

## FROM CHALLENGES TO TRIUMPH

### Testimonial by Kamogelo Tauwatshwala

#### Background and Initial Situation

In the world of nonprofit organizations, the impact of support, guidance, and resources can truly transform lives. This is especially true for one young woman whose life journey took a significant turn after becoming involved with the Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation. From overcoming challenges to achieving academic success and building a future in biochemistry, her story is a testament to the power of education, inspiration, and opportunity.

Before discovering Mqhele Yezizwe, life was not easy for this high school student. Growing up with limited access to essential educational resources such as computers, tutors, and even basic supplies like sanitary pads, the path to academic success seemed distant.



Despite her drive to succeed, these limitations placed immense pressure on her ability to perform well in school and maintain a hopeful outlook on her future.

**Reflecting on those early struggles, she shares:** *"The primary challenges I faced were a lack of access to computers, tutors, and essential supplies like sanitary pads. These limitations made it difficult to keep up with my studies and maintain a positive outlook on my future."*

## ***A Life-Changing Experience: Entering the Mqhele Yezizwe Family***

The Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation's mission is to uplift and empower young women through education and mentorship. For this determined student, joining the foundation proved to be the turning point that changed everything.

*"My experience with Mqhele Yezizwe was transformative. The foundation provided us with invaluable resources and organized events that broadened our horizons."*

Through access to computers and tutoring services, she gained the support she needed to enhance her academic performance. One event, in particular, left a lasting impression: the inspirational picnic, where beneficiaries were introduced to successful individuals who shared their personal journeys and words of wisdom.



*"The inspirational picnic was a pivotal moment for me. Meeting successful people who had faced their own struggles but achieved so much inspired me to dream big and work hard."*

The support from Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation had an immediate and profound effect on her life. Her grades improved, and she found a renewed sense of confidence. The highlight of her academic journey was achieving two distinctions in her matric exams, a personal milestone that marked her transformation from a student burdened by obstacles to one filled with ambition and hope.

*"Since receiving support, I have noticed significant improvements in my academic performance and self-confidence. I achieved two distinctions in my matric exams, which was a personal milestone."*

*Her time with the foundation not only provided the academic resources she needed but also instilled in her the belief that she could reach higher. That belief translated into a clear vision for her future.*

Today, she is pursuing a **BSc in Biochemistry with Chemistry**, a field she is deeply passionate about. Supported by her family, she remains focused on her studies and future career goals. The tools, knowledge, and inspiration she gained from Mqhele Yezizwe laid the foundation for her continued success.

*"My life now is filled with hope and ambition, compared to the uncertainty and challenges I faced before receiving support from Mqhele Yezizwe."*

Looking back on her journey, she feels immense pride in the progress she has made, attributing much of her success to the support of Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation. The opportunity to learn, grow, and connect with like-minded individuals empowered her to overcome her challenges and strive for a better future.

For her, the most valuable part of her experience was the inspiration she received through the foundation's events and the unwavering support from its staff and volunteers. It was not just about academic support; it was about instilling the belief that she had the potential to achieve great things.

## Join the Race for Literacy: Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation's Reader's Run

**MQHELE**  
YEZIZWE FOUNDATION

SUNDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2024  
START TIME 8AM

**READERS RUN**  
RUN/WALK TO PROMOTE LITERACY

5KM / 11KM  
RUN

R200 ADULTS  
R185 CHILDREN

MODDERFONTEIN NATURE RESERVE

ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED VISIT  
[WWW.MQHELEYEZIZWE.COM](http://WWW.MQHELEYEZIZWE.COM)

[www.mqheleyezizwe.com](http://www.mqheleyezizwe.com)

Get ready to lace up your shoes and hit the ground running! Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation is excited to host the **Reader's Run on November 10, 2024**, an event dedicated to raising funds and awareness for literacy initiatives in rural communities. This fun and impactful run welcomes participants of all ages and fitness levels to take part in supporting education and unlocking opportunities for young learners.

Through the Reader's Run, the foundation aims to provide resources that can transform education for students in under-resourced areas. Proceeds will go directly to expanding literacy programs, providing essential reading materials, and improving access to quality learning resources.

**Ticket sales are ongoing, and spaces are limited, so sign up today!** By joining us on this journey, you're helping to make a lasting difference in the lives of students striving to achieve academic excellence. Don't miss out on the chance to be part of an inspiring event and contribute to building a brighter, more literate future.

## DRIVING GOVERNANCE AND EMPOWERMENT AT MQHELE YEZIZWE FOUNDATION

**Phuti Manamela shares her experience working with Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation.**

### Background and Experience

Growing up in a family where education was a priority, I was fortunate to be raised by a father who instilled the values of independence, self-reliance, and being self-sufficient. These principles align closely with the mission and vision of Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation, which seeks to empower young women through education. The connection between my upbringing and the foundation's goals is what initially drew me to this nonprofit.



As an attorney by profession, I bring a wealth of experience in legal frameworks, risk management, and ethics, all of which are essential for ensuring compliance within any organization. My legal background provides a strong foundation for my current role, where governance and policy play a crucial role in sustaining the organization's efforts.

### **Role and Responsibilities**

In my position as the Governance and Compliance Director, I focus on developing and implementing policies to ensure that Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation adheres to the latest laws governing nonprofit organizations. A typical day involves researching applicable policies, drafting frameworks, and ensuring the organization meets its regulatory obligations.

The most rewarding part of my job is the continuous learning process. Every policy implemented adds to my knowledge, and in turn, strengthens the organization. For me, knowledge is power, and the opportunity to expand that knowledge while contributing to such a vital cause is immensely fulfilling.

### **Personal Insights**

My inspiration to work in the nonprofit sector stems from the belief that empowering one girl has the potential to uplift an entire community. One of the most memorable experiences I've had with the foundation is hearing the testimonies of young women who have benefited from our programs. Their stories are a testament to the incredible impact the foundation is making.

Like many others who balance multiple roles, time management is a challenge. Alongside my duties at Mqhele Yezizwe, I also hold a permanent job and serve actively in my church. I've been working on managing my time better by dedicating specific hours each day to focus on the foundation's work.

### **Goals and Aspirations**

In the next year, my primary goal for Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation is to foster financial growth and stability through strategic partnerships that align with our mission and vision. In the future, I see the foundation broadening its reach beyond South Africa to make a meaningful impact across Africa. Personally, I aim to establish a well-structured Governance and Compliance Department that operates seamlessly and upholds the foundation's commitment to excellence.

## Fun and Personal Interests

Outside of work, I enjoy solo dates and spending quality time with myself—a simple pleasure that I find incredibly refreshing. Watching soap operas is another pastime that brings me joy, even though I have a busy schedule.

In addition to my role with Mqhele Yezizwe, I am deeply committed to my church, where I serve as an Elder and Secretary. This service brings fulfillment to my life, and I enjoy being part of something that nurtures my spiritual growth. A fun fact that many don't know about me? I'm actually quite funny!



## Advice and Tips

For anyone looking to work in the nonprofit sector, I would advise understanding that it is a selfless endeavor. It's about dedicating your time and resources to empower others. Key qualities for success in this field include being a team player and understanding the diverse backgrounds of the people you will encounter. Building meaningful relationships is critical to bridging gaps and making a lasting impact.

Staying motivated in this work comes naturally when I reflect on where I am now, which is exactly where I once dreamed of being. This perspective keeps me engaged and committed to making a difference every day.



# GOOD LUCK TO THE CLASS OF 2024!!



## Mandela Day Book Drive and Edenglen High School's Generous Donation

In celebration of Mandela Day, Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation hosted a successful Mandela Day Book Drive, inspiring a collective effort to improve access to reading materials for students in rural communities. Mandela Day, which calls on each of us to make a difference in our communities, became an opportunity to empower young minds through the gift of reading.

A highlight of the campaign was the generous contribution from Edenglen High School, whose students and staff donated an incredible array of books. These contributions will go a long way in building literacy and learning in areas where access to books is limited.

Through this collaborative effort, Mqhele Yezizwe Foundation will distribute these books to schools and libraries in underserved communities, helping to instill a love of reading and open doors to knowledge. We thank Edenglen High School and all who contributed, honoring Mandela's legacy by enriching the educational journey of the next generation.



# WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MY COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS?

## Donate

To ensure our initiatives are a success, we are relying on the generosity and support of donors like you.

Your contribution, no matter the amount, will directly contribute towards education initiatives (tutoring, school shoes, career expo) for learners in underprivileged communities.

## Volunteer

We are looking for dedicated volunteers to sign up to assist with any of our initiatives to make a positive impact in the lives of the Young learners.

You could volunteer to:

- Be a mentor in our 10 month #girlinthemirror mentorship program
- Assist learners with applying to tertiary institutions and applying for bursaries
- Assist the foundation in collecting dignity packs from individuals, organisations and the community for the HealthyU campaign

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

**Email: [info@mqheleyezizwe.com](mailto:info@mqheleyezizwe.com)**

**Contact: 081 248 3250**

