more.

Photo: istockphoto.com



# CONCERNS AHEAD LOCAL ELECTIONS

By Liyema Mpompi

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) has given South Africa the green light to go ahead with the local government elections later this year. And with the registration period set to be on the weekend of 31 July- 1 August 2021. There are a few main concerns about these elections that arose, and there are as follows:

1. Fairness - According to The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Section 190 subsection 1(b), the IEC must make sure the elections are independent and free. So, with Covid-19 restrictions prohibiting massive gatherings making political rallies impossible to take place. The fairness of these elections has been questioned as it prevents the chance of small political parties the ability to gather a bigger number of supporters.

2. The possibility of serving as a super spreader event - every time during either national/ local election day, the number of people result in a huge outcome at that specific venue. Now, the question is that how these numbers are going to be accommodated during this course and will this not result in a decline in the number of citizens pitching up to cast their votes.

3. Why are the elections not online - the world is evolving to being better and accommodating. In this pandemic, everyone has slowly adjusted to technology and the digital world. 25 years later into the democracy, South Africa still has not yet adjusted to the technological flexibility & has not responded to the urgent need of the move of elections to online elections. Either way, we need to consider that South Africa is not a well-developed country compared to other nations like the United States of America. Moreover, there are too many uncertain variables with our current internet structure to try voting online.



Photo: News24



# THE HOOK-UP CULTURE

Photo: Firstpost.com

By Somila Tiwani

**“Let us be friends, just friends. I am not ready for a relationship, but I expect you to do things with me considered inappropriate in terms of a friendship.” – Unknown. You have probably heard this before, whether you are thinking of your own experiences, concerned about the youngsters in your life or questioning the future of sex and relationships in general.**

You cannot help but question what is fuelling such widespread societal shift from dating to hooking up. Firstly, let us define ‘a hook-up’. A hook-up usually entails some form of sexual connection. A hook-up is meant to be strictly physical, with both participants avoiding any interaction that could result in emotional attachment. It can be a one-night stand, friends with benefits, a situation-ship or simply casual sex.

We are a generation of a hook-up culture, and it is unfortunate that some people believe catching feelings makes you ‘weak’. People hook-up for various reasons; a hook-up allows one to get to learn someone without feeling rushed into making a decision. The issue is that at least one participant “catches feelings” more often than not. There are advantages and disadvantages to hook-ups:

**Advantages:**

- There is no pressure – there are no expectations.
- Less stress than a serious relationship – unlike relationships, in hook-ups you do not need to be loyal, trustworthy, or honest.
- Cost Effective – You do not have to go out on dates. Hook-ups only require sexual intimacy.

**Disadvantages:**

- It harms your mental health – this form of a relationship is not for the sensitive. It might leave you heartbroken and disappointed.
- It keeps you from the right person - it takes up an important phase of your life.
- It is not worth the investment – you do not invest in these kinds of relationships because they may end any time.
- Exposed to sexually transmitted infections (STI’s) – Hook-ups are very risky. This form of a relationship allows you to explore, so you might be exposed to STI’s.

Hook-ups are generally bad, and most people involved in them crave intimacy but cannot risk being hurt again. Love is beautiful, take the risk it might lead to happiness.



# WHY DIGITAL LITERACY HAS TO BE PRIORITISED



By Ashley Malepe

In the wake of the pandemic, life as we know it has been altered greatly, with digital life offering as a new norm. Now more than ever we realise the need to prioritize digital literacy, especially for developing countries. South Africa is a developing country, and the pandemic exposed the digital literacy divide that exists in the country. The severity of the digital literacy divide is not uniform to the education spectrum but also in the field of work where digital literacy is necessary.

Schools and higher education institutions continue to operate but under new methods that involve multi-modal pedagogy. Most of the teaching happens online with minimal or no contact learning at all. This now means that users of these online platforms, teachers, lecturers, pupils, and students need to be digital literate. But what does it mean to be digital literate?

There are myriad definitions of digital literacy, but The American Library Association (ALA) defines digital literacy simpler as "the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information, requiring both cognitive and technical skills."

This means one is required to have a device so that they can effectively learn or continue their studies. Without a learning device, one cannot simply continue with learning and teaching. Above all, this requires all parties to know how to use the device which proves to be a challenge for most pupils and students directly affecting their studies. Not knowing how to use digital technologies is a significant barrier to digital inclusion particularly for those that are poor who may need help from the government. Government should prioritise digital literacy more than ever, and faster.

Government should:

- Implement device centres that are accessible to the public,
- Provide internet connectivity to all public schools and places,
- Invest in Information Communication Technology (ICT) training and support,
- Replace expensive proprietary textbooks and learning materials with Open Educational Resources (OER).
- Put digital skills and education front and centre of policy agendas.

The time we live in now warrants active participation of the government to close the digital literacy disparity that exists in the country.

# THRIVING ON WINTER DAYS

By Aziziphozethu Gwija

Being productive in winter is one of the hardest things to do. We all just want to curl up in our blankets and do nothing but that is not how things work. We spend most of our days lazing around or procrastinating. For most of us we cannot afford to procrastinate as it is exam season. For this reason, it is very important that we keep a productive and healthy lifestyle even during the cold winter days. This will help balance your physical and emotional well-being.

There are plenty of things that you can do to keep productive during this winter. One of those things is exercising. A study that was done in the Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism found that the exercising in the cold weather burns more calories than during the warmer weather. So, this is the perfect time to work on that summer body. Exercising also helps boost your brain power so this will be very helpful in thriving during exam season.

Because we spend most of our days cooped indoors it is the perfect time for us to practice self-care. So instead of sleeping or watching television the whole day, you can make the most of your day by buying a reading a book, journaling, cleaning your room etc. This is good for your mental health as it gives your brain something positive and productive to do and will also help pass time. Find something to look forward to everyday, this will help keep you optimistic during this winter.

For most of us, winter will never be as enjoyable as summer. Finding ways to make the most of your days in winter is important for your mind, body, and soul. The more you make the most of your days the faster the season will go and before you know it, it will be springtime.







# BECOMING A SLOW FASHION SUPPORTER!

Photo: freepik.com

By Laiken Faiers

No one could have suspected that our clothing could have such a sinister origin. Fast fashion is the process of replicating, manufacturing, and selling a high volume of clothing. Because of fast fashion we have lower prices meaning we can purchase more for less. This sounds like a dream come true, doesn't it? But there is a much greater cost that it results in.

The fashion industry contributes greatly to environmental damage. It is the second largest polluter in the world. This impact follows us home. The synthetic materials used to make our garment result in 700 000 individual microfibers being released into our water after ever wash. Ultimately these microfibers end up in our oceans which harms sea life.

Sadly, this is just the tip of the iceberg. In order to produce and sell clothing at a low price you require cheap labour. This has resulted in inhuman working conditions. People are often forced to work in unsafe building without proper ventilation or proper payment. Just take the Rana Plaza collapse as an example.

Switching to slow fashion seems to be the best alternative to fast fashion. Slow fashion does not just mean making your own clothing or purchasing vintage and second-hand clothing. It is also a mindset. It is about not letting impulse be the leading drive behind purchases or the need to follow trends. It is about learning about what you actually like and building a wardrobe that reflects this. This means that you will have a durable wardrobe and will spend less on clothing you end up throwing out soon after acquiring it.

As a consumer you influence demand. By switching to more ethical and sustainable brands you are sending a message. Being a slow fashion supporter is the best way to combat the negative impact of fast fashion.



Photo: netflix.com

## HAVE YOU WATCHED FATHERHOOD?

By Zukisani Gali

**Fatherhood** – the state of being a father. Extending this basic explanation, **fatherhood is the process of loving and supporting a child through various means like being there for them.** Director Paul Wertz took all these terms and created a film of the same title – **Fatherhood.**

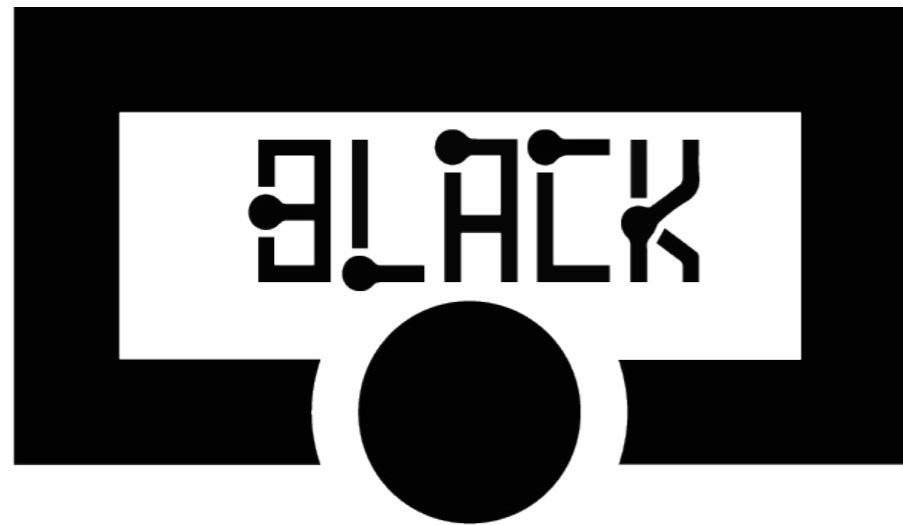
Being a parent is generally difficult. Between the sleepless nights, sudden illnesses, crying, homework – parenthood is not for the weak. Things become more difficult when you are only one parent, and as portrayed in this film, a single father. Paul Wertz based the film on the 'Memoir of Loss and Love: Two Kisses for Maddy' by Matthew Logelin. It is a fairly realistic film that portrays the daily struggles that single fathers endure and bring attention to these struggles.

The film features a stellar cast, with Kevin Hart as lead, playing the role of Matthew Logelin whose wife passed away a day after giving birth to their daughter. Due to the shock thereof and the hardship that comes with raising a baby, Matthew set out to seek help through a parent support group who assisted in raising his daughter, Maddy, played by Melody Hurd.

After years of raising Maddy, Matthew started mingling and looking for love and even if he liked someone, he would always seek validation from Maddy. The film is beautiful and inspirational and should be a rite of passage for men who are planning to have a family to learn through their doubts, fear, heartache, and dirty diapers. It is a feelgood film that you can find on Netflix.



# MY DREAMS AND GOALS MATTER TOO



## WE ARE INNOVATION



By Esethu Sifolo

**Tumisho Fortune Rabopape was born in Limpopo and grew up in the rural village of Mogodi located in Ga-Mphahlele Limpopo. He is one of the South Africans that are driven by a passion for technology. When he was 18 years old, he decided to establish a software company called Black Digital Innovation and it has created an app that cost R43k, and that process took him four months.**

Fortune explains that he had isolated himself from society, from the influence the society has, not by choice but because of depression. He was diagnosed with atypical depression which can be defined as an increase of hunger or weight gain, drowsiness or excessive sleep, significant weariness or weakness, moods that are intensely reactive to external conditions, and feeling very sensitive to rejection are all signs of atypical depression, a subtype of severe depression or dysthymic disorder.

However, he had to fight back and not easily give up, he realized that he has dreams and goals that matter. Fortune took a gap year because of depression, he decided to invent his non-profitable organization which aims to help disadvantaged children. Tumisho created a Math Time app intending to not leave anyone behind since he got 97% in mathematics in matric. The aim behind his organization is to help matric students to improve their marks. Tumisho says he will be going to university next year to become a qualified software developer, Tumisho says youth should learn to face challenges in life as he survived depression and decided to kickback. As he explains that it is not an easy journey, but it is best to slowly work on yourself every day. His last hope is to get a sponsor or a bursary so that he can get to what he wants to major in.

Photo: supplied

# ROAD TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM

By Ashley Malepe

First things first, what does it mean to be financially free? Joanelle Smit, Financial Planner, and Director at Spectra Plan BlueStar defines financial freedom as a state in a person's life in which you have enough savings, investments, and cash to afford a lifestyle that you may wish for yourself and for your family. This does not mean being rich or having huge amounts of money saved up for 'rainy days' but knowing how to manage your financial woes and having enough when needed. This now leads to financial literacy, which is better defined by Jason Fernando who is Director at Voyager Holdings, Jason defines it as the ability to understand and effectively use various financial skills, including personal financial management, budgeting, and investing.

Being financially free enables you to have many options, you are never broke! well that may sound too good to be true but...

Here are ways to achieve and attain financial freedom:

- Side hustle- getting a side hustle is the first step because this will ensure a source of income and discipline. Be that as it may, it does not have to be overly demanding which will affect your studies. In the contemporary times we live in, it is rather much difficult to find work, so being entrepreneurial-minded will better your chances of getting a source of income. A skill, or an idea that you always had but never believed in it, well now may be the time to believe in it.
- User friendly bank- Using a bank that understands your hustle and acknowledges you being a student takes a little bit effort and lot of sitting-down-thinking.
- Budgeting- drawing financing plans and expenditure is like adding fuel to your car. You will simply not get ahead if you do not effectively plan for you money.

- Sticking to your budget- consistent budgeting and sticking to it, shows and requires a great deal of discipline and commitment. You tend to also realise or pick up mistakes you may have done in your budgeting, this helps you in making wise financial decisions.
- Savings- this appears to be the hardest part about the "road to financial freedom". However, if your goal is financial freedom, you need a buffer for the unexpected life events that happen to all of us, such as broken appliances, medical emergencies etc. Once you have that fully funded savings account, you will start to feel more flexibility in your budget.
- Do not live above your means- part of making wise financial decisions is knowing what you can afford or buy and still survive with savings on your bank account. Most students or youngsters love to splurge money on temporal things, and this is a great downfall for them.

Being financially literate avoids financial stress which can be a waking nightmare for students, and a contributing factor in talented students dropping out of varsity or slipping into depression.



Photo: istockphoto.com



# THE DRAGON MAN; A 'MORE HUMANLIKE' SPECIES



Photo: scitechdaily.com

By Mhlongo Surprise

**Chinese scientists announced a discovery of a male skull which could be a possible replacement for Neanderthals as a human's closest relatives.**

According to the news reports, The Harbin cranium was discovered in Heilongjiang and was named Homo Longi, nick named 'Dragon man'. Homo means man/ human, grouping it with the most evolved species from the beginning of Hominid evolution. For 85 years the cranium was hidden from the public with intentions of "protecting" it from the Japanese army

Human evolution can only be described as the long process of change that has been backed by scientific evidence, including fossil, genetic and cultural data, by individuals from ancient ancestors. Biology categorizes the development in 3 phases: Ardipithecus, Australopithecine and the Homo, which are present in modern humans, our closest cousin species is the Homo Sapiens Neanderthals.

While the proper classification of the Harbin cranium by researchers has yet to be discussed, Dr Xijun Ni, a paläoanthropologist at the Chinese Academy of Science and his fellow scientists confidently suggest that cranium is sufficiently different to be regarded as an independent species and its characteristics, including its size. It may correspond to the most evolved Homo sapiens and Homo Neanderthals.

# WISE UP! BEWARE OF FAKE FOODS

By Hlengiwe Phiri

**Grocery prices can be heavy on people's pockets; therefore, it is the best choice to go for the cheap but not all cheap items are safe to consume.**

Local vendors are known for selling goods at low prices, but they do not always sell safe food at low prices. They are also known for deliberately selling unhealthy food for the sake of money. Unfortunately, the fast-moving population of the country has raised demand for food supplies adversely, and it is regrettable that it is not possible for everyone to afford increasing costs. Even manufacturers tend to manipulate the food they offer unlawfully, to make a profit from it. They have tempered with products such as pasta, syrup, the sales of antibiotics, and even added sawdust to teabags to enhance production, combined rice with silicone, produced eggs from plastic, and combining some spices with tobacco.

Some sellers sell even erase best before dates to sell spoiled food and sell them at a reduced cost to susceptible consumers. Although some counterfeit foodstuffs are harmless to the health of individuals, but the sale of distorted products cripples the economy in the long run which will lead to government not being able to maintain and provide the citizens.

Harmful counterfeit goods are widely available to individuals and people end up buying counterfeit food without knowing but they are lured by the cheap price. Citizens and the government must be alerted to put a stop to the sale of such food. For further information on fake goods, kindly send an email to the South African Consumer Goods Council at [info@cgcsa.co.za](mailto:info@cgcsa.co.za) to alert the consumer goods exchange by calling 011 7773300.

Photo: pexels.com





## ISOLATED FOR HYBRIDIZATION

By Mhlongo Surprise

For as long as the earth remains a home of life, all of us depends on the available resources for survival.

Following the evacuation of more than hundred thousand people from a region in Japan after a nuclear power plant disaster in 2011. Dangerous radiation has consistently poured over the region and animals has taken control. Wild boars were one of the species that roamed in the radiation zone, the DNAs of which were analyzed to study any biological harm induced by over radiation exposure.

Many of these boars were found to be hybrids. It appeared that domestic pigs were left during evacuation, and eventually expanded in the abandoned region alongside wild boars.

While scientists believe that any type of hybridization is an alternative approach to make some species more suitable for survival. However, many articles only showed the desired and successful breads. So, there are dangers posed by the potential formation or hybridization species such sterile offspring, difficulty finding matches or mating, and many other genetic abnormalities.

Is all this nature revealing another supporting evidence of evolution? Hybridization in biology is when two species with independent evolutionary histories come into contact and interbreeds, which can then result in speciation (forming of new species), should there be an isolation with the parental lineages, a hybrid/crossbreed's proceeds.

Does this imply a possibility of witnessing speciation? Interestingly, this could be another spontaneous incident that just occur and further isolate these species where predators could favor one and not the other.

## MATH PROBLEMS REMAIN UNSOLVED

By Mhlongo Surprise

Twenty-one years down the line, the list of seven top unresolved mathematical problems was published and some of which indicate real-world ramifications for technological advances such as cryptography. Eric Weisstein argues on the Wolfram research where many unresolved math issues are raised.

Leonhard Euler's letter pointed out that at least it looks like every integer that exceeds two is the sum of three primes. Even though some sophisticated mathematicians argue that any idiot could have guessed it, but the theory remains clear while lacking evidence.

Algorithms specify in simplest terms that if you reverse the two-digit integer, add the reversed version, and perform the same thing continually with total time. The Palindrome number is the same number when its numbers are reversed. It is obvious that the 196 algorithms do not work for number 196. A Hadamard matrix is best defined as  $H_n H_n^T = nI_n$  which means that half the adjacent cells are given the same sign and the other half and Hadamard-matrix is placed side-by-side of any columns or rows (sides). That is to say, the Hadamard matrix is available for any multiple of four in the positives.

The general Riemann's hypothesis assumes that neither a Riemann Zeta function of certain integrative characteristics used for the investigation of prime number properties, nor any Dirichlet L series function used for expressing two-dimensional gate grid amounts can simply sum products that have an x-intercept of zero with an actual part over half.

In my view, the existing mathematical problems that remain unsolved merely tells us that the awarding and celebration of the Nobel prizes is an intent to fuel the ego of some mathematicians.

Photo: inc.com



# IS HUMAN REPRODUCTION POSSIBLE IN SPACE?

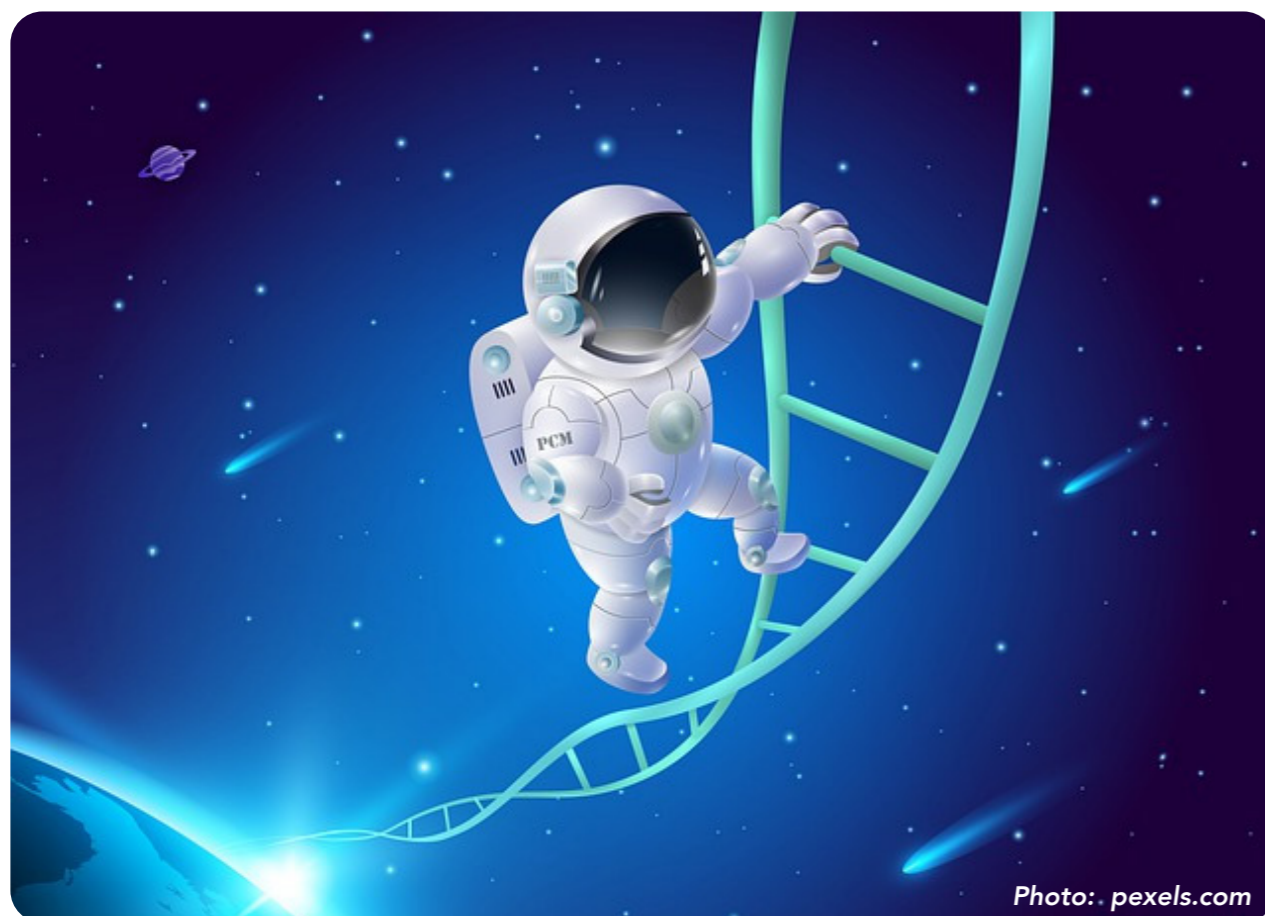


Photo: pexels.com

By Mhlongo Surprise

**Several scientists are still curious as to whether human reproduction can be possible in space as NASA and several other organizations continue to carry out their missions.**

A group of scientists from the University of Yamanashi in Japan, and other space agencies & institutes of radiological sciences suggest that human reproduction could be possible on space but then there is one drawback is that the atmosphere will not protect these people against space radiation at all. Merely because space is populated with microgravity and strong radiations which is difficult to shield even from spacecraft. There has been enough reasons for scientists to assume life could / could not be sustained on space.

A sperm cell comprises of fluid molecules which, when exposed to an environment such as space may dry out. Biologist Teruhuko, together with his colleagues, froze and sent samples of mice sperms to the international space station to monitor research while certain samples of sperm cells left on the earth. Two years and nine months later a box of samples was returned to demonstrate practicality, with the eggs fertilized to generate 243 offspring. Another set of samples was returned for fertilization of 168 egg cells five years and ten months down the line. The modification in the samples' DNA was observed and was not different from the ones kept on Earth indicating that freezing the sperm cells prevented them from harm due to heavy radiation.

# SENEKAL TOPS OFF SUCCESSFUL YEAR WITH MADIBAZ AWARD



By Kholiswa Dlamini

Madibaz top star athletics Ischke Senekal was once again crowned national champion in shot put and discus competitions. She was named Nelson Mandela University Female Athlete of the Year at the grand sports awards dinner. For good measure, Ischke Senekal was also named the Female Athlete of the Year at the Madibaz club's annual function. She also won two gold medals at the Athletics SA Senior Track and Field Championships in Germiston.

The 26-year-old represented South Africa at the 12th All Africa Games in Morocco and returned home with a shot-put silver medal and bronze medal. Even though she is an established high-class competitor, the Madibaz star said there are learning curves she still needs to consider after all.

The education master's degree student said that this season has helped her to be much stronger mentally than what she had given herself credit for. She also learnt that one is never too experienced to make mistakes, and that it is how one handles them which determines the effect thereon.

The belief and the support system that her coach Kobus van Zyl had in her, kept her career on track and has been instrumental in Senekal's major development. "Kobus van Zyl has always believed and continues to believe in me, He helped me to try harder each day and to become stronger mentally, physically and emotionally, until finally he led me to believe in myself and my abilities."

Senekal also said that her family's support has been pivotal and most certainly her turning point. "My family is my other turning point, helping me keep my feet glued to the ground while still supporting and willing me on to dream for bigger and better achievements." Ischke Senekal said

The most important thing she want people to know is that they can achieve anything they possibly want to achieve by not forgetting to: 'believe YOU CAN achieve'. Being named the Madibaz Sportswoman of the Year for a second consecutive year has given her so much encouragement and means a lot to her as it helps motivate her to keep on going and trying to achieve more.

Her best memories from this year included going to the world cup where she came in fourth, becoming African champion for discus and competing in the continental cup.

Photo: varsitypost.com





Photo: [heraldlive.co.za](http://heraldlive.co.za)

## MADIBAZ RUGBY TAKE POSITIVES FROM THE 2021 VARSITY CUP

By Tumelo Muvhali

Madibaz Rugby will continue to invest in their student-athletes in order to better their performances for the upcoming season, despite a challenging comeback to the FNB Varsity Cup competition.

After what can only be described as a difficult season in the varsity cup, FNB Madibaz's optimism for the future is maintained by focusing on the small positives from the 2021 season.

The competition not only blessed the team with a vast amount of experience at the top level, but also brought many good individual performances that may carry the club into a successful future.

Madibaz Sport rugby manager Mthunzi Hewu acknowledged that the 2021 varsity Cup season was difficult to compete in, but he prides himself with the services offered to the student-athletes.

"We realised we faced a difficult task, but we did everything in our power to prepare for the 2021 season," said Hewu.

He added that, "the attitude is that they are students first and sport stars second, hence we ensure that they have an excellent university experience. This programme helps to create well-balanced individuals and everyone at Madibaz Rugby plays an important role."

Given that this is a very young squad with little elite-level experience, the team spirit demonstrated by the players throughout the tournament is quite impressive.

With two players signing professional contracts this season, Madibaz is demonstrating that they can provide a platform for you to complete your studies while also having the potential to become a professional player.