



Student Newspaper • Volume 3 / 3rd Edition | December 2022

# Dintshang

**Medical Student  
raises over  
R300 thousands  
for students**

**Newly  
elected SRC**

# UBUYILE!

*Thato Masekoa*

## SMU Harambee Annual Fund Challenge



Join our Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbatia and SMU in raising funds for a bursary program designed to assist academically qualified but financially disadvantaged students. Additionally, the initiative intends to donate to the university's Hands of Compassion food security project, which delivers meals to underprivileged students on campus.

### WAYS TO GIVE

1. Payroll donations
2. Online donations:  
<https://smu.devman.co.za/devman/online/giving/>
3. Pay Scan – Zapper
4. SMU Banking Details  
Ref: Standard bank | Acc: 070754128  
Branch Code: 020909 | Q013 - Name Surname

### CONTACT DETAILS

Mr Sbusiso Gwala  
Email: [sbusiso.gwala@smu.ac.za](mailto:sbusiso.gwala@smu.ac.za) | Cell: 073 069 0428



Follow us on our social media platforms:

- SMU Dintshang | 
 @smu\_dintshang | 
 SMU Dintshang  
 SMU Dintshang | 
 Tune into SMU FM 97.1

#WeAreSMU

KNOWLEDGE FOR QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES



# UBUYILE!

## Thato Masekoa comes back as SMU SRC President



**S**RC President Thato Masekoa is excited to be back as the President of the SMU SRC and believes that his experience will help him execute his responsibilities much more efficiently and effectively. Masekoa who was recently elected to the hot seat is not a stranger to leadership positions as he serves as the Chairperson of the student chapter of the Black Management Forum (BMF) in Gauteng and as chair of student entrepreneurship and life skills for the South African Union of Students (SAUS).

“I am not taking it for granted that I have been returned to the Presidency of the institution. It has never happened in the history of our young University that one person comes back as President for the second time. Presiding over an institution is not an easy task, I say this because of the many critics. I believe that anywhere and anytime a person holds high office, you attain friends and enemies immediately. So I think the reason some of us are back in the leadership is because we are able to work and operate within a collective and are tolerant to others – political tolerance is very crucial. Others should be able to approach you and work with you. You cannot govern as an island; you need to reach out to others so that you can work collectively to assist students”, says Masekoa.

His views about student entrepreneurship particularly at SMU is that, the university must not attempt to inhibit students from making money by all means necessary. “Students must be allowed to sell products as long as this does not inconvenience anyone. The

university must intentionally support students who want to become entrepreneurs. My view is that amongst our graduate attributes, entrepreneurship must take centre stage. In the long run, we must all be trained to become entrepreneurial in our approach because this is another way we can reduce and address the poverty levels we are confronted with. Most of us if not all come from poverty stricken families and we have to fight hard to exit that space.

When we are done with our studies here, we still face a huge task of taking care of our families, siblings and relatives because of our poor backgrounds. Salaries alone will not help us to achieve this. The university must assist current entrepreneurs on campus with capital to start and operate businesses”, he continued.

He also believes that the university must consider building capacity such that students are also able to get subcontracts from the many projects taking place in the institution just like community members do. They must also be given an opportunity to overshadow others.

The President counts patience, ability to listen, political tolerance as some of the important attributes if you want to lead others. “You also need to be strong as a person. This speaks to how well are you capable to withstand all manner of challenges. People test you as a person before they consider you for leadership, they look at things like whether you are decisive, can be able to defend what you believe in and also listen to others' views regardless of the circumstances. One needs to be able to listen to students in general even those who do not share the same political views with you because once you are elevated to such an office, you are a servant of everybody. If you cannot listen, you can't lead”, emphasized the President.

Masekoa made some observations while serving as an ordinary student that students want to be heard, engaged and involved and they prefer transparency. “As leaders we want to take our constituencies where they want to go, but they still need to understand what

you are doing and how you go about dealing with their issues, people don't like being in the dark. If they don't know what is happening, they are likely to just take any view. We are thinking of strategic ways of improving how we serve students and one aspect we will be working on is how best to communicate with our constituency more efficiently”, he says.

**On the Change of culture in the university, he had this to say:**

“The change of culture is a positive thing and we have always advocated for such a change. However, we need to caution that it should not happen at the expense of students. We have the right to strike if we feel everything else has failed and we see it as a last resort. The problem we have with strikes is when they are not genuine. Imagine a situation where three people connive and decide that tomorrow there is a strike and gates are to be closed. We are for a view that we need to put measures of how we resolve disputes as opposed to protesting – this should not be something that people play about. We need an institution that thrives on stakeholder engagement and I have strong views that if we are able to persuade each other, there will be no reason to strike. Students must not bulldoze anyone and management should equally not do so. If we say a particular culture is bad and must be stopped, it should not be at the suppression of any party. Let's address issues. We want the university to progress. We embrace the change; we want the farm to operate peacefully”.

Masekoa also said they are going to work hard as a collective to unite the SRC as its unity is the first pillar to make the student body, while disunity can break everything. “Not that it was not previously united, but we need to manage things differently and be deliberate on building unity”, he elaborated.

To all students I wish to say, “we must all work together, feel free to express your views and may the best of the past be the worst of the future”.



# The Student Affairs Department recently organized a lunch to welcome the newly elected SRC and introduce them to the Vice-Chancellor

Speaking during the occasion, the VC Prof Peter Mbati congratulated the SRC and encouraged them to protect and grow the SMU brand. Mbati informed the new SRC that there will be a review of the University strategic plan in June 2023 and that they should be prepared to make a contribution on a range of issues.

The SRC President Thato Masekoa said they are committed to work with management as students have a huge role to play towards the development of SMU. He emphasized the importance of stakeholder engagement.

Student Affairs Director Mr Tulani Nkuntse said while working together, it is important that parties treat each other with mutual respect. He committed to assist the SRC students.



# SMU Student Receives EWSETA Water Innovation Award - Abednico Maphanga

Bachelor of Life Sciences (Biology and Biochemistry) graduate, and currently a Biotechnology final year student, Abednico Maphanga, recently received the second prize during the Energy & Water Sector Education Training Authority (EWSETA) Water Innovation Awards. The awards comprise an incubation opportunity with the Innovation Hub, mentorship to the value of R100 000, seed funding of R70 000 to cover product development activities such as intellectual property (IP) protection, testing and technology demonstrations, four training sessions, the opportunity to attend events and exhibit for free in relevant conferences and utilise The Innovation Hub Management Company (TIHMC) equipment to build or improve prototypes, amongst others.

*“The innovation is all about looking at an alternative, or perhaps a better way of water treatment, especially with the growing concern of emerging pharmaceutical waste that has been found in surface water. This is probably due to the growing population and over-reliance on pharmaceutical products be it for health or ornamental purposes, with this comes water pollution by pharmaceutical products,”* enlightens Maphanga who hails from Green Valley township (Acornhoek, Mpumalanga).

He further explains that using medicinal plants to decontaminate pharmaceutical waste in surface water will be done by extracting medicinal plants (phytochemicals). “The phytochemicals will be inoculated in a specialized polymer of a membrane. Then retrofitted inside a reactor with the biological material and now gets to be referred to as a Bioreactor. Having to work with the Innovation Hub will ensure that we build a prototype and do product testing then thereafter we can start the product roll-out. The ultimate goal is to use my skills attained at SMU to create training opportunities for fellow BSc students, and build towards a sustainable company that will contribute to the water sector,” said Maphanga.

Maphanga is grateful for the support he received to attain his feat. “A special mention to my team members Qondisa Mbekwa (UWC) and Gugulethu Dhlamini (SMU), my lecturer and mentor Dr Vuyisile Thibane, support from the Office of Student Academic Development and Support Unit, under the leadership of Dr Tebogo Tsebe, and Entrepreneurship Student Coordinator Ms Naledi Mathole, and overall a special thanks to EWSETA for providing us with an opportunity to move what was just an idea into a fully-fledged product. Hopefully, with more support, we will get to see the project’s success. To those that I might have not mentioned by name, your support is equally appreciated, and the victory is for all of us,” he concludes.





# Sibusiso Khumalo raises over R300 thousands for students

CHAIRPERSON:  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
SIBUSISO KHUMALO



**Sibusiso Welcome Khumalo** is a final year medical student at Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University and a former chairperson in the School of Medicine. While on the campaign trail to become the School chairperson in 2020, he made a commitment to raise funds for the purchase of scrubs for medical students. He was subsequently successful in his bid for office in 2020. Born at Ezakheni, Ladysmith in the Province of Kwa Zulu-Natal where he started his primary schooling, his desire to help others was fuelled by how good Samaritans including family members always came through for him from when he was still a student back in the days. He also recalls that, even his application to study medicine at SMU was facilitated by someone. Thus, he believes it is important to help others.

“As part of my manifesto when I was contesting for the chairperson position in the school of medicine, I decided to raise R1 000 000.00 (one million rand) towards scrubs for medical students. I had objectives and a self-propelled obligation to reach the highest amount ever secured by any SRC member”, he recalled.

Despite the challenges he had to wrestle to reach his goal, Mr Khumalo has managed to raise over R300 000.00 which will secure about 700 Scrubs for the medical students. “I was always passionate about helping others and the struggles that I see fellow students go through motivated me to take on this project. It was a tall order but I knew it could be done. Even though I did not manage to reach my target of R1 000 000 (One Million Rand) as planned prior entering the Office, which was due to the instability in the countries' economy, I have managed to secure enough to help a lot of students”, said Khumalo.

After sending numerous proposals to different companies, Khumalo was pleased to eventually receive a positive response from Pfizer Laboratories (Pty) Ltd. “I sent a proposal of medical scrubs to Pfizer Laboratories (Pty) Ltd towards end of May 2021 and was happy to get a positive response at the beginning of September 2021. They deposited an amount of R307 720.00 in the school's account in April 2022. The money was supposed to be deposited the previous year (2021 September or October) but there was a delay due to unforeseen circumstances”, explained Mr Khumalo.

He is excited to have realised his dream and has vowed to continue with his project of raising funds for SMU students as an alumni post his studies at SMU. He credits his political organisation and his church for encouraging their members to serve others. Khumalo is due to finish his studies in February 2023 and start his internship with the Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital.

# Lebogang Mathe – a BSc Student is Miss Beauty with Brains SA

**L**ebogang Mathe who is currently studying for a Bachelor of Science (BSc) Honours in Physics at Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, is the reigning Miss Beauty with Brains SA Model of the year and Social Media Influencer. The pageant is about embracing one's beauty, and accepting and loving oneself the way you are regardless of body size, gender, skin colour, and age. It caters for the following categories: Miss, Mr, Teens, & plus size Models.

Originally from the place of the rising sun, Mpumalanga in Vezubhle, Lebogang is a young, organized, unique, teachable and down-to-earth person. She lives by the motto, "To remove a mountain, you start by picking up small stones".

"I entered the pageant because I have always wanted a title that was defined by hard work, discipline and other responsibilities. She describes herself as passionate, calm, courageous hardworking and an inspiration to those around her. As a title holder of Miss Beauty Brains SA, she is expected to do all her duties such as helping others in various ways and representing the brand everywhere she goes with pride and confidence as well as to have a good personality and continue to be a mirror and inspiration to others.

Her future plans include being the next South Africa top model who leaves a mark in changing people's lives and giving hope to the hopeless.





# #SEW 2022

# Student Entrepreneurship move to Market

Student Entrepreneurship Week (SEW) has become an explosive growth-focused start-up event with studentpreneurs, and early career professionals learning from investors and entrepreneurs. SEW has inspired studentpreneurs to think like job creators, not just job seekers. It encourages students on how convenience and understanding the market are factors that coexist in all spaces of entrepreneurship hence the programme was themed 'Move to market'.

"This year we were tasked to find ways in which we can either facilitate or create opportunities to encourage students to move their businesses into the market space. So we kicked off this year's SEW with a programme specifically tailored to achieve the main theme which was 'Move to market,'" explains Gugulethu Dhlamini, Chairperson of SMU Student Entrepreneurship & Innovation Hub (SEIH).

Seventeen studentpreneurs pitched their business ideas which make the next person's life convenient and simultaneously drive sales. A select group of judges gave insight and direction on where students can start when attempting to venture into new or existing markets. Their opinions, questions, and advice quickly got the attention of the attendees together with the studentpreneurs that were pitching. The studentpreneurs pitched under four categories, namely new business ideas, existing tech business, existing social impact business and general business.

"The whole aim behind these pitches was to encourage students to come out of their shells and speak about their businesses. They were all challenged by the judges to break out of their existing market and stretch their arms into new markets. All the winners as well as

all the rest of the participants received certificates of participation, which will be followed up with more support to move their business into the market," elaborates Gugulethu.

#### The SMU SEW 2022 winners are as follows:

- **1st place** - Boldwill Shivambu owner of 'Black Leaf Entertainment' existing business
- **2nd place** - Shaun Nare owner of 'I'll Get It' new tech business
- **3rd place** - Rethabile Selepe, who represented a group 'B&G Philanthropy Agency' new business.

The 1<sup>st</sup> prize winner Boldwill said, "I plan on using my prize money to finalize the paperwork and solidify the foundation of my business. That means registering it with the right organisations to be recognised as this specific type of business. I am grateful and I honestly entered hoping for the best but also not expecting anything. As much as I was confident in what I had, I knew it wasn't going to be easy. And I was ready for whatever result came from it. My business is a record label that offers music production & marketing services to independent artists and musicians. It is specifically aimed at those who are still in university/school and may not have the financial resources or information needed to build successful and sustainable careers".

The programme also made room for student social structures that have entrepreneurship as their objective, to have a panel discussion and share how their organisations are positioned to help students into the entrepreneurship space. The Black Management Forum Student Chapter (BMFsc SMU) was represented by Lerato Phasha, Enactus SMU delegate was Zikie Tseka,

and Gugulethu represented the SMU SEIH, joining the panel was Mr Rantle Mafata, Senior Manager: Supplier Development, Standard Bank and moderated by Sphiwe Khumalo, member of SEW organising committee.

These panellists shared extensively on the challenges some of the students in their organisations face when trying to get their business to new customers, and then went on to share how they are creating platforms that then seek to address these challenges and invite students to participate and all three organisations stressed the need for collaborative efforts to amplify student entrepreneurship as a tool of unlocking the chains to financial freedom while learning.

Various speakers shared their expertise on Research Commercialisation and Bridging the gap between industry and entrepreneurs. Mr Mohlatlego Sebola explained in detail the role of the Technology Transfer Office, inviting the studentpreneurs to fully utilise his office's services. Then Mr Ntokozo Sibiyi, Director and co-founder of Lesedi Agri Biz incubator spoke about the importance of starting where you are with the little that you have and all your efforts will birth something amazing in the end. Followed by Mr Tebogo Seseng who is a Manager: Stakeholder Relations of the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), who spoke on the different programmes that are put in place to support innovation and technology as it is being translated into a business that aims to solve real and existing problems, followed by Mr Thato Tshepo Shuping, Director: Innovation from the City of Tshwane who shared also on the support and resources they are offering for student entrepreneur who's business align with their goals and objectives of making Tshwane a greater place.

