



The AFREPRENUER

SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICAN TALENT

NOMAZULU MALANDU

My life revolves around
God_Family_Music



SPECIAL FEATURE

**Can the world run
out of good
people**

"Apply what you know"

If 'education is the key to success', then surely my nation would be one of the most prosperous countries in the world. Yearly, thousands of graduates are churned out of universities yet; the country continues to struggle in almost every sector.

I believe that education is an essential tool for acquiring knowledge. However, knowledge alone is not enough; more important is what you do with it. For four years, I studied a Marketing degree at university, and each semester my 'knowledge' was put to the test. I delivered on every exam and performed way above the average grade. As evidence, my transcript even boasts of several distinctions. In short, I am a well-educated woman, but somehow, that 'success' is still beyond my reach.

After careful consideration and research, I concluded that – It is true when people say, "knowing is half the battle", the other half is applying the acquired knowledge. That is what makes all the difference.



Grace Mavunga
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF & DESIGNER

Let me put this into perspective using an example.


Suppose we have two guys Ben and Tom who are experts in cars. Both possess in-depth knowledge about engine performance, transmission system design, shape and dimension, fuel consumption etc. for almost every model on the market. Ben is a qualified mechanic and has worked as a service manager for one of the leading car manufacturers in the country for the past six years.

Tom, on the other hand, is a junior clerk at a hotel, and passion for cars fuels his knowledge. He often reads and researches about cars and signed up to receive regular updates from leading vehicle brands. His library contains a lot of books and magazines about cars and attends vehicle trade shows whenever possible. Visiting showrooms is one of his favourite pastime activities when he is on day shift. Over the years he has managed to build a good network with most people in the motor industry, including Ben, who has become a close friend. They often meet up with talk about their shared passion.

Somewhere along the line, Tom then decides to start a blog about cars and puts his passion into writing. As times passes, his blog followers increase, and before he knows it, major brands start approaching him for reviews. Fast forward a few years later, Tom eventually starts a vehicle magazine that eventually ranks amongst the leading sports magazine in the country. He also lands a weekly show gig with a major sports tv station. Meanwhile, Ben, on the other hand, is still doing the same job and wondering when his big break will come.

Ben, in this case, represents many of us, we know but lack the wisdom to apply it. Tom, on the hand, represents those who choose to do something about the knowledge they possess and make it work for them. It is not about how much you know; instead, its what you do with that knowledge, you have no matter how big or small. In conclusion, I say, "Applied education is the key to success". That's my story, and I'm sticking to it.

***Disclaimer: Success is relative, so my definition of success might not be the same as yours. 😊

A photograph of a woman with short dark hair, wearing a colorful beaded headband, black-rimmed glasses, and a white halter-neck top. She is smiling and playing an acoustic guitar. The background is plain white.

"I desire to change lives and testify of the marvellous works of God and the fullness of life found in Christ. My music comes from a place of overflow after being inspired by God."

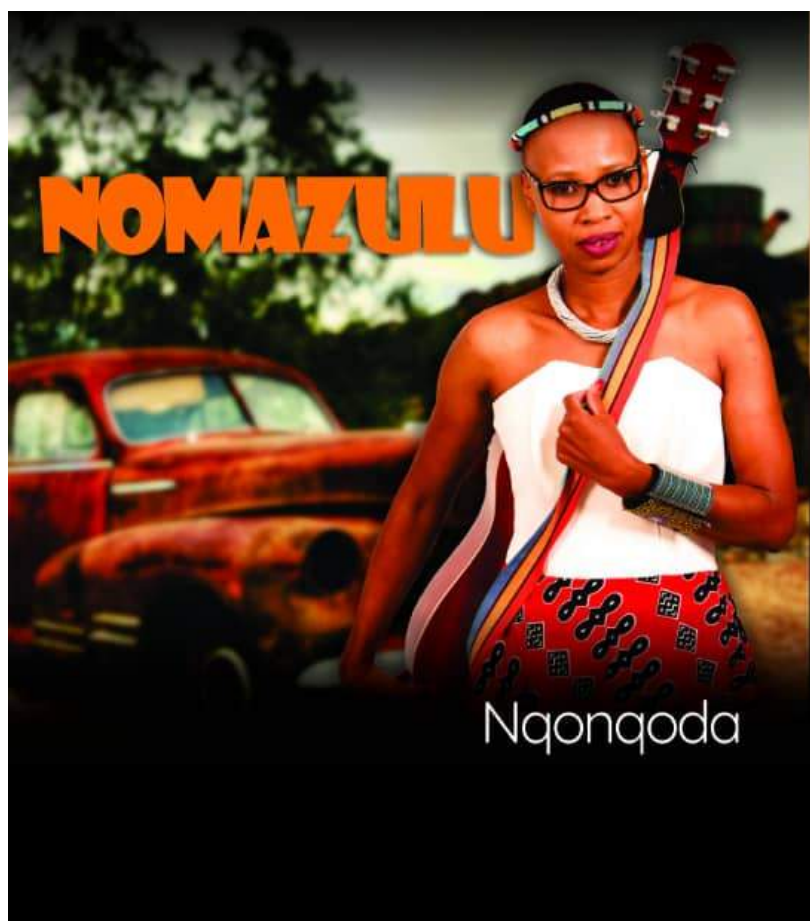
NOMAZULU MALANDU

My name is Nomazulu and music is my passion. Life has taught me that dreams are personal and should be guarded jealously. I come from a place where peers did not believe that one could have a meaningful career in music, so they laughed when I shared my desire to pursue music. Back then, their criticism felt like a punch in the stomach which left a dent on my confidence but eventually, I realised that what looks unreasonable to others is what may shape someone else's destiny.

I started singing at a very young age, and eventually joined the choir at my church. In 2006 I got the opportunity to lead the youth music team at my church, and this ignited my passion for music to another level. Throughout the journey, my husband has been one of my greatest supporters. In 2009 he urged me to enrol for a bachelor's degree in Music and Musicology at the Midlands State University, which I completed in 2014. Indeed he has been a destiny partner in every sense.

My passion together with the academic qualification, became a powerful tool in my hands as it gave me a more significant opportunity to be taken seriously. I started the Set-Apart School of Music, through which I offer practical and theory lessons in recorders, piano, guitar, nyunga nyunga mbira, choral and percussion training to various schools. Teaching music has been one of the most fulfilling moments in my journey thus far; it has helped broaden my skill in the art of music. In 2014 I submitted my dissertation abstract at the ZEGU call for abstracts, which went on to be published by the Cambridge Scholars Publishing alongside other great authors in the music field in 2018. My topic in the scholarly book Pentecostalism and Human Rights in Contemporary Zimbabwe focused on assessing the role of worship music in Harvest House International churches, the case study being Gweru branches.

I believe music plays an essential role in shaping a person's life, particularly at a subconscious level. Think about it this way, how often after you hear a song, does it keep playing in your head hours or even days after you last heard it? When you look through the lenses of history, there are many stories told of how music shaped people's lives and, in some cases, brought about a complete revolution. A good example is the history of Zimbabwe; music was one of the crucial aspects of the Chimurenga War that established Zimbabwe as an independent state. If I were to sum it up, I would say music is a potent communication tool that can easily touch the soul.



While my journey started by singing in the church choir, writing, and recording songs for family functions, I have since ventured into the field of writing jingles and songs for other artists as well. In 2019 I recorded my first single 'Nqonqoda' (Keep Knocking) which launched in May 2020. Nqonqoda is a testimony of the path I have travelled all these years and the determination, commitment, and hard work I have invested in pursuing my dream. Life has taught me that there will always be hurdles and challenges, yet no matter what giving up is never an option. Keep knocking, hence the emphasis on the phrase Phinda futhi unqonqode (just keep knocking) in the song.

It has been a journey fraught with many ups and downs, as such patience is one of my treasured traits. Patience positions you in the right place just like Zacchaeus on his thorny Sycamore tree so that the right person passing by will most definitely notice you. When you master the art of patience, you will ideally position yourself to quickly identify all the Godsent people assigned to help you progress towards your destiny.

I desire to change lives and testify of the marvellous works of God and the fullness of life found in Christ. My music comes from a place of overflow after being inspired by God. Psalm 139:5, NIV says that "You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me." This is what makes Nomazulu. I believe God has me safe in His hand, and He keeps me. Not only that, but He has imparted a gift on me to communicate with a certain kind of people, to give hope, inspiration, love and all the good things that He stands for through music.

Don't let the difficulties you face along the way discourage you from pursuing your God given destiny.

Everyone has something to share with the world.

My goal is to be able to play as many musical instruments as possible before I draw my last breath and to also empower as many people as I can through my music. I do not believe in the word impossible. If you want to learn to sing or play an instrument, it is possible, all you need is drive and commitment. I used to desire to be as big as other artists of the day, but one day God rebuked me and said why are you limiting yourself to another person's ability? So, now my purpose is to fulfil God's plan for my life to the fullest. I want to go as far as He has predestined me and I know that path is unique to me as the lines on each fingerprint. With God on my side, nothing is impossible; I will achieve greatness in my lifetime.

My message to everyone reading my story is not let the difficulties you face along the way discourage you from pursuing your God-given destiny. Everyone has something to share with the world. I have a medical condition that made doctors conclude that I would never walk, let alone have a career in music. Yet today here I stand. It has not been easy, but I chose never to give up my dream. Refuse to let excuses rob you of the chance to accomplish your goal. Press onward and create the reality you want to see; success will never come on a silver platter, you must 'Make-It-Happen'.

Get in Touch with me on the following



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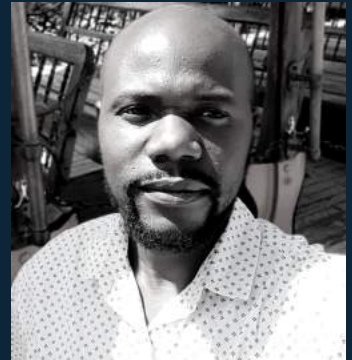
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Can the World Run Out of Good People?

BY DR. TAWANDA CHINGOZHA

'Part of a series of blogs on the socio-economic impact, implications, and opportunities for a world after COVID-19'



Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic social media and the internet have been inundated with conspiracies around Covid-19's origin, whether or not communities should accept vaccines that will be developed among other stories. In almost all the cases attempts are made to convince the reader, listener or viewer of this huge international power grab or profit making conspiracy that is going on. Let's face it. It is so confusing and many times people do not know what to believe, and sparring news outlets from different political constituencies and outfits (even in developed countries we may look up to) does not make it better. We live in a murky, smoke-and-mirrors world where the massive availability of information is both a boon and a curse.

Almost all conspiracy theories and fake news are rebutted in one way or another. International bureaucrats, tech and pharmaceutical companies and others who understand the intricacies of globalization and the international economy may be able to provide more substance regarding veracity or lack thereof in the different conspiracy claims better.

This article discusses whether the different checks and balances, safeguards and tried and tested protocols and regulations in various industries, organizations and governments can indeed be overcome by groups/entities with sinister motives. Can the world really run out of 'good people' to such an extent that people just sit on the fence or condone the subjection of entire populations to sinister machinations of certain groups?! It is fitting that the discussion whether the world can run out of good people also begins by asking whether the world can run out of good things in general.

In 1798, Thomas Robert Malthus predicted that linear growth in food supply would be outstripped by exponential growth in population. In his view, the human population would sooner rather than later implode until a natural disaster (such as pestilence) or war reduces the population. On the contrary the human population has grown massively since the late 18th Century on the back of farm biotechnology-driven yield improvements to guarantee food supplies, advancements in medical sciences, medicine and vaccine development among other factors. The combination of human agility, ingenuity and clever use of the world's natural endowments has proved that a Malthusian implosion is unlikely.

The assertions of Malthus haven't really come to pass (most Economists would agree), but some bad things have happened since the beginning of time. Market failure (a scenario in which the free market system fails to efficiently allocate resources) has shown us that when people compete to use forest resources, or when they compete to maximize their utility on a public beach, deforestation and pollution are inevitable respectively. The events of the past decades have shown that when migrants and host communities fight for scarce resources, prejudice, hate and violence can flare up.

So indeed, good things may run out under some conditions. Since time immemorial, people have suffered from abuse, violence, war and other forms of injustice and in many cases yet no one has done enough about it. Even as the Covid-19 pandemic ravages across the entire globe, guns and mortar fire have hardly fallen silent in some parts of the world. Yet due to geopolitical complications, indifference or just inward-looking tendencies, many have buried their heads in the sand. The fact that people can sit on the fence as injustices take place is an important driver of lack of trust in the institutions and apparatus of individual states and the world in general's ability to protect us from the harms 'purported' in some of the biggest conspiracy theories.

The "new economy" post Covid-19 should do more to promote more accountability, transparency, disclosure so that people understand facts better.



Not everyone can truly claim that they necessarily have a firm handle on how the world functions. There is just too much information out there to process, and many things are obscure - too many information asymmetries. Information asymmetry or information failure is a phenomenon in which one party in a transaction has material more information than the other, for example in George Akerlof's Market for Lemons where the seller of a second hand automobile had more material information about its true condition than the buyer. To abstract, a government requiring compulsory vaccination may have more material information on side-effects (among other issues) than the ordinary citizen all things being equal. Murkiness and lack of transparency also mean that transaction costs are high and it is difficult to enforce contracts - including the social contract between a government and its people.

The social contract between a government and its people provides for the citizens to expect and demand that the state act in the good interests of the citizenry. There are countless examples wherein governments have betrayed the trust of the population. This can be understood in the context of the Agency Problem wherein there is conflict of interest between the objectives of the principal and those of the agent. In a business setting, the shareholder (business owner) is interested in preserving and increasing the value of the business whereas management may be interested in expense maximization (thereby reducing profit and value) through perks. To protect the interests of the shareholders, the Board of Directors (Board) maintain oversight over the activities of management - yet "Management and the Board play golf together" thereby potentially reducing the effectiveness of oversight.

When state bodies that are supposed to act in the interests of the public are not sacrosanct in executing their mandate (for example in protecting against harmful practices in a medical emergency or otherwise), if they “play golf with those they are supposed to supervise”, then it fuels distrust and creates an environment where conspiracies and fake news flourish. When levels of education are low, and there is little or no access to basic services including electricity and internet, people fall prey to fake content, including dangerous home remedies and even scammers.

There is clearly a need to increase access to Information Technologies (ITs) but also implement deliberate programs for digital education so that ordinary citizens are empowered to fact-check content but also to participate in digital education and in the digital workplace. Without digital education, negative consequences (fake news, scams etc.) of internet proliferation can spread almost unabated. The “new economy” post Covid-19 should do more to promote more accountability, transparency, disclosure so that people understand facts better. Institutions need to be strengthened and corruption rooted out decisively so that agency issues do not contaminate government-citizen social contracts – to restore trust. This is possible, because in the end the world can never run out of good people – generally.

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The evidence is compelling and there for everyone to see. All those nurses, doctors and ambulance drivers risking their lives in order to save us during the Covid-19 pandemic confirms that there are many good people out there. More than ever before, different campaigns have raised enormous sums of money to help fund the health and economic responses of various countries, including safety net components to protect the poor and vulnerable. It shows that the world can save itself, it shows that this is not humanity’s cul-de-sac moment at all. Because our world can never run out of good people. .

Source: Written by Dr. Tawanda Chingozha, development economist and OAD Fellow.
Visit <http://www.astro4dev.org/covid-19/>

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