

JUNE 2023 ISSUE

PUBLISH'D AFRIKA

LITERARY MAGAZINE

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HOT OFF PUBLISH'D
AFRIKA PRESSES

ZAMBIA'S OWN
AMAZON IN THE
MAKING

TALES OF THE
AZANIAN PRINCESS

- The Jacqui Zimba Story

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PUBLISHED BY PUBLISH'D AFRIKA

Designed & Compiled by Sukoluhle Nontokozo Mdlongwa

Edited by Thokozani Magagula

CONTACT DETAILS

Call/WhatsApp: +27 83 487 4440/ +27 84 311 8838

Email: info@publishdafrika.com

Website: www.publishdafrika.com

Facebook: Publish'd Afrika Magazine

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TALES OF THE AZANIAN PRINCESS

– The Jacqui Zimba Story



When Jacqui Zimba received a call that Jacana Media will be publishing her book, *Tales of the Azanian Princess*, she was on the verge of losing her home – it had already been sold while she was still living in it.

“Even though I had been crying, it seemed as if something positive had come out of a flooded river,” she said. “I said to myself, ‘this is a husband that will never divorce me’. From that day I knew, at least I got something apart from my daughter Azania.”

Jacqui’s joy at having the book published transcended just being bestowed of light at the end of the tunnel. It was also the realisation that finally, her story got to be told; a story that was much bigger than her.

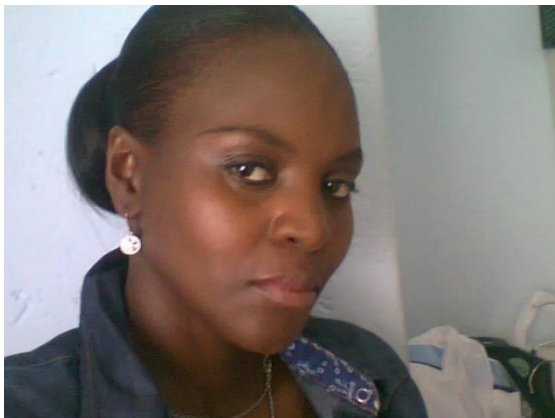
“*Tales of the Azanian Princess* is a story about the community that I grew up under and within,” she said. “It is about a society of Black people who are strong-willed and like-minded that brought me up as a village, that I got to play with, that I got to live with, that I learned to love and be hated by some.”

Jacqui was born in 1970 in Vryburg. Her grandfather came from Rhodesia (the nowadays Zimbabwe) and worked in hotels and restaurants. She was raised in a Black Conscious, highly politicised

home, and often found herself tagging along with her parents to Black Consciousness rallies.

“Growing up I had an Afro and I was dark, and I was always discriminated against by everybody,” she said. “I have vivid memories of myself as a toddler at a creche where even the teacher would say to other kids, ‘Don’t play with that one’. Don’t play with the *kwerekwere*. I have always known that I was different; I am this strong Black princess, hence the title of the book.”

Jacqui’s family moved from Vryburg to Jo’burg, finally settling in Alexandra. The township, she says, was what shaped her into the person she is today. She has vivid memories of being bussed from Alexandra to join fellow comrades from Soweto and as far as the then Eastern Transvaal, to attend Black Consciousness workshops at the Bosmonth Hotel. The workshops were facilitated by veteran journalist Mike Tisson and Black Consciousness Movement stalwart Nick Tucker.



“Black Consciousness is all I have ever known,” she said. “I came to be introduced to bits and pieces of other politics as an adult, but all I knew was Black Consciousness. Black Consciousness is in my DNA. Jacqui is through and through Black Consciousness.”

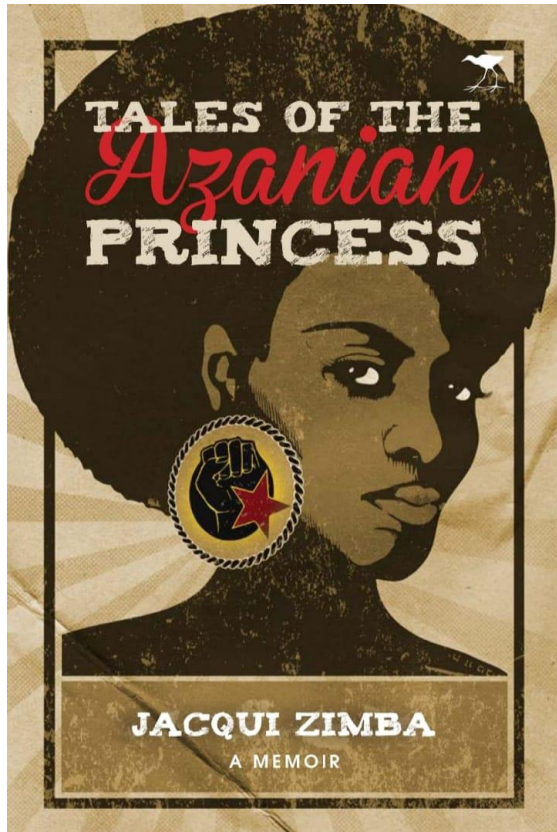
Jacqui grew up in the 80’s, a time when Black solidarity meant everything. It meant power, it meant strong will.

“When we were going to those workshops, we would assemble and be fed the history of Kwame Nkrumah, the history of Marcus Garvey, Steve Biko and Robert Sobukwe,” she said. “We would be taught about Thuli ka Shezi, the first back person to be thrown out of a moving train because white people felt that he was wrong defending one black woman who was being harassed by one white guy, a ticket examiner. We were taught about those people, and we knew that blackness was a threat to white supremacy. Those are the days I feel that we could go back to. Those were the times blackness looked out for blackness. You would travel for miles and run out of funds. You could walk into a house in the township and they would be of assistance and you would not feel at all threatened. Those are the times I miss. I wish our children could be introduced to that type of solidarity amongst Black people.”

While many freedom fighters left the country to wage the struggle in exile, Jacqui was one of those activists who believed that there was no struggle outside the country – it was here, where the fires were burning. She is grateful that she had stayed, as she believes it would not have been the apartheid regime that would have harmed her had she left.

“Had I been outside the country, I would have been dead, because of the strong-willed person that I am,” she said. “I would have rejected the advances of older men who were taking advantage of young girls sexually. I would not have survived because my parents taught me

that nobody else has got the right to touch me, the right to want to own me, to lay claim to me. I was the one who had the final word. After they had had my way with me, they would have killed me.”



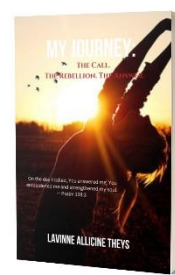
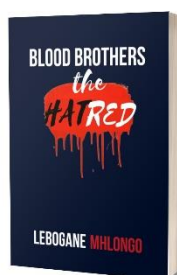
Tales of the Azanian Princess is written as a memoir. Jacqui said the target reader would be anybody who associate themselves with blackness, whether they come from the township, born into a suburb in Houghton, born of a servant,

born lately in better homes or from parents capable of providing better for them.

“It is written for that reader who will pick up the book and relate,” she said. “It is written for that boy I went to school with, for Mam’Dlamini who sells *amagwinya* at a street corner who could say that there’s a chapter which talks about her, and say ‘there’s a child who wrote a book about me and I am known by the world’. I want a teacher that got to pick up the kid that was picked on by everybody, I want a child that has been discriminated against by a teacher like the one who bullied me and told me to my face that I would never amount to anything in life. It is for all the Jacquis who had gone through what I went through as a little girl.”

“I want an adult who had seen bad days in their lives to know that it is never too late to make a change. Be it a priest, be a prostitute on a street corner, I want people to pick up something they can write home about, that can teach them and teach me. I am on a constant journey of learning.”

The reprint of the book will be available on paperback in a month or so. You can also purchase the book on Amazon.



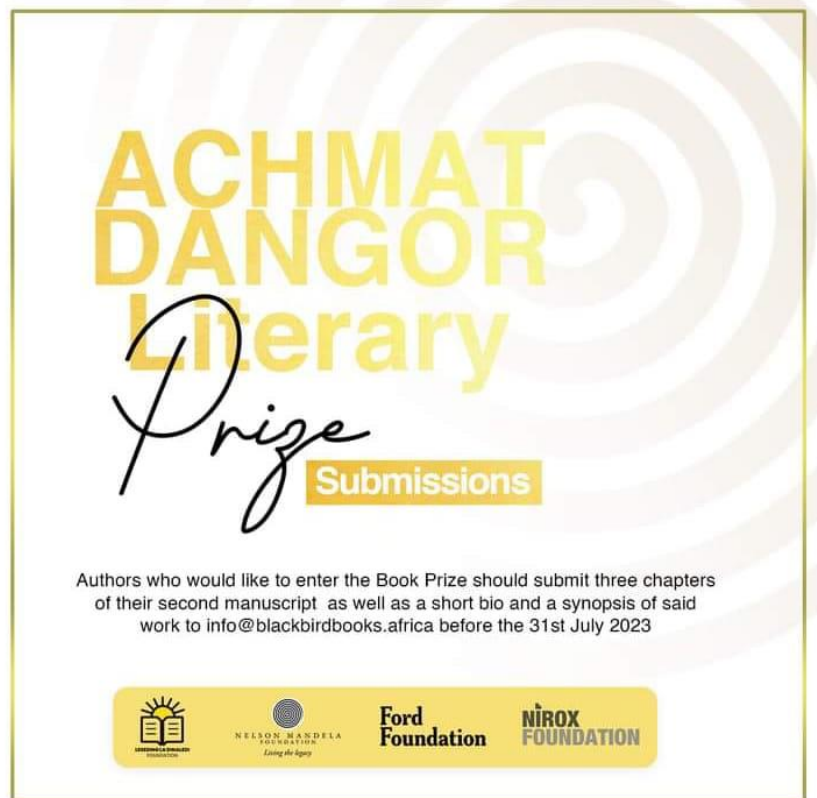
GET PAID WHILE **PENNING** YOUR NEXT BOOK

Have you ever imagined getting paid while you are working on your next book? Well, stop imagining, because it is not just possible, but you can also be provided with the time and space to complete your manuscript, and earn a stipend while at it.

The Achmat Dangor Legacy Project and Leseding La Dinaledi Foundation are excited to announce the launch of a new book prize aimed at supporting black South African authors who are currently working on

their second manuscript. The prize is designed to provide these writers with concentrated time and space to complete their manuscript, by offering them a writing residency, a cash stipend, and final editing of their complete book.

Named in honour of acclaimed South African author Achmat Dangor, who used his literary works to explore the themes of apartheid, race, and identity, the prize aims to continue his legacy by supporting and promoting South African literature. The project will be managed by the Leseding La Dinaledi Foundation, led by Thabiso Mahlape, the founder of Blackbird Books.



The winner of the book prize will receive a three-month writing residency at the Nirox Foundation, which includes a luxurious two-bedroom double-story house with a large double-volume studio, mezzanine workspace, lounge, dining, and entertainment facility, and a separate self-contained 2-bedroom cottage overlooking the water. The residency also includes fully serviced amenities such as meals and Wi-Fi, as well as access to the Sculpture Park's 30-hectare garden and on-site restaurant. The prize will also include a R45,000 cash prize and R30,000 worth of editing to help the

winner complete their next manuscript and publish their book.

The Book Prize is open to all published African authors who are currently working on their second manuscript. Submissions for the prize will be open from June to July 2023, and the winner will be announced in October 2023. The writing residency will take place from April to June 2024.

Authors who would like to enter the Book Prize should submit three chapters of

their second manuscript as well as a short bio and a synopsis of said work to info@blackbirdbooks.africa before the 31st July 2023.

Thabiso Mahlape, managing partner of the project, said, “We aim to further support writers by providing them with the necessary tools and space to create. We endeavour to be a platform that is a promoter for exploring new perspectives, initiating conversations, and inspiring the community through literature.”

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ZAMBIA'S OWN AMAZON IN THE MAKING



Amazon, being the biggest book depository and store globally, probably has millions and millions of titles on its platform.

Though offering the promise of a very wide distribution, distributing to almost all countries worldwide, the probability of an author's title being noticeable on Amazon is reduced to point point something. Without the employment of strategies and various tactics to make sales, many authors come off

with barely a \$50 of accumulated royalties, years after publication.

It is for this reason that Southern Writers Bureau has come up with The Book Hub Publishing, a platform to make more

Spearheading this project is Southern Writers Bureau founder Jennipher M Zulu, who said the reception the project has received from authors has been welcoming.

“Without the employment of strategies and various tactics to make sales, many authors who have published on Amazon come off with barely a \$50 of accumulated royalties, years after

services available to Zambian authors. Think of it as the Zambian-Amazon Book platform underway.

publication,” she said. “This is worse for a Zambian writer given the backdrop of the many challenges they face to get a good product in hand, and even publish. For these reasons, many authors shy away from publishing on Amazon, because the value in returns that they seek to find is far-fetched.”

Zulu said they are looking to publish both ebooks and paperback. For now,

however, they are publishing the books in PDF format. The projects is currently still working on obtaining digital rights management system for further protection for further protection.

“The response has been good, but the authors are still waiting for the Digital Rights Management System to be sure their works are protected, so onboarding is slow,” she said. “For readers, we need to do more marketing. A reading App will do us good.”

Zulu said many investors in other countries are opting to set up book platforms that are predominantly targeting to serve their local audiences and communities. India has Notion Press, the UK has Lulu, etc.

“Though our country's literary sector is still growing, activity by the sector players is very important and that includes the setting up of our hub,” she said. “The Book Hub Publishing is proudly going to be space where you can come to and find plenty of local options in literary terms, for book lovers. We have also set up our Facebook page where links to these titles will be shared, but more so, as a platform where Zambian writers can list and advertise their books for free. Our heart is to make Zambian writers and their works more visible.”

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PUBLISH'D AFRIKA MAGAZINE
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It is said that too many cooks spoil the broth. This broth, comprising of 18 writers unearthed through PUBLISH'D AFRIKA Online Literary Magazine's Short Story Competition, seeks to shatter this myth. Spoiling The Broth Vol.1 is a multi-themed collection of new short stories by authors from across the African continent.

It is said that too many cooks spoil the broth. This broth, comprising of 18 writers unearthed through PUBLISH'D AFRIKA Online Literary Magazine's Short Story Competition, seeks to shatter this myth. Spoiling The Broth Vol. 2 is a multi-themed collection of new short stories by authors from across the African continent.

National Arts Council NAC
an Agency of the Department of Sport, Arts & Culture

sport, arts & culture
Department of Sport, Arts & Culture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PRESIDENTIAL EMPLOYMENT STIMULUS

SHOULD PUBLISHERS EMBRACE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE?

By Alexander Nderitu

I feel rather bad for my graphic designer. He used to charge me about USD\$ 71.00 - 85.00 for the central image of a book's cover art, and take about a week – two if there were revisions. I now use Artificial Intelligence. It costs me 0.00 and just a couple of minutes to key in the "prompts"; ie. instructions.

For now, there's no cause for writers to panic. AI is unlikely to take away THEIR jobs anytime soon. This year, the US film/and TV industry was brought to its knees – yet again – by a strike organised by Writers' Guild of America. Virtually all late-night talk shows temporarily ceased production. The 76th Tony Awards could not be televised. AI can't write

original shows, or jokes. It can't actually write literature, either, but it can re-write stuff and imitate styles with remarkable speed and accuracy. It has no soul; no emotions, sense of humour, no storytelling gift.

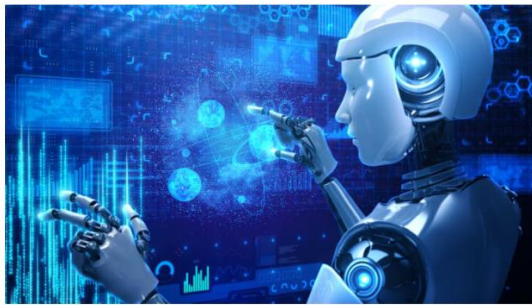
It can't really replace visual artists entirely, especially for extended projects like comic books or story boards. But for one-off pieces like portraits, posters, book/album covers, 'photos', 'paintings',

illustrations etc, it's magical. It can take your breath away!

Frankfurter Buchmesse and Gould Finch carried out research on the nexus between publishing and AI and e-published the results in a paper titled



"The Future Impact of Artificial Intelligence on The Publishing Industry" (<https://www.stateofdigitalpublishing.com/digital-platform-tools/ai-in-publishing-industry/>). The key findings were as follows:



"Artificial Intelligence is not going to replace writers, but it is able to strengthen core-business. While there is technology available to mimic tone and craft plausible prose, the narrative arc and a best-seller's make-up have yet to be reduced to an algorithm. The technology available offers publishers access to an array of new mediums and processes to strengthen areas such marketing and analytics, as well as production and administration.

Investing in Artificial Intelligence doesn't mean fewer jobs for humans. On the contrary, businesses currently implementing AI, including The Washington Post and Axel Springer as

well as smaller publishing houses, have witnessed positive effects on readership statistics and sales, but also better job stability for journalists and writers.

Minimal investments can still bring in monetary benefits."

The conclusion of the research is that:

"AI and its future development offer promising opportunities for the publishing industry. Publishing is a people's business and our study shows that the technology will not replace human interactions within the industry but offer various improvements in the value chain. Writers will discover new tools with which to express their creativity, marketing creatives will discover new tools to craft personalised campaigns for a wider audience, and customers will be thrilled by new experiences."

I think my AI-aided book covers (an addiction I am now spreading to my writer friends like a common cold) is adequate proof the above-mentioned paper's conclusion.

*Alexander Nderitu is a Kenyan novelist, scriptwriter and internet technologist. He is a signatory to the PEN Charter.

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AMANDA ADDS AUTHOR FEATHER TO HER CAP



She was one of Africa's Forty Under 40 Emerging Leaders, she is a multi-award winning model, a media personality, a philanthropist, and now an author.

Her name is Amanda Ngcono Nkomo (25), from Bulawayo in Zimbabwe. She catapulted to fame when she became Miss World Zimbabwe-UK First Princess in 2017. Passionate about the African Girl Child, Amanda had already founded the Ngcono Mbowane Foundation with a mission to help and support those in developing countries to live stable and fulfilling lives. She provided necessities such as school supplies, sanitary pads, clothing, food, workshops and development projects.

“Our vision is to be able to work, support and provide the necessary tools needed for people to live a stable life, to

be able to make communities stronger,” she said. “We have done a number of projects including school giveaway drives, #GirlTalk Empowerment Day, food hamper drive to help during COVID-19, and donated PPE equipment to local clinics.”

The Ngcono Mbowane Foundation has also done work in other countries such as Ghana and Tanzania hosting girls empowerment days and donating pads, while educating the girl child on

important subjects such as mental health, menstrual hygiene, education and more.

Amanda sat down with **PUBLISH'D AFRIKA's** Sukoluhle Nontokozo

Mdlongwa, to discuss her philanthropic work, as well as her newly released book, *The New Comer*.

SUKOLUHLE: Amanda is a name mostly known in the beauty and fashion industry. When did you start writing? Has it always been something you are passionate about?

AMANDA: I started this process over two years ago so it's been a very long process, but God has been with me all the way, which I am truly thankful for. It's something I've always wanted to do and have a passion for. I'm so glad I've been able to do this. I wanted to do something that can inspire future generation to come.

SUKOLUHLE: Tell us about your book. What inspired it? What audience are you targeting and what are the lessons to be learnt from it?



AMANDA: *The New Comer* takes you on a beautiful journey of self-love and accepting others for being different and being wonderfully made. New girl Thando has just started a new school, and the children at the school all wonder why Thando is unique. The story follows on how teaching kindness and

understanding and extending grace to others are key values on this journey of life where there are many different people we meet and interact with.

This fun and bubbly story showcases a story of children understanding and learning what it's like to be different and why everyone was made to be exactly who they are and the importance of using and sharing our light. The target audience is young children. I want them to learn about how being different is okay and how we are all unique.

SUKOLUHLE: How has the response been so far?

AMANDA: The response has been really amazing; such lovely comments and feedback. I am truly so happy with the response.

SUKOLUHLE: How do you balance your modeling and the writing career?

AMANDA: It's a balancing game but I am truly grateful, and I really enjoy both worlds. I think it's about finding the right balance and making sure to organise everything which usually helps too.

SUKOLUHLE: What can you say to a child out there who is trying to find herself/himself, careerwise?

AMANDA: I would advise them to go for their dreams and to always follow their hearts. To show up as themselves in everything they do. To love and be kind to themselves and others too. To always allow themselves to go and become amazing and powerful men and women. To know their voices matter and always will matter. That they are loved and cared about. To keep inspiring, creating, sharing.

FOUR PUBLISH'D AFRIKA BOOKS ACCEPTED BY GDE

A total of four books published by **PUBLISH'D AFRIKA Press**, have been accepted by the Gauteng Department of Education.

These include two books, *Scorched Earth* and *I Am Just As Shocked*, which are penned by **PUBLISH'D AFRIKA** co-founder Thokozani Magagula, *Through The Silent Tsunami* by Matumelo Mafoko and a children's book *The Adventures of Nesu*, written by Sarah Mberengo.

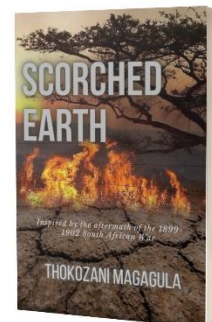
I Am Just As Shocked depicts Thokozani's encounters as a journalist and Regional Editor for Daily Sun, while in the line of duty for the People's Paper. The book is a collection of short stories penned over the last five years of Thokozani's 12-Year tenure with Daily Sun. At the time, he was the paper's bureau chief in Mpumalanga, but still couldn't resist the urge to chase stories along with his team.



"Half the stories are my real-life encounters as a journalist," said Thokozani. "The Stories will pique the reader's curiosity in the process show

what made Daily Sun the popular brand that it is today. The other half of the book are works of fiction exploring historical events and societal phenomena. They touch on a variety of issues from South Africa's troubled past, politics, HIV/AIDS, family dynamics and the breakdown in relationships."

Scorched Earth is based on the 1899 to 1902 Anglo-Boer War. The book also touches on the discovery of largest diamond in the world, the Cullinan Diamond, which was found at Premier Mine in 1905. The diamond now forms part of the United Kingdom's Crown Jewels.



"I was particularly happy with this book being accepted for secondary schools as I believe our youth need to know our history and where we come from," said Thokozani. "Although the Anglo-Boer War was between the Boers and the English, very few people know that black people also took part in the war. Aside from working in the camps tending to horses and other chores, black people

were also forced to stay on the outskirts of the camps to be early warning signs in case of an attack. Yes, they were the first to die in a war that was not their own.”

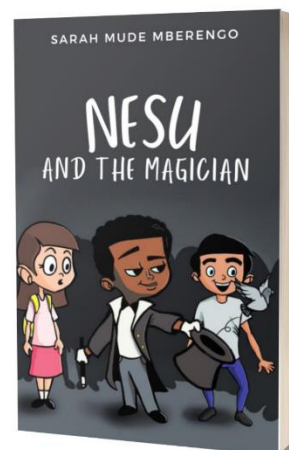
After leaving Daily Sun, Thokozani started his own publishing imprint, which has already published over 100 books. He also runs an online literary magazine which in March, helped 23 aspiring writers to publish their books. He currently also edits Highveld Chronicle, a newspaper covering Mpumalanga's Nkangala Region.

Sarah Mberengo is 57-year-old author of five books with two more still in the process of being published. She is also an educator and community activist. Her book, *The Adventures of Nesu*, is expertly crafted and easy to read, and each story is packed with life lessons not just for the young ones, but also for parents, older siblings and educators.

Sarah trained as a primary school teacher, for both normal kids and as a specialist teacher for the visually handicapped. In 1996, she studied for a Bachelor of Education. She also studied HIV/AIDS Management and was awarded a Masters of Philosophy (MPhil) at the University of Stellenbosch. She writes in both English and Shona. Sarah is currently based in Gaborone, Botswana.

Matumelo Ruth Mafoko's book, *Through The Silent Tsunami*, was one of three that were published through **PUBLISH'D AFRIKA's Adopt-An-Author Programme**. I details her battle with substance abuse and alcohol addiction,

“Each story in *The Nesu Series* ends with a lesson for the kids and giving adults a reason to be open-minded and listen to kids' ideas, no matter how stupid they may seem,” she said. “The series is made up of *The Adventures of Nesu*, *Nesu The Magician* and *Witch-hunting And Other Stories*.”



Designed by Sukoluhle Nontokozo Mdlongwa
+27843118838

homosexuality, sexual abuse at a young age through to university, and being a functional adult working for the government. She beat the addiction after twenty years of struggle and now inspires those who are still dealing with addiction.



HOT OFF THE PUBLISH'D AFRIKA PRESSES

THE PIKININI SCIENTIST SPRINKLES SOME LOVE DUST



If there is one thing that makes the book, *The Pikinini Scientist Sprinkles Some Love Dust*, appeal to mostly Black kiddies, it is that it is relatable and they can see themselves in the character.

“Small kiddies are living the illustrations, with one cutie saying she wants to try all the hairstyles in the book,” said author Sarona Lengana. “Another was taken aback that Pikinini is Black like her.”

Doting mother Sarona Lengana was struggling to explain self-care to her daughter, and the idea of penning a children's book that would answer some of these questions

seemed like God's answer back to her.

The result was *The Pikinini Scientist Sprinkles Some Love Dust*, a children's book that can be used as a guide to coach children on how to continue to be their amazing selves, even when the reaction or output doesn't look superb.

“The book is helping me re-parent myself too, so I'm showing up as my best self in my own life,” said Sarona. “The book is aimed at adults, guardians, parents, at a teacher who is looking for practical ideas

on how to coach kids to have healthy perspectives and boundaries, and get an opportunity to explicitly remind them that they are MAGIC!”

The book takes the reader along Pikinini's adventures as she sprinkles magical love dust on everyone, everywhere and anytime there is a need, because all of it calls for a magical science experiment. This is the recipe of life, according to Pikinini. Whenever the

world looks gloomy, she simply sprinkles a bit of love dust, and all is well again. There is never a dull moment in her world, not when she has a stash of love dust handy.

“If she does not have enough sprinkles to share or to even spread over herself, she calls on the big guns, Jesus, who unloads the love dust by the truck load,” said Sarona elatedly.



Sarona said she is still pinching herself just to believe that what was once scribbles over A4 papers and on her PC, is now a real book that is selling like hot cakes. The book was published through **PUBLISH'D AFRIKA**, and it took three months to put together.

“Small kiddies are living the illustrations with one cutie saying she wants to try all the hairstyles in the book,” she said. “Another was taken aback that Pikinini is

black like her. For the parents, they’ve loved borrowing some of the perspectives that give a voice to parenting through social challenges and making conversations with Jesus more purposeful. I’m looking forward to engaging with the adults so I can better understand how the messages can enhance their parental note as they shape thriving champs who know they can do anything they want to no matter what.”



The book is available at Bridge Books in Newtown, or directly from the author. You can also purchase it online at <https://bridgebooks.co.za/collections/new-arrivals-1>



HOT OFF THE PUBLISH'D AFRIKA PRESSES

A CHILDHOOD DREAM COME TRUE

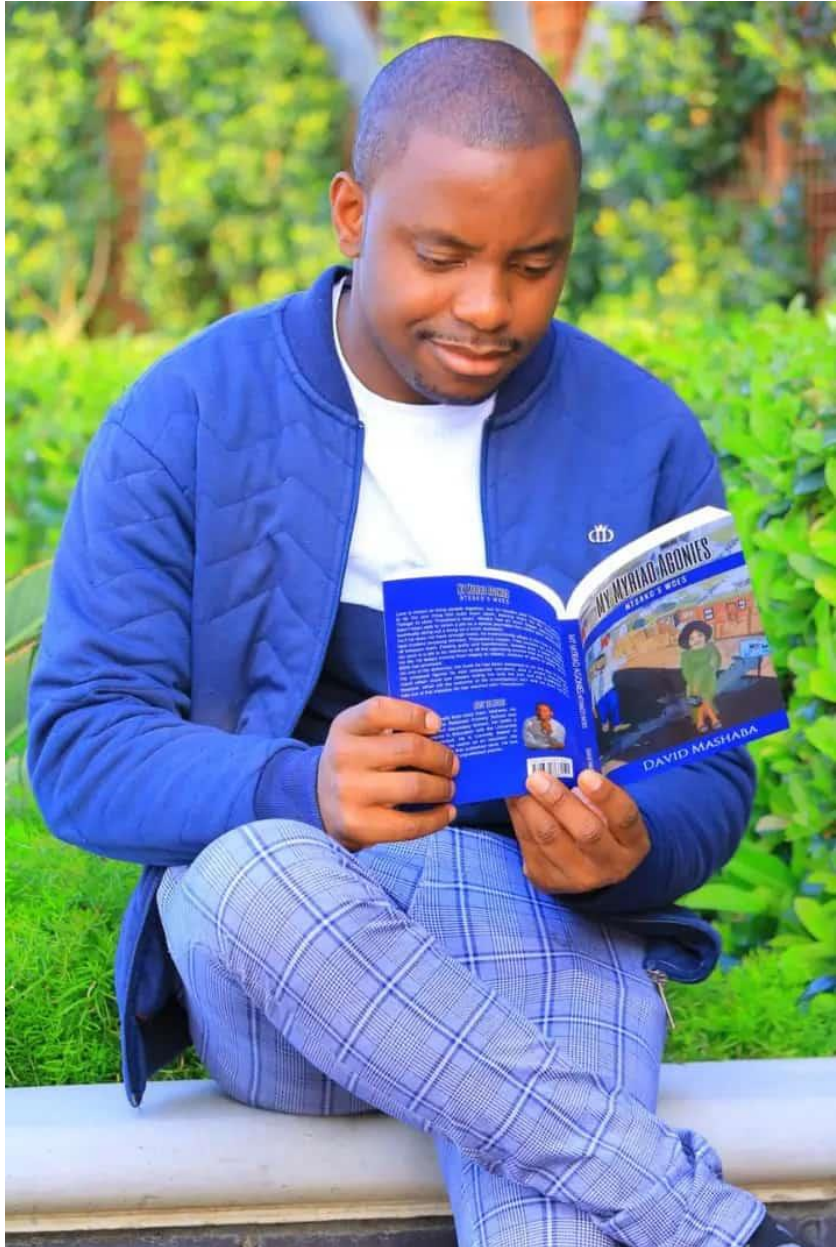
From when he was a boy running barefoot in the dusty township streets, all David Mashaba dreamt about was publishing a book one day.

Today, that childhood dream has come true. His book is one of three that rolled off the **PUBLISH'D AFRIKA Press** this month, and he couldn't be happier.

"All the years of writing, deleting, re-writing and editing have finally paid off," he said. "I am especially happy with the contribution and spin **PUBLISH'D AFRIKA** has put on the original manuscript. You came highly recommended, and I can now see why."

David's book, titled *My Myriad Agonies – Ntsako's Woes*, centres around two people who are destined to be together, but life seem to continuously

drive a wedge between them. While love is known to bring people together, for Ntsako and Thandiwe, it seems to be the one thing that pulls them apart, leaving room for the flamboyant Tebogo to steal Thandiwe's heart. Ntsako has an even bigger dilemma – he hasn't been able to clinch a job as a sports journalist two years after graduating, eventually eking out a living as a truck assistant.



“As if he does not have enough woes, he inadvertently plays a key role in a near-fatal incident involving Michael, Thandiwe’s cousin,” said David. “This creates an even bigger rift between them. Feeling guilty and heartbroken, Ntsako puts a laser focus on his work in a bid to be oblivious to all the agonising events that are happening in his life. He keeps moving from misery to misery, instead of glory to glory, as his Bible has promised.”

On one of his deliveries, the truck he has been assigned to on the day is looted. His employer figures he was somewhat complicit, and a probe ensues, the result which could see Ntsako losing not only his job, but his livelihood and freedom. What will the outcome of the investigation be? Will he ever carve a way out of this impasse he has reached with Thandiwe?

David said the message of the book is based on the verse found in Psalms 34:19 which says that many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivers them out of them all. He wants the reader to learn that no matter how complex and

difficult our circumstances are, God always has a solution for them. There is nothing that is too difficult for God.

“I wrote the book for all young people out there who are taking their first steps into adulthood,” he said. “There are so many challenges they have to put up with. Sometimes things don’t go their way, like not getting jobs or things that many people at that point in their lives need. The book is meant to encourage young people not to give up, even if there are too many obstacles in the way. Things will eventually work out.”

David Mashaba hails from Ivory Park, Midrand. He attended school at Rebonwe Primary School and later at Eqinisweni Secondary School. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Education with the University of the Witwatersrand. He is currently based in Rustenburg where he works as an educator. My Myriad Agonies is his first published work. He has also written a number of unpublished poems.

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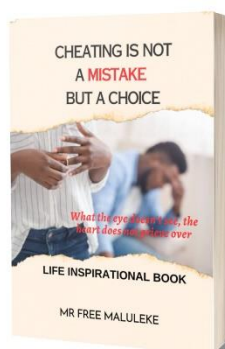
HOT OFF THE PUBLISH'D AFRIKA PRESSES

CHEATING IS NOT A MISTAKE BUT A CHOICE

He is known as Mr Free Maluleke, the bestselling author of the book, *Courage Is The Strength Of A Winner*. *Cheating Is Not A Mistake But A Choice* is his second book.

Mr Free was looking for a home for his second book, and was referred to **PUBLISH'D AFRIKA** by fellow author Lebogang Mhlongo. Lebogang's book, *Blood Brothers – The Hatred* was completely revised and re-edited by **PUBLISH'D AFRIKA**, following glaring errors that were neglected by her previous publisher.

“I wanted my second book to come as close to perfection as it possibly could, and **PUBLISH'D AFRIKA** came highly recommended,” he said. “Other than Lebogang, author of *Prison Love* Tshidi Monkoe also sang **PUBLISH'D AFRIKA**'s praises. I knew I had found the right publisher.”



Mr Free's book is not only about cheating, but also spiritually inclined and inspirational. His work as a motivational speaker shines through in every chapter. The book covers all angles of life, as we know that life is a daily war.

“Before you cheat, think about the effect it will have on your partner when he or she finds out,” he said. “Whatever pain you are experiencing today, will hold you in good stead tomorrow. The more you suffer today, the stronger you become. This life is not a bed of roses. Tomorrow’s success is based on today’s discomfort.”

Mr Free Maluleke said the book took about ten years to complete, mainly because he was working on three books

at the same time. As he penned every word, he had high hopes of turning the book into a television soapie one day.

“While the book predominantly carries Christian themes, I wanted to ensure that it also covers people from all walks of life,” he said.

Mr Free is also a motivational speaker, a song writer, a movie/film writer, a counsellor and a poet.

Book launch & Mental Health Awareness Campaign

HOST
Tebogo Portia Rambau - Author of two books and motivational Speaker

Programme Director
Brian Masetloa

Victor Mokoena - Business Accountant, Professional Speaker, Founder of Steele Group (PTY) Ltd

Doctor Takalani Rambau - Education and Training

Simphiwe - Social Worker from Department of health

Tebogo - Mental health nurse from department of health

Brian Moloantoa - Mental Health Coordinator from Department of health

Tintswalo Christian Nkuna - Author of 3 books, former radio talk show host, book editor and transformational speaker

Thandile Ntumba - Author, rape survivor, activist, mental health advocate.

Tshepo Galane - Pastor and business man

11h30 - 16h30

Manhattan Hotel
247 Scheiding street, Pretoria Central

Dress code : Elegant

Ticket : R350
includes entrance, light meal and copy of the book

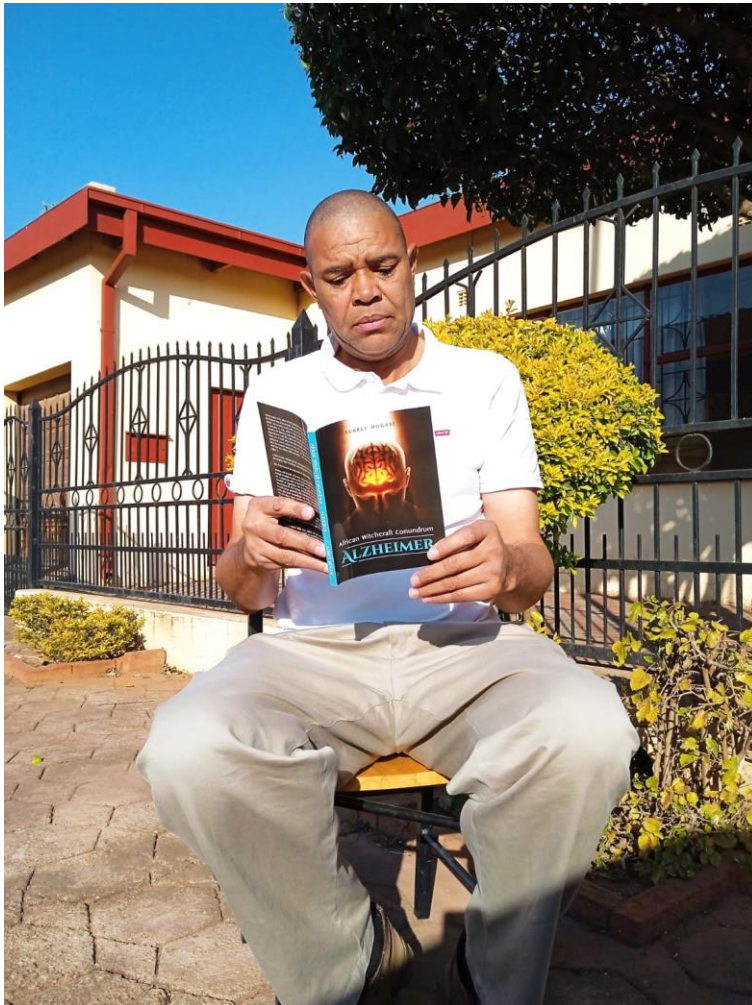
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8 July 2023

“THEY ARE NOT WITCHES, THEY ARE JUST SICK”

Aubrey Mogase pens book to tackle Alzheimer's



He is the custodian of Mamelodi's history, and penned the life story of Dr Kalamazoo Mokone, one of the first Black football pioneers who became the first South African to become a professional football player.

Now, 54-year-old author Aubrey Mogase, from Mamelodi West in South Africa's Tshwane, is working hard at changing the stigma around mental illness, specifically Alzheimer's. For him, penning the book was a personal labour of love, as his mother suffers from the disease.

“While some people might associate mental illness with being bewitched, other patients have been branded witches and harmed,” he said. “Alzheimer's, specifically, is the most widely misunderstood, and is one of

the most complex neurological diseases. Many fear speaking about it.”

His recently released book, *African Witchcraft Conundrum-Alzheimer's*, speaks about his personal experience as a caregiver – he cares for his mother who suffers from the disease. The book highlights how patients suffer from speech impairment and no longer speak coherently. It also touches on the early

symptoms of the disease and how it progresses.

“Alzheimer's is a brain degenerative challenge that attacks the brain cells and completely changes the patient's behaviour and well-being,” he said. “This book is about Alzheimer's. One of its close cousins is Dementia, which is not

really understood within the African continent.”

Aubrey says he knows personally how brutal the disease can be. He describes his own mother as now a shadow of her former self, who now lives in her own world. This has necessitated that he changes his own lifestyle, adapt and overcome his own anxiety.

“It is important that people should know Alzheimer's is incurable,” he said. “Understanding this disease would eliminate the brutality that continues unabated. This misunderstanding results in older women being labeled “witches” by neighbours, families, and society at large.”

Aubrey Mogase is also an author of four books, is the founder of the local radio station Mams FM as well as of MošitoWaMamelodi.

As if that's not enough caps for this father

of three, he was also central in the formation of the Mamelodi Community Policing Forum, generally known as CPF. Mamelodi became the first community to establish such a forum and assisted many communities in Gauteng to establish their own. This includes Soweto, Kagiso, Alexandra, Soshanguve and many others. His most notable book is the life story of Dr Kalamazoo Mokone, titled ‘The Immortal – Kalamazoo Mokone’.

Aubrey also belongs to Mamelodi Arts and Culture Forum (MACFO) as Secretary and Mamelodi Book Club. He also participates as an executive member for Mamelodi West Arts, Culture and Heritage Organisation. He also belongs to Soul Shine Africa Music of Dr Vusi Mahlasela as a patron. He is also the Secretary of the Dr Steve Kalamazoo Mokone Heritage, Education and Sports Development registered as NPO.



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“BEGIN YOUR DREAMS”

Entrepreneurial Mentorship With A Difference

“If a person can successfully manage their personal lives, the abilities and habits they develop can be used to successfully manage a business.”

So said Begin Your Dreams founder Bertha Sithole. Begin Your Dreams is an Eswatini-based social enterprise that encourages people to reimagine their future by igniting and reawakening their dreams. It is designed to provide tools to assist individuals in planning and mapping out how to achieve their desired dream, understanding and accepting their current situation, creating a personal vision board, using the SMART concept to create a workable strategic plan, a basic understanding of finances, creating a budget, and developing healthy habits.

Begin Your Dreams has published a mindset shift guidebook or manual that puts a business owner in perspective and fosters an entrepreneurial mindset for reaching defined goals.

Begin Your Dreams was established in 2019, and upon recognition of the need in Eswatini and other African countries, started working and tested different



models, and worked with consultants and freelancers as per project or when required. Once business assumptions were confirmed, market need, and audience identification were done.

“Begin Your Dreams is proud to have worked with over 30 consultants across Africa and in Eswatini in the past five years,” said Bertha. “These have positively benefited over 2000 young

people, and there are currently over 100 operating businesses today as a direct result of the programs over the years.”

Begin Your Dreams understands that in order for business owners to be successful, they must first detach themselves from the business and figure out who they are and what their personal goals are. Accountability is critical to success. Vigorous business mentorship and coaching are carried out in order to establish a healthy and trustworthy relationship with the business owner, allowing the business to run smoothly.

“Young people in Eswatini have established businesses, unfortunately, due to challenges such as basic business management and entrepreneurship skills, most of these businesses fail within a few months to a year,” said Bertha. “We provide Entrepreneurship Training using a variety of international curricula and training materials tailored specifically for the Eswatini market, with a focus on how to generate money, save money, and increase systematic spending. They can be customised for large groups, boot camps, and smaller groups in both rural and urban Eswatini.”

The company has worked in all regions of the country alongside development partners, the commercial sector, NGOs, churches, and on a volunteer basis. As a result, they have a robust human resource in all four Eswatini areas, with a significant understanding of Tinkhundla Centres and community-based businesses. The core staff at Begin

Your Dreams is a significant force for positive influence, growth, problem-solving, and capacity development. They believe “Beginning with the End in Mind” is the most effective approach. They are highly qualified, experienced, exposed, and well-connected throughout Eswatini, Africa, and the rest of the world. Their extensive experience in many industries and age groups makes them the right team to lead this project.

“We provide specialised group training on business development using recognised entrepreneurship courses,” she said. “We create long-term value which covers every element of a business plan. You can hire us or partner with us.”

They also help entrepreneurs and small business owners develop successful enterprises through conceptual growth and goal recommendations. They also offer help in defining the set goals and then exploring how it aligns with one's own goals. The main focus is on personal development, putting oneself first. The sessions are one-on-one with a coach.

“Our expert mentors assist business owners with, to name a few, business and financial management, marketing, human resources, business pitching, sales, networking, and opportunity identification,” said Bertha. “The sessions are one-on-one with a mentor. “The Begin Your Dream mindset shift guidebook/manual is available at selected stores or online bookstores.

See <https://beginyourdreams.africa/> website:

<https://beginyourdreams.africa/>

Contact: info@beginyourdreams.africa

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

LUSCHEI PRIZE FOR AFRICAN POETRY OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Luschei Prize for African Poetry, under the auspices of the African Poetry Book Fund and in partnership with the literary journal, *Prairie Schooner*, is an annual award of USD \$1,000. Established in 2015 and named for the literary philanthropist Glenna Luschei, this Pan African Poetry Prize is the only one of its kind in the world and aims to honor and promote African poetry written in English or in translation and to recognize a significant book published each year by an African poet. Each year, a significant African writer judges the contest. Open annually from May to October to submissions from authors and publishers. Winner will be announced in early January of the following year.

The Luschei Prize for African Poetry is open to any book of original poetry, in English, published during the previous calendar year in a standard edition of a full-length collection of poetry written by any African writer. Books must be submitted in the year after their publication. (For example, books published in 2020 may be submitted for consideration between May 1st and October 1st, 2021).

ELIGIBILITY

An “African writer” is taken to mean someone who was born in Africa, who is a national or resident of an African country, or whose parents are African.

A standard edition is 48 pages or more in length.

Only poetry submissions in English can be considered, but we welcome published works of translation for consideration.

Self-published books and books published by the APBF and its African Poetry Series are ineligible.

WHEN TO SEND

Manuscripts are accepted annually between May 1st and October 1st.

MANUSCRIPT

No entry fee is required to submit to this contest, but an entry form is required for each title submitted.

Publishers may submit as many eligible titles as they wish. The publisher should send four copies of each book to the APBF, postmarked between May 1st and October 1st.

ANN PETRY AWARD

Founded in 2020 in partnership with Red Hen Press and the Peauxdunque Writers Alliance, the Ann Petry Award seeks to publish prose literature by Black authors. The Ann Petry Award is for a work of previously unpublished prose, either a novel or a collection of short stories or novellas, with a minimum of 150 pages, by a Black writer. The awarded manuscript is selected through an annual submission process, with primary review by the Peauxdunque Writers Alliance, who will winnow the submissions to a list of finalists for the final judge.

Award details

\$3000

Book publication by Red Hen Press

The opening chapter or story of the awarded manuscript will be published in the Peauxdunque Review

Four-week residency at The Community Library's Ernest and Mary Hemingway House in Ketchum, Idaho

Deadline: July 31, 2023

Note: The Ann Petry Award is for a work of previously unpublished prose, either a novel or a collection of short stories or novellas, with a 25,000-word minimum (approximately 150 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12pt font) by a Black writer. Entries will be accepted via Submittable only.

Submissions are currently open for this award.

Guidelines

The award is open to all Black writers, with the following exceptions:

Authors who have had a full-length work published by Red Hen Press, or a full-length work currently under consideration by Red Hen Press

Employees, interns, or contractors of Red Hen Press

Relatives of employees or members of the executive board of directors

Relatives or individuals having a personal or professional relationship with any of the final judges where they have taken any part whatsoever in shaping the manuscript, or where, for whatever reason, selecting a particular manuscript might have the appearance of impropriety

Procedures and Ethical Considerations

To be certain that every manuscript finalist receives the fairest evaluation, all manuscripts shall be submitted to the judges without any identifying material. Bios, acknowledgments, and other identifying material shall be removed from judged manuscripts until the conclusion of the competition.

Please remove all names, bios, acknowledgments, and other identifying material from the submitted manuscript, and include only your name, contact information, and a short biographical statement in the cover letter field of Submittable.

The Ann Petry Award of Red Hen Press and Peauxdunque Writers Alliance is committed to maintaining the utmost integrity of our awards. Judges shall recuse themselves from considering any manuscript where they recognize the work. In the event of refusal, a manuscript score previously assigned by the managing editor of the press will be substituted.

Submittable

For questions or to withdraw a submitted entry, please contact editorial@redhen.org

<https://redhen.org/ann-petry-award/>

UNIVERSITY PRESS OF KENTUCKY NEW POETRY & PROSE SERIES

The University Press of Kentucky seeks manuscripts of contemporary poetry and fiction that exhibit a profound attention to language, strong imagination, formal inventiveness, and awareness of one's literary roots.

Submissions for books of poetry or fiction (novels, short story collections, etc) must be submitted between May 1st and May 31st of each year.

Include the following with all submissions:

–Please send full manuscripts only. Proposals are not eligible for selection.

–Please send a cover letter, author bio or CV, and complete contact information with your submission.

A Google account is required to submit.

As this series is "New Poetry & Prose", we are looking for works that have never been published, but for poetry or short story collections, we would consider manuscripts that include stories or poems that have been individually published in the past.

Advisory Board: Camille Dungy, Rebecca Morgan Frank, Silas House, Davis McCombs, & Roger Reeves

Submit here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfNbOdxTKBfAYF8IEasvJvJJFnAbt_XieZ3l4_Y8Ih85X6TA/viewform