

# ALUMNI EMS

Reconnect **Revitalise** Reinvest **Rediscover**

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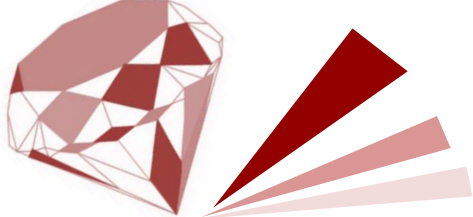
## Young Alumni entrepreneurs grace MUT Market Day

It is often said that the time spent at a university will be the best time in our lives, and for many, this is true. There are a host of valuable skills and life lessons to be learnt during the time spent at a university, and the whole experience is much more than just studying to obtain a qualification. For young MUT alumni, developing their entrepreneurship skills and an opportunity to promote businesses during the MUT student entrepreneurship week was a welcome prospect. Nonhlanhla Vezi, an author, together with Themba Nodada and Sandile Mkhiva, the co-founders of “Non Controllable Swag clothing brand and Zulile Mthiya who is the manager of Themba lamaZubane (Pty) Ltd could not hold their excitement to promote their brands at MUT’s anniversary lane to the excited crowds of students on Thursday, 6 October 2022.

The inaugural MUT Market-Day gave several students and young alumni who are currently completing their second

qualifications to showcase their businesses and to sell their products. The MUT Market Day marked one of the strides MUT is making with regards to becoming an entrepreneurial University. The University’s Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Marcus Ramogale, has always reminded students that no one was born to be an employee. In all instances, Professor Ramogale emphasises the need for students to learn business skills that will spare them from the plight of seeking employment. “Be your own employer and know that by creating work thereby employing other fellow graduates”, he always says.





Nonhlanhla Vezi was one of the exited exhibitors who came to sell her own book titled the “Black Graduate in a Corporate World”. “It is indeed great to be able to stand here today having published the book I started writing while in my second year at MUT, I am very delighted to also have an opportunity to make sales,” said Nonhlanhla Vezi, an MUT alumna who successfully authored a book titled *Black Graduate in a Corporate World*. In her book, Vezi laments about the struggle young graduates face while at their first jobs and hope that students read it and find better solutions to the challenges, they that lies ahead for then when they enter the world of work.

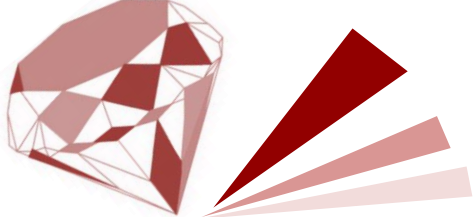
## Cum laude graduate spearheading the Standard Chartered future makers programme



Karabo Molomo, a recent Marketing cum laude graduate of MUT is making strides to create an entrepreneurship mindset amongst the youth. Molomo is a facilitator for the Standard Chartered Future Makers programme which focuses on training graduates under the age of 35 on design thinking.

The training runs for three to five days providing advanced support for development of business ideas as well as improving business ideas into practical business plans. Joining Enactus proved to be life changing for Molomo as it is through this student entrepreneurship programme that Molomo learnt critical skills like leadership, self-confidence, public speaking, and project management. “I owe thanks to the Enactus organisation and the amazing people I met, especially the then President of Enactus Azavela Zwakala who taught me to be independent.





At first, I thought he was harsh, but in the end, I saw how bad he wanted me to succeed and what he did was out of love” he said. Molomo’s accomplishments did not come without a fair share of challenges. Coming from Zebediela in Limpopo to MUT having been referred to by his cousin Jonathan Koma who is also an alumnus of MUT was a great accomplishment for him. However, moving to a new province proved hard as the language became a barrier where he had challenges engaging his classmates who did not understand his home language while he also did not understand isiZulu. Nonetheless, MUT started feeling like home when he met his good friend Siyabonga Makhoba who also graduated cum laude. The two formed a brotherhood as they supported each other throughout their studies and subsequently both graduating cum laude.

Molomo is currently facilitating the Design Thinking program for Enactus South Africa and has issued a call to students and alumni youth to join the programme which will prepare them for a competition in which the most innovative idea will be awarded seed funding to start a business. Interested individuals may contact Molomo on 0764500739 or email [karabosimon@gmail.com](mailto:karabosimon@gmail.com)

### **Celebrating Alumni Movers and Shakers with Sithembiso Mkhize**

Notable alumni like Sithembiso Mkhize are making a positive impact in society ploughing entrepreneurship abilities for the benefit of communities. Sithembiso Mkhize, a Surveying graduate’s journey to date has been far from normal. Having attended classes at MUT while managing a



taxi business with his uncle to support his struggling family financially and being selected as Head Coach for his soccer Team at once could never be every student’s cup of tea. Sithembiso recalls that not after getting his matric results, he could not wait to exchange his uniform and pencil case for a hard hat and gown. He vividly remembers that coming to MUT was a choice he proudly made because he had always been passionate about creating new things and improving processes. His excellent academic record earned him a bursary from the department of Rural Development and Land Reform giving him great financial relief. Since then, he has made sure to never slumber on opportunities as he comes from an impoverished family.

Shortly after his three-year work contract unexpectedly ended due to financial challenges, he founded Skhwili Projects, a company that makes blocks and bricks from the little savings he had invested while still working. Mkhize







proudly wears many caps as a humble servant of his community, an entrepreneur, and an employee. He works full time as the Geographic Information Systems Officer at Nongoma Local Municipality while also running his Skhwili Projects with the support of his six employees. Mkhize gave back by employing two MUT students for learnerships during the Covid-19 pandemic to provide them practical experience so they could graduate through Sphosami Surveys, another company he owns. "I am proud to have come from nothing, get a qualification from MUT and be able to create employment for those in need. I am grateful to God for giving me the strength to pursue my dreams and break the cycle of poverty", he said.

### MUT Alumna publishes her first book

Nobody ever claimed that getting a book published would be simple, yet some MUT Alumni have successfully done it over the years. Congratulations to our alumna Nonkululeko Khumalo, on the publication of her debut book titled *Journey to Your Life Purpose*. Khumalo says her hobby of writing started while she was still in high school where she developed a love for reading and writing short stories for her classmates and her ability to visualize stories in pictures. Khumalo resumed journaling after her divorce in 2009. The tragic loss of her father in a car accident in 2011 "was a coping mechanism for me, but with time I realized that my time on this earth is a gift from as a certified Life Coach, my goal for this book is that it changes and guides readers into their life purposes, even if it is one person, I know I would have accomplished something. My goal is for



readers to understand that all the answers they are seeking in life are within them," she said. Sharing insights about the craft and the thrill of writing, Nkululeko reminisces on days when she used to sleep with questions in her head, and when she woke up either in the middle of the night or in the morning, she would have the answers to the questions.

Khumalo is also a humanitarian who founded the Isiqalo FM Khumalo Foundation whose mission is to assist families and children from disadvantaged backgrounds with basic needs like food and clothing. She also co-founded a Non-Profit Organisation, Buyis' iThemba Community Development whose sole purpose is to give hope to previously disadvantaged communities by providing mentorship and resources to scholars and students to impact pass rates and minimize the number of school dropouts. Amongst the many roles she is juggling, Khumalo continues to work as a proof-reader for Africaz Creative Teens Magazine. The alumni relations office is proud to have graduates who continuously keep putting the MUT brand in a positive spotlight. Pre-orders of the book can be done at [gpmisane@gmail.com](mailto:gpmisane@gmail.com)