



## PRIVATE MEET PUBLIC SECTOR

2021



**Dante Mashile**

Meet Dante Mashile, the new Director: Corporate Communications for the Office of The Premier. Dante is an Accredited in Public Relations (APR) practitioner with over 20 years' experience in the development of strategy in communication management, marketing management and corporate affairs.

The APR is an international professional designation conferred by Public Relations Institute for Southern Africa (PRISA), attesting to him having used integrated communication management and marketing principles with contemporary strategies and tactics coupled with personal and professional commitment to excellence. He is a member of the Global Corporate Affairs Council, a research-led programme for leading global corporate affairs professionals developing greater insights and shared best practice. The Council is seated within the Oxford University Centre for Corporate Reputation. The Council promotes reputation thinking and engagement combined with functional and professional development. The Global Corporate Council has 120 leading professionals from Asia, Australasia, China, Russia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Scandinavia and the Americas. He is an experienced leader in strategy development and implementation in both private sector and public sector.

He was Group Executive for Public Affairs at Adcock Ingram, where he was a member of the Group Executive management of the pharmaceutical manufacturing company, responsible for the public affairs and stakeholder relations management, responsible for development of the export market strategy of Adcock Ingram in the rest of Africa in markets such as Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Togo, Ethiopia, and internationally in Chile, Argentina and Paraguay among others.

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Dante assisted Adcock Ingram to win 12% of the anti-retroviral medicines public sector supply tender worth R18 billion; at the 16th Annual National Business Awards Adcock Ingram received a Corporate Citizenship Award; Adcock Ingram was rated a Level 1 Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Contributor. He has held senior leadership positions at Absa Group/Barclays Africa Group, Industrial Development Corporation, Mogale City Local Municipality and Department of Communications among others. He has led the development of government relations strategy, marketing strategy at Absa Bank, Barclays Africa Group Limited, Absa Group Wealth Investment and Management, Absa Fiduciary and Absa Consultants and Actuaries.

Dante's strategy work led to the financial services group entrenching its reputation as a leading public sector bank in South Africa and rest of Africa; acquired 25% market share in the retail banking and corporate investment banking in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), secured corporate sponsorship rights for Mandela Day Marathon as partner with KZN Provincial Government. Dante has management consulting experience, where he was Managing Partner of On Trend Media (Pty) Ltd, and Strategy Director at Global Interface with clients such as multinational fast-moving consumer group Procter & Gamble, AfriSam, Crookes Brothers Limited, Mpumalanga Province among others. He is a trained journalist and copy editor having worked for Independent Newspaper Group titles such as Business Report, The Star, Pretoria News, Republican Press title Bona magazine and South African Broadcasting Corporation. I was Publishing Editor of Dikgang tsa Mogale, a community newspaper in Mogale City Local Municipality, which was used as a channel for community participation. His academic and professional qualifications are Certificate in Project Management from Netherlands at the Fontys University of Professional Education and at the same university acquired a Certificate in Logistics and Supply Chain Management.

Dante completed a Master of Development Studies at University of KwaZulu-Natal with a dissertation that focused on re-modelling agricultural finance in regards black commercial farming. Dante has a Bachelor of Arts with majors in English, Speech and Drama, Political Science from University of KwaZulu-Natal; a National Diploma in Journalism from Durban University of Technology ; Postgraduate Diploma in Telecoms and Information policy from University of South Africa; a certificate in public relations management from Prisa and a Certificate in Financial Analysis and Investment from Wits Business School.

He is an economist that is featured on Gagasi FM and has served as a panel of economists that reviewed the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Budget. Dante was part of the 120 economists and researchers that argued that the 2020 Supplementary Budget reneged on the President Cyril Ramaphosa's COVID-19 rescue package, additionally that led to the submission for a robust stimulus package to mitigate the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa. He has written on the National Health Insurance for the Inclusive Society Institute arguing for the robust implementation of the NHI that limits the rising costs of pharmaceutical prices. Dante is an invited guest lecturer at the University of KwaZulu-Natal Graduate Business School and Leadership focusing on leadership and strategy for the Master of Business Administration programme. He was a guest lecturer as well at the Joseph Business School focusing on business plan development and marketing strategy. He loves playing golf, running and is an avid reader of economic literature. "I believe in people development and harnessing their talents and God-given gifts. I like to influence people to live their purpose and create heroes and heroines for this generation and next generation." Dante is married to Nomkhosi (maNtombela ) and they have a daughter Mohau.



## Thulile Dube **remembers** Hlengiwe Madlala

The recent murder of Mrs Hlengiwe Madlala who was a staff member from the Office of The Premier within the Communications section has stirred up emotions among many women, who have to navigate instances of violence against their being on a daily basis.

Having recently joined the Office of the Premier, I did not know Mrs Madlala very well, but the few moments spent with her left an impression on me. Her energy was very calming with pieces of strength, kindness and so much intelligence.

It is a sad truth that Mrs Madlala was one of millions of women in South Africa that have been failed by the system. Most profound still is the image her passing has and will continue to linger in the memories of many, mostly women.

Women must navigate the complicated path on a daily basis, to ensure their own safety in a world fraught with many dangers for women. The very same women who have literally given birth to the nation are being treated and murdered like wild animals. This fight against women needs a sense of emergency from men with integrity, leaders, family members, the police and health care facilities who all form part of a system.

It is evident that South Africa has high rates of GBV including violence against LGBTIQ+ people. For many the term gender based violence, may not resonate, but for women, mostly black, this term alone strike fear to their core, because life has become a game of survival for them.

From the moment you wake, decisions have to be taken into consideration your personal safety: "I cannot wear this dress today because my path will take me past a taxi rank: or "I cannot make it to this particular engagement because it will finish late, and public transport will be a challenge at that time".

These safety concerns even extend to a work environment, where many female employees do not feel safe alone in the company of a male colleague. This might include the figure of speech or the tone of voice used to address women in such environments. Some of these colleagues may or may not recognise the amount of psychological damage they cause with the "jokes" about women's bodies and the likes.

When will this end? When will our society allow women to exist without fear of being violated? Will women ever get to a point where they have power over their own bodies, fashion and speech without being boxed by social norms?

We have seen way too often calls for justice, but these will always come after a woman has become a victim. What justice does it justify if the victim is no more? Is the system working with women against GBV or oppressing the victims?

Help put an  
**END to GBV**



# SPEAK OUT



## Employee Health and Wellness offer employees

Telephonic Life Management Services:

**Unlimited professional Telephonic Counselling: 24/7/365**  
**Access via toll free line 0800 111 838, please call me or SMS request**  
**071 681 1247, Email: [wellnesssupport@hlconsulting.co.za](mailto:wellnesssupport@hlconsulting.co.za)**

**Legal Advice on all matters except for labour advice.**

- Court Procedures
- Contractual
- Wills and Estates
- Consumer Credit Laws
- Marriage Regimes/Systems
- Maintenance
- Motor Vehicle Accident
- Traffic Offence
- Criminal and Related Laws
- Custody/ Maintenance Access
- Property/Housing/Neighbourhood
- Lease Rental
- Divorce

**Financial Advice cover, but not limited to:**

- Garnishee
- Maintenance
- Budgeting
- Tax
- Budgeting
- Wills and Estate planning
- Debt Advice
- Debt Counselling
- Debt Mediation
- Vehicle Loans
- Home Loan



### Family Care and Support

#### Health Advice

**HIV/AIDS counselling but not limited to, education and support**

Up to 6 session of professional offsite Face to Face Counselling per incident per year as well as referral services to external resources where necessary

Counselling for emotional problems, traumatic events, substance abuse, marital, family and relationship problems, HIV/AIDS and work-related problems.





## OTP congratulates 2021 graduates



**Thembelihle Mvelase**  
BTech: Public Management



**Mlondolazi Hlengwa**



**Brandon Veerasamy**  
Bachelor of commerce in Information and Technology management (Mancosa)

It is with great pleasure to present our 2021 graduates. We congratulate our achievers for their commitment, zeal and determination that pushed them to rise above all challenges and barriers in order to achieve their goals. As we know that we are confronted by the aggressive enemy, COVID-19 this year, our colleagues couldn't enjoy their graduation ceremonies they were eagerly looking forward to. Nonetheless, they have proudly obtained their qualifications. The Premier's Stars would like to encourage other colleagues not to hesitate to pursue their dreams. "Every great dream begins with a dreamer." Harriet Tubman



## BRIGHT futures in KZN



The KZN Office of the Premier's Youth Directorate has been criss-crossing the province in a bid to help empower young graduates who have not been able to secure employment. This is being done with the help of state-of-the-art mobile offices, which are fully equipped with technology. As Youth Month draws to a close, the mobile offices will be moving to all districts where a database of unemployed graduates is being compiled.

Not only that, but young people are being prepared with skills to help them secure employment as part of the Jobs Preparedness Program. Those who are passionate about entrepreneurship will also be catered for as the project is partnered with the National Youth Development Fund (NYDA), which helps young people who want to be self-employed.



## TAKE A GIRL CHILD TO WORK DAY



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The goal of this initiative is to “deepen the thinking of the girl child with regard to their infinite roles in society, enhance her self-esteem, inspire and motivate her to reach her full potential and through exposure to diverse careers and positive role models assist her to prepare for the world of work”. It is anticipated that the impact will be far-reaching, that the “benefits will be shared and passed on, to her children, her community and her country”.



## TAKE A GIRL CHILD TO WORK DAY

This initiative further promotes women empowerment as women remain under-represented in many leadership positions and this is still a challenge as in many professions, a woman cannot break through the glass ceiling to the upper level of management due to career opportunities that were previously not accessible to women, and other opportunities that individual women may not be aware of.

making them see that education is key in breaking the cycle of poverty. This day was also very significant, as it was the day before youth day, where we remember the sacrifices made by the youth of 1974 in Soweto. The department's initiative focused on showing underprivileged female high school learners, a professional workplace, showcasing the infinite career opportunities and choices available. The aim of the department hosting this initiative was to change mind-sets and get the learners to look beyond the traditional roles reserved for women, to build the self-esteem of these young learners who are at a vulnerable stage in their lives and to give hope to them,

The Directorate: HR Support in collaboration with the Directorates: Office on the Status of Women and the Protection of Human Rights had identified and invited 10 learners from two public secondary schools, Lugaju High School and Chibelihle High School, located within uMgungundlovu District in the Impendle Local Municipality. The department ensured that this opportunity was also made available to learners with disabilities and one female learner with a disability was represented. The Programme Facilitators for the day, were Mr F.M.A Safla – Chief Director: Strategic HRM and Ms Ntando Dlungwane from the Big Sister Foundation. The Director-General, Dr Nonhlanhla O. Mkhize provided the opening address by motivating the young women that they have the power to rise above all challenges and crash stereotypes and biases that rise against them and that they have the power to change the world. The department also partnered with the University of KwaZulu-Natal, who actively participated in the programme, virtually through a Zoom session. UKZN provided high-quality information on the following aspects when aiming at achieving a university qualification:

- Career Advice by Counsellor/Psychologist, Ms. Karuna Mahadave and Mr. Sanele Zuma
- Student Funding Options by the Senior Financial Aid Advisor, Constance Dube
- Application and Recruitment by the University Liaison Officer, Mr. Vijay Ramballie
- Disability Support by the Manager: Disability Support, Mr Amith Ramballie
- Sports Opportunities for Females by the Manager: UKZN Sports and Health, Mr. Mark Bashe
- Accommodation at University by the Residence Life Co-ordinator, Mr Thabani Chagi

The Office of the Premier was also represented by a panel of intellectual and competent managers from the various units within the department. These managers volunteered their services to the initiative by motivating the female learners and had engaged with them in a panel discussion on career opportunities and prospects.

The various sectors were represented as follows:

- Mr H Singh - Management Accounting
- Ms A Singh - Strategic Planning
- Ms S.D Zakwe - Human Resources
- Ms Z Damane - Communications
- Ms A Marais - Risk Management
- Mr S Singh – Information Technology



The programme ended with the distribution of gift packs to the female learners. Microsoft and Darul Ihsan Humanitarian Centre sponsored some of the contents in the gift packs. We are positive that the female learners benefitted from this empowering initiative, and that the Office of the Premier made a positive impact and contribution to their futures.





## MEETING STAKEHOLDERS



*EThekweni Metro Multisectoral Engagement (Integration of Stakeholders into District Development Model Framework) at Westville Civic Centre, Durban*

