

SUICIDE

Tributes pour in for Gomora star

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COLLEAGUES, friends, loved ones and the entertainment industry are reeling in shock after the disheartening news of the death of Siyabonga Zubane, popular for his role as Sdumo in the Mzansi Magic telenovela *Gomora*.

Zubane died aged 23 after allegedly taking his own life.

His death has once again evoked strong calls across social platforms on the importance of the need for men to be more vocal about their feelings and the challenges they face.

Though the family has not yet issued a formal statement on his untimely death, his colleagues and close friends from *Gomora* conveyed their condolences on social media.

Shirley Adonisi from M-Net channels said they will always treasure his contribution to the entertainment

industry. "We are saddened about the passing of Siyabonga Zubane.

"His debut role in 2017, was Bhungezi on *Isibaya*. Recently, he was Sdumo on *Gomora*.

"We would like to extend our condolences to Siyabonga's family. His contribution to the TV industry will be treasured," she shared publicly.

Sipheshile Ndaba who plays the role of Mazet on *Gomora*, also conveyed a heartfelt message on social media.

"I have been waiting for the past 24 hours for you to call me and tell me you are just kidding. Still no call. Kubuhlungu Siya. Thank you for leaving a piece of you with me after the scene. I love you mnganam. Phumla."

Television presenter Zola Hashatsi took to social media and reiterated the need for men to exercise speaking out. "I am touched and saddened by the young 23-year-old thespian Siya-

bonga Ndlondlo Zubane's suicide. He was mos def on the rise. We need to curb and speak out as males, young, middle-aged, and old.

"We can't keep giving in and allowing suicide to rule us, especially in industry. I am hurt."

South Africans expressed their concerns about the entertainment industry and how saddening it is for popular personalities to resort to taking their own lives. Since 2022 kicked off, it has been a spate of tragic news with each month someone announced to have ended their life.

Most of them are linked with the most pervasive topic of mental health.

Just a few months apart, the entertainment industry had to bear the loss of notables such as actor Patrick Shai and musician Ricky Rick.

More details about Zubane's send-off are yet to be confirmed by his family.



SIYABONGA Zubane who was popular for his role as Sdumo in the Mzansi Magic telenovela 'Gomora'.

SPECIAL DAY

Celebrating Mother's Day without a mother

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THE WORLD celebrated Mother's Day yesterday, a day honouring the mother of the family, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society.

While the day saw mothers or maternal figures be showered with a plethora of gifts, sweet messages and phone calls, Mother's Day isn't always a happy day for everyone, especially motherless children or childless mothers.

Operations Director at the SA Depression and Anxiety Group (Sadag), Cassey Chambers, said in the world today, there are so many different images or ideas of what a mother is.

"It's not like the movies or in a Hallmark card about the person who birthed you. In our world today, there are different people who play that role for us even if it's not our biological mother. It could be our aunts or uncles, a neighbour, colleague, family member or even a friend or a friend's mother. We have mothers all around us," Chambers said.

She added that Mother's Day could either be a beautiful or difficult day – a reminder of a mother who died, an absent mother, a strained relationship, grieving a mother figure or mothers whose children died.

"It could be a roller coaster or mixture of different feelings but it all depends on what Mother's Day means to you and the type of women who are mothers in your life," she said.

People who could not celebrate with their mothers for whatever reason, should think about the other maternal figures in their lives and think of ways to celebrate them, she said.

"For people who find the day difficult, maybe it's a reminder that you can't have children or have lost a child. It's very important to be kind to yourself and doing things that look after you and that you enjoy, including taking a moment to cry," Chambers said. She said it's important to allocate time to help process the day.

People can celebrate a new tradi-



IN CELEBRATION of Mother's Day, Bakelogy studio together with The Star newspaper and Saturday Star gave lucky readers a chance to enjoy a fun, sweet French dessert-making experience. | NOKUTHULA MBATHA African News Agency (ANA)



tion to release balloons, plant a flower, light a candle or do something for someone else to celebrate and commemorate that mother, maternal person or child, she said.

"Take a break from social media

and don't look at your feed, turn off your notifications and detox away from your phone to avoid being triggered and seeing something that can upset you," Chambers said.

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EXCITING JOURNEY

Talented Mdoda 'blessed' after sealing deal to host show

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IN A media sphere that is permeated with plenty of talent, all vying to have their names on top of the hierarchy, media houses also have pressure to pick from what people love.

Proving that the award-winning radio host's remarkable work cannot be overlooked, radio 947 has banked on Anele Mdoda drawing a five-year contract extending her stay on one of South Africa's commercial radio stations.

This year marks 20 years since the renowned media personality Mdoda introduced herself on the radio and she continues to climb higher in her career journey as people demonstrate their love for her.

Mdoda hosts one of the coveted breakfast slots, *Anele and the club* on 947 FM from Monday to Friday from 6am to 9am.

The talented star spoke about the news, revealing that she felt blessed. "I am super-excited, and I can't wait to join Jonathan on this journey of powerhouse creativity. I feel blessed."

Asked about the reasons behind her decision to remain part of the 947 family, she said: "I love my audience and Primedia is the coolest place for an entertainer like myself to call home. I also cherish the fact that I am also making a difference."

She said that it was an easy decision to commit to 947 for the next five years. "I am just at the beginning of the next wave of my professional career. There is still so much more of

me to come."

Mdoda has also proven to be a veritable jack of all trades when she transitioned from radio to TV hosting different much-loved television shows.

Last month, Mdoda took a break from the airwaves to travel and attend master classes in various countries.

The award-winning radio host is set to return to her desk on July 1 this year.

She could not stop bubbling with joy at the prospect of embracing a life-changing journey.

"I am beyond excited about this upcoming learning tour. Believe me when I say I'll be coming back with some crazy ideas. I think this perfectly shows Primedia's commitment to innovation, growth, and development," added Mdoda.



COLONEL Mashadi Tswidi was named the SA Air Force's first black female regimental instructor.

Colonel a beacon for young women to follow

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WHEN, during a parade of the SA Air Force on Friday, Colonel Mashadi Tswidi was named its first black female regimental instructor, she said she had not expected it as all she did was the job she enjoyed.

Tswidi, who will assume the command of the SA Air Force headquarters unit, was commended during the parade for continuing to distinguish herself in various capacities in the SANDE, with her last responsibility being directing staff members at the South African National War College.

She told Pretoria News how she was surprised to be promoted, and said: "I felt so happy and honoured to serve the Air Force and the headquarters unit."

"She sent a message to young women, saying: 'Never lose hope. Never underestimate yourself. As the first African female regimental instructor, I can say the training was tough but I made it through. I hope I motivate young girls that life does not stop here. They must fight to achieve their dreams.'"

This was as outgoing officers hosted a crowd-pulling combined change of command parade, where they handed the reins to incoming commanders at the Air Force base in Swartkop.

Aircraft pilots and the air force band joined the parade, adding colour to the demonstrations that had spectators cheering and celebrating the officers, who are set to command the SA Air Force headquarters unit, the Bushveld Air Control Sector, 68 Air School, and 516 Protection Squadron.

Colonel John Matlou took command of 68 Air School. The school is a feeder mechanism to the pool of skilled engineers and technicians in the SAAF.

Colonel John Matlou took command of the Bushveld Air Control Sector, which is responsible for providing a recognisable air picture for the SA Air Force command post, and other air space control-related tasks.

He is a qualified mission controller, with 24 years' service in the SANDE.

They were joined by Lieutenant-Colonel Nalamotse Joseph Nkomo, who took command of 516 Protection Squadron, which is responsible and accountable for all security-related measures at the SA Air Force headquarters.

Air Force spokesperson Major Ntokozi Ntshangase said the air force was proud as it introduced its new leadership.

"These are new commanding officers charged with the task and responsibility to promote the vision of the SA Air Force. Our new vision is projecting effective air and space power through innovation in the theatre of our operations.

"The air force has entrusted these new commanders to ensure that they provide leadership, strategic direction and strategic leadership wherever they are posted. They are expected to create a platform for their members to come up with innovative ideas to ensure that the SA Air Force is self-reliant and able to produce results.

"We have just welcomed the new slogan 'Free the Eagle'. These commanders are expected to ensure that that is made possible," said Ntshangase.

He said the process to make the final appointment of these commanders had been rigorous.



ANELE Mdoda drawing a five-year contract extending her stay on one of South Africa's commercial radio stations.