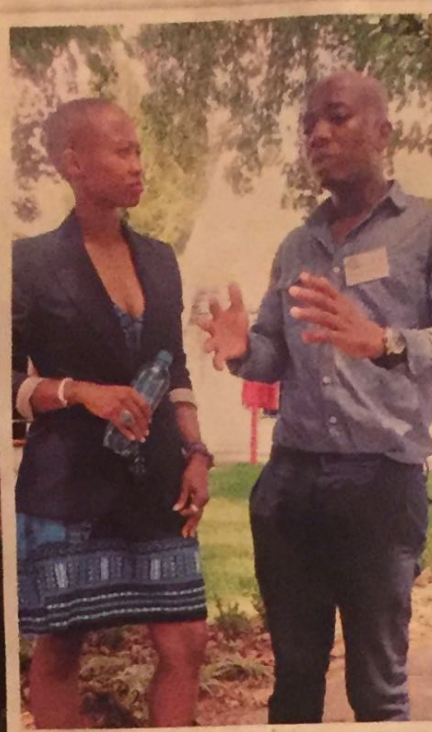


BRIDGING THE GAP

Two dynamic women speak to **Bulelwa Mokori** about their involvement in economic transformation and exposing young girls to career opportunities



Phindile Dhlamini says her business strives to bring change in the lives of South Africans, especially girls

Africa's socio-economic challenges.

"I want to add value to the lives of the youth and under-served communities," she says.

"My business strives to bring change in the lives of young South Africans, especially girls. I started it in 2011 with two different aims: on internal programmes and on youth and community development," she says.

DYNAMIC ENTREPRENEUR

Phindile is a driven and dynamic entrepreneur. As managing director of Gracefully Consulting (GC), she is solution-driven.

"Our youth and community development programmes offer other socially responsible organisations and individuals avenues to contribute.

"GC also provides project planning and implementation services. We consult youth and community development interventions to ensure sustainability in all projects," says Phindile.

She matriculated at Bryanston High School in Johannesburg. She completed her B.Com degree in Financial Management at the Midrand Graduate Institute. She has worked in both the private and public sector.

EMPOWERING YOUNG GIRLS

Before starting her own business, Phindile worked for various companies, including Alexander Forbes.

"I was involved with community trust projects pertaining to mentorship, leadership and community development. It was through these that I got involved in the 'Take a girl child to work' Initiative," she says.

Her business has worked with various private and public organisations, including Ernst & Young's Next Generation Leadership Development Programme for high school learners,

SOUTH AFRICA has made great strides in gender equality and is a model to other countries as research has shown improvements in gender transformation in the workplace. One of the ways this has occurred is through the initiative, 'Take a girl child to work' day.

It was initiated by South Africa's third-largest cellular operator, Cell C, in 2003 and marks a special day aimed to expose female children to careers that are available in South Africa and give them information about them.

Young girls and boys can now choose careers in fields that were previously male- or female-dominated.

PHINDILE DHLAMINI (30)

She is a social activist and an entrepreneur. She owns a business called Gracefully Consulting.

Born and bred in Soweto, Phindile is passionate about Africa and making a positive difference in solving South

The onus is on our girls and the youth to decide on what they want from life