



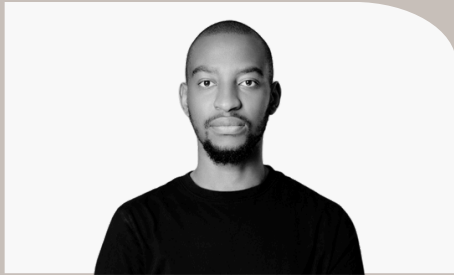
NEW YOUTH, NEW REALITY

The Feature.za

Youth Edition

MEET TEAM FEATURE

The Creatives



Stills by Tom
Photographer



Miriam Dube
Editor-In-Chief



Olwethu Mokonyane
Content Writer



Kganya Makola
Designer

TO CONTACT US, CLICK ON THE RESPECTIVE
ICONS BELOW:



THE FEATURE MAGAZINE IS A NON- PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

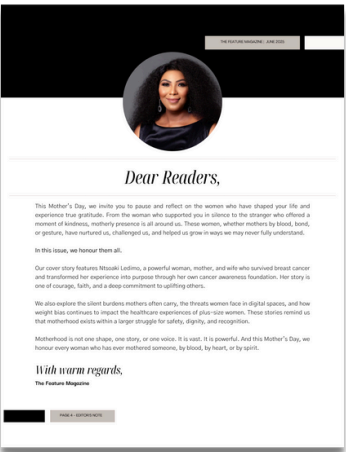
COPYRIGHT © THE FEATURE 2019. ALL RIGHTS
RESERVED

The Feature.za
NON-PROFIT DIGITAL MAGAZINE

Navigating The Issue

EXPLORE THE FEATURE

04



06



11



13



17



18





Dear Readers,

Can you feel it? That electric energy that hums in the air like a song not yet sung but already stirring in your chest. The presence that builds when the youth gather not for spectacle but for substance. To confront injustice. To build a future where the next generation won't have to bleed for what should have been theirs by birthright. That presence, that fire, that unyielding will, that is the Youth.

Youth is more than just a demographic box to tick on a census form. It is a force. A contradiction. A declaration. It is potential personified, wild, untamed, beautiful. It is both the seed and the storm. A term that holds within it the power to disrupt, to dream, and to do the seemingly impossible. Youth is the moment right before the world changes.

This Youth Month we refused to echo the tired narrative many media outlets seem so comfortable with. That the youth are lost, lazy, or lacking direction. We rejected the condescending headlines, the patronizing punditry, and the slow erosion of hope. Instead we turned to the streets, the classrooms, the boardrooms, the stages, the studios and we listened. Because the truth is, the Youth of South Africa are not wandering aimlessly. They are carving paths where none previously existed.

On June 16 1976 the world witnessed the kind of courage that can only come from the young. They marched armed with conviction, not weapons. With school shoes on their feet and fire in their hearts, they shook a regime to its core. Hector Pieterse became the face of a struggle he should never have had to die for, but his sacrifice was not in vain. It became a symbol. A scar. A spark.

This issue is our tribute, not just to the past but to the present and the future. We spotlight the youth who are breaking barriers and exceeding expectations. Young people launching businesses, reshaping culture, leading in spaces that once excluded them, and redefining what it means to be powerful, black, and brilliant in South Africa.

We bring you stories of young professionals entering the corporate world with a confidence and clarity that challenges the status quo. Youth who are refusing to wait their turn because they know the time is now. We speak to innovators, creatives, activists, scholars, the ones building, dreaming, questioning, and refusing to settle.

To be young is not to be without direction. To be young is to have every direction open to you and the audacity to choose one nobody else can see yet.

So to the youth of this country, those still finding their voices and those who are already roaring, we see you. We honour you. And more importantly, we believe in you. Not just as the leaders of tomorrow but as the power of now.

Because when the youth rise, the world doesn't just watch. It shifts.

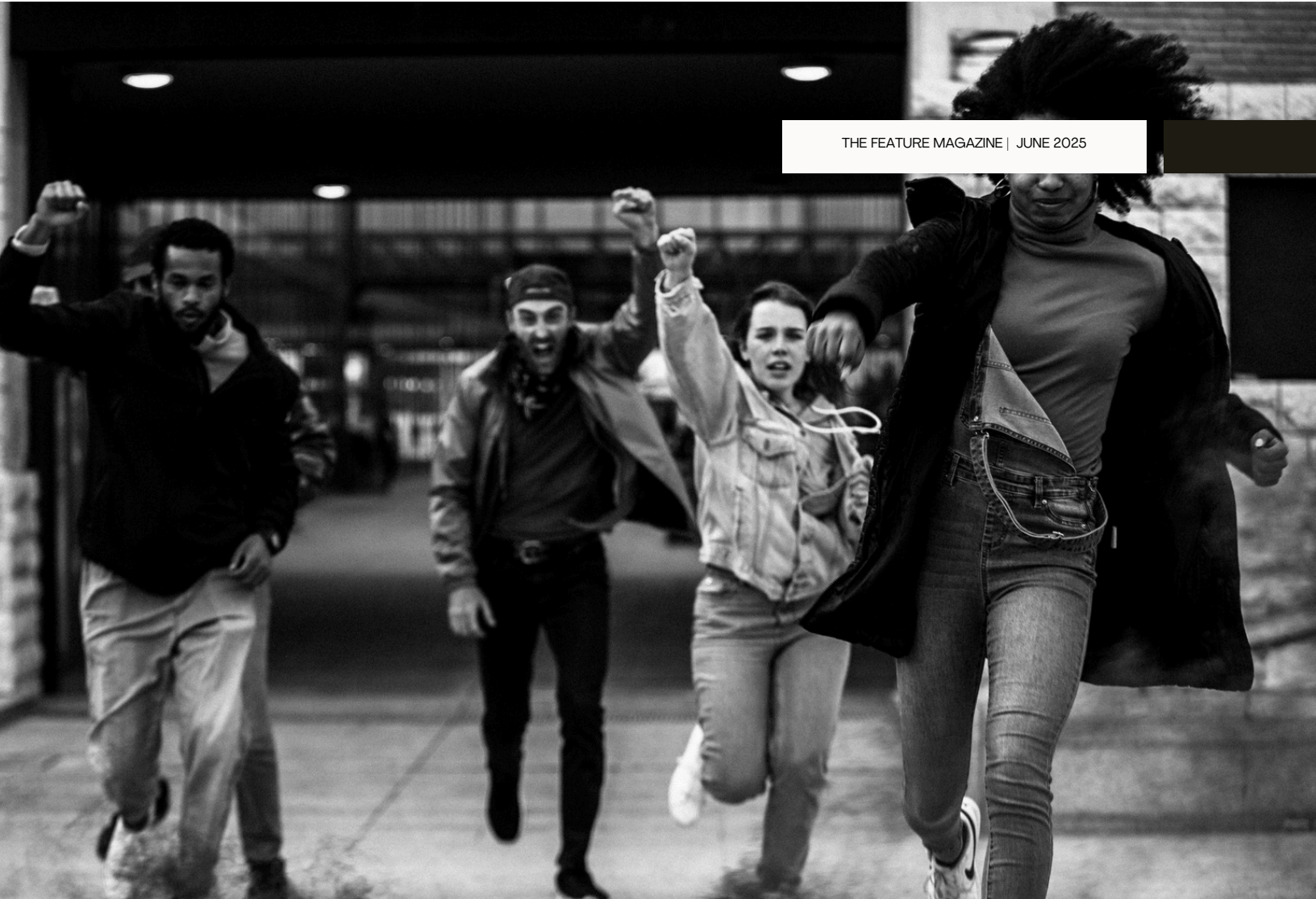
With warm regards,

The Feature Magazine

COMMEMORATING YOUTH DAY

Hashtags are aids in our activism

#NewAdults



Digital Age Advocacy

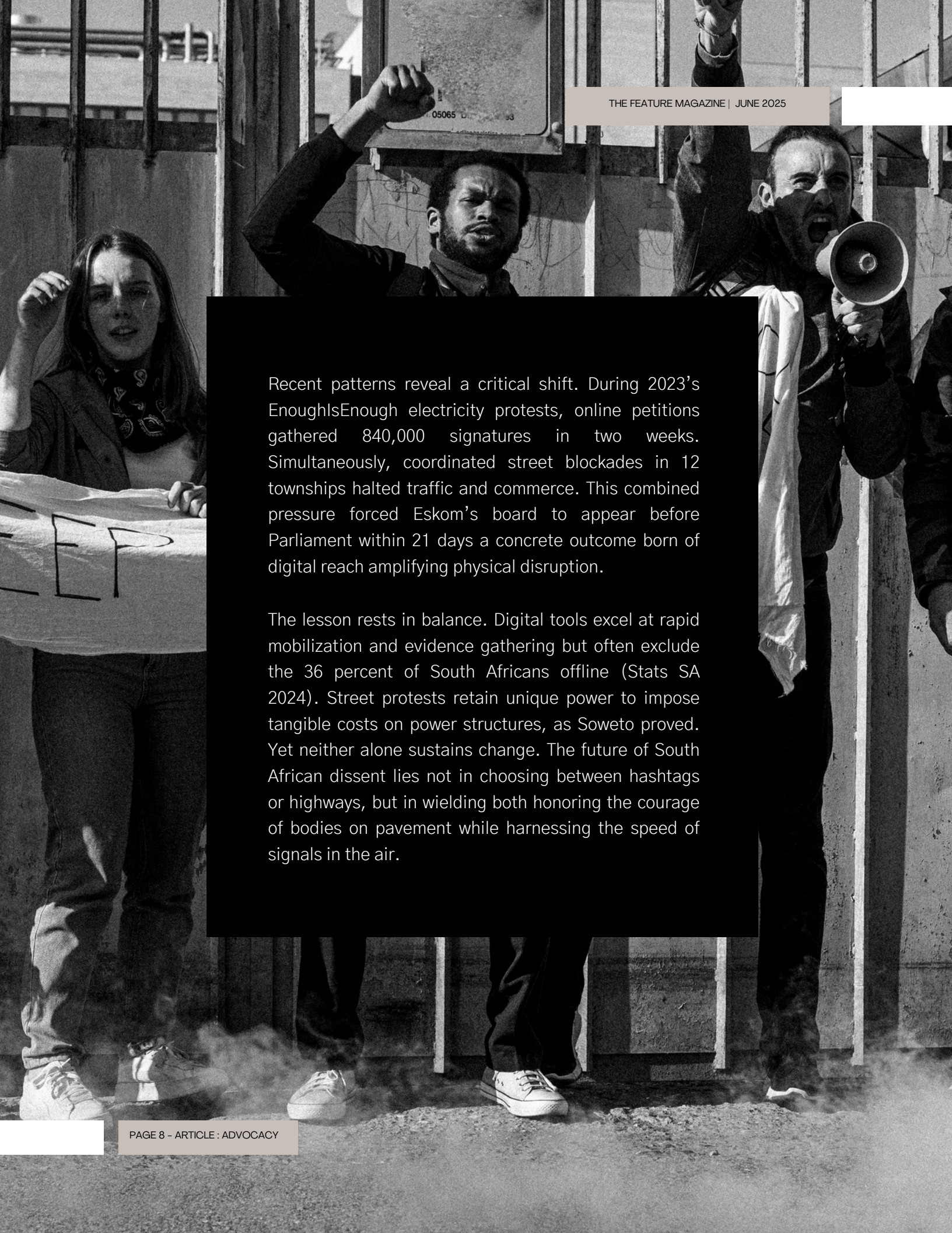
Is just as revolutionary?

On June 16 1976, thousands of Soweto students walked out of classrooms armed only with pamphlets and conviction. Their protest against Afrikaans language instruction wasn't tweeted or broadcast live. It unfolded in real time on streets where tear gas hung thick and gunfire cut through chants. Hector Pieterse, 13 years old, became a symbol of the cost. By day's end, state forces had killed 176 demonstrators. Yet that physical presence bodies occupying space, paralyzing systems forced global attention. Apartheid's facade cracked because students made themselves impossible to ignore.

Today South African activism navigates a dual landscape. Digital tools offer unprecedented speed. The 2015 FeesMustFall movement coordinated nationwide university shutdowns within 72 hours using Twitter and WhatsApp. Immediate videos of police confrontations sparked international condemnation. Crowdfunding platforms raised over R500,000 for legal aid. Yet limitations emerged. Research by Wits University later revealed rural students those with poor connectivity or expensive data were excluded from decision making. Momentum fractured after urban universities gained fee concessions.



The 2019 AmINext movement against gender based violence demonstrated digital efficiency. Online petitions accelerated parliamentary debates, culminating in the 2020 National Strategic Plan on gender based violence. Survivor funds crowdfunded R12 million. But the World Health Organization's 2023 report confirmed femicide rates remain among the world's highest. Awareness alone couldn't dismantle entrenched systems.



Recent patterns reveal a critical shift. During 2023's EnoughIsEnough electricity protests, online petitions gathered 840,000 signatures in two weeks. Simultaneously, coordinated street blockades in 12 townships halted traffic and commerce. This combined pressure forced Eskom's board to appear before Parliament within 21 days a concrete outcome born of digital reach amplifying physical disruption.

The lesson rests in balance. Digital tools excel at rapid mobilization and evidence gathering but often exclude the 36 percent of South Africans offline (Stats SA 2024). Street protests retain unique power to impose tangible costs on power structures, as Soweto proved. Yet neither alone sustains change. The future of South African dissent lies not in choosing between hashtags or highways, but in wielding both honoring the courage of bodies on pavement while harnessing the speed of signals in the air.

MAKE A STAND

It takes courage to stand up for something you believe in. But it's so much easier when you stand with others. This is the magic and power of activism. A wave of change is created when passionate people come together to insist on changing the status quo.

So go ahead, find your advocacy. Make a stand and let your voice be heard. Who knows? Maybe there are others like you just waiting for a platform, too. Let your ripple be the start of a wave of transformation.

CELEBRATING YOUTH DAY

new youth new reality



CORPORATE BADDIE AESTHETIC

Hit or Miss?

Picture a workplace where mini skirts walk beside suits. Sharp blazers. Hair slicked tight. Heels that echo down hallways. This is the corporate baddie look. It's flooding offices everywhere. Gen Z did this. They took power dressing and made it personal. Bold. Unapologetic.

But here's the real question. Is this a revolution or just fashion noise?

Why It Hits

In creative spaces it works. Tech hubs. Design studios. Social media agencies. There your clothes are your voice. A mini skirt with a blazer isn't just fabric. It's a statement. It says you refuse the old rules. You won't shrink into some gray suit uniform. It turns professionalism into something fierce and feminine. For young women especially it feels like armor. Like reclaiming power on their terms. The look screams confidence without saying a word.



Mini Skirt



Tote bag



Sunglasses

Why It Misses

Not every workplace gets it. Walk into a law firm or a bank in that same mini skirt. Suddenly it's not power. It's a distraction to people clinging to last century's dress code. And let's be honest. Some wear it for the trend not the triumph. If you're tugging your hemline all day or limping in stilettos is that really power? Or just pain?

The Bigger Picture

This isn't about skirt lengths. It's about control. Who decides what professional looks like? Boomers had pantyhose. Millennials went business casual. Gen Z says why choose? They mix office wear with street style and call it theirs. That's the real power move. Making the workplace adapt to people not the other way around.

The Truth

Wear the mini skirt if it fuels you, provided that it is not against company dress code. Ditch it if it doesn't. Real power isn't in the hemline. It's in the work you deliver. Be the baddie who outthinks outworks and outshines. That's the aesthetic that never fades.



Mini Skirt



Leather bag



Over the knee boots

YOUR ATTENTION

Didn't shrink, It got ———

HIJACKED

Let's skip the TED Talk intro. You already know the feeling:
You open a textbook. Three minutes later, you're 37 tabs deep
into a meme rabbit hole. You watch a 60-second video and tap
skip at 0:15. You can't even microwave noodles without
checking your phone.

Hey!

If you read this before or during the paragraph
You have a short attention span. Let's test my
theory.

Is this evolution? Nah.

IT'S A RIGGED SYSTEM.

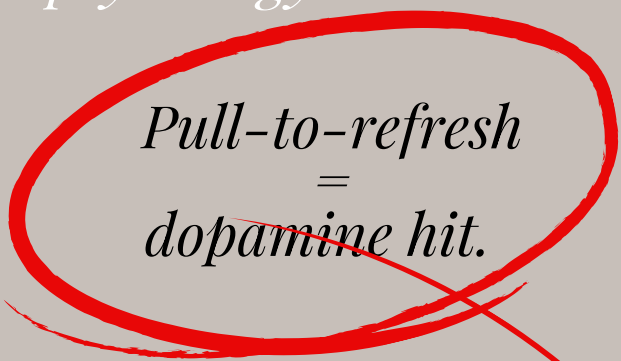
Tech didn't "adapt" to you. It exploited your brain's wiring.

– *Scrolling? Slot machine psychology.*

Since you still have a good attention span, let's take a quick break and commence to page 15.

The rest of this is just placeholder text to trick your brain. Good job, book worm.

Pull-to-refresh
=
dopamine hit.



Since you still have a good attention span, let's take a quick break and commence to page 15. The rest of this is just placeholder text to trick your brain. Good job, book worm.

You would have stopped here if this was a normal article.
See? SHORT ATTENTION SPAN

Since you still have a good attention span, let's take a quick break and commence to page 15. The rest of this is just placeholder text to trick your brain. Good job, book worm.

Since you still have a good attention span, let's take a quick break and commence to page 15. The rest of this is just placeholder text to trick your brain. Good job, book worm.

Welcome back from your break

The Math Isn't Mathing

*If we are not careful,
our articles will end
up like this*

This is just a demonstration that our attention and brains have become all over the place.

*Algorithm feeds?
They're literal
addiction engines.*

Notifications?
Psychological triage
– your brain can't
ignore them.

You're not weak. You're outgunned by billion-dollar design teams engineering your distraction.

No trick this time. Time to
understand why your attention
span has become short.

Your Focus Is Not
Evolving.
It's Being Stolen.

Here's the important part of this article:

Tech companies designed this reality. They understand your brain's wiring. Infinite scroll, autoplay videos, relentless notifications. These are not accidents. They are traps. Calling shortened attention spans adaptation is a distraction tactic. It absolves the real architects of this crisis.

The truth cuts deep. These features shatter your concentration. They trade your depth for their profit. Complex ideas feel exhausting. Skills requiring patience seem unreachable. Conversations stay superficial. Waiting becomes agony. This is not progress. It is sabotage disguised as convenience.

Taking back your mind begins here: your attention has value. Silence the noise. Protect time for real work. Read without grabbing your phone. Listen without looking at a screen. This is not about deleting apps. It is about breaking their control over you.

Your focus is not broken. It is under siege. Stop calling it evolution. Start seeing it clearly: a battle for your own thoughts.



LOVE YOURSELF.

Stay
loud in your

PRIDE!

The Feature.za

MEAN GIRL ENERGY

Definitely is NOT a Vibe

We tell ourselves we outgrew it. That high school was decades ago. That we're adults now. But step into any office lounge, any group chat, any curated party. You'll feel it. That familiar chill. The subtle shift in the air when she walks in. The compliments that land like tiny knives. The laughter that stops just as you approach. Mean girl energy never graduated. It just learned to wear better shoes.

This isn't about shouting matches or slammed doors. It's quieter. More sophisticated. It's the art of making someone feel small without raising your voice. A perfectly timed eye roll. A question wrapped in sugar but laced with venom. **"How do you stay so confident... after everything?"** **"We'd invite you, but it's so niche."** It's exclusion disguised as elegance. Cruelty polished into a compliment.

Why does it thrive? Because it works. In spaces obsessed with status, mean girl energy builds power through other people's insecurity. It forges alliances over shared disdain. It turns kindness into weakness and empathy into naivety. It rewards the illusion of control.

Social media poured petrol on it. Now the smirk lives forever. The passive aggressive comment. The group chat screenshot sent to the very person being mocked. The Instagram story flaunting the dinner you weren't invited to. The digital world lets the whisper echo long after the room empties.

Here's the harsh reality.

Mean girl energy isn't power. It's fear wearing a mask. Fear of being ordinary. Fear of being left out. Fear that if you don't push others down, you'll sink. Tearing someone apart doesn't make you whole. It just leaves you standing on the wreckage.

Breaking the cycle starts with recognition. In others. In yourself. When you feel that cold urge to diminish, pause. Ask why. When you hear the slick insult disguised as concern, name it. **"That felt unkind". "Why frame it that way?"** Refuse to laugh at the joke that cuts. Refuse to pass along the gossip that poisons. Silence isn't neutrality. It's permission.

Real strength doesn't play small games. It doesn't need to wound to prove its worth. True confidence lifts. It doesn't whisper. It doesn't smirk. It stands firm. It makes space.

*Grown women build with
bricks, not broken glass.
Be that.*

YOUNG & MAKING MOVES

A woman with dark hair pulled back is sitting on a light-colored wooden stool. She is wearing a bright green long-sleeved button-down shirt tucked into brown and tan checkered trousers. A patterned scarf is tied around her neck. She is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a solid light grey. Large, white, outlined text 'YOUNG &' is at the top, and large, white, solid text 'MAKING MOVES' is below it, partially overlapping the woman.

Getting to Know:

Mpho Maleka
Beyobo Jodorry
Lebohang Mosuo
Tshegofatso Motho

Catching up with:

Zamokuhle Mthembu
Uyanda Mabuza
Karabo Mokgalaka
Black Taydo

The Many Layers of Mpho Maleka | *The Many Layers of Mpho Maleka* | *The Many Layers of Mpho Maleka*

PURPOSE IN MOTION:

The Many Layers of Mpho Maleka

At just 25 years old, Mpho Maleka is already a force. Not just in business or academia, but in life. Born and raised in Katlehong, Mpho is a living reflection of grace, grit, and a deep sense of purpose. Whether she is coordinating policy work, mentoring youth, managing her graduation gown and flower businesses, or contributing to global research on development, one thing is clear. This is a woman on a mission.

"I am a resilient woman, raised by a strong mother who taught me the value of creating something out of very little," Mpho says. "Everything I do is about purpose."



PAGE 19 - MPHOTO MALEKA

From Braids to Boardrooms

Mpho's journey began with a simple hustle. During her first year at the University of Johannesburg, she started braiding hair for fellow students on campus. At the same time, she was a student leader, an athlete, a ministry member, and an active volunteer in the community. Her drive was undeniable.

Today, she wears many hats. Entrepreneur, policy development coordinator, community developer, teacher, mentor, researcher, and administrative professional. Through it all, her focus remains on impact.

The Many Layers of Mpho Maleka | *The Many Layers of Mpho Maleka* | *The Many Layers of Mpho Maleka*

“My passion lies in education, entrepreneurship, food security, youth development, and sustainable solutions,” she says. “I want to make a lasting difference, especially for young people.”

Global Stages, Local Roots

Despite her youth, Mpho’s list of achievements is extraordinary. She completed her Master’s degree with distinction at the age of 23. By 25, she had represented South African youth on international platforms like the Global Digital Forum in Russia. She has served at the Council on Higher Education, contributed to policy work within the BRICS+ bloc, and still manages her brands Nissi Gowns, Nissi Flowers, and HMBY Mpho.

“Every milestone reflects not just progress, but intention,” she says. “I don’t just want to succeed. I want everything I do to be meaningful.”

The Real Story Behind the Scenes

On social media and in photos, Mpho’s journey might look smooth and polished. But there is much more beneath the surface. “People don’t always see the silent sacrifices,” she says. “The sleepless nights, financial pressure, and emotional moments that I’ve had to push through.”

She has carried the weight of being the first in her family to reach certain milestones. At times, it has meant juggling roles as a daughter, sister, aunt, student, mentor, tutor, friend, entrepreneur, and professional all at once.

“My journey is filled with moments of deep prayer, tears, and an unwavering belief that I was called for more.”

The Many Layers of Mpho Maleka | *The Many Layers of Mpho Maleka* | *The Many Layers of Mpho Maleka*

The People Who Carried Her

Mpho credits much of her growth to the people who have stood beside her. Her late grandmother Jeminah Mahapa, her mother Paulinah Maleka, and a close-knit circle of family members— Maleka’s, Khumalo’s and Mgwebi’s who have supported her emotionally and spiritually. Her faith has also been her anchor, with spiritual leaders such as Apostle Xola Nzo, and mentors guiding her through each season. From her longtime basketball coach Mr. Ali Tjale, to mentors like Mrs. Maipato Mmako-Dlamini and Mrs. Lebogang Ayobiojo, Mpho has been poured into by people who believed in her.

“I am not self-made. I am supported, loved, and deeply grounded by the people around me.”

What Makes Her Stand Out

What makes Mpho’s journey unique is her ability to rise from humble beginnings with a mindset of growth and excellence. She never waited for perfect conditions. She built with what she had, stayed consistent, and always made room for faith. “I come from Katlehong. I learned early that your background does not define your limits. Your mindset does.”

What’s Next

“Becoming Dr. Maleka, and more,” she says with a smile. And with her track record, that dream is well within reach.

A Word to the Youth

“To every young person finding their way, trust your journey. Do not underestimate where you start. I began with makeup and braiding, and now I am working in global spaces. Be consistent. Believe in yourself. And never speak words like ‘I can’t’ over your life. What you believe is what you will build.”

*Beyobo Jodorry: The Great**Beyobo Jodorry: The Great**Beyobo Jodorry: The Great*

BEYOBO JODORRY

The Designer Stitching Power and Purpose Into Every Garment

Beyobo Jodorry, born in Soweto and raised in the mining town of Khutsong, is not just a fashion designer. He is a creator, an educator, and a storyteller who weaves identity, history, and artistry into every thread. As the founder of Jodorry, a fashion house known for bold and expressive couture, Beyobo is reshaping what it means to design with intention in South Africa.

*Beyobo Jodorry: The Great**Beyobo Jodorry: The Great**Beyobo Jodorry: The Great*

Fashion was never a calculated decision. “I did not intentionally start fashion design as a professional career. I had a natural interest in the making of clothes and the ideas of sewing two fabrics together to form a 3D sculpture”.

Today, Beyobo balances multiple roles with remarkable clarity. Mornings begin in Pretoria, where they lecture design students and nurture new voices in the creative industry. The commute to Johannesburg is often spent reading, sketching, or listening to podcasts that stretch their thinking. Evenings are reserved for studio time, where ideas take shape and garments come alive.

Among his proudest moments is the birth of Jodorry, a long held dream that became a reality.

That purpose was powerfully displayed in a recent collaboration with the University of Johannesburg. In a project titled Orange Impact Couture, Beyobo worked with the faculty of law to bring attention to the Cradock Four case, a haunting chapter in South Africa’s political history.

His journey has not been solitary. From university days to professional milestones, Beyobo has been surrounded by a supportive community of creatives, friends, and collaborators who believe in his vision. “I was blessed with a supporting community around me, He says, But behind the elegance of the work lies relentless discipline.

Fashion is materiality beyond materials. McQueen said “it’s a jungle out there” and I say, it’s like a mine shaft in here!



Meet Tshegofatso Mothothi

Meet Tshegofatso Mothothi

Meet Tshegofatso Mothothi

TSHEGOFATSO MOTHOTHI

Resilient Entrepreneur Balancing Faith, Family, and Business

Tshegofatso Mothothi is a grounded and assertive young woman with a firm sense of purpose. By day, she works full time at an IT company. By passion, she is an entrepreneur with multiple businesses namely FGW HOLDINGS and Bokgosi coffee under her care. Her life is a reflection of grace, grit, and growth.

From a young age, Tshegofatso was known as the child who could sell anything. Helping her family financially became her mission early on, and it still fuels her journey today. Her work is more than a hustle. It is a lifeline that connects her to her roots and pushes her toward her future.

Her days begin at 3:30 in the morning. She gets dressed in her best outfit and catches the first taxi to work. During the day, she balances her corporate duties with running her businesses. She carves out time every week to study and sharpen her skills. Growth is not optional for her. It is a weekly goal.



*Meet Tshegofatso Mothothi**Meet Tshegofatso Mothothi**Meet Tshegofatso Mothothi*

Among her proudest moments is being able to care for her mother and ensure her safety. She also celebrates the bold step of scaling her businesses and managing them while maintaining her nine to five job. These are not small wins. They are milestones that speak to her resilience and heart.

When life gets difficult, Tshegofatso leans on her personal motto. If I did it before, I can do it again. She draws strength from her faith and reminds herself that every challenge carries a lesson. Her belief in divine purpose anchors her in moments of doubt or delay.

Key figures have played a role in her growth. Her pastors at Streams of Living Waters Family Church have guided her in faith, character, and business. She is selective about the content she consumes, with Tim Ross and B. Simone among her favorites. In her earlier days, she regularly listened to Vusi Thembekwayo, whose insights taught her the human side of business and how to strive for excellence.

Beneath her polished presentation is a private world of prayer, tears, and quiet love. She believes in showing up well but also knows when to retreat and process her emotions behind closed doors. Her strength lies not only in her drive but in her deep sense of self awareness.

Beneath her polished presentation is a private world of prayer, tears, and quiet love. She believes in showing up well but also knows when to retreat and process her emotions behind closed doors. Her strength lies not only in her drive but in her deep sense of self awareness.

What sets Tshegofatso apart is how she handled the storms that could have broken her. She lost her first company, her family, parts of herself, and even friendships. But she never lost focus. When life pulled her under, she searched for new direction and found a new path. Her journey is proof that survival is only the beginning. Reinvention is where the magic lives.

Looking ahead, she dreams of returning to music and giving back. Her goal is to manage upcoming artists not as a business deal but as a mentor and mother figure. She wants to teach, protect, and guide them toward both personal and financial wellbeing.

Her message to the youth is simple but powerful. Keep your head high. Do not drop that crown. Hard times are temporary and joy will come in the morning. Believe in your vision. Stay stubborn about your dreams. Nourish your body. Rest when needed. And always trust the process.

*Meet Lebohang Mosuoë**Meet Lebohang Mosuoë**Meet Lebohang Mosuoë*

LEBOHANG MOSUOE

The Finance Professional Serving Kotas with Heart

Lebohang Mosuoë, known as Lele, is a finance professional and the founder of Lele's Fast Food Court. Based in the East Rand, she runs a vibrant pop up food stall that serves flame grilled ribs, spicy wings, and hearty kotas that keep customers coming back for more.

By day, Lele works in the finance sector. Her work revolves around educating people about money and simplifying complex financial ideas so they can make informed choices. By night and during the weekend, she is behind the grill, preparing meals with care and creativity. Her goal is to make people feel seen, valued, and full of joy through her food.

Lele was born in a small village in Katlehong Qwaqwa and raised in Benoni. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce in Law. Her educational background gave her a strong foundation in business, while her upbringing shaped her ambition and drive.



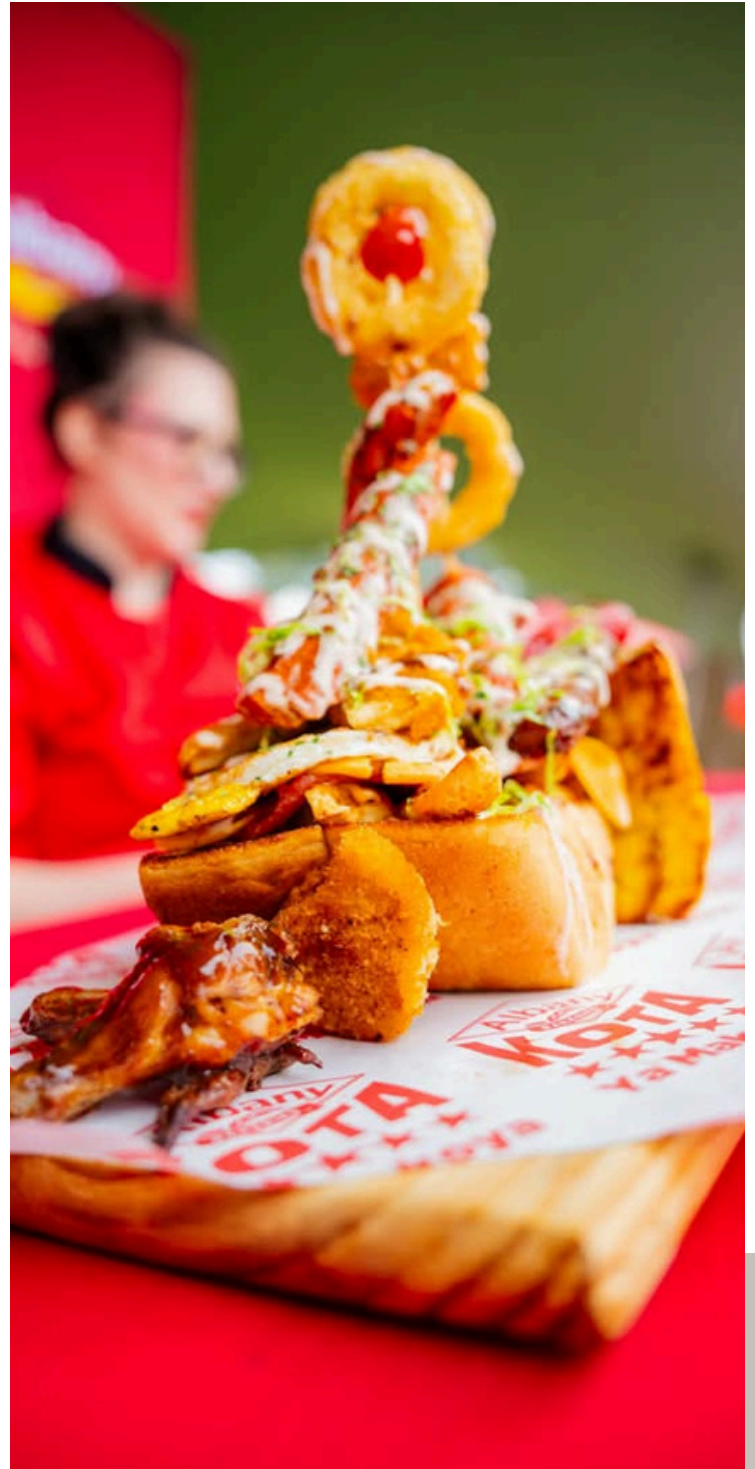
*Meet Lebohang Mosuo**Meet Lebohang Mosuo**Meet Lebohang Mosuo*

Her schedule is intense. She starts her day early, working full time in finance. Once she clocks out, she turns her attention to her business. Evenings are spent creating social media content, refining recipes, applying for events, and planning new offerings for her menu. Balancing both careers takes discipline, but her love for people keeps her motivated.

A standout moment in her journey was being shortlisted for the Top 35 Under 35 list by the Yes Programme. Out of more than one thousand applicants, Lele made it to the top seventy. This recognition proved that she is walking in her purpose and that her work has value beyond the plate.

Lele draws strength from her family. Her late mother, who also worked in the food industry, taught her resilience. Her father, sister, and uncle continue to uplift her with constant support. Her village in Qwaqwa also cheers her on and celebrates her every milestone. Their belief in her reminds her of her own strength during tough moments.

Behind the scenes, Lele faces challenges like supplier delays, rejections, and the pressure of staying consistent. But her vision never wavers. She is building something that blends township flavors with urban creativity. Her food is nostalgic yet fresh, familiar yet exciting.



*Meet Lebohang Mosuo**Meet Lebohang Mosuo**Meet Lebohang Mosuo*

Looking ahead, Lele dreams of opening a permanent location for Lele's Fast Food Court. She wants her community to enjoy her meals every day, not just at markets and events. She also plans to introduce a dessert and snack stand that will serve chilled drinks and sweet treats perfect for sunny days.

Her message to the youth is clear. Start where you are. Do what you can with what you have. Every big dream begins with one small step. Stay open to learning. Stay true to your passion. You do not need to have it all figured out to make progress.

*Telecomms Titan: Zamokuhle Mthembu**Telecomms Titan: Zamokuhle Mthembu**Telecomms Titan: Zamokuhle Mthembu*

ZAMOKUHLÉ MTHEMBU

Building a Titan in Telecommunications



At just 24, Zamokuhle Mthembu is redefining what it means to lead in the fast-paced and highly competitive world of telecommunications. As a co-founder of a growing company that offers customer care, procurement, and training solutions, she stands confidently at the helm of a business that has already secured clients entrusting her with resources in operations and development.

Her journey did not begin in boardrooms or business expos but in the halls of student politics. While studying Marketing from undergraduate to postgraduate level at the University of Johannesburg, Zamokuhle also served in the Central Student Representative Council. It was there that she learned how to communicate effectively, advocate for others, and navigate complex people dynamics. These experiences laid the foundation for her confidence in the corporate world, preparing her to lead with clarity and empathy.

*Telecomms Titan: Zamokuhle Mthembu**Telecomms Titan: Zamokuhle Mthembu**Telecomms Titan: Zamokuhle Mthembu*

In 2023, she started her career as a junior community manager, gathering market insights and conducting research. But her growth was fast-tracked by vision and determination. By 2024, she had become a training manager in the telecom space, a role that involved travelling and working directly with customers. Her exposure to the sector ignited an idea, a business that would streamline customer care management, provide training, and offer procurement solutions tailored to telecom companies.

With her co-founder, Zamokuhle launched the company with a team of four. Despite being new, they expect to double their staff by the end of the year. Though sixty percent of her current work falls outside her formal academic training, her ability to adapt and lead has been the engine behind the company's swift success.

Her growth is not only a result of talent but vision. A year ago, she placed the dream on her vision board, now that dream is her reality. She has a queue of clients and major companies in telecoms trusting her with critical functions. Still, the behind-the-scenes hustle often goes unseen. As a young woman navigating male-dominated boardrooms, she faces a unique set of challenges. Many underestimate her because of her age and gender, yet she continues to defy those assumptions daily.

Zamokuhle stays grounded through a small circle of trusted friends and the unwavering support of her mother, who remains her emotional anchor through the highs and lows. She is clear about the long-term vision: to grow her company into a titan within the telecom space over the next five years and to further her academic journey in financial management. Zamokuhle Mthembu is not just starting. She is already building an empire.

To young dreamers and aspiring entrepreneurs, she shares a powerful message:

"Life is binary. For every negative, there is a positive. So for every reason not to start, there is an equal reason to begin."

*Meet Uyanda Mabuza**Meet Uyanda Mabuza**Meet Uyanda Mabuza*

UYANDA MABUZA



Two years ago, Uyanda Mabuza was a fresh graduate juggling honours studies and a brand-new creative business. Today she works as a designer at a social media company and is gradually carving out a space for herself in content creation. What started as a love for design has grown into something bigger. She is now exploring different ways of expressing herself creatively, from visuals to video. "It feels like I'm stepping closer to my full purpose," she says.

*Meet Uyanda Mabuza**Meet Uyanda Mabuza**Meet Uyanda Mabuza*

In 2021, Uyanda had just launched what is now known as Tiny Peacock Creatives. That time was filled with energy and big dreams. Although the business has taken a step back, she sees it as a necessary shift. “I’m learning to follow what inspires me most in the moment,” she reflects.

The time since then hasn’t been simple. Your twenties come with pressure to have it all figured out, and Uyanda has felt that. She describes it as being in a limbo stage, learning to navigate life while trying to build a career that feels right. “There are highs and lows, but I try to keep my head up and stay open to where life leads.”

One of her proudest moments is earning her honours degree with distinction. It was a personal milestone that reminded her of what she is capable of. Just as meaningful has been her commitment to growth, even when things are uncertain. “Pushing myself to keep moving forward has been a big win in itself.”

One of her proudest moments is earning her honours degree with distinction. It was a personal milestone that reminded her of what she is capable of. Just as meaningful has been her commitment to growth, even when things are uncertain. “Pushing myself to keep moving forward has been a big win in itself.”



*Meet Uyanda Mabuza**Meet Uyanda Mabuza**Meet Uyanda Mabuza*

As she has grown, so have her priorities. Success now looks less like ticking off goals and more like finding meaning in the day-to-day. “It’s less about the next achievement and more about doing things that feel purposeful.”

Even though she is transparent about her journey, Uyanda says people may not always see the quiet internal work happening in the background. Moments of reflection, doubt, and clarity have shaped her path just as much as the visible progress.

To stay grounded, she leans on faith and perspective. “I remind myself of how far I’ve come. My faith has been a big anchor. It helps me hold onto hope when things feel uncertain.”

As for what comes next, she is embracing the unknown. Her focus is on creating a life that feels full and aligned with who she is becoming. “I’m not entirely sure, and I think that’s okay.”

Her message to other young people still finding their way is simple. Believe in yourself, even when things take time.

“Delays don’t mean defeat. We’re all on our own unique paths. Focus on building a life that feels right for you, not just what looks good on paper.”

*Meet Karabo Mokgalaka**Meet Karabo Mokgalaka**Meet Karabo Mokgalaka*

KARABO MOKGALAKA

Karabo Mokgalaka is currently serving as a Project Manager in Strategic Information at the Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute, where he leads data-driven public health projects across Gauteng. His work focuses on using health information systems to support informed decision making in the public sector.

Karabo Mokgalaka is currently serving as a Project Manager in Strategic Information at the Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute, where he leads data-driven public health projects across Gauteng. His work focuses on using health information systems to support informed decision making in the public sector.

He is also the founding member of the Mokgalaka Initiative, a nonprofit organisation launched in 2023 that focuses on youth empowerment, community development and social justice. Alongside his professional work, he is pursuing a Master of Laws in Environmental Law at the University of the Western Cape, which adds a legal and policy perspective to his work in health and community spaces.

*Meet Karabo Mokgalaka**Meet Karabo Mokgalaka**Meet Karabo Mokgalaka*

Since then, his journey has been about growth and deeper impact. He was promoted to a managerial role at Wits RHI and now leads a team that implements meaningful public health interventions. At the same time, he co founded the Mokgalaka Initiative, using his studies in environmental law and governance to help shape community led work. These two spaces, his role in public health and his nonprofit work, are guided by his commitment to equity and sustainable development.

He considers his promotion to Project Manager at Wits RHI a major milestone, as it gave him the chance to grow as a leader and make a difference in how health data is used to shape strategy. Founding the Mokgalaka Initiative is another highlight, as it has opened doors for community dialogue and empowerment. His academic achievements have also been deeply rewarding, especially seeing how his studies in law and environmental justice have helped him better understand and influence the systems he works within.



*Meet Karabo Mokgalaka**Meet Karabo Mokgalaka**Meet Karabo Mokgalaka*

One of the most valuable lessons he has learned is the power of interdisciplinary thinking. His legal background has given him tools to approach problems critically and advocate with clarity, whether he is engaging with health data or grassroots movements. He has also realised that real impact does not happen overnight. It takes consistency, humility and staying aligned with your values through every challenge.

Over time, his goals have shifted from focusing only on public health to building a more integrated approach that brings together law, environmental policy and community action. He sees himself as someone who can help bridge the gap between complex systems and the people they affect, and that is exactly where he wants to make a difference.

What most people do not see is how demanding this path has been. Balancing full time studies with a growing professional role, and launching a nonprofit on top of that, has taken sacrifice, resilience and a lot of behind the scenes work. His success is the result of preparation, long nights and the determination to keep going even when it was hard.

In tough moments, Karabo grounds himself in the purpose behind it all. He is driven by the goal of creating fair and inclusive opportunities for communities that are often left out of the conversation. Whether he is working on national data systems or community led initiatives, he reminds himself that small actions can create ripple effects. His studies continue to inspire him, and he draws strength from his faith, mentors and the people he works with.

Looking ahead, he wants to focus more on policy development and how environmental and health systems work together. He hopes to grow the Mokgalaka Initiative further, especially in areas like education, climate resilience and justice. Professionally, he is open to taking on new research or policy roles that allow him to continue shaping change at both the community and systems level. With his mix of legal expertise and real world experience, he wants to help cities like Ekurhuleni become more equitable and sustainable.

To young people trying to build something from the ground up, Karabo's message is simple. Your path does not need to look like anyone else's. Every job, class or volunteer opportunity is building your capacity, even if it does not seem like it at the moment. Use your voice, trust your vision and do not be afraid to mix your skills in creative ways. You are the expert on your journey, and what you have to offer matters.

*The Rise of Black Taydo**The Rise of Black Taydo**The Rise of Black Taydo*

RESILIENCE ENROUTE

The Rise of Black Taydo

If you're into music videos, Pretoria street culture, or rising media brands, you've probably come across the name Thato Mashabela, better known as Black Taydo. A visionary in the making, this young filmmaker and entrepreneur is building his media empire one frame at a time.

The Making of a Movement

In 2022, when we first featured Black Taydo in our magazine, he was in the early stages of growing his brand. But even then, it was clear he wasn't here to play small.

"I was still trying to grow my brand, but I was already making great moves,"

And great moves he made. From 2023 to 2024, he took the Pretoria music scene by storm, directing videos that earned hundreds of thousands of views. His video for Dedrick's track Ghetto featuring Mochen and Berry Jive, hit over 615,000 views.



*The Rise of Black Taydo**The Rise of Black Taydo**The Rise of Black Taydo*

In May 2025, Black Taydo added another milestone to his growing list of achievements by shooting the Urban Music Awards — a major move that speaks volumes about his rising influence in the industry. On top of that, Black Tay Media is now mentoring two third-year students studying Commercial Photography from Tshwane University of Technology, who are completing their Work Integrated Learning under the company. It's proof that Black Taydo isn't just building a name—he's building a legacy and opening doors for the next wave of creatives.

From Streets to Big Screens

Thato's work has taken him beyond Pretoria. He's traveled to shoot weddings in the Eastern Cape and corporate events in Cape Town. His client list reads like a directory of major players: MTN, FREC, Legendary Barber, ACSA, and many more.

"Working with big brands and some of Pretoria's hottest rappers has definitely been a proud achievement," he shares.

The Grind Behind the Scenes

While his visuals look crisp and seamless, the journey hasn't always been. "It's not as easy as it looks," he admits. "But you have to keep putting in the work and have patience."

That patience is what led him to discover a deeper passion for storytelling. Today, Black Tay Media doesn't just produce content; it captures emotion, memory, and meaning.

"Every picture and video I shoot has to tell a story. Whether it's a music video, an Instagram reel, a corporate video, or a wedding film, I want people to feel the emotion and make a connection."

*The Rise of Black Taydo**The Rise of Black Taydo**The Rise of Black Taydo*

What's Next for Black Taydo

"I don't like to talk too much about future plans," he says. "But my main focus is to make sure Black Tay Media reaches the heights it's supposed to."

One thing's for sure: with the consistency, creativity, and humility Thato brings, those heights are looking pretty legendary.

A Message to the Hustlers

"Stay in the kitchen, you'll eat one day. Never feel demotivated when you don't see immediate progress. Small progress is still progress. Use what you have to get to where you want to be. Don't wait to have the best resources. Use what you have. Use it."



