

● **Businessman's hometown and its values celebrated in new bar opening in 2022**

# Pride of eDikeni coming to the Bay

**Zamandulo Malonde**  
malondez@theherald.co.za

Nearly two years ago, he unveiled a cosy chic bar and lounge in Sandton and named it eDikeni to pay homage to his hometown of Alice in the Eastern Cape.

And soon, businessman Lereko Ntshona will spread his hometown pride to Gqeberha where eDikeni Gqeberha — a replica of the Sandton branch — will be opened next year.

He declined to say at this stage where in the city it would be.

Among its offerings is the resto-bar lounge, which boasts a library, dining area, performance stage and a lounge, all intentionally named after iconic places, villages and people hailing from eDikeni.

Born into — and raised by

— a traditional Xhosa family, Ntshona's values and identity are mirrored even in his professional capacity.

For him, eDikeni is a celebration of not only his hometown and its values but an abundance of factors that shaped his life's journey such as music, art, books and the function of food as a unifier in African cultures.

"eDikeni is a space of identity and resistance... to say I can show up as myself anywhere in the world and I don't need to mask myself as something else.

"There was an era of eDikeni when everyone was connected and excellence was the standard.

"Once you have experienced that in a lifetime, it doesn't leave you.

"Regardless of where you go, home will always be with you,"

Ntshona said. With Johannesburg established as a space of convergence for people from different walks of life, tribes and cultures, eDikeni is where people meet to be their authentic selves, Ntshona says.

The Gqeberha branch is meant to provide a similar platform.

Appropriately situated in Alice Lane, patrons of the Sandton branch are welcomed onto the KwaMavuso patio while their meals are prepared in the Sheshegu kitchen and they can enjoy art or a read at the KwaGaga art gallery and library.

"The books in the library were sourced from Lovedale Press in Alice.

"We have classics such as Ityala Lamawele, Ingqumbo Yeminyanya, Zemnk' iinkomo Magwala Ndinini and the like.



**RURAL CHIC:** eDikeni Sandton's Ayanda House is a private lounge named after owner Lereko Ntshona's aunt, an ode to the house Ntshona grew up in on 1 Amos Street, Alice

"The intention is to create a sense of nostalgia and link us back to who we are," he said.

The establishment also boasts a private lounge, named Ayanda House after Ntshona's late aunt.

Ayanda House on 1 Amos

Street is the house in Alice where Ntshona grew up.

Patrons are also treated to intimate live performances by musicians such as Feza Faku, Sisonke Xonti and Mandisi Dyantisi on the Winston Ntshona stage, named after the legendary playwright who



**BIG VISION:** Eastern Cape businessman Lereko Ntshona will open a Gqeberha branch for his restaurant eDikeni, named after his hometown

happens to be the owner's uncle.

Similarly, the Bay's eDikeni's Winston Stage will be home to the city's rich talent with a kitchen, lounge and library of the same names.

"It's important that our menu is accessible to everyone.

"One can enjoy Ulusu [tripe] and [Amanqinia] chicken feet, but one can also sit and have a rib-eye or Mapeza's mac and cheese which was one of my grandmother's signature recipes."

He describes eDikeni's menu as a culinary tour of SA.

One of their signature cocktails is named after the Ntselamanzi River which runs through Alice.

"There will be things that you can only find at the eDikeni in Gqeberha and not in Sandton, but essentially what you smell, feel, taste and see when you enter eDikeni all needs to remind you of home," he said.

The Gqeberha branch will also function as a small events space while offering a remote working or meeting space for professionals.

Ntshona introduced the Sandton branch in December 2019 and closed for final touches, with the plan to hold an official launch in March last year.

While the lockdown halted the official launch, eDikeni Sandton started operating during the lockdown last year.

## Creative kids to show their work at Mendi Arts Centre

**Zamandulo Malonde**

Aspiring artists, some as young as two, will exhibit their artworks and be awarded certificates at the Mendi Arts Centre next week.

The children are being recognised for participating in the "There is No Tourism Without Art" community programme at the Red Location Museum since earlier this year.

The programme, meant to promote tourism in New Brighton while equipping children with painting, drawing, coding and planting skills, is facilitated by tour guide and founder of Lungtong Tours, Lungelo Ngabaza, alongside local NPOs.

From the first quarter of 2021, children have gathered

outside the Red Location Museum in New Brighton on weekends to learn about art, agriculture and coding.

From December 6-9, their work — created during the 45-week programme — will be exhibited at the Mendi Arts Centre.

On December 9, the young creatives will visit the Mendi Arts Centre for the first time since it was launched in April, where they will deliver music and dance performances.

Ngabaza said the experience would mean a great deal to the children, especially when they saw their work exhibited in the centre.

"It's an exciting outing for them because they've never been there and when they finally go, it will be to see their

own work. We will take them from Red Location to the Mendi Arts Centre by bus to give them the full experience of a tour," Ngabaza said.

"The exhibition will include work that the children learnt during the programme.

"They were taught visual art, craft art and making spekbomb pot plants to encourage responsible tourism."

Ngabaza partnered with NPOs such as the Iz'koli arts group to impart artistic skills to the children and Nelson Mandela University's Prof Jean Greyling, who runs coding programmes for youngsters.

The "There is No Tourism Without Art" programme stems from the story of the historic Red Location Museum that went from being a presti-

gious tourist attraction site to an empty, vandalised building. Ngabaza said he had noticed children playing at the museum and this prompted him to start the innovative programme.

He gathered the children and partnering NPOs to teach the youngsters a variety of art and life skills outside the famous museum.

That way, Ngabaza said, the programme also kept children off the streets while making use of the museum premises.

What had started with fewer than 50 children in February had grown to accommodate 150 weekly.

Ngabaza said the exhibition would mark the end of the 2021 programme, before it resumed in January.

## Two symphonies and a tango

**Gillian McAinsh**

The Eastern Cape Philharmonic Orchestra wants to end the year on a high note with *Two Symphonies and a Tango*, to be performed at the Tramways Building on Sunday.

The 5pm concert will feature young Cape Town conductor Chad Hendricks, winner of the 2016 National Len van Zyl conducting competition.

The award led him to study under renowned conductors, including Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Victor Yampolsky and Arjan Tien.

More recently, Hendricks conducted at the Huberte Rupert Memorial Concert, Starlight Classics, the Kynnet Fiesta Awards, and with the Cape Philharmonic Orchestra.

The Eastern Cape Philharmonic Orchestra presented its *String Serenade* concert in May, and this time winds, brass and percussion will join forces with strings in a programme designed to celebrate optimism and the joy of life.

"We just squeezed in our last concert in May, with numbers allowed at events being halved that very evening and it looks like it could go the same way again, but fingers crossed not before," its publicist, Gill Barnett, said.

"Our very enthusiastic players decided we needed to end



**TOP-NOTCH:** The Eastern Cape Philharmonic Orchestra will perform *Two Symphonies and a Tango* at the Tramways Building on Sunday. The concert will feature young Cape Town conductor Chad Hendricks, pictured, winner of the 2016 National Len van Zyl conducting competition

the year with another concert, a slightly bigger orchestra this time — not just strings players like the last one, but a few woodwinds, brass and timpani to add to the impact.

"We all need to celebrate getting through another tough year, and what better way than sitting back listening to beautiful live classical music again?"

"With increased numbers comes the need for a conductor — Chad Hendricks — he is new to us, which is exciting all round and we're thrilled to welcome him."

Hendricks's exposure to music and conducting started at an early age in the New Apostolic Church, and he began his conducting career after completing his BMus degree at

the University of Cape Town in 2015.

He conducted *Madness: Songs of Hope and Despair* — a cantata which highlights the plight of the mentally ill.

The performance combined art forms and multimedia to depict the stages of mental illness from the perspective of the patient, and was held at the Baxter Theatre in Cape Town in 2017.

Hendricks regards this as a highlight in his musical journey, because it represents the responsibility he believes all artists have to use their art as tools to enlighten and educate.

Barnett said *Two Symphonies and a Tango* would pair Mozart's *Symphony No 41, Jupiter*, with Schubert's *Fifth Symphony*.

The programme concludes with a tango by the king of this dance form, Astor Piazzolla, which the orchestra hopes will send people in the audience home with a tune in their head and ready for the festive season.

"*String Serenade* sold out days before the performance, and we sadly had to turn many people away, as Covid-19 capacity regulations are strictly enforced," Barnett said.

For the safety of patrons and musicians, proof of Covid-19 vaccinations are required for entry.

"We are serious about making our concert Covid-19 safe — we are only allowing vaccinated players to perform and we are expecting the same from our audience," Barnett said.

"A sad sign of the times, but something that is becoming standard at orchestral performances around the world, not just in SA."

Barnett said people's proof of vaccination would be checked on arrival and suggested concertgoers arrived early to avoid queues and to select their seats.

Seating for the Tramways concert, on the corner of Lower Valley Road and South Union Street, is unreserved, and tickets at R130 are available through Quicket.

### INVITATION TO COMMENT AND REGISTER

#### NOTICE OF SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT, AND WATER USE LICENCE AUTHORISATION APPLICATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF LOWER COERNEY BALANCING DAM, SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, EASTERN CAPE

Notice is hereby given in terms of Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) as amended, that the Department of Water and Sanitation is proposing to construct the Lower Coerney Balancing Dam in the Sundays River Valley Local Municipality, Eastern Cape Province. The existing Scheepersvlakte Balancing Dam is a balancing facility for water supply to the Lower Sundays River Water User Association and for emergency supply to the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality. The need for a new balancing dam on the Scheepersvlakte Farm is due to the inadequate smaller capacity of the existing Scheepersvlakte Dam to provide a water supply to Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality during an emergency situation. The main purpose of the proposed new balancing dam, at the Coerney site, is to eliminate the operational and balancing storage limitations imposed by the existing Scheepersvlakte Dam.

The proposed Coerney Dam site is located on Portion 7 of the Farm Scheepersvlakte No. 98, Farm 713, and Farm Enon Mission 574 (Remaining Extent of Farm 40). The coordinates of the centre point of the dam are 33°26'29.77"S and 25°37'23.68"E. Coerney Dam's footprint is approximately 77.1 hectares, and it overlaps with portions of the planned future development of Scheepersvlakte Farms. The proposed dam will be a Homogeneous Earth fill Embankment Dam (gravity), which will be supplied by the Kirkwood Primary Canal via a new pipeline and will have a storage capacity of approximately 4.69 million m<sup>3</sup>. The development of Coerney Dam and its associated infrastructure will result in the clearance of indigenous vegetation, which will have a direct impact on the nearby drainage line that is regarded as a watercourse. According to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014, as amended, a Scoping and EIA Process is required for the project, based on the following triggered Listed Activities:

• **GNR 983 Listing Notice 1** (Activities 9, 12, 19, 30, 56 and 63);

• **GNR 984 Listing Notice 2** (Activities 11, 15 and 16), and

• **GNR 985 Listing Notice 3** (Activities 4a (cc) (ee), 12 a i, ii, 14 (i) (ii) (c) a i (dd)(ff), 18 a i (aa) (bb) (cc)(ee) (ii)(kk) and 23 (i) (ii) (a) (b) (c) a i (cc) (ee).

These activities pertain to the development footprint of the dam and its associated infrastructure, infilling or deposition of material from a watercourse and the clearance of indigenous vegetation of more than 20 hectares respectively. A Water Use Authorisation will be required in terms of Section 21 of the National Water Act (NWA), 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998). The applicable Section 21 activities are:

21(b) storing of water;

21(c) impeding or diverting the flow in a watercourse;

21(d) engaging in a streamflow reduction activity, and

21(i) altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse.

Interested and/or affected parties who wish to participate in this process should do so by contributing comments and registering their interest. To obtain more information on the above-mentioned project please contact **Johan Nortje** on: Tel: 011 312 2537, Cell: 083 284 1556,

Fax: 011 805 1950, E-mail: [environment@gaenvironment.com](mailto:environment@gaenvironment.com) and [johann@gaenvironment.com](mailto:johann@gaenvironment.com) or Post: P.O. Box 6723 Halfway House 1685.

**PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTEREST IN THE PROJECT BY NO LATER THAN 21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2022**



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## Bethelsdorp CPF targets men's actions in anti-GBV campaign

**Roslyn Baatjes**

Men are the focus for the Bethelsdorp community police forum's recently launched programme for the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children campaign.

CPF chair Karen Kemp said as much as the campaign was about no violence against women and children, they were hoping to address the issue of a mindset change among men through dialogue and awareness campaigns.

"Through the programme, we are telling them [men] that they are role models and their actions affect their children, especially their sons.

"Sometimes they act or respond not realising their sons are watching their every move. "Those boys, in turn, grow up to follow their fathers' example.

"By changing their behaviour, fathers can avoid their sons becoming abusive towards women," she said.

Kemp said the CPF started its 16 days of activism programme last week by gathering 15 victims of gender-based violence to talk about their rights and the resources available to them.

She said they would have different activities throughout the campaign.

"We are having crime walks and in our door-to-door visits throughout the area we are

handing out our pamphlets and telling people what the procedures are when they are victims of abuse."

Kemp said it was equally important for victims of abuse to follow through with their cases once opened.

"Women often withdraw cases and it makes helping them in future quite challenging. We journey with them, but after they withdraw the case against the alleged abuser they get abused again

**'Women often withdraw cases and it makes helping them in future quite challenging. We journey with them, but after they withdraw the case against the alleged abuser they get abused again**

they get abused again."

She also thanked Eyona Energy for a R6,000 donation to enable them to be more visible to the community.

Trevor Lion, regional sales manager, said the company had partnered with the CPF to help it carry out its mandate.

"We decided to help her [Kemp] and the CPF and in so doing live our ethos for caring for the community," he said.