

REFLECTIONS FROM THE QUARTER

Possibility is a powerful thing.

It often begins quietly, not with grand announcements or dramatic moments, but with a single opportunity, a conversation, a book placed into a learner's hands, or someone choosing to believe in a young person's potential before they believe in it themselves.

As I reflect on this past quarter, I have found myself thinking about what possibility truly means. It is easy to see possibility as something that belongs to the future, something that exists in dreams or ambitions yet to be realised. But this quarter has reminded me that possibility is created in the present. It is built through intentional actions, meaningful relationships, and a commitment to showing up consistently for the communities we serve.

Every learner we have engaged, every mentor who has shared their wisdom, every volunteer who has given their time, and every partner who has invested in our mission has contributed to expanding what is possible.

One of the greatest lessons this quarter has taught us is that possibility grows when access grows. Access to books. Access to mentors. Access to information. Access to opportunities that encourage young people to see beyond the limitations of their circumstances.

This edition captures many of those moments. From celebrating literacy initiatives that place books into the hands of young readers



To sharing stories of resilience and achievement, each page is a reminder that meaningful change rarely happens overnight. It happens through small, deliberate investments that accumulate over time and transform lives in ways we may never fully measure.

Possibility also asks something of us. It asks us to continue believing when progress feels slow, to keep investing when the results are not yet visible, and to recognise that lasting impact is built through consistency rather than convenience. It reminds us that every contribution, no matter how small, has the potential to shape someone's future.

As we turn the page to a new quarter, we do so with gratitude for everyone who has walked alongside us, our mentors, volunteers, partners, donors, educators, and supporters. Thank you for helping us create spaces where young people are encouraged to dream boldly, learn confidently, and pursue futures filled with hope.

Because possibility is never just about what lies ahead.

It is about what we choose to build today.

RESILIENCE IN MOTION: JOURNEY OF GROWTH AND REDIRECTION

Testimonial by Kelebogile Tsatsi

For many young people, success is not a straight path. For Kelebogile Tsatsi, it has been a journey defined by resilience, adaptability, and unwavering determination.

When she first connected with the Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation, Kelebogile carried big dreams for her future. She aspired to study law and build a career that would allow her to make a meaningful contribution to society. However, like many students navigating the competitive world of higher education, her initial plans did not unfold as expected. She was not accepted into the University of Limpopo for her desired law programme.

For many, this could have been a setback. For Kelebogile, it became a redirection.

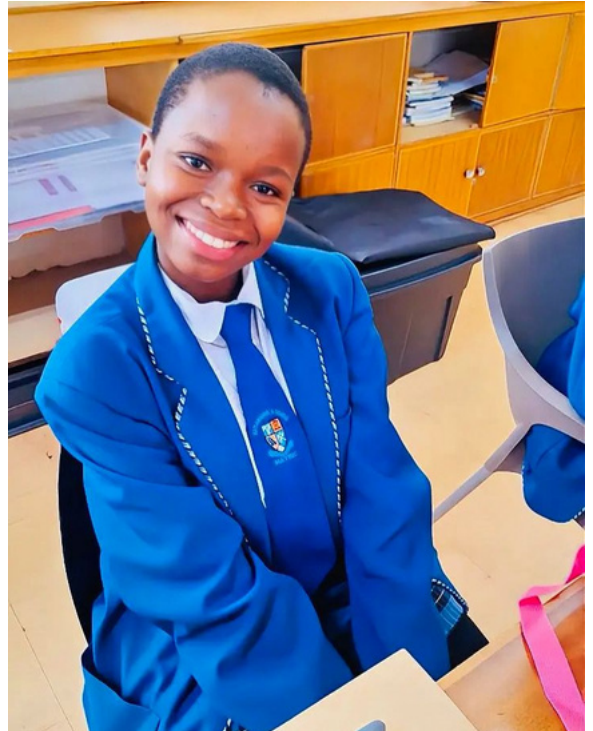
Instead of giving up on her dream, she chose to adjust her path. She is currently pursuing a BCom in Economics, while still holding firmly onto her long-term goal of transitioning into law in the coming year. Her journey reflects a powerful truth: sometimes the road to your destination is not direct, but it is still leading you forward.

Her time with the Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation has played a significant role in shaping her resilience. Through mentorship, academic support, and personal development programmes, she gained the tools needed to navigate both academic and personal challenges.

Midway through her mentorship journey, Kelebogile experienced another turning point she had to change mentors. While such transitions can often disrupt progress, she chose to remain committed. Instead of losing momentum, she adapted, rebuilt trust, and continued engaging fully in the programme.

That decision proved defining.

Rather than being discouraged, she grew stronger, more focused, and more self-aware. Her ability to stay committed through change is now one of her greatest strengths.



"I learned how to keep going even when things don't go as planned," she reflects. "Changing mentors taught me to adapt and stay focused on my goals no matter what changes around me."

Beyond academic performance, Kelebogile has developed essential life skills including discipline, communication, and problem-solving. Skills that continue to prepare her for the demands of university life and beyond.

Today, she stands as a young woman who has learned to embrace change rather than fear it. Her academic journey continues, but so does her vision. With her current studies in economics and her planned transition into law, she remains committed to building a future where she can contribute meaningfully to society.

Her message to other young people is grounded in lived experience:

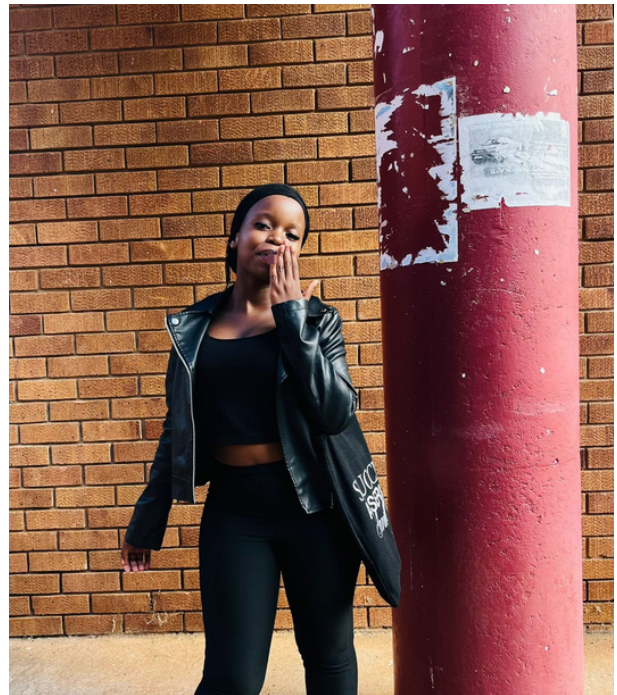
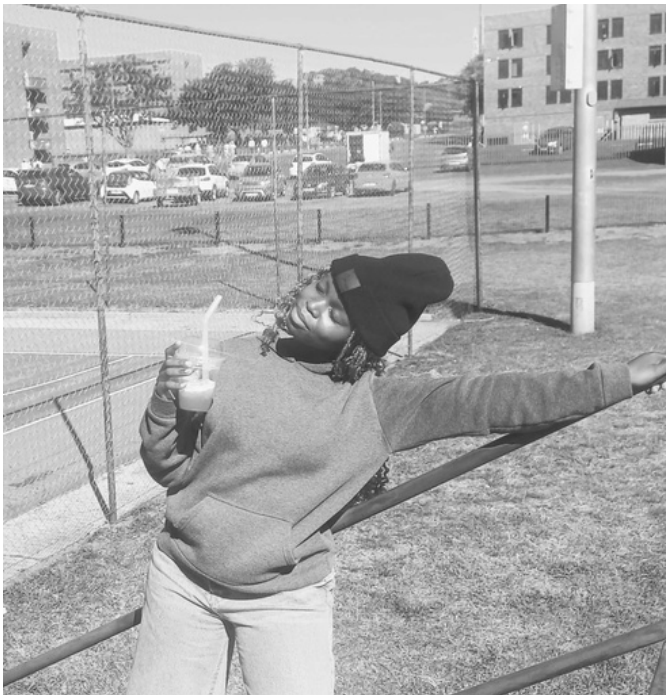
"Things may not always go the way you expect, but that does not mean your dreams are lost. Stay focused, stay adaptable, and keep moving forward."

Kelebogile's story is a reminder that resilience is not just about enduring challenges it is about growing through them. At Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation, we celebrate young people like her who continue to rise, even when the path changes.

Because impact is not only seen in achievement, but in the courage to keep going.

Message from mentor:

"Kelebogile doesn't just survive change, she thrives in it. Watching her turn every detour into a stepping stone has been an absolute honour." Ntombana Mabena



COMPLIANCE CORNER: BUILDING STRONGER ORGANISATIONS THROUGH GOOD GOVERNANCE

Behind every successful nonprofit organisation is more than just a passion for making a difference, it is a strong foundation of good governance, accountability, and compliance.

For many nonprofit organisations, especially smaller community-based organisations, navigating legal and governance requirements can seem overwhelming.

Fortunately, the **Nonprofit Organisations Act, 1997** provides practical support through model documents and codes of good practice that help organisations build sustainable and well-managed institutions.

Why Good Governance Matters

A strong governance framework enables an organisation to focus on what matters most creating meaningful impact within its community. Clear policies, defined leadership roles, and transparent decision-making processes help organisations earn the trust of beneficiaries, donors, volunteers, and partners.

Good governance is not simply about complying with legislation. It is about creating an organisation that is ethical, accountable, and equipped to grow.

Starting with a Strong Foundation

One of the most valuable resources available to nonprofits is the **model constitution**. A well-designed constitution provides clarity on how an organisation should operate by outlining:

- The responsibilities of board members and office bearers.
- Decision-making processes and governance structures.
- Conflict resolution procedures.
- Accountability mechanisms for stakeholders



These documents help organisations establish sound governance from the very beginning while reducing uncertainty as they grow.

Transparency Builds Trust

Annual reporting is another essential element of good governance. By maintaining accurate records and submitting clear narrative reports, organisations demonstrate responsible stewardship of their programmes, finances, and resources.

Transparent reporting allows stakeholders to see not only what has been achieved, but also how resources have been managed to create lasting community impact. This openness strengthens relationships with donors and reinforces public confidence in the organisation's work.

Good Governance Benefits Everyone

The Codes of Good Practice encourage nonprofit organisations to adopt high standards in leadership, financial management, ethical conduct, and organisational oversight.

By implementing these principles, organisations can:

- Strengthen internal controls.
- Improve financial accountability.
- Increase transparency.
- Reduce governance risks.
- Build long-term sustainability.

Importantly, these guidelines also support donors and funding organisations by establishing shared expectations, creating stronger and more transparent partnerships between funders and nonprofits.

Five Practical Compliance Tips

Every nonprofit whether newly established or well established can strengthen its governance by following a few simple practices:

1. Review your constitution regularly

Ensure your governing documents remain aligned with current legislation and your organisation's activities.

2. Maintain accurate records

Keep minutes of meetings, financial records, policies, and programme documentation up to date.

3. Submit reports on time

Develop a compliance calendar to ensure all statutory and donor reporting deadlines are met.

4. Invest in board development

Provide governance and compliance training so board members fully understand their responsibilities.

5. Stay informed

Monitor updates from regulatory authorities and review organisational policies whenever legislation changes.

Building Organisations That Last

At Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation, we believe that strong governance is essential to creating lasting change. Good governance strengthens credibility, attracts partnerships, protects organisational integrity, and ultimately enables us to serve our communities more effectively.

When organisations invest in sound governance today, they create a stronger future for the communities they exist to serve.

Good governance isn't just about following the rules, it's about building organisations that people can trust, support, and believe in for years to come.



TAKING OUR LEGACY TO THE AIRWAVES

Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation recently had the privilege of being featured on the **Sivukile Breakfast Show** on **Ikwewezi FM** as part of the station's "**Wenza Kuhle**" segment, a platform dedicated to recognising organisations and individuals making a meaningful difference in their communities.

The interview provided an opportunity to share the heart of our work and introduce listeners across the nation to our **Literacy and Digital Drive**, a key initiative under our broader Legacy Initiative. The campaign seeks to improve access to educational resources by promoting literacy, expanding digital inclusion, and creating learning environments that empower young people to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

Representing the foundation were Ntombana Mabena, Founder and Executive Director of Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation, and Lesego Teffo, PR and Marketing Director. Together, they shared the vision behind the Legacy Initiative, highlighting the importance of investing in education today to create opportunities for generations to come.

Joining them in studio was Kamogelo Seakamela, one of the many young people whose journey has been shaped through Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation's programmes. Kamogelo's story served as a powerful reminder that meaningful community development is measured not only by the programmes we implement but by the lives that are transformed through them.

The conversation also emphasised the importance of literacy as the foundation of lifelong learning. Reading equips learners with the confidence to explore new ideas, think critically, and unlock future opportunities. As technology continues to shape education and the workplace, ensuring that young people have both literacy and digital skills is essential for preparing them to succeed in an ever-changing world.

Being invited onto the Sivukile Breakfast Show was more than a media opportunity, it was an opportunity to amplify the voices of the communities we serve, inspire listeners to become part of the solution, and strengthen partnerships that advance educational development across Mpumalanga.

Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation extends its sincere appreciation to the Ikwewezi FM team and the Sivukile Breakfast Show for providing a platform to share our story and shine a spotlight on the importance of literacy, digital inclusion, and youth empowerment.

Every conversation creates awareness. Every partnership creates opportunity. And every opportunity brings us one step closer to leaving a legacy that transforms lives.



CAREER SPOTLIGHT: EXCITING SCIENCE CAREERS SHAPING SOUTH AFRICA'S FUTURE

Science is all around us. From the medicines that keep us healthy to the technology that connects us, scientific discoveries continue to shape the world we live in. As South Africa works to address challenges such as healthcare, climate change, food security, and technological advancement, the need for skilled scientists has never been greater.

Careers in science offer more than just job opportunities, they provide a chance to solve real-world problems, drive innovation, and improve lives. For learners who enjoy Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Life Sciences, a career in science can be both exciting and rewarding.

Here are three scarce and future-focused science careers that are making a significant impact in South Africa.

1. Actuary – The Science of Risk and Decision-Making

Actuaries use mathematics, statistics, and data analysis to assess risk and help organisations make informed financial decisions. They play a crucial role in industries such as insurance, banking, investments, and healthcare.

As businesses increasingly rely on data to predict future trends and manage uncertainty, the demand for qualified actuaries continues to grow. South Africa has a relatively small number of qualified actuaries compared to industry demand, making this one of the country's most sought-after professions.

Why it's exciting:

- Combines mathematics, technology, and business.
- Involves solving complex real-world problems.
- Offers excellent earning potential and career growth.

Recommended subjects:

- Mathematics
- Physical Sciences
- Accounting (beneficial)

2. Environmental Scientist – Protecting Our Planet

Environmental Scientists study the natural environment and develop solutions to environmental challenges such as pollution, water scarcity, climate change, and biodiversity loss.

South Africa faces increasing environmental pressures, making this profession critical for the future. Environmental Scientists work with governments, research institutions, mining companies, conservation organisations, and consulting firms to create sustainable solutions.

Why it's exciting:

- Contributes directly to protecting the environment.
- Combines fieldwork, research, and problem-solving.
- Plays a key role in addressing climate change.

Recommended subjects:

- Physical Sciences
- Life Sciences
- Geography
- Mathematics

3. Data Scientist – Turning Information into Innovation

Data Scientists use advanced analytical techniques, statistics, and technology to uncover insights from large amounts of data. Their work helps organisations make smarter decisions and improve efficiency.

As artificial intelligence, machine learning, and digital transformation continue to grow, Data Scientists are becoming some of the most in-demand professionals globally and in South Africa. They work across healthcare, finance, education, retail, and technology sectors.

Why it's exciting:

- Works at the intersection of science and technology.
- Uses cutting-edge tools and artificial intelligence.
- Applicable across almost every industry.

Recommended subjects:

- Mathematics
- Physical Sciences
- Information Technology
- Computer Applications Technology

Looking to the Future

Science careers are helping to shape the future of South Africa and the world. Whether you're interested in protecting the environment, analysing data, or solving complex financial challenges, there are exciting opportunities waiting for curious and determined learners.

The future belongs to problem-solvers, innovators, and critical thinkers. By pursuing careers in science, today's learners can become tomorrow's leaders, researchers, and change-makers.

At Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation, we encourage young people to explore careers that not only match their interests but also contribute to building a brighter future for our communities and our country.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE M.Y. COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS?

Donate

Our literacy initiatives rely on the support of individuals, organisations, and partners who believe that reading is the foundation of education.

Your contribution will directly support:

- The provision of books to schools and learners
- The creation and furnishing of library and reading spaces
- Access to digital learning equipment and tools

Every donation helps us bring books closer to learners — and learners closer to opportunity.

Volunteer

We are looking for passionate individuals who want to play a hands-on role in building a culture of reading and learning in schools.

As a volunteer, you can:

- Support school-based literacy activations and reading sessions
- Assist in sorting, cataloguing, and distributing books to partner schools
- Help set up and organise reading corners, mini libraries, and learning spaces

Get in touch

Whether it's an inspiring story, a shout-out, educational books, or a personal or educational milestone you or a colleague have achieved – we'd love to hear about it and share your news to highlight the positive impact within our community

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