

My GAUTENG

PG 5 - Saluting women PG 8 - End prejudice against the LGBTQIAP+ community



ENDING GBVF REQUIRES SOCIETAL EFFORT



• By Rofhiwa Marubini-Tshitahle

The battle to eradicate Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) is one that government can lead but not fight alone, says Gauteng Premier, David Makhura.

To break the scourge of gender-based violence, law enforcement, psychosocial, economic, and educational interventions are needed in partnership with civil society, faith-based, and non-governmental organisations. "Gender-Based Violence is about patriarchy. It is about the exertion of power by men over women. We want a South Africa where there is gender equality. We seek a non-sexist South Africa where men and women can live together in peace and contribute uniquely to communities," said Makhura.

He was speaking at the start of the two-day GBVF Summit held at Birchwood Hotel in the East Rand on Monday, 29 August 2022.

The summit forms part of the province's Women's Month programmes held under the theme "Women's Socio-Economic Rights,

Empowerment and Resilience."

Over 600 delegates from different sectors of society, including non-governmental organisations, faith-based organisations, law enforcement agencies, and the taxi industry used the day to reflect on the work undertaken since the launch of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on GBVF

Government is linking places of safety with economic development programmes, including training, in order to empower the victims.

and the programmes implemented as per the pillars of the NSP.

The plan provides a cohesive framework that will guide the national response to the GBVF crisis.

It further outlines a comprehensive strategic response to GBVF with a specific focus on violence against all women – across age, physical location, disability, sexual orientation, sexual and gender identity and national identity – as well as violence against children, and how these serve to reinforce each other.

The summit provided an opportunity for wider collaborative engagement between stakeholders on strengthening the overall response to GBVF and prevention in Gauteng.

Makhura said while there has been improvement in the latest statistics around sexual assaults and gender-based violence in the country, there is still much work to be done in addressing the scourge.

From April to June 2022, 855 women and 243 children were killed in South Africa-



A survivor of gender-based violence, Vanessa Chetty, says that more needs to be done towards changing the narrative around the crisis.

a decrease of 6.2% counts- reported in the same period last year.

In Gauteng, Makhura attributed the decline to the work of GBV Brigades, Ikhaya-le-Themba and Green Door facilities.

The Gauteng government has deployed GBV Brigades in all wards and 30 dedicated GBVF social workers were appointed.

To expand the footprint, the Department of Community Safety has also roped an additional 610 safety volunteers to participate as GBV brigades.

The brigades play a critical role in enhancing community awareness of the Green Doors, Ikhaya-le-Themba, and the victim's empowerment centres (VECs) at

police stations. Thus far, the brigades have visited over 170 000 households in the province.

Green Door facilities are safe sites that are situated within five kilometres of the local police station. They offer victims of abuse services such as emotional containment, trauma debriefing and referral to the nearest police station to open a case. Over 1100 victims have received support at these shelters.

The premier said the provincial government is linking places of safety with economic development programmes, including training, in order to empower the victims.

"We are linking shelters with economic development programmes so that they can be independent and earn their own income, run their own enterprises," he said adding that this was done in partnership with the private sector.

Gauteng is the only province that has a War Room on GBVF which is tasked with enhancing strategic institutional and resourcing coordination as well as providing survivor-focused services.

Chief Director of Governance, Transformation, Justice and Security in the Department of Women, Children, and Persons with Disabilities, Esther Maluleke, outlined how resources still needed to be allocated to initiatives and programmes to deal with the crisis, because at present most of what was being done on the ground was more reactive rather than proactive.

"We need to make sure we look at the impact of different targets as far as GBV is concerned. For the implementation of the strategy, we will be looking at progress, challenges, and opportunities that exist and come up with recommendations in terms of what we need to do differently; how can we accelerate and amplify the strategy, and how can we strengthen accountability."

GBV survivor and the Managing Director of Faith-Based Child Protection Movement, Vanessa Chetty said programmes to rehabilitate perpetrators should also be implemented.

"If someone had reached out to the young boy, if they had a place to run to I would

not be standing here as the victim of rape," said Chetty who was raped by a close family friend at the age of six.

The activist said she tried to commit suicide thrice and resorted to self-harm before she found the courage to speak with a counsellor.

While the DNA processing backlog remains a challenge in the fight against GBVF, Gauteng Police Commissioner, Lieutenant General Elias Mawela said resources are being channelled to ensure police can respond to cases. ■

We are not doing women a favour; we cannot talk of transformation and development if the emancipation of women is not at the centre of everything we do."



PLANS TO INTENSIFY WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION



• By Lerato Maloane

As the country commemorates Women's Month, government is intensifying efforts to ensure that more women participate and benefit from the economy.

The government is developing strategic private sector partnerships to integrate township and rural entrepreneurs into key retail, manufacturing, and other high-potential value chains through the Localisation Policy Framework.

This policy framework includes the listing of product brands produced by Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises and co-operatives with wholesalers and retailers, as a way of increasing access to markets while the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act is being finalized, says Small Business Development Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams.

While the policy has received backlash from the private sector in terms of its implementation, government maintains, that its purpose is to stimulate the local economy and create jobs via government spending on goods and services that have been produced locally or have local value added.

"This is at the heart of our localisation strategy, with prioritization given to black-owned, youth and women-owned enterprises. We must strive towards achieving and delivering economic freedom for women," said the minister.

Minister Ndabeni Abrahams was addressing the Gauteng Women in Business Gala Dinner on Thursday, 25 August 2022. The event commemorated the fighting women of South Africa and women leaders who continue to register significant victories towards the total emancipation of women.

Research, according to Ndabeni-Abrahams shows that only 8% of total government procurement went to women.

"We need to ensure that government is implementing its procurement policy of buying 40% from women."

She added that women should start having an active role in the development of policies.

"We must walk the walk. We must ensure that we upskill ourselves and ensure we qualify ...the dream of building an inclusive economy that benefits all will not be an elusive dream."

In attendance were, Premier David Makhura, Deputy Minister in the Presidency Pinky Kekana, MEC for Community Safety, Faith Mazibuko, MEC for Finance and e-Government Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko, MEC for Economic Development, Parks Tau, senior government officials and businesswomen from across the province.

Quoting the late President Samora Machel, Makhura asserted that the empowerment of women was not an act of charity but a fundamental necessity for society's full development.

Without the full participation of women, Makhura said the Transformation, Modernisation and Re-industrialisation would not succeed.

"We are not doing women a favour; we cannot talk of transformation and development if the emancipation of women is not at the centre of everything we do."

The Gauteng Provincial Government (GPG) continues to make progress in enhancing

We need to ensure that government is implementing its procurement policy of buying 40% from women.

the legal status of women, increasing their involvement in decision-making and making available more employment and other economic opportunities.

To further transform the economic landscape, Makhura said that women must be allowed to participate in the ten high-growth sectors.

"In Gauteng, we are striving for 50% women-owned businesses to be supported by the government. We are not where we want to be, but we also have interventions by various departments to reach this target."

Between 2014 and 2019, the GPG provided extensive support to township businesses through a transformative public procurement policy that enabled the provincial government to spend more than R20 billion procuring goods and services from township-based enterprises.

A total of R5,6 billion was spent on women-owned enterprises.

MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko urged women to participate in the information and communications technology (ICT) industry.

"The rapid development of modern ICT over the past few years has seen many career paths become obsolete in secretarial, booking and financial services. But at the same time, many new jobs using and developing new ICT-based applications are being created.

"It is for this reason that my department took an initiative to upskill young people across the province and equip them with skills that cater for these new opportunities, building an astuteness to rapidly appropriate the new world of ICT," added Nkomo-Ralehoko. ■



GAUTENG'S REVISED FRAMEWORK TO MAINSTREAM WOMEN ISSUES

• By Rofhiwa Tshitahe-Marubini

In order to support and empower women, the Gauteng Provincial Government has introduced a revised policy framework to mainstream women issues.

The new Strategic Policy Framework on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment 2030 was launched by Premier David Makhura during Women's Day celebration at the Union Buildings on Tuesday, 9 August 2022.

The revised policy puts more emphasis on the implementation of strategic focal areas with a special preference for women.

It provides clear guidelines on the mainstream approach to be applied across GPG policies, programmes, and projects, specifies the monitoring and evaluation process, and pronounces the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders.

Among the critical issues that need to be addressed by the framework are unemployment, poverty, discrimination, lack of access to resources and infrastructure, lack of skills, the impact of HIV and AIDS, and the lack of delivery of comprehensive, integrated services to women.

Premier Makhura said the framework is an amalgamation of all the gender policies from years back, which seeks to address the provincial government's action plans on women in the economy, and social sector and address the challenge of Gender Based Violence (GBV).

"We looked at our policies from the first one adopted up to the latest one, to try to address issues that the women of Gauteng are facing," said Makhura.

Every August, South Africa marks Women's Month as a tribute to more than 20 000 women that marched to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956 in protest against pass laws.

This year marks 66 years since that historic event when thousands of South African women, ranging from all backgrounds and cultures, staged a march led by Rahima Moosa, Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, and Sophia Williams de Bryn to the Union Buildings, to protest against the abusive laws.

Gauteng's government commemorated the day with an inter-generational dialogue to address challenges facing women.

Retracing the steps of the historic march, the day saw scores of women marching from Church Square, under the theme "Women's Socio-economic Rights & Empowerment: Building Back Better for Women's Resilience."

The only surviving member of the



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1956 march, Mme de Bruyn took part in the panel of discussions. She called on women to unite and use the resources available to address their challenges.

She said women of 1956 were able to organise themselves and organise a march with limited resources.

"The elephant in the room is unity. The spirit of unity should guide us in correcting what has gone wrong. We should avoid

clusters and working in silos."

As part of the event, the African National Congress's Women's League handed over a memorandum to the premier, demanding the emancipation of women, advancement of the right to a non-sexist, racial, and equal society, the safety of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexuals (LGBTQI+), and harsher punishment for perpetrators of gender-based violence.

"Patriarch, gender inequality, socioeconomic problems threaten our hard-earned democratic race. "Challenges of poverty, equality, unemployment and gender-based violence and femicide which was declared a pandemic by the president haunt us every day," the memorandum read. ■



GAUTENG ENTERPRISE PROPELLER ADVANCING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC INCLUSION

The Gauteng Enterprise Propeller (GEP) is a provincial government agency that provides non-financial and financial support to Small, Medium and Micro-Size Enterprises (SMMEs).

The GEP was established under the auspices of the Department of Economic Development to propel SMMEs into the mainstream economy, revitalise township economies and grow key economic sectors.

Over the past financial year, the enterprise has provided 217 construction and tourism businesses with development support to the value of R6 544 186.50

A total of 463 small businesses received non-financial support, and 466 small businesses received grant funding from the Township Business Renewal Fund to the value of R9 121 531.00

About 1260 informal traders benefited from the GEP's relief support to the value of R1 260 000.00

Over 500 youth accessed job placement opportunities while an additional 56 businesses received financial support through business loans.

These are some successful women-owned businesses assisted by GEP:

Katlego Suze took a plunge and left her corporate job at the beginning of 2020 to pursue her dream of owning and running her own business on a full-time basis. Little did she know that less than two months later, the whole world would have to come face to face with the impact of COVID-19.

"Had I known that COVID-19 would have such an impact on our lives, I don't believe I would have left my job at the time I did. At the same time, I am still glad I did," she says.

Katlego started the business in 2018 as a home-based business in Atteridgeville with a focus on food manufacturing.

"I studied Hospitality Management, and I am a professional chef with a certificate from the Steyn Culinary School, but I spent most of my professional life as a loan's consultant. You can only imagine how I yearned to venture into my passion throughout my eight years working as a consultant," she recalls.

Lemmechew Foods started as a catering business for corporate and private events. The business also sold venison, and health shakes. They also conducted cooking classes for kids. In 2019 Katlego pursued an idea to produce Lemmechew chilli sauce in three flavours, manufacturing and bottling the products from her home.

"I knew that there were many other producers of food sauces out there and consumers have loads of choices however as a trained chef, my focus and goal was to produce a product that would be of exceptional quality, a premium product at affordable rates, something tasty yet healthy, without preservatives and artificial



Lemmechew Foods reaching for international heights as a food producer

flavour enhancing additives such as monosodium glutamate commonly referred to as MSG", she says.

The biggest challenge that faced the business was a lack of adequate equipment which made it difficult to keep up with growing orders.

She approached GEP for support firstly from the Township Business Renewal (TBR) and later for COVID-19 Relief Fund for Manufacturers. From the TBR fund, the business received a stove, sealing machine and cooker hood. Funding from the COVID-19 Relief Fund was used to purchase ingredients and packaging materials such as bottles.

In 2022 the business received assistance with marketing tools in the form of banners, tablecloths, and vehicle branding and has recently approached GEP for growth finance.

Katlego's perseverance and eye for opportunity have paid off, the business now trades from the Sunderland Ridge Industrial Park. LemmeChew employs six full-time staff and is in a process of employing

product promoters. Their products are now found in large retailers including Shoprite, OK Grocer, and OBC Meat and Chicken among others.

Racheal Gaffane has always had an eye for opportunities. As a primary school pupil in Mamelodi, Tshwane, she sold sweets to her fellow schoolmates, and that continued through high school, where she even dabbled in money lending, landing her in hot water a couple of times.

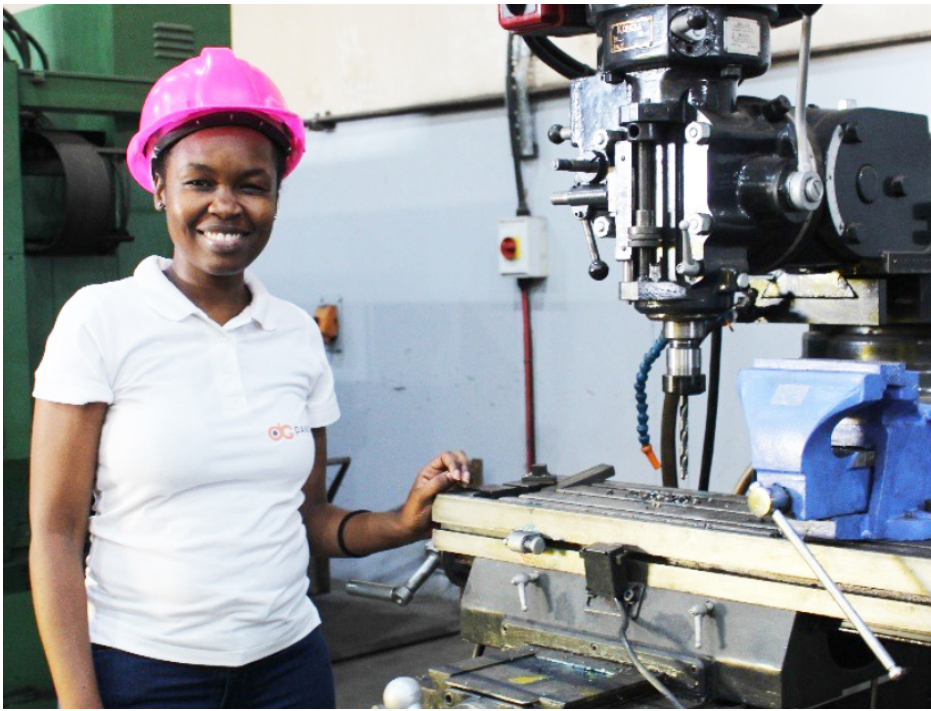
Today Racheal owns and runs Danchi Group, a steel manufacturing business that employs thirteen (13) people in Silvertondale in the East of Pretoria.

The Danchi Group manufactures steel components for the automotive and rail transport industries, including bushings, spacers, pins, pivots, and steel fabricated products such as columns, scaffolding, sheeting, conveyor structures and shafts.

"My first job was as an Office assistant in a beauty business, and it did not take long for me to learn about the beauty sector, after which I started the first mobile beauty business in Mamelodi, employing six people. However, even though the business started well, the business eventually failed and taught me a lot about pitfalls in business," says Racheal.

In 2017, she decided to restart her entrepreneurial journey in an entirely new sector, construction. "I started my company by pitching a crazy idea to an established company my father worked for by renting a

**These are some successful
women-owned businesses
assisted by GEP**



Danchi Group making a mark in the steel industry

desk and reselling their products.

"My goal was to establish myself as a serious player in an industry that does not have a lot of black businesses, let alone black-women owned businesses".

It is at this point that the Gauteng Enterprise Propeller (GEP) first assisted the business.

"GEP helped my company with marketing material, and its first set of computers, and a printer."

Through her tenacity, she was able to use this humble start as a springboard to establish relationships with industry giants such as Komatsu, Timken, WHBO and grow her company.

Though she made strides in the sector, the business was still confronted with many challenges, including shrinking margins and slowing revenue. In 2020, Racheal sought to reposition the group from construction to steel manufacturing. This change required significant capital investment of machinery and equipment.

"The onset of COVID-19 worsened the difficulties in the construction sector, and I was convinced that the company required a change of direction not only to survive but to grow," says Racheal.

The GEP came on board once more to assist the company in its quest for growth by providing funding for working capital.

"In the past year, we invested a lot in equipment, and the support from GEP has helped us operationalise that investment, she stated.

The support from GEP will help create four more jobs. In the future, Racheal plans to expand to twenty-five jobs.

Danchi has recently been crowned the winner of the 2021 Eskom Business Investment award, further proving that Racheal's goal to be a serious player in this sector is well on its course.

Pharmacist and Entrepreneur Bulelwa Maponya is the owner of Dawn Park Pharmacy, based in, Ekurhuleni. The pharmacy, which employs six people,

serves communities from Dawn Park, Vilalza, Windmill Park, Klippoortjie, Vosloorus, Leondale and Rondebult and is the only pharmacy within an 8km radius of its location.

Bulelwa founded the pharmacy in 2017 after saving for several years for the start-up capital required for the business.

"It took a lot of work for me to save the amount that I believed at the time would be enough to start this business. I worked on weekends and holidays doing locums and sacrificed many personal comforts in order to start the business," she explains.

As she started with the initial steps of starting the pharmacy, she realised that what she had saved was still nowhere near what she needed to get the business going. The process of raising further funds was one of the most challenging periods in her business.

"Even with collateral and my own

owners' equity, it was still very difficult to source enough funding to finally open the pharmacy; however, I was determined to make it happen, particularly because I knew there was a desperate need for quality and affordable healthcare services in some communities.

"Through the support of my family, we opened doors in 2017. As a fledgling business, we have had many ups and downs but none so devastating as the looting that took place in 2021," she says.

In July 2021, when the country was engulfed by looting, the pharmacy was not spared and was looted and damaged along with most of the businesses at the Dawn Park Shopping Centre.

"A pharmacy is essentially its stock. We lost almost all our entire stock, all our electronic and electrical equipment and even specialised equipment such as the vaccine fridges were stolen. After the looting, we could not trade for the next month and a half".

Bulelwa applied to the GEP for the Gauteng Rebuilding Fund.

"The funds we received from the GEP have assisted in rebuilding my business, and saving jobs, as well allowed me to continue serving the community that depends on us so much and live my oath as a health care provider", she explains.

The rebuilding fund is the Gauteng provincial government's response to the unprecedented challenges facing small businesses in the wake of COVID-19 and the looting that affected SMMEs in Gauteng. The R100 million fund is a partnership between the GEP and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC).

Bulelwa has used the funds to replace damaged and stolen equipment and build up the stock levels.

Since the reopening of her business, sales per month have now increased by 40%.

"I am very encouraged by the ongoing recovery of the business and have set an ambitious but attainable revenue goal for the business, and that is to grow our monthly sales by 50% in the next year or two." ■



Rebuilding fund helps pharmacy get back on track

A SAFE SPACE FOR ABUSED VICTIMS

GREEN DOORS



• By Rofhiwa Marubini-Tshitahle

The Gauteng Department of Community Safety's green doors are providing hope and shelter to thousands of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) victims across the City-Region.

The centres are operational on a 24-hour basis, offer victims a safe place, counselling, advice on opening a case and taking action against their abusers, basic emotional support, basic care and a place to rest.

They are located at least five kilometres away from the local police stations.

On arrival at the centre, victims are provided with toiletry packs, consisting of necessities such as a toothbrush, soap and a facecloth.

These green door facilities are managed by an ambassador, who ensures that all victims receive equal amounts of support and a place of comfort.

Green door ambassadors are expected to have the following qualities : compassion, commitment, being available

to assist victims, not having a criminal record and not being involved in rape, gender-based violence, sexual offences, or domestic violence. They also need to have people and communication skills.

Acting Director at the facility, Connie Ramathibela says the success of Green Doors is in the hands of community members.

"Community members give space at their homes where structures are erected, or the existing structure is refurbished to make it a site of hope," says Ramathibela.

Gauteng Province has 66 green doors, 600 GBV brigades and 11 cars that are dedicated to dealing with GBV.

Speaking at the launch of a green door at Rietvallei in Kagiso earlier this month, Premier Makhura said more cars designated for GBV are being procured.

"We are waiting for the other 23 cars that the Department of Community Safety is procuring," said Makhura adding that the provincial government is implementing initiatives to assist victims of abuse to gain

independence.

"As the provincial government we assist women with skills so that they can stand for themselves rather than depend on their abusive partners.

"We must join hands to fight GBV. Anyone who is involved must be arrested and face the full might of the law. Together we can stop this. We also need to invest in educating our people through campaigns in communities," said Makhura.

Green door donors can call 083 286 7948 and speak to coordinators who will evaluate whether the place meets the appropriate criteria. The coordinator will also conduct security checks on the applicants.

The following are ideal sites for setting up Green Door centres:

- Private and community spaces such as privately owned homes and churches.
- High-rise buildings and block of flats ■

END PREJUDICE AGAINST THE LGBTQIAP+ COMMUNITY

• By Tisetso Ngoedi

Individuals identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex LGBTQIAP+ communities continue to be subjected to hate crimes and gender-based violence (GBV).

Tintswalo Chauke, who identifies as a lesbian, reflects on her journey and the challenges she has encountered in society and at work.

According to Tintswalo, it is imperative to educate and bring awareness about the LGBTQIAP+ community.

"There are instances where we get discriminated against and bullied. An example that I can give is when someone would make fun or make inappropriate comments by referring to us as 'he/she or she/he'. That is not right because we need to feel comfortable and accepted as human beings".

The passionate Tintswalo added: "I am a human being at the end of the day, just like you. Over the years, I have developed a character to not get offended easily. I just laugh and educate an individual on the different terms and classifications within the LGBTQIAP+."

The 38-year-old was born in Venda, Limpopo and relocated to the City of Gold to seek better work opportunities. She joined the Public Service in 2009 after obtaining her Bachelor of Technology Degree (BTech) in Cost Management from the Vaal University

of Technology.

Her passion for accounting and numbers saw her climb the ladder to the Assistant Director post, in the Gauteng Department of Infrastructure Development and Property Management.

Tintswalo said she developed self-confidence during her tertiary years as the environment allowed her to wear whatever she was comfortable with.

"Unlike in high school where it was mandatory to wear skirts, I was able to express myself without fear or judgement in varsity. I would wear what I was comfortable with and felt free."

South Africa's LGBTQIAP+ community has been rocked by a series of brutal hate crimes.

According to Tintswalo, government should look at hosting more workshops to educate and encourage tolerance amongst community members.

"Education and awareness are important. There is a lot of education and information

sharing that needs to happen. A lot of people discriminate and are not even aware of their actions.

"For example, there are terms such as butch and femme used in the lesbian community to describe a feminine and masculine lesbian. A butch describes a lesbian who is more masculine while a femme lesbian has a more feminine identity in terms of dress code."

Tintswalo added that while the

provincial government has created platforms for engagement and education, more still needs to be done.

"I also like that there are now television programmes like 'Becoming' which offer education to the public. Government can look at hosting a mass LGBTQIAP+ programme in collaboration with other departments to create awareness and a dedicated LGBTQIAP+ desk in each province to address the LGBTQIAP+ hate crimes."

Government, she explained should condemn the violence perpetrated against the LGBTQIAP+ community as unacceptable and immoral.

"I would like to encourage others to speak up if they know someone who is abused due to their sexual orientation."

Tintswalo revealed that the support she received from her family played a huge role in her life.

Although Tintswalo said it took her mother some time to accept, she eventually gave her the protection and love of a mother.

"My mother saw that I was different in my own special way. I did things a certain way and my behaviour was kind of tomboyish and I enjoyed playing soccer unlike doing girlish things."

Tintswalo's aspiration is to grow her family with her partner and live in a country where the rights of women, children and the vulnerable are protected. ■

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE LGBTIQ+ COMMUNITY



Despite Constitutional protection, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex communities remain a marginalised group in South Africa that experience high levels of discrimination and violence based on their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

The term LGBT is an initialism used to refer to non-heterosexual and/or non-cisgender individuals, topics and communities.

Over time the term has evolved to include a 'Q' for Queer or Questioning, 'I' for Intersex, 'A' for Asexual or Ally and a '+' in LGBTIQ+ in order to be more inclusive and acknowledge that there are varying identities.

What does the acronym LGBTIQ+ mean?

- L - Lesbian
- G - Gay
- B - Bisexual
- T - Transgender
- Q - Queer and Questioning
- I - Intersex
- A - Asexual and Ally
- + - Pansexual, Non-Binary etc

What do the letters mean?

Lesbian: refers to a woman who experiences sexual, romantic, physical, and/or spiritual attraction to other women

Gay: refers to men who experiences

The term LGBT is an initialism used to refer to non-heterosexual and/or non-cisgender individuals, topics and communities

sexual, romantic, physical, and/or spiritual attraction to other men.

Bisexual: A person who experiences sexual, romantic, physical, and/or spiritual attraction to more than one gender, not necessarily at the same time, in the same way, or to the same degree

Transgender: An umbrella term for people whose gender identity does not align with their gender assigned at birth. The term Often includes people who identify as transgender, trans woman, trans man, gender nonconforming, gender diverse or gender variant.

Intersex: Intersex' is an umbrella term to describe people who are born with natural sex characteristics (including genitals, gonads and chromosome patterns) that do not fit typical binary notions of male or female

bodies.

Queer: Over the years this term has meant a few things and unfortunately, it hasn't always been good, but the term has evolved, today Queer is used as an umbrella term to refer to the entire L LGBTIQ+ community. A persons can be queer in terms of their sexual orientation, gender identity or their sex characteristics.

Questioning: Exploring one's sexual/romantic orientation, gender identity or expression

Asexual: Asexual refers to a person who experiences little or no sexual attraction and who chooses to call themselves asexual. Asexuality exists on a continuum from people who experience no attraction or desire for sexual activities to those who experience low levels, or only under specific conditions will they experience sexual attractions. Ace is a common term used by individuals whose identity falls within asexuality

Ally: A person who creates a safe and confidential space for those who identify on the LGBTIQ+ spectrum. Someone who understands and challenges common issues such as heterosexism, transphobia, cissexism and homophobia. Someone who will actively speak up when witnessing acts of aggression, bullying and oppression against queer individuals. ■



WOMEN'S SPORT IN GAUTENG GETS A FINANCIAL BOOST

• By Thembisa Shologu

The Gauteng Provincial Government (GPG) handed over a R1 million cheque to Banyana Banyana following their victory at the Women's African Cup of Nations (WAFCON) in Morocco.

The GPG will also provide R550 000 financial support to teams in the province participating in the Hollywoodbets Super League.

Gauteng has four teams in the women's league namely Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies, Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), University of Johannesburg (UJ), and JWV FC.

The funding is aimed at helping the teams to continue their work in the development of female sports.

Speaking at the cheque handover in Kagiso on Friday, 19 August 2022, Premier David Makhura hailed the team for lifting the South African flag high.

Makhura also reflected on the recent sexual assault of eight women in this area a few weeks ago saying the province must dip its heads in shame.

The funding is aimed at helping the teams to continue their work in the development of female sports

"Last month a very tragic event took place in this community. Eight young women were sexually assaulted but we know that just that number represents the experience of many women across the land and breadth of our beautiful country. The first act of empowerment of women and creating a more equal society is to educate the girl child."

He announced that the provincial government is putting in place resources and infrastructure in the townships, where youth can burn their energies.

"Our first act of empowerment is to invest hugely in the education of the girl child. We are reintroducing the Wednesday League as part of investing in the grass root sports in schools."

Coach Desiree Ellis thanked the provincial government for its contribution and support.

"From the word go they said they wanted to win it, and they were true their word. We felt your prayers, we felt your messages, we felt all of that. Even though we had 45 000 to 50 000 fans in the stadium, we knew back home we had almost 60 million, so we want to say thank you very much."

Gauteng Sports Federation, Vivian Lottering said there was a need to promote gender equality in sports. She said there was a need to break stereotypes that make women less likely to take up sports activities.

"Leaders in sport need to make it possible for women to excel. We need to encourage women in sport, make opportunities available for them to excel not only as athletes, but as coaches, technical staff and also as wardens in our organizations," added Lottering.

The event also saw the launch of the Gauteng Netball Friday initiative in support of the 2023 Netball World Cup which will take place in Cape Town.

SOWETO'S BLACKBALL PLAYER HEADS TO THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP



• By Lerato Mailoane

The self-taught snooker champion Beatrice Monyake has been chosen to represent South Africa at the World Blackball Championship in Tangier, Morocco.

Beatrice (41) from Orlando East in Soweto is the first black South African woman to qualify to represent the country at the international competition scheduled from 8 to 15 October 2022.

She started playing pool at a local tavern as a hobby, little did she know it would take her places.

After winning local tournaments, she joined the Soweto Pool Association, a non-profit organisation that develops and administers league structures.

“When you make it to the trials that is when you see that this sport is serious and is not just a tavern sport as it’s popularly known in the township.”

She is currently the reigning champion of the Soweto Women Pool Championship, a title she won in 2021.

In March, she represented the country at the Africa Pool Championship Cup in Zambia where she finished fifth.

Beatrice said the pool is a very expensive sport and currently does not have sponsorship.

She has appealed to the public to help her raise R50 000 to cover her visa, flight tickets, food, and accommodation for the upcoming competition.

She is currently the reigning champion of the Soweto Women Pool Championship, a title she won in 2021

GET TESTED FOR BREAST CANCER REGULARLY

• By Christopher Sello

Breast Cancer has become the most common growing cancer amongst South African women.

It happens when cells in your breast grow and divide uncontrollably, creating a mass of tissue called a tumour.

Anyone can get breast cancer, but you are more at risk if your diet is high in fat if you don't exercise regularly, are overweight, consume alcohol, smoke, and if you have a family history of breast cancer.

You are also at a higher risk if you are over 40, if you started your period at a young age, went through menopause at a late stage, and if you had children after the age of 40 or not at all.

According to the National Council Registry (2019), one in 27 women is at risk of developing breast cancer.

Symptoms include a lump in your breast, unusual swelling, puckering of the skin (like an orange peel), a sore or rash, pain, discharge from the nipple, and indentation of the nipple (instead of pointing out and forward, it is pointing sideways or inwards).

Early detection of the condition can lead to effective treatment and a positive prognosis. About 90% of patients survive for many years after diagnosis when breast cancer is detected at the early stages.

A Breast Self-Examination (BSE) is as easy as 1-2-3

Performing a BSE two days after the last day of their period is an important screening method. Women over the age of 45 should schedule a regular mammogram.

In the mirror

- In front of a mirror, check for any changes in the normal look and feel of your breasts, such as dimpling, size difference, or nipple discharge
- Inspect four ways: arms at sides; arms overhead; firmly pressing hands on hips and bending forward

Lying down

- Lie on your back with a pillow under your right shoulder and your right hand under your head
- With the four fingers of your left hand make small circular motions, follow an up and down pattern over the entire breast area, under the arms, and up to the shoulder bone, pressing firmly



Once diagnosed, your doctor will discuss the appropriate treatment plan with you in detail

- Repeat using the right hand on the left breast

While bathing

- With your right arm raised, check your right breast with a soapy left hand and fingers flat using the method described under step 2 (Lying down). Repeat on the other side.

Treatment of breast cancer has improved in recent years and if detected early, breast cancer patients survive. Everyone is not the same, and many factors will influence survival including your age, tumour characteristics, the stage of the disease, and the chosen treatment plan.

Once diagnosed, your doctor will discuss the appropriate treatment plan with you in detail.

To treat your cancer, you may have one or more of the following treatments: surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, hormone therapy, and biological therapy.

For more information about breast cancer, call the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSAs) toll-free number on 0800 22 66 22 or visit www.cansa.org.za or contact the PinkDrive on 011 998 8022 or visit www.pinkdrive.co.za. ■

