

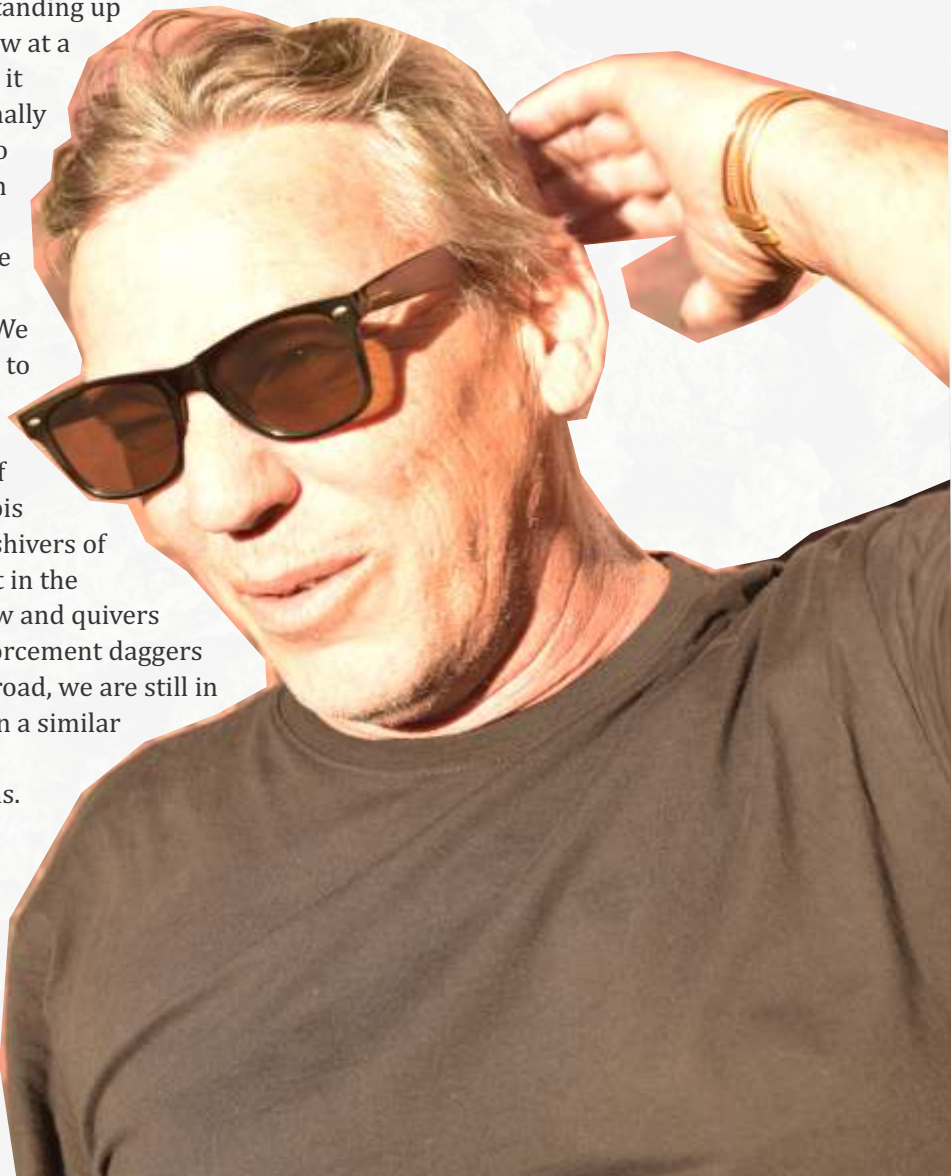


HEALERS NOT DEALERS

A NEW CORNER FOR CANNABIS

As the dealers are undergoing renaming to healers in the aftermath in the medical classification of the once illegal cannabis plant now reaching the scheduled depths in countertops of the mainline pharmaceutical world; how wide is the cannabis industry going to morph business, terms of reference and cannabis people in the pursuit towards adapting to an adept plant? In most industries the term dealer doesn't always come with stigma serve for when a run in with cannabis and the incriminated plants commences. The sudden shift in the term dealer is sinister in its becoming exactly that and yet the realm of the automotive dealer remains untouched with folks lining the pockets of Henry for his one model. The definition and the formulation of terms of reference is one particular arena that cannabis meddles around having been foundationally present in mandates of old ages. A walk with cannabis will in most cases present the sojourner with crossroads and new definitions where in a system that has over the year's red flagged the green herb and in the moment now faces a task of changing terms of reference to accommodate the rooted ganja, from naming to framing it's a game of terms of reference and rules of engagements. Bobby Greenhash

has footprints on the cannabis trail that is close approaching the merge with the tarmacadam and hence the shifting D to the halo H that is systemically acceptable. Bobby Greenhash aka Sheldon Cramer is no new name to the South African Cannabis industry standing up with the few at a time when it was criminally damning to be found in the same appearance with cannabis. We are talking to an era where the sight of the cannabis seed sent shivers of excitement in the future grow and quivers of law enforcement daggers down the road, we are still in sad truth in a similar error of perceptions.



In this cXs issue...

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HOW TO REACH US



Samora M



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Unbalanced

BY: Ganjahman Samora

The turbulents of this world swing from the confirmation of the lock of life, well they are always swinging but a reference point is always pivotal in the same timeframe we lock the Earthdays as being the conceived essence of our emergence. The walk to what is an equilibrium in managing the forces that be with the cause that seeks to become is the everyday act of the homeostasis mandate in our bodies, it's an ongoing system of rises and falls that ensure the boat remains afloat around the triangulation of the Bermuda.

Kushmas is a turbulent season on many fronts and the swing in modern times is coupled with a new Gringe that's showing up on a fourth call in pursuit of a second high star stop, now there is some eagerness in display. Water lives over everything in this world as the same living water since these realms became, and for water to keep living for so many billion years motion is a constants aspect of existence coded as a transformation in motion. In all states of being what chemically composites water; the aspect

of life is always in motion and in instances when that motion is dwarfed death becomes a new motion false death in that the old state changes and the new normal brings to the front an end to the use of the old as it births new life for the previously excluded and unknown, the system is always backed the whole mechanism of being in this state has a fail-safe stop and unless appositionally known we will continue to glide over the Alpha and Beta with no magnifical awareness.

That is the ground of stagnant swamps that houses what in a six lane pathway are the rejected of the water life. The named parasites that always intelligently find a host and a home in what would have been a stalled motion. Remember we are talking about balance and a swinging of states to remain within the corridors of another imposed state of being civil, it goes beyond just closing our doors and locking the cars yes that gives a sense of freedom to the self but will the gringe stop his binge down the range? Even no or maybe yes there is no middle ground and that is the motion of decision always

swinging in recalling and repositioning the cells of the body to remember their base function.

Only at a root level will the mycology relay the secrets of the winds and instead of just swinging we will know the right rhythm of the beat that is heating the masses to the water in motion and once the wave is aligned to the frequency of the pacer the beats of the band will heat the body's vital organs in synchrony with the coding. The mandate is two, the world is dual and to in swinging to the extremes in the heat or in the cold, to morph or to move always changing, all choices speak to change the old dream of consistency cannot remain alive under these near skies. So in the whirl wind dance with the eye, in the murky waters swim with the weeds always keep the car in motion and when significant commotion occurs one will see the motioning in darkness led to a pebble of a beautiful dance and in a stirring that seemed external we found an initiator to not only seek but to find and fold into a new balance with the internal that's ever in motion.



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HEALERS NOT DEALERS

Continued from Front Page

The CannaXpress cornered Bobby in Richardsbay, South Africa in the background of an official opening of a social cannabis club in the town. Whilst our setting was on the recreational cannabis front we were not talking tokes for folks but discussing the big shift the Bobby Greenhash Foundation had undergone in maneuvering with the spiral web that is legislation and a non-existent one on that front. Bobby speaks to the Viewspaper stating that “we have evolved from being an illegal cannabis trader, we really don't like the word dealer; to a legitimate business. We decided to make the cannabis industry in our space an honest and regulated industry with big consideration on that we were going on the medicinal front. In the absence of regulation and standards the people will get injured by hit and miss dosing and as such when we decided to step into this we decided to do it properly”. The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) has seen a large uptake on the section 21 framework of the medicines and related substance act which presents a legal way for access to medicines unregistered in South Africa. This is presenting an exciting dichotomy in that how will cannabis remain as unregistered medicines in a time of

SAHPRA registered cannabis grows? Thus the formulation of the middle ground that on which the Bobby Greenhash Foundation and other cannabis operations are walking on, a morphing industry that is branching out value add wings as the plant penetrates from the seed to the end user. A journey of maneuver is one which Bobby Greenhash continues to point out as he states that “over the years we have always paid our tax and we have had to fight through the system; we have had dialogue with law enforcement and the justice department to point out our mission including a council sitting where we clearly stated and showed that which we were doing indicating that we are here to rescue our Richardsbay town from the clutches of the economic woes, we are not *dom daggakop* (Dum weed head) and have had to keep pushing and it has cost me jail time, we have made all the mistakes and we are here to help others experience this is a fantastic industry”. When vision 2020 was echoed in the late 90s this change that was billed in the firework show of being millennium ready was fathomable to the frame of conscious beings, the looming change was real and inexplicable in words to five senses.

Continued on Page 6

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CANNABIS & WORKPLACE COMPLEXITIES

Lucky Look

Cannabis in the workplace is one subject that reels the rift like the issue of vaxx in the modern times, however cannabis is an age old truth that lingers in the lips of many in very existence. The cannabis community continues to glide as a reactive mass in an attempted response to rally with the dynamism that the cannabis plant is presenting in the different spaces that the people of

cannabis find themselves in. The sporting world has always had a stance that has informed continued visibility of the anti that is cannabis in the blood stream, the corporate world quickly as its nature adopts policies that positioning functionality and favours with the forces and in a flash fentanyl was fairer than sensimilla.

Continued on Page 5

House of Hemp tools Rasta Youth Farmers



RAS THAU THAU HARAMANUBA

Rastafari Youth Farmers gathered in the Midrand town of Johannesburg in South Africa in a bid through an asset based approach to continue to equip and empower the Rastafari Yut to identify and use the tangible and intangible assets in the formulation and operation of cooperatives. The gathering was facilitated by Sadi Motsuenyane and Dr. Johannah Keikelame under the roof of House of Hemp South Africa.

Daluxolo Kunene from House of Hemp Seven spoke to CannaXpress on the intention of the gatherings stating that "this has been our second workshop on such a thrust, we have had a workshop for women in farming, now with this Rastafari Youth in farming we are seeing a follow up event and we are looking to accommodate specialty groups such as Sangomas in farming also. The primary ethos of these

workshops is to facilitate community building and income generations that talks to sustainability, we are aiming at uplifting communities through the workshops".

The three day workshop that ran from the 6th of December was sponsored by the South African Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) pioneering the asset based approach through an ABCD workshop to enhance the capacity of farmers in the food, herb and cannabis sectors. Sadi Motsuenyane addressed the delegates at the workshop stating that asset based development is about people who see themselves first capable as having skills and recognizing the self as an asset. This she said as she spoke on the guiding principles of ABCD stating that "there are six key principles the first one stating that there is no one who is useless everyone has a gift" adding that there is need to nurture the gifts and to find out what the passions and the gifts are and to live them out. Ras Thau Thau Haramanuba who attended the workshop had an opportunity to address the delegates as the International Chairman of Rastafari United Front and spoke on

the ABCD model looking at the differences and similarities with reference the Rasta Garden model stating that "we have not been going very cooperate, very business, very ABCD so ever since yesterday that is the inspiration and the motivation that I have picked up from here" This he spoke as he rolled out the global presence of the RUF speaking to their mandates and the mission of the RUF.

Ras-Station Broadcasting Studio was present over the tenure of the workshop and facilitate the broadcast of the event to the inclusion of the virtual Rastafari youth community over the facebook platform. Seeing the government peering with mandates that whisper the name cannabis the change in the informed narrative on ganja is becoming evident by the day with such leading roles of involvement from the state these initial steps towards full inclusion and someday liberties for the cannabis plant are a welcome gesture.



FOR FRANCO Strain Hunters Episode full release this week

Samora M

Strain Hunters was pioneered as the undistorted on the ground cannabis experience relaying in plain sight African Cannabis Strains as they happen from Malawi to the Congo that stole the soul of Franco (may He soar in new light) the cannabis strain show now lands on the Umzivubu river banks to relay to the world Pondoland bud. In this trilogy offering Simon and Arjan are pushing the limits of what was not known on cannabis in Africa revealing to the world the beauty of cannabis untainted. The crew scavenged the terrains of the African landscape in search for the best beans offering the best tag along sit with some top class cinematography. CannaXpress Viewspaper spoke to Simon Sperring about the making of the show and the excitement about what this showing promises was all over his words as he stated that "The whole show is about celebrating Pondoland genetics, a huge part of my personal work has been making sure that the Pondoland genetics is registered for the amaMpondo people". This he stated indicating that the Strain

Hunters filming is facilitating for an in-depth research on the cannabis strain and that whilst the showing is for an audience beyond Africa, the cannabis seed always remains on the shores of Africa.

"We are going to show people a different kind of Transkei, something never seen before or even known by the community of South Africa". This trilogy promises to be a different offering and with the removal of the charisma that was Franco it was only fitting to see Arjan Roskam the founder of Strain Hunters post on an announcement of the New Strain Hunters South Africa stating that "For Franco - Franco is an icon that helped change so many people's lives, on his last trip to Africa he contracted cerebral Malaria and passed away after a short but severe illness. His work and passion for the cannabis plant helped change the worlds view and his legacy will live on for generations to come".

The first Episode of the showing will be screened on the Green House Seed Co YouTube page on Wednesday. The trailer of the show seemingly stationed along the

meanders of the Umzivubu River depicts the beautiful South African landscape and features Simon Strain Hunter, Dust and Mr. X alongside Arjan.

Quick Buy and Grow a grow shop in the Port Elizabeth City in Eastern Cape of South Africa hosted a pre-screening show projecting some never before seen footage of Strain Hunters at their facility in what the hosts described as a fantastic event. Adam Plumridge spoke to CannaXpress stating that "the showing was absolutely fantastic. Both Simon and Christoff are exceptionally knowledgeable and very humble

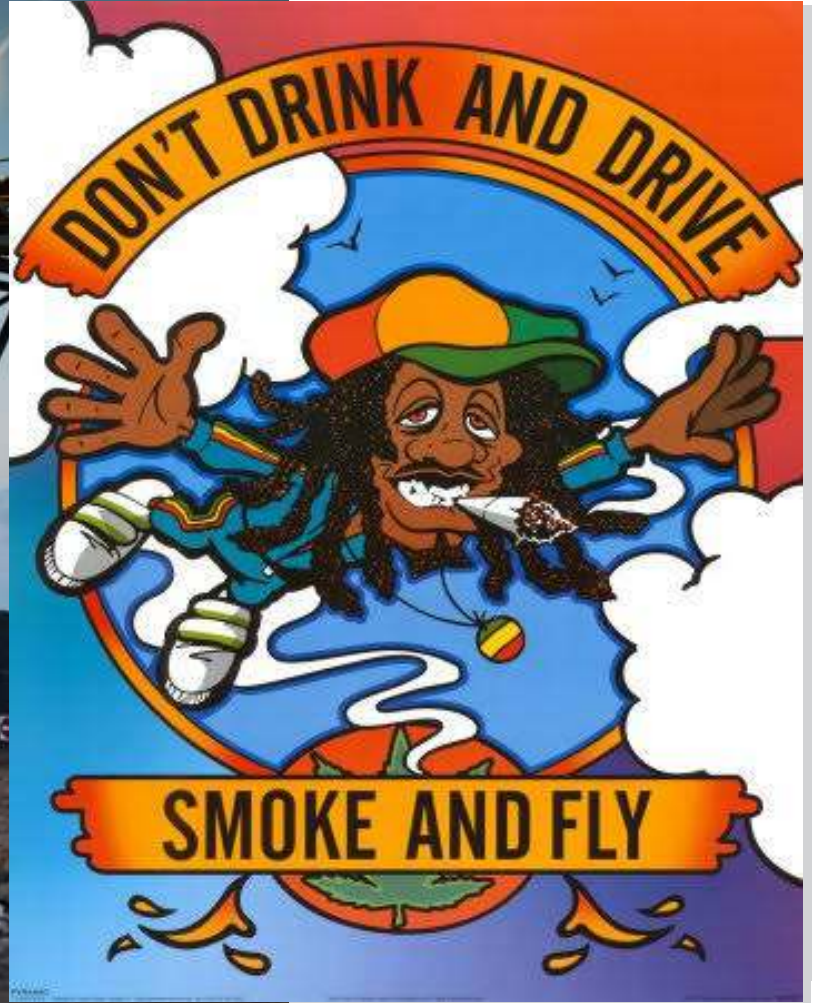
people. Simon and Christoff both traveled all the way from Port St John's to Port Elizabeth just for the pre-screening. The footage that was shown really had an impact on everyone there".

The strain hunters brings to the fore the untapped potential of cannabis in Africa and as Simon remarks in the trailer "i think we have found some of the best representation of the Pondoland genetics". The light of African Cannabis prowess is beginning to beam not only to the global world but to Africans within the Tropic of Capricorn now to set a reminder for the showing, it's time for some undoctored 420 entertainment.



Franco Loja (the late) and Simon the Strain Hunter

CANNABIS & WORK PLACE COMPLEXITIES



continued from page 3

On one of the rooms in the cannabis transformation corner there lives a standoff between the Employers and the Employees in conflicting policy. Privacy in use and grow of cannabis has been cleared off the gutters of government law enforcement agencies and yet they remain as a thick lining on the guts of the corporate monstrosity. The continued captivity of colleagues held under suspended regulation remains a suspense like room we walk into as we behold the dealings of cannabis in the work space.

Stanley Ngalanga a Human Resource Development specialist in the cooperate world and a friend of the cannabis plant spoke to CannaXpress on cannabis and the challenges in the work space stating that "whilst the general acceptance of cannabis as a recreational and medical window has brought in a fresh breeze, the door of stigma still remains locked in the work place and cannabis as a plant is still dressed the old uninformed policies in the boardrooms".

Cannabis activist and Rastafarian, Letty "Angel Fire" Mabaso from the Rastafari Community of South Africa (RCSA) holds a BTech degree in metallurgical engineering and said she used to work for one of the big mining companies and had to resign after she was forced to go for a drug test. "I cannot find work as an engineer because engineers are required to undergo a drug test every year and cannabis is one of those drugs they test you for," she said. "If they find you with cannabis in your blood, you are taken to a rehabilitation center."

Whilst the term drug positions another front for the work place dynamic, the door seems to be leading to another room for a gathering of informal cannabis traders and users who are fighting for the declassification of marijuana as a drug. The motive for this gathering is cannabis still howbeit it the vocalized standoff is that its classification as a drug is formulated as a feisty lock to exclude them in the cannabis value chain".

Angel Fire speaks on the possible employment solution halted by the

classification of cannabis as a drug with a live unemployment state update indicating that "South Africa is one of the countries that are hardest hit by the covid pandemic, and as much as the government is making efforts to create jobs, not everyone can be employed; So the question is what will happen to those that the employment system cannot absorb? Whatever reasons maybe?" The voice of a mind quietly pondering on a future of legislative uncertainties as she states that "It is either you stop being a Rasta, using cannabis, or you beg for work which unfortunately, I cannot do how do I dispose my spirituality just to work for somebody?"

The fire brand concluded as she stated that "this all emanates from limited understanding enforced by capitalists that marijuana is a drug it is not a drug but a herb that is natural, and I don't think a herb can be overdosed, only drugs can. We want marijuana to be taken out from the drug category. We are appealing to government to remove this classification because marijuana is a herb, this is a plant, not a drug. Drugs cannot be planted but are prepared in the laboratory".

Such are the rooms in the unwinding of a framework to accommodate the unravelling of a green machine that carries in its wings a revolution to life as was known for many industries. We are at the doors to a society that will in the few days grasp the full manifestation of the economy in cannabis on all its fronts. Those future moments will present the masses to motion for the unadorned removal of the clutches on the leaves of the cannabis plant and just then maybe once again free of the manmade locks the world of Cannabis will close the door to the imposed complexities a lost attempt to corner the circular, and in centering with the core facilitate the opening the eyes to a simplex reality.

DD&D SMOKE & FLY

Lucky Look

The festive time has occupied the Gregorian festive period and the messages are on the black mirrors as a constant reminder to purchase the milk of the gods but also to remain responsible, "Don't Drink and Drive" is the campaign on mainstream media. The response to that tagline almost comes as a cliché from cannabis enthusiasts when one speaks of drinking and driving the follow line is in subjective cases "Don't Drink and Drive, Smoke and Fly". Given the current grey aspect on legislative imperatives that is regulating and not incriminating in manner, there is a need to walk in remembering the spirit of the law that is given by the cannabis plant in the absence of the letter of the law scribbled by the hands of man. Legislatively it is still unclear if it is criminal offence to be smoking marijuana and get behind the steering in South Africa as there are no specified limits for detection of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in the blood stream. In England one can be arrested and prosecuted if the amount of cannabis traced in the blood is found to be above 2µg/litre (I wonder how much high that is). The re-emerging advent of the Draeger that costs upwards to R700 is presenting a possible roadside solution for states rolling out cannabis and drugs stop and search enforcement operations with indications of positive THC presence in under eight minutes, this Draeger and the UK are bent on curbing cannabis on the roads.

Whilst it may look like the law makers in South Africa have not quite given the issue of cannabis use and driving synchronously much thought the reality of first hand encounters between the law enforcement officials and say recreational

cannabis users on the roads cannot be overstated. The motives of smoking and driving might occur in magnitudes similar to those of drinking and driving thus emerging the hind state maintaining that smoking and driving is not illegal in Mzansi.

Arrive Alive Road Safety advocate Johan Jonck did not mince words on smoking and stating that smoking and driving was against the law on the backdrop of the September 2018 constitutional reprieve on cannabis. "It is not a green light to drive under the influence of dagga or any other drug having a narcotic effect. We need to understand that our rights can be limited by the rights of others and their right to safety," he said.

Section 65 of the National Road Traffic Act provides that *no person may drive a vehicle or occupy the driver's seat of a motor vehicle of which the engine is running on a public road while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drug having narcotic effect.*

The fact that cannabis in THC remains in a person's bloodstream for hours to days after use, a person who tests positive for marijuana isn't necessarily intoxicated.

Mpumalanga SAPS Spokesperson Brigadier Selvy Mohlala of stated that it is not easy for police to effect arrests for people found to be smoking and driving as there are no clear limits. "There are no specifications pertaining to the volume so I don't think one can be arrested for smoking in their vehicles," he said.

Presenting a differing view Rastafarian, Papa Jah Ra said smoking marijuana and driving gat the same time "is similar to drinking water and driving. It is not and should not be a criminal offence because marijuana intensifies one's awareness and thinking capacity," Papa Jah Ra said. "Smoking and driving should be encouraged to reduce road accidents".

In form suiting functionality we merge with motion to make the roads safer by not smoking and driving and yet on one end here is call indicating that smoking and driving can make the road a better place. Remember once again the spirit of the law given by the plant that is cannabis and echoes by the cultural icon that is Bob Marley "the herb is the healing of the nation" and just maybe the nation's roads.



WE NEED OUR OWN APPROACH

The South African Cannabis industry continues to grow from and in its infancy the frontline battles as far reaching as the simplicity pursued for the outright recognition of the cannabis plant potential, to the calls of the removal in the dagga stereotypes; One may be blinded by the magnitude of the journey seemingly in motion or not, perceptions determined by the vast aspects that is also cannabis. Vukani communications held an array of cannabis people in one tuft and what a blossom that garden of weed people under the covering of a cannabis conference became. The CannaXpress caught up with

one of the experts Dr. Regina Hurley who formulated a part of the wide array of speakers that spoke on varying matters on cannabis. Dr. Hurley spoke of the need to free Cannabis from the clutches in the boxes of conventional medicine "cannabis is a person based medicine we cannot treat it in the same way as other pharmaceutical medicines". This she stated as she walked the virtual delegates along the journey of medical cannabis from its medical history to the present state of affairs in South Africa.

"We need our own way as South Africa we need to develop our own rules, regulations and restrictions in the rolling out of the cannabis

industry", the cannabis regulatory framework players have over the past been guilty of like for like recommendations in a copy and paste fashion with models from as far north as Canada. In the outreach for a search for light it is always paramount to look within for solutions coupling into what would be a consultative Cannabis Master Plan.

The gathering and the discussions indicated a progressive development within the farming and medicinal fronts of the cannabis industry in South Africa, where as in the past discussions have zeroed around breaking ground and entering into the framework of the cannabis business, the conversations now speak to teething pains in the rolling out of cannabis initiatives. Cannabis as the Green and Gold of South Africa was highlighted by the President of the South Africa Medical Marijuana Dispensaries.



Dr. Regina Hurley



HEALERS NOT DEALERS

continued from page 3

With a crypto economy and a changing mode of clearances, the whole world is aware that change is here and Bobby Greenhash Foundation is riding on that alter frequency for the South African masses in a premise of stocking the main pharmaceutical distributors with some consistent medical grade full spectrum flower.

"It has taken us eight years to get here, we have followed the medical route to do this, however cannabis is not always about medicine there is the recreational and edibles market is still". In a flawed attempt to resist the virtual cookies bite in what once formulated the prime of Bobby Greenhash in the trademark coffee shops with edibles Bobby further adds that "consistency is key when producing edibles, the dosage inconsistency presents a huge pitfall".

The conversation cakes from the edibles to the basics of everyday business with Sheldon stating that "If you are growing cannabis to sell it you need to accept that you are in the business of cannabis and thus it is paramount that one carries out the operations of such an establishment as a business, It's a good business but it's a hard

business, I am not trying to push anyone away like I said we are here to assist people. We have the support of our local government and the law enforcement entities, we have managed to turn our haters into friends, it's important to have a good relationship with the community around you".

In conclusion CannaXpress query Bobby what informed making the call to morph into a this wing of medical cannabis business to which he states that "Cannabis culture is about changing things and showing people love instead of hate and conflict, I will continue to chase the dream in that we can help each other, we can get this right, cannabis business can be the most prolific and economic savior in this country". Cannabis is filling all the superlatives from the gold and green to the savior there is something mystical in the affairs of all things cannabis and what a magical merge this plant and pharmacy will now produce in transforming what was mistaken as dealers to healers.

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A PEAK INTO THE ONE CANNABIS ONE COMMUNITY SHIRT DESIGNS



TYSON HOOKS MALAWI GOLD

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roping in of the funds from the informal markets without leading to a collapse of cannabis industry. Malawi is under new leadership in the name of the Tonse Alliance Government, the unit has been murmuring change and a new thrust for the country as evidenced by the call by Timothy Mtambo Minister of Civic Education who addressed the resident of Malawi in Lilongwe stating that “it is time for all of us here to unite to come up with solutions to the current problems. We want to come up with strategies that will assist our country.” The Marijuana Army Commission South Africa (MACSA) stated that for the former world heavyweight boxing star Mike Tyson to be approached as a possible official representative of Malawi’s cannabis raises many critical questions about Malawi and their origin of cannabis. Mike Tyson recently launched another cannabis brand in Tyson2.0 and his passion for the plant was relayed in his remarks at the launch of Tyson2.0 as he stated that “I am just very excited about the launch of

this company I never anticipated anything like this, I am just very grateful and looking forward to the success of Tyson2.0”. The passion of the power puncher and his relationship with the plant is unquestionable as the boxer has also invested in a cannabis farm in his home country USA. If the deal between Tyson and the Malawi agriculture ministry blooms it is said to be facilitated by the United States Cannabis Association (USCA) with the primary aim at roping in cannabis investors and potential biters into the Malawi Gold cake. MACSAs Executive Board Secretary, Wuezile Mgidlana shared his sentiments with *CannaXpress* stating that the deal could mean “the country could be having a challenge internally on the communities that their cannabis is growing in terms of not being able to know its origin and possibly with less knowledge into the potential that cannabis is holding for the people of Malawi”. Duncan Nyirenda welcomed the decision to rope in Iron Mike stating that “the world is becoming a global

village who else wants to take the crown on cannabis and Malawi, Big up to Iron Mike”. The gesture was however met with some resistance from Malawi as on Non-Profit Organisations spoke on reservations on the approach sighting a 1992 sexual assault conviction of Mike as the point of objection one wonders how twenty years later the Tyson2.0 still manages to block those jabs forwarded at the man, but as he states in his socials “a mind that is still as sharp as these hands” can make big things show up ahead.



Minister of Agriculture (Malawi) Lobin Lowe

The gold from Malawi is a brilliant bud that is recreationally famed as one of the finest sativa strains from the continent, and with the state of Malawi not second guessing its resolve in turning the green plant into tradable gold there was no finer blow from the Malawi government to punch to the ground the hesitancy on cannabis by the populace whilst revealing the magnitude of the intent housed and taking the cannabis potential to the ring of inclusion; as displayed in the approach to appoint Mike Tyson as the countries cannabis ambassador . This follows the remarks by the Malawi Minister of Agriculture Lobin Lowe to have sent a letter to Tyson inviting him to take up the role as he detailed complexities in the cannabis industry and the need for collaboration within the cannabis space. CannaXpress caught up with a resident of the republic of Malawi stationed in the capital Lilongwe to talk about the nations appointment of Mike Tyson and the cannabis industry in the country to which he stated “the local cannabis industry in Malawi is under rated and not adequately authenticated, I have lived in South Africa and Zimbabwe and having witnessed the cannabis industry in those countries I can safely say that Malawi has to me what is the best naturally grown herb”. The presence of the cannabis plant and the informal economy is synonymous with the existence of the plant and the challenges facing the nations and governments is in most cases the

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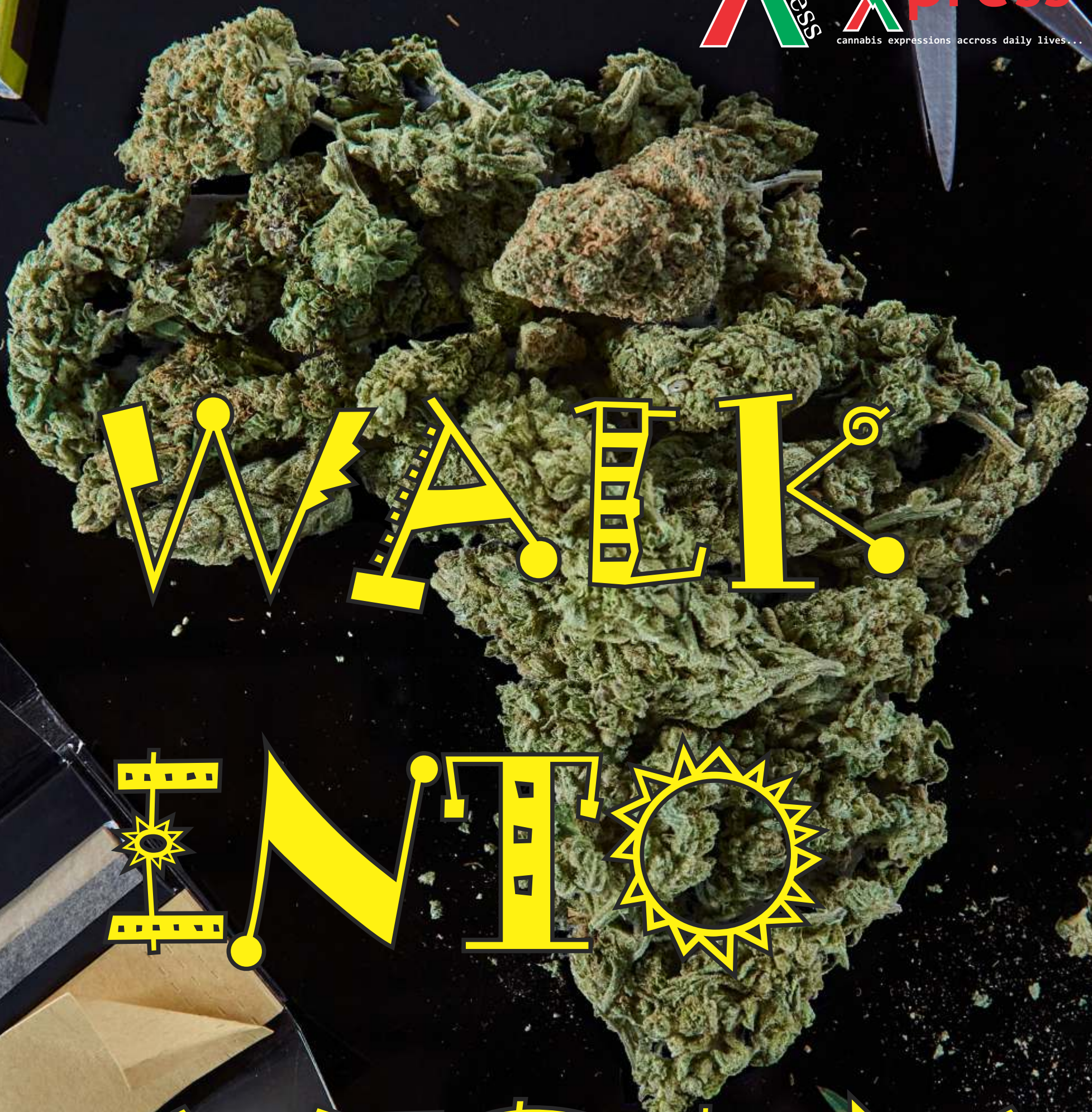
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Western pharmaceutical industries influence on local dagga production

Southern Africa ganja block overview ■ Tulani Ngwenya

With high hopes staked over Africa's dagga cultivation and its export, new fears loom over the extent of influence western pharmaceutical industries have on Africa's new and old businesses. Dagga optimism engulfing Southern Africa follows legalization of the plant's cultivation for medical and other scientific purposes.

Sibusiso Xaba, who is an investment banker and co-founder of the ACA Group, an advisory firm focused on the Africa cannabis market, has confessed that the southern Africa region "is one of the best places in the world to grow all types of cannabis".

This was also greeted with an influx of foreign investors from the global north taking keen interest in local dagga production processes.

In September 2021, the Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency (ZIDA) said, "We have licensed 57 investors for medicinal cannabis production from Germany, Switzerland, Canada and as well some local players". "Companies have been licensed for cultivation and processing of medicinal cannabis and they own 100% of their investment," the agency added.

Silas Howarth, the Cannabis Expo director pointed out that, "Global cannabis companies have also woken up to the reality that Southern Africa has the potential to supply the world with quality cannabis and cannabis products at competitive prices, and are pouring millions of dollars into cannabis projects in South Africa."

Schütz referred to international medicinal cannabis crowd-growing platform JuicyFields which is expanding its presence and operations in South Africa by connecting individual investors with licensed producers and distributors.

Globally medicinal cannabis industry is expected to reach a \$68 billion growth by the year 2027.

Southern Africa - South Africa, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Morocco, Malawi, Ghana, eSwatini, and Zambia are pressing to get a share of this market with Prohibition Partners, projecting Africa's contribution to legal marijuana to hit a \$7.1 billion mark by 2023.

It is clear that Africa stands to benefit from its global relationships with western pharmaceutical companies that have taken interest to invest and develop dagga cultivation, and production for medicinal and other scientific purposes in the region.

Some of the big players in this space include Canopy Growth Corporation, GW Pharmaceuticals Plc, Aurora Cannabis Inc, Aphria Inc, MedReleaf Corporation, Insys Therapeutics Inc, CanniMed Therapeutics Inc, Cara Therapeutics Inc and United Cannabis Corporation. Most of these companies have established operations across

several continents.

Canadian-based Canopy Growth holds licenses for cultivation and production in Europe (Denmark) and South America (Colombia) (having recently exited operations in South Africa and Lesotho), with access to more cannabis markets via joint ventures and partnerships across the world.

Along with economic structural changes in order to accommodate the *green gold*, governments have created enabling environments for multi-million dollar deals to be sealed.

Stephen Kafeero revealed, "On June 3, Goodleaf, which has become one of South Africa's pioneer commercial cannabis brands, merged with Highlands Investments from neighbouring Lesotho, in a deal valued at about \$45.2 million."

Prior to that in March 2021, Lesotho's MG Health, a licensed cultivator and manufacturer of pharmaceutical-grade cannabis extracts and products, became the first Africa-based cannabis firm to earn the much coveted EU Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) certification which implies that the company can make deals in the European Union market.

Researchers, Marta Rychert, Machel Anthony Emanuel & Chris Wilkins summarize GMP guidelines as "minimum requirements a manufacturer or producer must meet to ensure products are safe and of a consistent high quality. They are used to control the licensing for sale of food and pharmaceutical and medical products."

Sibusiso Xaba has said that, "Medical cannabis is regulated to similar standards as pharmaceuticals especially in Europe. Cultivation, processing, extraction, formulation requires rigorous thresholds of consumers safety. That requires a broad range of skills that we still need to develop at scale across Africa."

The role of western pharmaceutical companies in local cannabis production includes certification of seed, cultivation varieties, safety and processing.

In Zimbabwe for instance, the Ministry of Lands works with the cannabis investment agency together with the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe to ensure that the quality of the seeds imported meet regulatory requirements.

What this effectively means is that cannabis production processes associated with global trade are heavily regulated in accordance with western standards which is likely to trump upon traditional standards and skills.

Commenting on the influence of big cannabis business in Africa's production, Xaba said the legal cannabis cultivation comes with huge barriers to entry due to massive upfront investments, expensive-to-acquire licensing and need for technical experience across fields like agronomy, quality assessments and security.

However, Xaba noted that "there is a skills transfer process that takes place and local growers, processors and operations learn how to run a local facility to international standards, something that is desperately needed if Africa is to compete at an international level."

Despite having a rich a rich traditional, artisanal and underground history of cultivating and using cannabis, local producers need commercial expertise from global investors like Canopy Growth Corporation whose presence in Lesotho and other Southern African countries serves the purpose of transferring medical cannabis skills and standards to locals.

Xaba argues that it is impractical for local citizens to do away with foreign expertise for now if we are to go legal, commercial and international. Lesotho Member of Parliament, Sam Rapapa from Mapoteng, a constituency where illegal cannabis production is rife, revealed that growing cannabis on a small scale is still criminal except for a few licensed growers. The 2008 Drugs of Abuse Act silences illegal underground producers by requiring them to operate under a license from the Ministry of Health.

Putting pre-existing growers, these regulations came only recently due to the ever increasing interest by international companies. Lesotho small scale growers, who have been supplying the local and regional markets before the influx of big pharmaceutical companies wonder why their cannabis produce cannot be processed and exported legally together with the commercially produced crop.

Tomas Sadilek, director of governmental affairs from the International Cannabis and Cannabinoids Institute, explained that selling local, small scale growers' cannabis into the international market would be almost impossible.

He added that the need for consistency of strains is a necessity that could not be compromised when it comes to medicinal cannabis. "The problem is when you are talking about medical cannabis, you have to create an environment where you are 100 percent sure of what you are growing, and that's

impossible in your garden" explained Sadilek.

Explanation by Sadilek is consistent with Xaba's: "Medical cannabis is regulated to similar standards as pharmaceuticals especially in Europe. Cultivation, processing, extraction, formulation requires rigorous thresholds of consumers safety. That requires a broad range of skills that we still need to develop at scale across Africa."

In a research study, entitled, "Turning cannabis into cash: agrarian change and Lesotho's evolving experience", Bloomer (2019) identified "strong colonial overtones" and warned against the "takeover of the [cannabis] market by large corporations".

However, foreign investment in budding cannabis markets of Southern Africa comes with the much needed capital to kick-start formal production and for research and infrastructural development.

This was suggested by Abrol, Prajapati, Singh in their 2017 research paper, "Globalization of the Indian pharmaceutical industry: implications for innovation" who stated that foreign investment and knowledge transfer are attractive aspects in the medicinal cannabis sector, where production of cannabis for the export market must be in compliance with standards for international trade. After realising this reality, the Zimbabwean government chose to give back to its people by promoting local beneficiation, skill transfer and development of the local pharmaceutical industry. This the government did by permitting the establishment of the Cannabis Green Fund.

The Green Fund will be financed from the 20% share of the medicinal cannabis levy. The 20% share shall be used to implement, monitor and evaluate medical cannabis projects.

Researchers, Marta Rychert, Machel Anthony Emanuel & Chris Wilkins, in their 2021 journal, Globalization and Health concluded: "While foreign investment has facilitated the commercialisation of the cannabis sector in Jamaica, regulatory measures are also needed to protect the domestic industry and support the transition of small-scale illegal cultivators to the legal regime. Foreign investments may alter the economic, social and political determinants of health in transitioning from illegal to legal cannabis market economy."

REGGAE & SPORT FIGHT GBV

Photography By Ralenale Tshidiso Setshogwe



As the nation of South Africa rounds up on the International 16 days for no violence against women and children the Mzansi Reggae Festival sounded the spiritual anthems from the soul town of South Africa. The 2021 tenure of GBV activism is themed after the trailblazing legend in Charlotte Makgomo Maxeke; whilst under the radar choreography was her mastery so much so that fittingly a submarine is named in her honour. This gathering was not an under the water affairs as the message to the masses was clear we are standing against based violence. The Mzansi reggae festival belted beats of buoyancy against gender based violence and femicide from Soweto Johannesburg within the confines of present day South Africa in the locale of Orlando West. The gathering supported by Department of Sports Arts and Culture under social cohesion and nation

building mandate was hosted by the table shaker in Ntsiki Mazwai, the elaborate Ras Pablo and Danger. The day of solidarity in a unified display emerges as a continuation on a pathway towards ensuring that the community stands up to the scourge scotching our masses in particular women and children. The onset was a soccer tournament where reggae artists and selectors faced off in a synergy building run around with a football at Lebo Backpackers in Soweto. The same venue opened up to be an immaculate stage set for the Reggae community to relay the conscious vibrations. Ras Siphos ascended to the podium to resonate the message of solidarity for the cause and to highlight the importance of remaining consistent with the context of conscious reggae content that speaks to the everyday challenges faced by the women in our communities. "We need to ensure that we as reggae artists start to have a

message let's not just play music let us put content into context in playing music with messages that speak to the challenges faced by women in this country". Speaking on the reach of recreational activity to heal the mental fraternities Ras Siphos indicated that whilst soccer was the only mode of sport on the day the follow up offerings of the Mzansi Reggae Festival promise to incorporate other sporting disciplines such as netball. Ras Siphos echoed the sentiments of ages passed as he remarked that "the power of sport must be tapped into so as to defeat the challenges brought about by the strains of gender based violence". Togata the seasoned backing vocalists for the late Lucky Dube were clear on the mandate of the day in their promo clip for the event as they declared their stand against Gender Based Violence (GBV) and the scourge that it brings to the society stating "no to child

molestation, no to abusers, stop killing our children". The role of reggae music has over the years been used to relay messages that speak out in defense and protection of the rights of earthly sojourners. This sentiment was reechoed in 2018 the UNESCO added Reggae music to the list of cultural treasures worth protection in a world that is fast canceling culture. The Mzansi Summer Reggae Festival was graced by differing artists from across the country offering the diversity that is Mzansi Reggae to the crowds. Ntsiki Mazwai tweeted on her way to the event stating that "I love Rasta..." Rasta loves the Queens of Africa and in standing up to the challenges they are facing so emerges the Mzansi Reggae Summer Festival a worthy cause at time of generational degradation and with the alarming spike in the cases of femicide the concert is a much needed beat of the drum.

GO TIME FOR TEAM SA IN 1 WORLD 1 PLANT



Internal Affairs

From hundreds of homes across the globe emerges green smoke from under the chimney in the Inhouse Genetics One World One Plant Home Growers Showcase. The grow showcase has reached advanced stages for the 2022 global ganja growers to display their blossoming bud. This edition of the offering is a gathering of home cannabis growers from different homes around the globe sprouting seeds from Africa, Australia, and Europe to the lands of America. Brendan @ Inhouse_Genetics_rec spoke on the inspiration behind the grow showcase sighting the roots to a collabo project stemming from a conversation with the late Ronald Moore @Imgonzoe who would state that “every time I smoke I feel like I am feeding my brain...from that was born the Brain Food project”. Team South Africa is participating in this Inhouse Genetics powered first edition of a grow showcase tagged as “One World, One Plant”. This edition of the grow show case sees the land of the green and gold emerge with a green fingered unit composed of twenty-two growers led by the charismatic trichrome tamer in Fareez @Cannacrew42088. The CannaXpress spoke to Fareez after he had received the grow package for team South Africa and his excitement about the grow series was a clear as

the African summer skies as he stated that “when it comes to growing cannabis there is nothing first world or third world and with the calibre of growers we have on team South Africa we will definitely shine in this showcase”. @Attackoftheterps who formulates part of twenty two members in team South Africa stated that he was excited to be selected as part of team South Africa posting “I am so grateful to be part of this! Being selected for South Africa is a real privilege”. The grow showcase commences on the first week of January 2022 with a reveal of the secret strains that will be grown in this showcase. For an updated run on the showcase its time to follow @oneworldoneplant on Instagram. Brendan of Inhouse Genetics stated that “the Brain Food project led to an attitude change and a lot of people coming together to help one another and some people taking it to the next level”; with the current trichome attack displayed by @cannacrew42088 and associates the promises in this showcase speak to a gluey glide down the gallows of the red flame up that human chimney.

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TOGATA ENTHRALL THE CROWD @ LEBO'S BACKPACKERS IN SOWETO



SOWETO RAGGAE FEST



BEATS AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

**ITS GO TIME FOR TEAM
SA IN ONE WORLD ONE
PLANT SHOWCASE TO
SEE WHO GROWS
GORGEOUS GANJA**

Complete Story on Page 11

Photo Ralenale Tshidiso Setshogwe

