

## Visit to Thabo Mbeki Foundation

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**NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY**


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## GMMDC visits Thabo Mbeki Foundation and shares achievements

11/05/2022

Nelson Mandela University's Govan Mbeki Mathematics Development Centre (GMMDC) recently visited the Thabo Mbeki Foundation in Johannesburg to update the Foundation on their Maths and Science development work and honouring the late Dr Govan Mbeki's legacy in this way.




*From left, Prof Werner Olivier, Director of the Govan Mbeki Mathematics Development Centre, Max Boqwana, CEO Thabo Mbeki Foundation, and Flora Olivier and Carine Steyn from the Centre.*

The Thabo Mbeki Foundation CEO Max Boqwana warmly welcomed the delegation and said that he remembered the initial project media meeting with Dr Mbeki and the University delegation in 2001 where he was present.

Mr Boqwana also expressed appreciation on behalf of the foundation for the centre's initiatives, which have created skills and future opportunities for thousands of learners with potential from poor areas in the Eastern Cape and other provinces since 2002.

The team also shared information about their customised techno-blended educational models and resources for Maths and Sciences that resulted from engagement projects and action research during this time.

The centre was formally launched in the Science Faculty in 2002 after the late Dr Mbeki, or "Oom Gov", as he was affectionately known, agreed in 2001 to allow his name to be linked to an initiative to promote the study of Maths and Science in the Eastern Cape.



Govan Mbeki Doctor of Law (Honoris Causa) 2001

Dr Mbeki's strong stance on the value of education and, more specifically, skills linked to Mathematics and Science, was a natural link with engagement initiatives that were already in the Science Faculty at the time.

His statement on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday remained a reference for the centre to this day: "Our South African youth must study Mathematics and Science in order for us to become a winning nation".

The University awarded an honorary doctorate in Law to Govan Mbeki in 2001. Dr Mbeki died in September of that year and his son President Thabo Mbeki received it posthumously on his behalf in December 2001.

*"Our South African youth must study Mathematics and Science in order for us to be a winning nation"*

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**MathArt Project Book****Launch 2022**[Article Link](#)
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BRIDGING THE GAP: Staff at NMU's Govan Mbeki Mathematics Development Centre, from left, Flora Olivier, Victoria Shezi, Prof Werner Olivier and Carine Steyn are proud to see the publication of a coffee table book showcasing pupils' maths-inspired artworks gathered through the annual MathArt Competition

## New book documents difference made by MathArt competition

**Herald Reporter**

Mathematics and art have always been considered worlds apart, but an innovative approach to combining the creative with the calculated has culminated in the launch of a coffee table book, *MathArt Expressions by SA Youth*.

The narrative of the book emanates from the annual MathArt competition, organised by Nelson Mandela University's Govan Mbeki Mathematics Development Centre (GMMDC) since 2018, and encourages pupils to bridge the gap between the two subjects.

Centre director Prof Werner Olivier said the MathArt project was a practical way to promote creative problem-solving and trans-disciplinarity in schools in the form of maths-



**Through the competition, we can encourage learners and teachers to see maths differently'**

inspired artwork.

"In the book [launched yesterday] we explore what we've done with the maths and art project, and how we are working to promote the STEAM approach in teaching mathematics at school, in line with international trends," he said.

GMMDC project co-ordinator Carine Steyn said for the

competition pupils submitted a photograph of their artworks online, and the top entrants couriered their artworks to the centre for final adjudication by a diverse panel of judges.

The competition draws entries from every province, with many of the winning entries going on to be displayed overseas through the international Bridges Organisation.

"Through the competition, we can encourage learners and teachers to see maths differently.

"They are encouraged to see maths as not boring, but relevant and fun," Steyn said.

"One of our aims has also been to make the project as accessible as possible to all learners, especially those in under-resourced schools.

"All you need to enter the competition is a piece of a paper

and a pencil."

Olivier said using more visuals than words, the "roots" chapter of the book told the story of the centre and how its emphasis on STEAM education inspired the competition.

The "trunk" chapter expands on the competition and shares how it has grown from provincial to national level, and how it has also strengthened maths education.

The "branches" chapter describes the artworks received, and the different themes they have explored, while the "fruits" chapter depicts the unexpected outcomes.

The "reach" chapter covers the competition's footprint from an educational and international perspective.

The book is available on order at: [mathart@mandela.ac.za](mailto:mathart@mandela.ac.za)



## MobiTutorZA Academy Project in 2022

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**NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY**

Home > News archive > Programme to assist Grade 12 learners rewriting matric

### Programme to assist Grade 12 learners rewriting matric

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18/02/2022

Piloted for the first time last year, Nelson Mandela University's Govan Mbeki Mathematics Development Centre has extended its incubator school programme to assist past matriculants, giving them a second chance to pass their exams or improve their marks.

The programme, called GMMDC's Mathematics and Physical Sciences ReMatric programme, is already yielding positive results.

"Among the ReMatric learners, the average maths mark improved from 40 to 50%, while the average marks for physical science climbed from 44 to 52%. The top mark for maths was 73%, and for physical science, 72%," said GMMDC's Peter Weisswange, who coordinates the ReMatric programme.

Helle Hutton, a past matriculant on the ReMatric programme, was thrilled to pass her physical science exam in 2021. After failing the subject in 2020, her marks improved by more than 20% - giving her the pass she needed.

"Passing science means I now have options which I didn't have when I failed. I hope to pursue nursing as I'm passionate about helping others in a medical way but later, I hope to become a doctor," said Hutton.

"Helle's achievement was the result of hard work, of grappling with the required materials, and being totally engaged with facilitators and others supporting her in her efforts," said Weisswange.

GMMDC director, Prof Werner Oliver, said securing a R1 million donation had made the ReMatric pilot possible - but his hope is that this programme will grow even bigger, helping even more learners and young adults across the entire country.

"The latest results show that more than 23 000 learners failed matric mathematics in the Eastern Cape alone. This is up from the previous year, when 21 000 learners failed the subject.

"Around 8 000 learners rewrote matric mathematics in 2021 through the Department of Education's Second Chance Programme. But there are thousands more who would benefit from the opportunity.

"This revised hybrid model can help many more people engage in self-directed learning and tap into their own potential."

Oliver is also hoping to establish a MobiTutorZA Academy Programme at Nelson Mandela University, which school learners and current students can access, to improve their knowledge of maths and science and boost their chances of succeeding at post-school studies.

For more information on any of GMMDC's programmes, WhatsApp 064 044 0717 (preferred communication) or e-mail [gmmdc.nmu@gmail.com](mailto:gmmdc.nmu@gmail.com)



Helle Hutton, a past matriculant on the ReMatric programme, was thrilled to pass her Physical Science exam in 2021. After failing the subject in 2020, her marks improved by more than 20% - giving her the pass she needed. Photo: SUPPLIED

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The programme, called GMMDC's Mathematics and Physical Sciences ReMatric programme, is

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### Komani Karoo Express

17 Feb

## Programme to assist Grade 12 learners rewriting matric

Express



Helle Hutton, a past matriculant on the ReMatric programme, was thrilled to pass her Physical Science exam in 2021. After failing the subject in 2020, her marks improved by more than 20% - giving her the pass she needed. Photo: SUPPLIED

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## Giving pupils a second chance at bettering maths marks

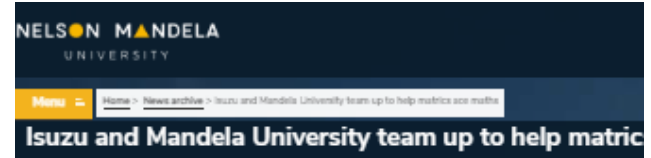
BY HERALD CORRESPONDENT - 18 MAY 2022



**SUPPORTING MATRIC 8:** Prof Werner Olivier, director of Nelson Mandela University's Govan Mbeki Mathematics Development Centre (GMMDC), with Isuzu Motors SA's Anovuyo Tshamese, third from right, and Niwe Poti, second from right, share their plans to support matric maths classes with Ethembeni Enrichment Centre's staff and pupils, including, from left, grade 12 teacher Noluthando Jakavula, principal Nobatembu Mandimo and grade 12 pupil Emihle Maqungo  
Image: SUPPLIED

About 60 grade 12 pupils at three Gqeberha schools have a chance of improving their maths marks and bettering their chances of getting into university thanks to an innovative programme.

The matric maths classes at Ethembeni Enrichment Centre in North End, Paterson High and St Thomas High — along with an additional 15 past pupils outside these schools who failed matric maths and are repeating the subject — now have access to Nelson Mandela University's MobiTutorZA Academy.



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24/05/2022

Isuzu Motors South Africa has teamed up with Mandela University's MobiTutorZA Academy programme to help Grade 12s ace maths.

Sixty Grade 12 pupils at three Gqeberha schools have a chance of improving their maths marks, and their chances of getting into university — thanks to a generous donation by Isuzu, enabling an innovative maths programme to run at their schools.

The entire matric maths classes at Ethembeni Enrichment Centre, Paterson High and St Thomas High — along with an additional 15 past pupils outside of these schools who failed matric maths and are repeating the subject — now have access to Mandela University's MobiTutorZA Academy, and the broad range of teaching and learning resources offered through its structured programme, which is available both online and offline.

These resources include technology-blended lessons linked to the Grade 12 curriculum, learner support in several different languages, mobile-based assessments, feedback via Zoom and many other tools, which have been tried and tested over the past 10 years by the university's Govan Mbeki Mathematics Development Centre — and have proven to help push learners' marks up in provinces throughout the country, even over the past two COVID-affected years.

"The MobiTutorZA Academy programme integrates technology to support the teaching and learning of maths and is aimed at self-directed learning outside of school hours," said GMMDC director Prof Werner Olivier. "It's all about giving learners skills for the future and creating jobs for our young generation."

"I'm so happy and excited that we've been given the chance to make use of all these wonderful resources," said Paterson High matric pupil Dylan Mntooz. "Not a lot of schools have these opportunities ... I'm also aware that we have a two-year gap in content [because of the COVID pandemic] and I know that with these resources, we will be able to fill those gaps and make everyone proud at the end of the year."

"The programme will give us the tools to expand our knowledge, and to get the future we want, and the careers we are going for," said St Thomas High's Siphosethu Ncudu.

Mandlakazi Sigwama, Isuzu Motors South Africa's department executive of corporate and public affairs, said the company was excited to investing in the future of these learners.

"Investing in someone's future is one of the greatest things you can do ... We are also really happy to be able to give young people a second chance.

"South Africa is facing the challenge of unemployment, and there are a high number of people that are depressed, especially among the youth. So, I think it is important that we do afford [people] these second chances. And it's great that there are skilled individuals, teachers, and professionals, willing to plough back into the community, by doing something great like this for students."

Olivier said Isuzu had also supported GMMDC to pilot the MobiTutorZA Academy last year. "In the pilot, we saw more than 10% improvement in all the participants' marks ... We are thrilled that they are continuing their involvement with us."

Any individuals and schools can subscribe to the MobiTutorZA Academy.

For more information, WhatsApp 064 044 0717 or email [mobitutorza@gmail.com](mailto:mobitutorza@gmail.com)



Supporting matrics: Prof Werner Olivier (far right), director of Nelson Mandela University's Govan Mbeki Mathematics Development Centre (GMMDC) with Isuzu Motors South Africa's Anovuyo Tshamese (third from right) and Niwe Poti (second from right) share their plans to support matric maths classes with Ethembeni Enrichment Centre's staff and learners (from left) Grade 12 teacher Noluthando Jakavula, principal Nobatembu Mandimo and Grade 12 learner Emihle Maqungo.

