

August/September 2009

South Africa

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itsadiva

women of today

Makgabo Seema

Makgoba says: I learnt from a young age that nobody owes me any favours; the world does not owe me. I learnt that if I was to fall down and die, never to come back again, the universe would proceed. I learnt that I have absolute control of my reactions. I learnt that very bad things happen to people whether they are bad or good. I learnt to laugh out loud. I learnt to love even the unlovable. I learnt to let go. I learnt to cry until the tears heal me.

I cry and laugh a lot, for various reasons. I cry because of the horror some people are subjected to and I laugh loudly because of some traumatic events I encounter.

Hello everybody. My name is Makgabo Seema and I exist to bring about hope, healing and a sense of purpose to everybody I ever encounter. I was born in Limpopo Province, at a rural village called Moletjie Makgalong. I grew up in a township called Daveyton, on the eastern side of Johannesburg.

I currently reside in the suburbs not far from this township. I decided when I was 17 that I would somehow end up staying there and I made sure I did. My late grandmother, Makwena Marakalala taught me all I know about life; although she is no more, I continue to feel her love. A disciplined and hard-working woman, she managed to raise 5 children on her own after the death of her husband.

I have been blessed to be raised in this family, we are far from perfect but that's ok. It's because of this fact that I have made the choices that I have.

I am a product of love, of life, of unspeakable pain. Pain I know with certainty is a vital part of life. Contentment too has become a part of my life. I am driven, intense and passionate. I lead a balanced life, full of

parties, quality people (family and friends), wine, writing, solitude, books and drama. I am all I am for there is God in me, as well as around me. I am currently single and have no kids.

My ideal partner is going to be a cross between my father, my brother, Brooke Benton, my late uncle, Julius Marakalala, and Andile. This is funny but I have learnt to believe and not settle for less than I deserve and that's the best out of life. This I decided when in February of 2006, I lost the one guy God had made just for me, Siphosethu Shoco died in a car accident and he was the best.

I am open to a lot of things, I do not like ignorant people and believe people are inherently good.

I speak a number of South African languages but am more comfortable when I converse in English, South Sotho and Sepedi. I matriculated from Liverpool Secondary School and went on to get my Honours in Dramatic Arts from the University of the Witwatersrand. I then worked at national school of the Arts as a Drama educator; this was without doubt the most eventful time of my life, but also the most rewarding. It was whilst an educator there that I did voice coaching for the tour guides at Constitution Hill.

I also got to direct the best actresses in this country. When I had given all I could, I left teaching and starting giving on a bigger scale as a Marketing Strategist for an Australian NGO that sought to promote positive and healthy lifestyle choices. This position humbled me more than I ever thought possible.

As a marketing strategist I had to look for potential sponsors. I had the honour of meeting people who would continue



to touch my life even after I had no more association with ARA Be Your Best Rock Challenge.

Presently, I am in a position that allows me to do all that I ever wanted to do. My current job is truly my dream job. EnviroServ Waste management is a leading waste management company in the country with several branches in surrounding countries. As PRO for EnviroServ Waste Management; I am tasked with External as well as Internal Communications. CSI is also one of my responsibilities.

The best part is I am surrounded by such stunning people. EnviroServ is also a good employer that has its people's needs in mind at all times. I am giving back not just to this generation but to generations to come as well. By taking care of the environment, I know I am giving back to mother earth. **e**

Author: Makgabo Seema



*Caxton Itshepeng
feeding scheme*

creative writing

expressing my thoughts

Nowhere Somewhere

To the left of the crooked bench she sits unnoticed, patiently watching the younger beings that pass her by. She looks on intently; her eyes grow small in appreciation of even the slightest of recognition which she expresses with the sweetness of her smile directed at the lips that smile back. Hands folded and legs crossed faintly, pay tribute to a once gracious posture and pride in the beauty that still seeps through the faintest of gesture. Her eyes are still young but the folds of her skin each tell their own story. One of youth and the remembrance of young love, another of loss and tears of a lifetime forgotten, and yet another of each precious day she clings to with the fondness of a fading memory.

Delicate and fragile she waits for more than what is said. But darkness overshadows the mind of this simple, contented exterior. She has forgotten her name, she has lost her way and no one is coming to get her. And so everyday as time passes by unnoticed by her, she sits, she smiles and she will continue to wait. But the passers-by know the little old lady by now and everyday there are more smiles, more appreciation and more happiness for reasons she will never know. **e**

Author: Candice

Invoke is keen to read how you see the world you live in. Please send your creative writing pieces to us so that we can print them in our magazine. Email candice@evokemag.co.za

life as it happens

the extraordinary

Madiba's 67 years of service celebrated by Mamelani Projects and Soil for Life

Mamelani Projects, a Cape-based public health NGO and Soil for Life celebrated the world's first annual Mandela Day last Saturday, July 18th by planting 67 container gardens which will be given to women who are beneficiaries of Mamelani's Wellness Programme.

This is in line with a number of projects which took place around the globe to honour former president Nelson Mandela's birthday and his 67 years of service to humanity. People around the globe were asked to spend 67 minutes of their time to do something which makes a difference to the world around them.

The 67 container gardens will be received by women currently attending Mamelani's Wellness Workshops, many of whom

are unemployed. The Workshops look at various low cost ways of strengthening the body and maintaining good health, including the correct use of prescribed medications, home remedies and the medicinal and nutritional value of certain foods and herbs. The workshop, currently in the seventh week of an eight week programme will present attendees with a container garden on completion with their attendance and completion certificate.

"We hope that the gift of these garden containers will assist women in making the change to a healthier life and lifestyle. The containers were put together by a group of volunteers from Onsite Training who chose to contribute 67 minutes of their time to do community work," says Carly Tanur Founder and Director of Mamelani Projects.

The container preparation and planting took place at the Soil for Life resource centre on Saturday, July 18th 2009.

For more information on Mamelani Projects please visit www.mamelani.org.za and visit www.soilforlife.co.za for more information on Soil for Life.

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new movements

real stories

Green Building Council of South African Convention and Exhibition 2009

GBCSA Convention & Exhibition '09 to examine local and global green building issues

Following the success of its inaugural convention in 2008, the Green Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA) is once again bringing the leading international green building experts to Cape Town for its second annual convention and exhibition to be held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre from 21-23 October 2009. The convention will be sponsored by Nedbank Corporate Property Finance.

This world-class event is set to be a melting pot of ideas, skills, technologies, solutions and knowledge as the South African property industry gathers to ensure it keeps pace with green building trends globally.

With an impressive line-up of speakers and topical presentations, the conference promises to meet the high standard of last year's ground-breaking and widely praised event. It will be a powerful gathering of over 600 delegates and exhibitors, representing key role-players and decision-makers in the commercial property industry, from across the Sub-Saharan Africa region.

"The only investments worth making the current economic climate are sustainable ones," notes Nicola Douglas CEO of GBCSA. "The green building movement has been gaining momentum in the mainstream property industry globally and of late South Africa has seen a surge of corporates, developers, consultants and other industry professionals making a strong commitment to green principles."

The convention focuses on the very latest initiatives and progress in environmentally-

sustainable property development, and addresses a wide span of green building issues with high-profile presentations from leading international and local green building experts who will be sharing their experience and expertise.

Says Frank Berkeley, managing executive of Nedbank Corporate Property Finance, "Nedbank Corporate Property Finance is proud to sponsor the Green Building Convention for a second year. The overwhelming response to the convention last year is a good indication of how South Africans are taking the issue of climate change seriously. And no company is more committed to the green movement than Nedbank. We believe that banks in particular have a crucial role to play in enabling the transition from a carbon-intensive economy to more efficient low-carbon alternatives. By being involved in initiatives such as these, we are taking a leadership role by recognising that climate change affects the financial sector directly through the operations we run and indirectly through our business investments."

Stimulating topics to be covered include sustainable architecture, carbon trading, global policy, the response of the SA Government, energy and water solutions, existing building retrofits and green building materials.

"Expanding its view, the convention will also look beyond the individual green building, to the development of green cities. It will also discuss the investment case for green buildings, an area where the sustainability comes head-to-head with financial feasibility," says Douglas.

Practical guidance will also be provided with local and international green building case

studies giving valuable insight to building owners and project teams.

Following the launch of the Green Star SA rating system at last year's convention, the Green Building Council recently began working on the second in the suite of Green Star SA rating tools – for retail buildings/ shopping centres. GBCSA anticipates the launch of the PILOT version of the Green Star SA – Retail tool at its second annual convention & Exhibition later on this year.

There are a number of educational and networking events being held in parallel with the convention, from a range of educational courses to be held the day prior to the convention, to the opening cocktail function and convention dinner.

Perhaps one of the most exciting aspects is the exhibition showcasing green building products, services and technologies. In addition to being a major attraction for the duration of the conference, it will also be open to the public on the final afternoon of the convention, allowing everyone access to this treasure of green property ideas and applications.

The GBCSA is the official South African member of the World Green Building Council and the Green Star SA accreditation body. It is an independent, non-profit, member-based organization spearheaded by leaders from all sectors of the commercial property industry. Launched in 2007, the Green Building Council aims to promote and facilitate green building practices through market-based solutions.

For further information and registration for the GBCSA Convention & Exhibition '09 visit www.gbcsa-convention.org.za. e



Green Building Council South Africa

The Green Building Council receives great market support for its retail rating tool

Following the successful launch of the Green Star SA environmental rating system for office buildings last year, the Green Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA) recently began working on the 2nd in the suite of Green Star SA rating tools – for retail buildings/shopping centres. The Green Star SA tools set standards and benchmarks to determine what comprises a “green building”. Developers and owners can use the tool to ensure they have considered all aspects related to green and ultimately have their building certified as a 4, 5 or 6-star Green Star building.

A Technical Working Group of experienced industry experts has been assembled on a voluntary basis to develop the tool. They are joined by technical consultants, the WSP Group, as well as international sustainability consultant, Michelle Malanca. The GBCSA develops rating tools according to market demand and raises funding specifically for each tool. Interest in green building and sustainability hasn't slowed, despite the economic downturn, and feedback from the property industry indicated a demand for a retail tool.

Companies funding a Green Star SA tool enjoy a high profile and participate in the Technical Working Group that develops the tool. Each tool costs of the order of R1.5million to develop, and funding for the retail tool has been made available by a distinguished group of stakeholders: Liberty Properties and Pareto Limited, two of the biggest shopping centre owners in South


Africa, have thrown their weight behind the tool. “This strong endorsement from the mainstream retail portfolio owners is very encouraging, as they represent some of the power players in the industry, who can effect change most rapidly due to their size and influence,” explains Nicola Douglas, CEO of the GBCSA.

The South African Cities Network (SACN), an organisation representing the 9 largest cities in South Africa, provides an important link to municipal government and ensures their involvement and knowledge of the process. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has implemented a Climate Change Mitigation Programme in South Africa on Energy Efficiency in the Building Sector and to this end has dedicated resources to assisting the GBCSA in its rating tool development programme.

“The SDC recognises the importance of the building sector in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and is supporting the Green Building Council of SA in its efforts to transform the way buildings are designed, built and used. We hope to have a long and mutually rewarding relationship as we roll

out rating tools for the different building sectors. With our common goal of combating climate change, this is a powerful partnership,” comments Bruce Kerswill, Chair of the GBCSA. This combination of funders is a great example of how South African and international business, government and civil society are combining their efforts to address our most pressing issues. Through the Green Building Council initiative, the resources and experience of all these players, both local and international, can be combined to create market-driven solutions.

The GBCSA hopes to launch the PILOT version of the Green Star SA – Retail tool at its 2nd annual Convention & Exhibition, which takes place at the CTICC from 21-23 October, and will feature case studies on some Green Star rated retail projects from Australia, amongst numerous other topics and presentations.

For further information and registration for the GBCSA Convention & Exhibition '09 visit www.gbcsa-convention.org.za
For further information on the Green Building Council visit www.gbcsa.org.za. 



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making a difference

one at a time

Land remediation and rehabilitation

Land Rehabilitation is described in the Investopedia as a re-engineering process that attempts to restore an area of land back to its natural state after it has been damaged as a result of some sort of disruption. The process involves such things as removing all man-made structures, toxins and other dangerous substances, improving the soil conditions and adding new flora.

In the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, land contamination becomes a punishable offence. In order to rectify the situation, a site assessment needs to be done by an independent person. A Site Assessment Report needs to be issued to the relevant Department and by law, a person can be ordered to remediate land.

This implies that a person will be requested to remove pollutants or contaminants from soil in order to protect human health and the environment.

EnviroServ is ideally placed to ensure effective management of these challenges. We have been cleaning up pollutants and contaminants for the last 30 years. We have experience in dealing with the most harmful and hazardous substances. Our track record of dealing with these substances in a professional and environmentally responsible manner speaks for itself.

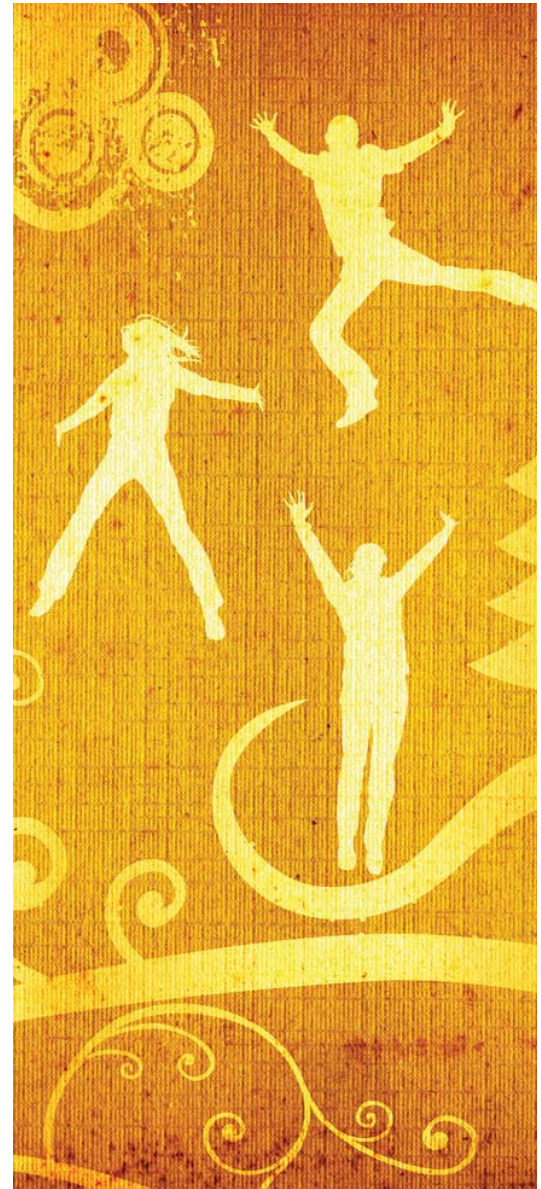
It does not end there, in order to ensure effective rehabilitation; this area needs to be "fixed" in order to sustain growth. Rehabilitation is much more than just dumping

soil on a heap and hoping plants will grow. It is a highly technical field which involves effective planning, soil amelioration, legal authorisations, earthworks (in many cases), re-vegetation and monitoring.

EnviroServ teams up with leading consultants in the field to ensure the effective planning considers groundwater, surface water, soil and air as pathways for pollutants or contaminants. We have a seamless integration as we manage the entire process. The client is not forced to be the bridge between a consulting company and an operational company. We have scientists on board with years of practical experience, they assist with onsite management.

The success of our ventures lies with our multidisciplinary approach. The environment is a complex combination of factors which need to be managed simultaneously. We invite you to contact us for further information. e

By: Makgabo Seema
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Love to surf?

Longest Wave on the Planet: Then you have to visit Brazil to surf the longest wave on the planet Earth called Pororoca. Between February and March Atlantic ocean tides generate waves up to 12 feet high which can last for over half an hour. Pororoca in indigenous Tupi language means "great destructive noise" and it destroys everything in its path with the speed of 10 to 15 miles (16 to 24 km) per hour.



the princess project

The Princess Project was started by Helga Leurs in Cape Town. She came up with the idea of sponsoring less privileged matriculants that long to feel like a princess at their matric farewell, but do not have the financial capacity to “get dressed” for the occasion.

As such **The Princess Project** is responsible for collecting dresses and suits for such special occasions. These are then lent out with idea of allowing those wearing them to become a prince or princess for a day.

Anyone wishing to donate their old dresses or suits or just get involved should write to

info@princessproject.co.za or go to **www.princessproject.co.za**

making a difference

one at a time

Street children - To give or not to give?

Much confusion surrounds the question of whether or not to give money to children begging on our streets. There are two options; giving and not giving. Giving means that most children living on the streets use the money they receive to buy thinners, glue or a video game. In the long-term giving money is a death sentence whereby children learn to be street children and leave their families without the income they expect their children to bring home. Not giving also means that many families will lose their only income as most of the children on the streets are sent by their families to earn money.

Thankfully, there are other options available to help street children that will result in a positive change. One way of making a difference is simply talking to the child asking for money to find out why he/she is on the street. They will move on if they do not want to chat but genuine concern is something money cannot communicate. One could engage the child about the long term benefits of a shelter and highlight the risks a street child faces such as motorists, trafficking and child labour.

If one does wish to give them something, give them food instead or give the money you would give on the streets to the programmes and initiatives that are helping address the problem of children on the streets. Soup kitchens, day programmes, shelters and education training opportunities require a great deal of money to operate. The public can make a real difference to street children by rather donating the money they would give to the child directly to the shelter so that funds translate into proper service and not into maintaining a child on the streets in harm's way.

The public can also support the initiatives and efforts of people on the streets. Many people on the streets make a living by selling things, washing cars or gathering paper for recycling. Encourage this and put the money you might give to a street child into a service or product offered by the community, especially where the provider is a youth over the age of 18.

The public must remember that street children are mostly not on the streets out of choice but rather as a result of hardships they have had to endure at their age. It is important to remember that these children have the potential to make it in life much like any other child.

The removal of children from the streets does not occur overnight but is a lengthy process. It is important to note that some children agree to be taken to a shelter during the first initial contact, whereas others require several engagements before committing to a shelter. One can ask the SAPS to take a child to a place of safety as they have a mandate or an obligation to make sure that they are protected.

The harsh reality of giving money to begging children is that it increases the rate of crime, increase the number of drug users, it exposes children's vulnerability to sex exploitation and children labour, and they miss the opportunity to be rehabilitated. It is patience, hope, and a particular level commitment by community members that can bring about a positive change to the lives of street children.^e

Author: Sam Mokgopa, Coordinator: Outreach and Reunification and Assistant Director, Kids Haven

Shelters and places of safety:

EAST RAND

Kids Haven	011 421 4222
Kempton Park All Stars	011 975 6899
B.J Voster	011 907 3004/5
Norman house	011 453 0884/7803/4/5
Mary Moodley Place of Safety	011 421 5675
Jubelum	011 917 9574
Department of Social Development	011 820 0447

JOHANNESBURG

ALEX DSD	011 719 4907 / 12
JHB DSD	011 374 1600
Twilight Shelter (Hillbrow)	011 484 1912
Jabulani Khakibos (Berea)	083 703 6211

Any SAPS or any METRO police station

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