

Thoko builds her legacy with Boston



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Lilian Ngoyi Street Reopens Two Years After Deadly Blast

Nearly two years after a devastating underground explosion tore through the heart of the city, Lilian Ngoyi Street will officially reopen to traffic on Friday, 12 September 2025.

The Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) confirmed that Phase 1 of the rehabilitation project has been completed between Loveday and End streets, with the stretch now operating as a one-way eastbound route.

The road was closed on 19 July 2023 when a powerful underground gas explosion ripped through the CBD, killing one person, injuring 48, and damaging about 400 metres of roadway. The blast was traced to methane gas that had built up inside a service tunnel carrying water, power, and sewer lines beneath the street.

The incident not only disrupted transport but also left nearby businesses and commuters facing months of uncertainty.

The rebuilt section includes wider side-walks, safer pedestrian crossings, and upgraded transport facilities aimed at balancing the needs of motorists, public transport, and pedestrians.

According to the JRA, the improvements are part of the city's broader Inner-city Transport Master Plan, designed to create a safer and more accessible environment.

Key intersections at Rissik, Joubert, Eloff, Von Brandis and Wanderers streets will reopen fully, while Loveday and Kruis streets remain closed for on-going works. Public transport routes, which were rerouted after the blast, will now return to their original paths.

"This project is about rebuilding confidence in the city. Lilian Ngoyi Street is not only a transport corridor — it's the backbone of inner-city life," the JRA said in a statement.

The Johannesburg Metro Police Department (JMPD) will deploy officers

along the street to manage traffic and enforce by-laws as drivers and pedestrians adapt to the new road design. Traffic signal timings will also be adjusted where necessary to improve flow.

The full reconstruction is estimated to cost more than R178 million, with Phase 2 of the project — extending repairs further east — expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

City officials have thanked residents, businesses, and commuters for their patience, urging everyone to exercise caution and courtesy while adjusting to the reopened road.

"From tragedy has come renewal," the JRA said. "Lilian Ngoyi Street is being transformed into a model of what a safe, liveable, and people-friendly corridor in Johannesburg should look like."

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From Short Course to MBA: Boston City Campus Graduate Thoko Tshabalala-Shandu Builds a Legacy of Leadership



(MBA) with the same institution. Reflecting on her journey, she says: "Boston City Campus played a crucial role in preparing me for my career. From the very beginning, Boston gave me the flexibility to balance studies with professional responsibilities, while equipping me with practical knowledge that I could apply immediately. The support from lecturers and mentors, especially Zanele Ncai, gave me the confidence to push boundaries and achieve more than I thought possible."

For Thoko, her studies at Boston were not just about academic qualifications, but about building the resilience and leadership capacity she would need to excel in one of South Africa's most demanding industries. She credits Boston's unique blend of flexibility, practical curriculum, and supportive environment for shaping her into the leader she is today.

Now at the helm of VEA Road Maintenance & Civils, Thoko leads with vision and purpose. She ensures that the company not only delivers top-quality infrastructure but also invests in people and communities. "What I enjoy most about my job is creating lasting impact. Beyond building roads, my work is about building futures," she explains. Her approach has earned her and her company widespread recognition, including top industry rank-

ings and prestigious awards such as the ERWIC Award for Women in Construction and the BBQ Business-woman of the Year Award. She has also been celebrated as a Standard Bank Top Women Entrepreneur finalist and featured on national platforms such as eNCA.

Despite these accolades, Thoko's focus remains on inspiring others, particularly young women. She encourages learners to embrace courage and perseverance in pursuing their goals. "Don't be afraid to step into male-dominated spaces—you belong there. Seek mentors, embrace challenges, and pursue your passion with perseverance," she advises.

Her journey—from a Software Specialist SLP to an MBA student—demonstrates the life-changing power of education when paired with discipline and determination.

For Boston City Campus, her story is a testament to the institution's mission: to provide quality, flexible, and practical education that equips students not only for careers but for leadership and impact.

"In construction and leadership, learning never stops," Thoko says. "Boston gave me the foundation to begin, and it continues to provide the knowledge and skills I need to grow. That is the mark of an institution that truly prepares students for the future."

When Thoko Tshabalala-Shandu first enrolled at Boston City Campus for a Software Specialist short learning programme (SLP), she could not have imagined the journey that lay ahead.

Today, she is the Managing Director of VEA Road Maintenance & Civils (Pty) Ltd, leading major projects in road construction and civil engineering—an industry traditionally dominated by men.

Thoko's educational path has been a remarkable progression, achieved entirely at Boston. After her Software Specialist course laid the groundwork, she went on to complete her Bachelor of Commerce in Management Marketing, followed by an Advanced Diploma in Adaptive Leadership, and later, a Postgraduate Diploma in Management. Now, she is pursuing her Master of Business Administration

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**Published by: Gazette Media, 149 Prichard Street Johannesburg 2000. Email: office@inner-city-gazette.co.za
Website: www.inner-city-gazette.co.za**

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SPAR Empowers Katlehong Women Through Stokvel Talks

The SPAR Group is proud to partner with Stokvel Talk this August to celebrate Women’s Month. As part of this national collaboration, SPAR supported Stokvel Talk Roadshows in Kathlehong and surrounding communities, giving women the opportunity to attend free and lively sessions designed to empower them financially.

The roadshows provided practical financial insights, clever savings tips, and a platform for women to connect with like-minded individuals who share the same drive to grow their hard-earned money. “As a community-based retailer with stores run by local owners, we understand that for millions of South African women, stokvels have always been about more than just money. Stokvels are about strength, trust and friendship. That is why SPAR stands proudly alongside women as they continue to use stokvels to achieve financial independence and build brighter futures for their families,” says Mpudi Maubane, The

SPAR Group National PR, Communications and Sponsorships Manager. The events emphasise that collective savings schemes are not only strong social networks but also essential financial tools, especially for those living outside urban areas.

The national significance of stokvels and the importance of understanding how they operate and their benefits for members are emphasised by some compelling statistics. South Africa has about 11.5 million stokvel members, with 57% being women. Together, stokvels channel an estimated R50 billion annually into savings and investments for their members. Many of these clubs focus on family welfare, such as burial societies, while an increasing number of multi-purpose stokvels are opening doors to broader financial opportunities.

“It is appropriate that we also use these kinds of events to shine a light on an issue that affects thousands of young girls every day, namely period pover-

ty,” says Maubane. “For many families, sanitary pads are a luxury. This means that around 30% of South Africa’s girl learners are forced to miss school every month. Over a year, that adds up to about 50 days of lost learning, impacting girls’ confidence, school academic results and future dreams.” Through its End Period Poverty campaign, SPAR collaborates with community and sporting partners to tackle this issue and is dedicated to eradicating pe-

riod poverty by 2030. “To reach this goal, it is important that at events like Stokvel Talks, we bring stokvel members, small business owners, and families together to play their part in ensuring that girls are not held back. By turning small acts of giving into a national movement, SPAR believes we can make sure no girl is left behind because of her period,” says Maubane.



The Silent Struggles of Widows in Our Communities

By **THEMBI MOYO**

In many townships and communities, widows often remain invisible. Unless a woman lives a life of luxury or holds a public position, her story is rarely recognised. Yet behind closed doors, countless widows carry a heavy burden that society seldom sees. The death of a husband is never expected. It can come after a long illness, or in an instant, without warning. Either way, nothing can prepare a woman for the moment she becomes a widow. The funeral days are a blur filled with relatives, neighbours, and visitors but when the last mourner leaves, silence takes over. A widow is left to face an unfamiliar reality with her children, her pain, and her unanswered questions.

For many, survival becomes the hardest part. If the late husband was the breadwinner, the widow is forced into a new role overnight: mother, father, provider, protector. She must be strong for her children, even when her own heart is breaking. Yet, as one widow in Hillbrow once said, “People surround you for a few days, but when the food is finished and the house is quiet, you realise you are truly alone.”

Financial pressure is only one side of the struggle. Widows also carry an emotional and mental weight that society often overlooks. Some face harmful stereotypes even cruel remarks like “Did you kill your

husband?” which add shame to their grief. Others experience exploitation, as people take advantage of their vulnerability during a time when their minds are clouded with pain. What makes the situation harder is the lack of consistent support. Communities rally during the funeral, but few follow up afterwards. Mental wellness, spiritual guidance, and ongoing practical help are rarely provided. Yet this is the moment when widows need it most. As one widow expressed, “Grief doesn’t end after the burial. That’s when it begins.”

Every widow’s story is different, but the struggles are similar: loneliness, poverty, raising children alone, and trying to remain strong in a world that expects them to “move on” too quickly. It is heartbreaking to see that while we celebrate weddings and baby showers with joy, we often turn away from widows who need community the most.

This gap calls for change. Families, neighbours, churches, and even government structures need to come together with compassion. Support should not only be financial sometimes a listening ear, a shared meal, or words of encouragement can be life-saving. A widow from Alexandra summed it up beautifully: “I don’t need pity. I need people to stand with me until I can stand again.”

Widows are not looking for handouts they are looking for humanity. If as a society we can create awareness, break harmful stereotypes, and provide both emotional and practical support, then widows will not be forced to walk their painful journey alone. Yet, even in their pain, many widows rise with resilience. They learn new skills, start small businesses, raise their children with strength, and rebuild their lives with quiet dignity. As one proverb reminds us, “*She stood in the storm, and when the wind did not blow her way, she adjusted her sails.*”

Widows are not just survivors of loss they are warriors of life. By honouring their strength and walking beside them, we help them turn grief into growth, and pain into purpose.





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Collective Effort Needed to Break Down Barriers that Women Entrepreneurs Face



Despite meaningful progress in women’s participation in the economy, many women-led businesses across South Africa still face persistent challenges, from limited access to markets and networks to barriers in securing funding and digital tools.

These realities were brought into sharp focus at the Women Trade Intervention Dialogue. Hosted by the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities in conjunction with a number of partners, including Standard Bank, the event launched the national Women’s Month calendar and created a platform for women-owned businesses to trade, connect and grow.

Among the exhibitors were more than 25 women-led enterprises supported by Standard Bank Business and Commercial Banking through its Enterprise and Supplier Development (ESD) programme. The businesses were given the opportunity to showcase their offerings, engage with potential customers and unlock visibility.

“At Standard Bank, we are intentional about removing barriers that prevent women-led businesses from scaling,” says Naledzani Mosomane, Head of ESD at Standard Bank Business and Commercial Banking. “This platform allowed us to connect our ESD female entrepreneurs with buyers, investors and the public, turning possibility into opportunity while translating exposure into real economic value.”

As part of the day’s activities, Standard Bank also sponsored a live pitch challenge where six women entrepreneurs were invited to present their businesses in front of a panel of judges. Two winners walked away with R10,000 each in funding to support their growth ambitions. The challenge highlighted the quality and innovation among women-led enterprises and reinforced the need for financial backing at critical stages of business development.

To further support trading capability, all participating businesses were equipped with the Standard Bank SimplyBLU point-of-sale devices at no rental cost. These tools enabled seamless digital payments while removing the burden of upfront capital, an often-overlooked barrier for many small enterprises.

This initiative forms part of Standard Bank’s broader mission to support inclusive economic participation. As South Africa holds the G20 Presidency this year, there is renewed urgency to elevate women-led businesses and ensure they are meaningfully included in global economic growth strategies.

This commitment is further evidenced by the bank’s sponsorship of the B20 Summit, the official G20 business engagement forum, and its role as the host of the Women 20 (W20), the official G20 engagement group focused on gender equity that the bank also advocates for. Through these strategic involvements and more, Standard Bank continues to reaffirm its dedication to amplifying women’s voices and economic contributions on both national and international stages.

“If we want sustainable, inclusive growth, we have to intentionally support and invest in women as these entrepreneurs are vital to their communities and South Africa’s economic future,” adds Mosomane.

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR THE APPLICATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION FOR A HOUSE DEVELOPMENT SITUATED ON PORTION 25 OF THE FARM NEWLANDS 757-J.R. IN MIDRAND WITHIN THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, GAUTENG PROVINCE.

Notice is hereby given according to Public Participation Process in terms of Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 982 (2014), as amended in April 2017, promulgated in terms of Section 24 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 (Act 107 of 1998).

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

Phakamile Mainganya is proposing to construct a residential home on Portion 25 of the Blue Hills Equestrian Estate, located on Farm Newlands No. 757-J.R. in Midrand. The proposed development will align with the estate’s land use regulations, contributing to its ongoing residential growth while preserving its established character.

PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed housing will be developed on Portion 25 of the farm Newlands 757-J.R. in Blue Hills Estate, located within the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality. Portion 25 of the farm Newlands covers an area of approximately 1.35 hectares: **Site Coordinates -25.949879 S & 28.081673 E**

LISTED ACTIVITIES, EIA REGULATION AS AMENDED

Applicable Listing Notice	Activity No
GNR 327 Listing Notice 1	Activity 19: The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from (i) a watercourse; (ii) the seashore; or (iii) the littoral active zone, an estuary or a distance of 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea or estuary, whichever distance is the greater but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving— (a) will occur behind a development setback; (b) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan; [or] (c) falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this Notice, in which case that activity applies; Activity 27: The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for— (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) Maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.
GNR 324 Listing Notice 3	Activity 12: The clearance of an area of 300 square meters or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan. In Gauteng: (i) Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystems listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004; (ii) Within Critical Biodiversity Areas or Ecological Support Areas identified in the Gauteng Conservation Plan or bioregional plans; (iii) On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning.

Applicant	Competent Authority	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Phakamile Mainganya	Gauteng Department of Environment	Tshikovha Green and Climate Change Advocates (Pty) Ltd

REGISTRATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

Tshikovha Green and Climate Change Advocates (Pty) Ltd is conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment for the housing development. As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment, we must conduct a public participation. Interested and affected parties are invited to register and send comments. Comments for EIA must be raised within 30 days from the day of publication of this advert to PP@climateadvocates.co.za, contact number [067 207 9639](tel:0672079639)





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Young Student Leads Baby Drive to Support Vulnerable Children

In a world where small acts of kindness often make the greatest impact, one young student, Hope Ntuli, has taken his commitment to community service to a new level.

For the past two years, Hope has dedicated his time to volunteering at Impilo Child Protection and Adoption Services, where he has witnessed first-hand both the extraordinary work being done for vulnerable children and the ongoing need for essential resources. “For Impilo, I wanted to do more than simply donate; I wanted to create an initiative that would bring our school community together for a greater cause,” Hope explained. Motivated by this vision, Hope proposed a baby drive in honour of Nelson Mandela Day. With the support of St John’s The Bridge Nursery School, he set out not only to collect clothes, diapers, toys, and toiletries but also to raise awareness about the valuable work Impilo does.

The initiative officially launched on 9 June, and soon after, the spirit of generosity spread throughout the school community. Parents arrived daily with bags of donations, their con-

tributions reflecting both compassion and solidarity. “Each donation represented more than an item; it was a symbol of compassion, a reminder that even small acts can create a ripple of change,” Hope said. By 18 July, Nelson Mandela Day, the project had grown into a powerful display of collective kindness. Hope and his team carefully sorted and packaged every contribution, before personally delivering them to



Impilo. The caregivers welcomed the donation with gratitude, acknowledging the relief it would bring in meeting the daily needs of the babies and young children in their care.

Zodwa, a staff member at Impilo who has worked closely with Hope, praised the initiative: “Hope’s baby drive has not only helped meet urgent needs at our centre, but it has also shown the children and caregivers that they are supported by a wider community. His compassion and leadership are truly inspiring,” she said. For Hope, the project was more than a school initiative. It became a personal journey of leadership, compassion, and empowerment.

“What began as a simple idea became a powerful reminder of the impact that collective effort can have,” he reflected. “It showed me that with initiative, planning, and compassion, young people can lead projects that truly change lives. “Through his vision, Hope not only supported an organisation close to his heart but also inspired his peers and their families to recognise the difference they can make in the lives of vulnerable children.

Triviron Prepares to Mark 20 Years of Growth and Innovation

From a small office with just five employees to a multimillion-rand operation shaping South Africa’s infrastructure and energy landscape, Triviron Project Management is preparing to celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2026.

Founded in 2006, the company began as a specialist in project management services. Over time, it expanded into civil and structural engineering, occupational health and safety, and energy solutions. Today, Triviron employs 27 people and has grown its revenue from R5 million to more than R60 million.

Some of its early projects including the Upper Grayston Office Park, Goldfields Casino and Conference Centre extension, and Mbabane Office Park helped cement its reputation for delivering quality developments.

Now, the company is taking bold steps into renewable energy, with a 100MW solar farm in Maruleng being developed in partnership with ibVOGT.

Chief executive officer Pheny Mathopa says the company’s success is built on a philosophy of servant leadership. “By embracing values such as listening, empathy, and fostering growth, we have built a resilient and forward-thinking company,” he said. “Our people are at the heart of everything we do.” Transformation and community development have also been central to Triviron’s journey.



Pheny Mogoletsi Mathopa, CEO of Triviron Project Management

As a Level 1 B-BBEE contributor, it has supported initiatives ranging from the Winterveld Internet Café to school programmes and Early Childhood Development centres. Its projects have achieved Green Building Council of South Africa equivalent 4-star ratings, while the company has also reduced its own footprint by installing solar power at its offices.

Triviron’s work has earned recognition in the industry, including the ACPM Award for Project Management Excellence for the Booysens Magistrate Court project. Clients, the company

says, value its professionalism, transparency, and quality of service. Looking to the future, Triviron plans to expand into Sub-Saharan Africa and embrace new technologies, including artificial intelligence, to enhance service delivery. The company also wants to play a bigger role in mentoring and training young professionals in the built environment.

As its 20th anniversary approaches, Triviron is preparing a series of celebrations and community initiatives to reflect on its journey and set the stage for the next chapter of innovation.

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JOMBA! @ The Market Theatre coming soon

There are also a series of free workshops with the guest artists

As part of celebrating a 3rd year of partnership, the Centre for Creative Arts's JOMBA! Contemporary Dance Festival is delighted to continue to work with The Market Theatre to collaborate in sharing a smaller and carefully curated JOMBA! @ The Market.

The dance festival will run from 10 – 13 September 2025 in the John Kani and Barney Simon Theatres.

Four selected dance companies will travel to Johannesburg to present their works. For one night only, there will also be a special guest performance from 'Reunion' dance maker, Didier Boutiana.

Now in its 27th iteration, the curatorial provocation of this year's JOMBA! Contemporary Dance Festival is "moving border/lands".

This as JOMBA! sets out to engage, through curated dance encounters, with artists and dance makers who battle with, and navigate the currently unfolding socio- and geo-politics of border/lands. JOMBA! has curated a series of artistic encounters that question ideas of border crossings and have invited dance works that ask us to relook at borders (real and imagined) as metaphoric and poetic spaces which we are either seeking to cross, or to renegotiate.

For 2025, JOMBA! @ The Market Theatre is focusing on supporting and presenting primarily iconic South African dance makers and companies.

Greg Homann, Artistic Director of The Market Theatre Foundation, says, "This is also our way of supporting excellence in South African dance at a time of distressed funding and a closing off of platforms for dance. We want to grow exposure for contemporary dance in Johannesburg with programming that focuses attention on the brilliant dance makers in our country who often garnish acclaim internationally but have limited local spaces to present their work."

To this end, JOMBA! and JOMBA! @ The Market Theatre are delighted to be honouring veteran South African dance maker, Sbonakaliso Ndaba, as the 2025 JOMBA! Legacy Artist. She is being honoured for her innovative choreographic work that spans over three decades of dance making in South Africa and internationally.

Also, deeply significant to this JOMBA! Legacy Award is Sbo's lifelong commitment to initiating many performance dance training initiatives, including

Phenduka Dance Theatre, Indoni Dance Arts Academy and recently SboNdaba Dance, a non-profit company dedicated to strengthening the performing arts in Cape Town.

Her long-term impact on training professional contemporary dancers and the legacy of this is felt throughout South Africa—and JOMBA! is deeply humbled that we get to honour her and her work in this way.

Sbo and her SboNdaba Dance present, 'In Search of Our Humanity', a masterful new work that takes the audience on an emotional journey through South Africa's evolution.

From the ancient, free-roaming Khoi and San ancestors to the struggle for unity, it showcases the nation's growth and defiance.

This dance work is a vibrant celebration of culture, resilience and the shared humanity that binds us all together.

In 2024, JOMBA! launched the innovative joint annual dance commission by the CCA JOMBA! and The Market Theatre with the express purpose of supporting innovative and provocative South African dance makers. Titled the 'PHAKAMISA Dance Commission' – with reference to the isiZulu idea of lifting up and holding – this commission is an ongoing commitment to JOMBA! and The Market Theatre's partnership to grow and support South African dance.

Greg Homann says, "It's wonderful this year to be partnering with the National Arts Festival and the Standard Bank Young Artist programme to award this year's commission to Soweto-born Asanda Ruda."

Asanda presents a double-bill that speaks to her ongoing artistic exploration of Afro-contemporary dance, and a deeply African sense of spiritual self-healing. Her programme includes her acclaimed solo 'KEMET (Black Lands)', which earned her a residency at Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris. The work embodies her pursuit of individuality and spiritual enlightenment through the transformative power of dance.

Carefully negotiating festival's provocations, JOMBA! @ The Market Theatre is proud to also welcome Durban's award-winning FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY with 'BODIES OF WATER'. The piece is choreographed by Lliane Loots in collaboration with the six FLATFOOT dancers (Jabu Siphika, Zinhle Nzama, Sifiso Khumalo, Siseko Duba, Sbonga Ndlovu, Ndumiso 'Digga' Dube) and live music by Refiloe Olifant (violin), Mandla Matsha (Percussion),

and vocals by Sifiso Khumalo. 'BODIES OF WATER' embraces a double-meaning as the dance work negotiates the ecology of water alongside an awareness that the human body is made up of mostly water.

Setting the dancing moving body as a breathing metaphor for climate justice, the dancers face what happens to bodies in times of personal and political crisis. Set against an African geopolitics, and a larger 'body' of social dis-ease, 'BODIES OF WATER' comes back to the ideas of how we relate to 'bodies of water' as both artistic and political metaphors for survival.

And as a treat for dance fans, for one glorious performance only on opening night, catch Réunion's COMPANY SOUL CITY and dancer/choreographer, Didier Boutiana. JOMBA!'s commitment to supporting and featuring artist of the Global South sees Didier Boutiana offer his new solo 'KANYAR epilogue'.

Didier Boutiana, whose roots are in hip-hop, is an expressive and transcendent dancer whose solo offers a deep critical dive into a contemporary world of fanaticism and painful self-glorification. Not to be missed!

If this is not enough, leading up to JOMBA! @ The Market is a chance for audiences to see the Naledi-nominated dance production, 'Father & I', before it heads to Durban for the JOMBA! Contemporary Dance Festival.

There are also a series of workshops with the guest artists during JOMBA! @ The Market. These workshops are offered free of charge to dance practitioners, but booking is essential as places are limited.

The workshops are only open to dancers 16 years and older.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the JOMBA! experience.

Full JOMBA! @ The Market Theatre Programme:

Wednesday 10 September:

6.30pm: KANYAR epilogue. by COMPANY SOUL CITY and Didier Boutiana (Réunion) – Barney Simon Theatre

8pm: Sbonakaliso Ndaba and SboNdaba Dance – In Search of Our Humanity (Cape Town, South Africa) – John Kani Theatre

Thursday 11 September:

8pm: Sbonakaliso Ndaba and SboNdaba Dance – In Search of Our Humanity (Cape Town, South Africa) – John Kani Theatre

Friday 12 September:

6.30pm: Asanda Ruda (PHAKAMISA Commission) (Johannesburg, South Africa)– Barney Simon Theatre

8pm: BODIES OF WATER by FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY (Durban, South Africa) – John Kani Theatre

Saturday 13 September:

6.30pm: Asanda Ruda (PHAKAMISA Commission) (Johannesburg, South Africa)– Barney Simon Theatre

8pm: BODIES OF WATER by FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY (Durban, South Africa) – John Kani Theatre

Booking and tickets via Webtickets.

Free workshops with guest artists:

Tuesday 9 September: 4 – 5.30pm with Didier Boutiana

Thursday 11 September: 4 – 5.30pm with Sbonakaliso Ndaba

Saturday 13 September: 10am – 11.30am with Asanda Ruda

Saturday 13 September: 4 – 5.30pm with Sifiso Khumalo and FLATFOOT DANCE COMPANY

E-mail 2024jomba@gmail.com to book a place – at least 1 day in advance of the workshop. No booking, no participation!





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Inner-City Gets First-Ever Soccer Field to Empower Youth

The inner city is set for a historic transformation as Standard Bank, in partnership with the Maharishi Invincibility Institute (MII), officially broke ground on the first full-size soccer field ever to be built in the Central Business District.

Launched on 5 September 2025, the “Field of Dreams” project is designed to give young people in the city a safe space to play, learn, and grow.

What was once a piece of mining land will now be home to a soccer field that champions the untapped potential of South Africa’s youth.

The initiative is being driven by legendary cricketer and former national captain Dr Ali Bacher with the backing of the JoziMyJozi coalition, a partnership working to reimagine the CBD.

Standard Bank provided both the land and the initial funding, supported by Italtile, the BW Cares Foundation, and an anonymous donor.

Together, these partners are investing in a space that restores pride to Johannesburg while opening new opportunities

for inner-city youth.

Speaking at the launch, Nkosinathi Manzana, Executive Head of Group Real Estate at Standard Bank, said the project highlights the power of collaboration.

“The Field of Dreams represents our deep commitment to the regeneration of Johannesburg and our belief in public-private collaboration.

This field is an investment in the health, well-being, and future success of the next generation of leaders.”

The Maharishi Invincibility Institute, which has already trained and placed more than 25,000 unemployed young people into careers in finance, technology, banking, and management consulting, will manage the facility.

Its graduates are collectively expected to generate more than R82.9 billion in lifetime earnings, showing the lasting value of investing in human potential.

For MII chief executive Dr Taddy Blecher, the project is about far more than sport. “This is more than just grass; it’s a promise to our youth.

Johannesburg was built on gold, but to-

day we’re mining something even more valuable the genius, creativity, and infinite potential of our young people.”

Located at a landmark site along the busy M1 highway, the new soccer field will also act as a green gateway to MII’s “Education Town” campus, where thousands of students from surrounding townships and informal settlements access affordable, world-class education.

Dr Bacher explained that young people can study there for up to 10 hours a day,

with access to tuition, materials, technology, sport and much more for only R200 per month. “That’s why we call it the Field of Dreams,” he said.

The groundbreaking ceremony signals a new chapter for the inner-city, turning a once-industrial space into a hub of education, sport, and youth empowerment.

For the hundreds of thousands who pass daily on the M1 freeway, the field will stand as a visible symbol of hope, renewal, and opportunity.





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