



KADER ASMAL ALUMNI

Linking Irish Educated Graduates with Employers in
South Africa and within the Region



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Introduction

The Kader Asmal Alumni (KAA) is pleased to present the first publication of its Graduates Profiles. The Alumni is very grateful to the Embassy of Ireland in South Africa and Business Ireland Southern Africa without whose support this publication would not have been released this early given that this edition coincides with the launch of Alumni.

Below are the Vision, Mission and Objectives of the Kader Asmal Alumni. Production of this Profile Booklet is but one of the activities geared towards the achievement of the Primary Objective.



Vision

A passionate and engaged Kader Asmal Alumni who have accessed and created opportunities in South Africa.

Mission

To foster continued engagement of Alumni through:

- ▷ Providing networking opportunities that add value to the lives of the Alumni
- ▷ Cultivate a culture of mentorship and philanthropy
- ▷ Create and maintain purposeful partnerships with relevant stakeholders

Primary objective:

- ▷ Connect a Kader Asmal Alumni members to career and entrepreneurial opportunities

Secondary objectives:

- ▷ Promote Ireland as a study destination
- ▷ Facilitate community outreach and upliftment activities in South Africa





Profiles

Meet Our Graduates:

Rhulani Lehloka

Sylvia Gertze

Thuso Mokwa

Justine van Rooyen

Inge Smit

Kelly Abrahams

Sizakele Serame

Rowland Chitate

Sarina Motsuki

Nicole Watson

Shamiso F V Chigorimbo

Itumeleng Mafatshe

Philani Nkwanyana

Kelebogile Kekae

Greer Schoeman

Phillemon Sithole

Patrick Ngwenyama (Zimbabwe)

Shaakira Yousuf

Lorna Born

Adv. Dominic Khumalo

Patricia Erasmus (Wragg)

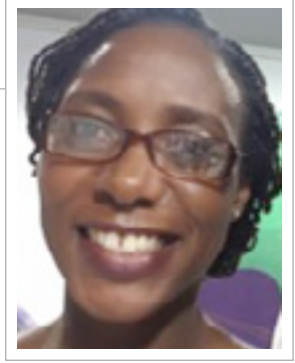
Dumisa January



Naomi Molefe





RHULANI LEHLOKA



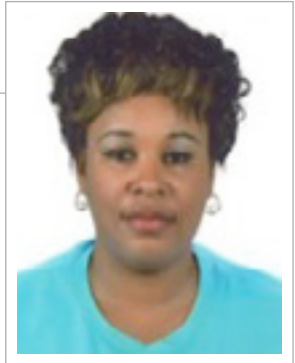
-  **Master of Public Health**
-  **University College Dublin**
- **KAA: Chairperson**



Rhulani is a passionate community development specialist with programme design, implementation, leadership and management experience in the development sector of South Africa. She holds a Master’s in Public Health from University College Dublin, Ireland. She has worked for LoveLife, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and was the previous Executive Director of The AIDS Consortium.

She is currently employed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Her leadership portfolio includes being the previous Chairperson of the NGO Sector of the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC); Chair for Track 5 – Best Practices: Programmes, Communications and Community Engagement (SA AIDS Conference 2017) and currently Chairperson of the Kader Asmal Alumni.

She is the founder and owner of African Idony, a consultancy focusing on social and developmental issues and also serves as a moderator for the Public Health programme at UNISA – these are her future interests which she hopes to further pursue.

SYLVIA GERTZE

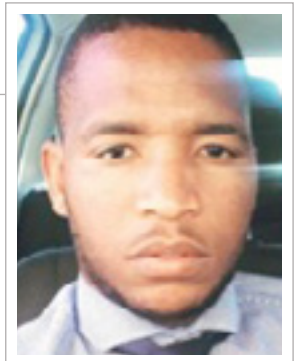


-  **Master’s in Strategic Management & Planning**
-  **University College Dublin**
- **KAA: Deputy Chairperson**

Sylvia is the owner of Sylvia Gertze Attorneys, a law firm which focuses on commercial law, supply chain management, corporate governance, construction law, contract drafting and municipal law. She has worked for organisations such as the Ethewini Municipality, Umzinyathi District Municipality, Legal Aid South Africa and consulted for the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

She is currently the Deputy Chairperson for the Kader Asmal Alumni (NPC) and aims to use her skills and expertise to advocate for an improved education programme within South Africa. She is an Associate for the Association of Arbitrators and is an Ethics Officer Certified by the Ethics Institute of South Africa.

THUSO MOKWA



-  **Master of Science in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development**
-  **University College Dublin**
- **KAA: Treasurer**

Thuso Mokwa is currently working as an Agricultural Economist at Standard Bank of South Africa (SBSA). In his position, he acts as the custodian of the bank’s agribusiness strategy in the Northern Cape province. In his role, he is entrusted with the responsibility to give an independent view to protect the bank and clients’ interests. He was under the Kader Asmal Scholarship class of 2015/16 and studied a MSc in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development at UCD. Thuso is passionate about policies and strategies in the Agricultural sector.

He is interested in advancing his career into international markets, where he wants to focus on multilateral trade. He is currently studying towards his MBA at UFS Business School to broaden his business knowledge and acumen. Thuso has also served in various NPO/NGOs executive structures and is currently serving in Kader Asmal Alumni Executive Committee as the Treasurer.

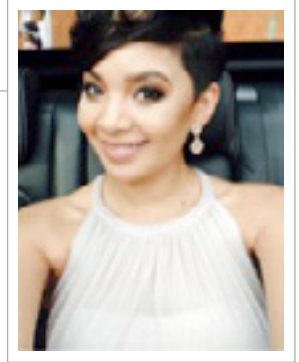


JUSTINE VAN ROOYEN

 **Master of Science in Global Health**

 **Trinity College Dublin**

 **KAA: Secretary**



Justine was one of the first South African scholars to be awarded the Kader Asmal Fellowship in 2013. She holds a Master of Science (MSc) degree in Global Health from Trinity College Dublin. She is proud to be a member of the Kader Asmal Alumni and serve as the secretary to ensure the alumni group remains engaged, enthusiastic and valued.

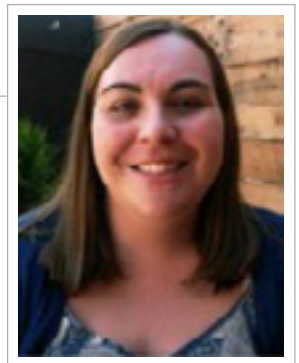
Justine has vast experience in gender, gender mainstreaming, gender identity, sexual reproductive health rights (SRHR) and its intersections to the HIV epidemic in South Africa. She has worked at the AIDS Foundation of South Africa for the SRHR programme, the Culture and Health programme supporting advocacy initiatives, as well as monitoring & evaluation for 6 years. Following this position she worked at Maternal Adolescent and Child Health (MatCH) as the Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator for the EQUIP programme, which provides support to 18 countries for the prevention, care and treatment of HIV and associated diseases, and to create channels for affordable and accessible health care.

She currently holds a position of Research, Monitoring and Evaluations Adviser at IPAS, an international organization supporting SRHR whose slogan is "Health. Access. Rights" which aligns completely with her passion toward inclusivity and equity.

INGE SMIT

 **Master of Public Health**

 **University College Dublin**



Inge was fortunate enough to be part of the Kader Asmal Fellowship 2015/2016 and pursue her Master's Degree in Public Health (Global) at University College Dublin. She is currently working as a Research Assistant at the University of Cape Town, and her skills include medical laboratory experience in Real-time PCR, ELISA, MS-MS, HPLC, DNA and RNA extractions.

Inge has experience in working in a biosafety level 3 laboratory, has experience designing questionnaires, and understands epidemiological studies and how to analyze data using statistical packages such as STATA and SPSS. Her previous job experience includes in-depth knowledge and practice of systematic reviews, regulatory binders and how a research study operates. Inge is currently searching for a job opportunity that focuses on research and policy development that specifically focuses on mother and child health.

KELLY ABRAHAMMS

 **Master of Public Health**

 **University College Cork**





Kelly is a Kader Asmal Fellow, who graduated with her Master of Science in Public Health from University College Cork in 2017, specialising in online news media coverage of infectious disease (Zika) in a globalised world.

She is a founding member of the Kader Asmal Alumni. Kelly's passion is the intersection of health, communication and globalisation and her academic studies include political science and international studies. She has had the privilege to study in South Africa, the Netherlands, USA and Ireland as an exchange and full-time student.

Kelly has been a report writer for a community health monitoring project at the human rights NGO, *Black Sash*, and a social science research officer on an international HIV prevention randomised control trial at the University of Stellenbosch. She is currently employed as a content writer for online training material, and plans to further her career in the area of strategic planning, which includes scenario building and future planning.



SIZAKELE SERAME

 **MA Rural Sustainability**
 **National University of Ireland, Galway**

Sizakele Serame obtained a Master's in Rural Sustainability in 2017 and her undergraduate qualification is a BA in Geography and Environmental Management from the University of the Free State. She is passionate about education, rural development, environmental management and equality. Sizakele's passion is reflected in the positions she has held, which include assistant researcher and student assistant at the University of the Free State, secretary and founder of the LGBTI organization Rainbow Seeds, a volunteer teacher at OR Tambo Secondary School, volunteer researcher at GreenPeace Africa and is currently pursuing a Postgraduate Certificate in Education while being a volunteer teacher at Tshabalala Primary School.

She is a member of the Golden Key Society and Kader Asmal Alumni. Sizakele hopes to one day be a part of an organization that is dedicated to developing rural areas through the empowerment of marginalized groups, including but not limited to women, children and members of the LGBT community.

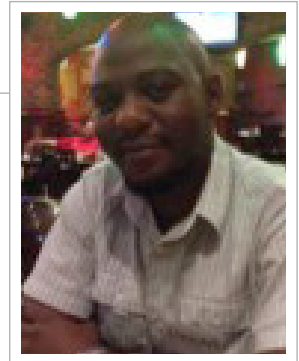


ROWLAND CHITATE


 **MSc (Agr) Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development**
 **University College Dublin**

Rowland obtained his qualification while being part of the second group of the Kader Asmal Fellowship. He has worked in the field of child welfare for the past eight years and has a passion for helping individuals and communities access resources, overcome institutional barriers and negotiate life's daily challenges.

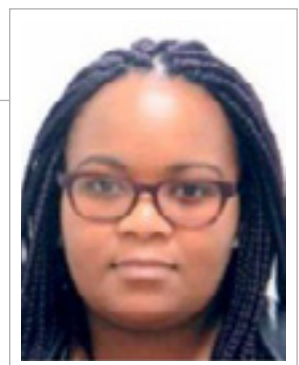
His desire to do so inspired him to study in a field that is relevant to the needs of the majority of those who reside in Southern Africa for whom rain-fed agriculture continues to be a way of life. His interests are in creating policy that is sensitive to gender and family dynamics, programme implementation and designing, including field work in helping communities as they make climate change adaptations. His future plans are to fulfil his area of interest and contribute meaningfully to communities affected by climate change. He is also a member of Kader Asmal Alumni.



SARINA MOTSUKI

 **MSc in Climate Change**
 **National University of Ireland, Galway**

Sarina Motsuki is an alumna of the Kader Asmal Fellowship Programme. She completed an MSc in Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) at the National University of Ireland, Galway. She holds an honours degree from the University of Cape Town in Environmental and Geographical Sciences and is an avid reader. Previous work experience from Lafarge South Africa in environmental management include ISO 14001, environmental law, biodiversity as well as waste and water management. She has further experience in the education sector from UNISA, and is passionate about sustainability, gender equality, social justice and environmental/climate justice. She is exploring her leadership skills by starting an NGO with a focus on early childhood development and providing careers advice to high school students.



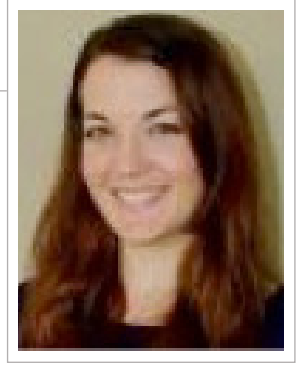


NICOLE WATSON

 **MSc. Strategic Management & Planning**

 **University College Dublin (Michael Smurfit Business Graduate School)**

Nicole Watson is currently a member of Kader Asmal Alumni and works full-time as an Account Manager at Mobenzi Technologies, a not-only for profit technology partner, where she works with nonprofits and health organisations to implement elegant, digital solutions to measure, monitor, evaluate and report on impact to funders and other stakeholders.



She is passionate about ICT4D and social entrepreneurship and has experience working with a broad range of organizations such as Code4Cape Town, where young women from disadvantaged backgrounds are empowered to leverage technology for social innovation so that there is greater diversity in the African tech industry; my hands and heart, a volunteering initiative that has partnered with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) to connect young people with volunteering opportunities as stepping stone to employment; and was a draft committee member that worked on the UN Major Group Children and Youth WHS Thematic Paper 'Transforming Through Innovation' and the Position Paper on Doha Youth Declaration on Reshaping the Humanitarian Framework.

SHAMISO F V CHIGORIMBO

 **MA International Development**

 **University College Dublin**

Shamiso F V Chigorimbo is a Kader Asmal Fellow 2013-2014, with a MA in International Development from the University College Dublin, in Ireland. Following that Shamiso has worked in various research and project management as well as administration roles in the NGO sector.



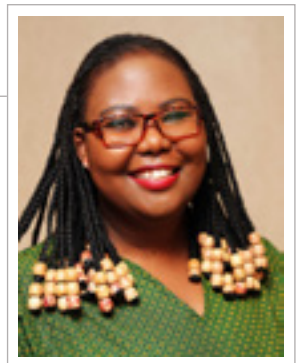
Future plans include seeking funding to pursue PHD research on entrepreneurship and social security, exploring innovative and creative management skills entrepreneurs have used that are non-academic or conventional.

ITUMELENG MAFATSHE

 **Master of Science in Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security**

 **National University of Ireland, Galway**

Itumeleng Mafatshe is Senior Researcher, Policy Analyst, Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist and International Development Practitioner with roots deeply embedded in Climate Change, Sustainable Development, Food Security, Energy, Agriculture, Gender and Politics.



Itumeleng's academic training focuses of Political Science, Sociology and Climate change issues. She holds two Master's degrees: a dissertation only Masters in Arts (Political Studies) from the University of the Witwatersrand as well as a Master's in Science (Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security) from the National University of Ireland Galway, under the prestigious Kader Asmal Fellowship Programme. She is a former graduate research fellow of the International Livestock Research Institute in Kenya under which she conducted research on how dairy intensification contributes to climate change adaptation amongst women and men farmers in rural Tanzania. Itumeleng has participated in international and local conferences as a student, academic and activist and has also served on the Student Representative Council as the Deputy President at the University of the Witwatersrand, holding multiple student leadership positions locally and abroad.

Itumeleng is a member of the Kader Asmal Alumni, and currently works as a Deputy Director: Research and Data Analysis in the Office of the Premier in Gauteng, her career interests are in research and development cutting across her earlier mentioned areas of interest and expertise.



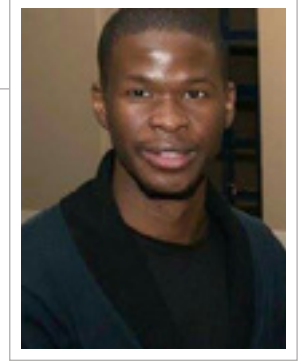
PHILANI NKWANYANA

 **MSc Management (Business management)**

 **University College Dublin**

Philani is a recent graduate with a Master of Science in Management from UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School (2017). After graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Life and Earth Sciences (Microbiology and Plant pathology) from the University of KwaZulu Natal, he completed a Bachelor of Science honours degree from the University of Stellenbosch. During the mid-year study break in 2014, he worked at Citris Research International with the post-harvest technology division.

In 2016, Philani did some agricultural research work at South African Sugarcane Research Institute where he used biotechnology techniques to identify a plant disease. He has strong interests in various sectors such as Life Sciences, Bio-technology and Agricultural Technology to name a few. Philani is actively seeking entry/mid-level employment and entrepreneurial opportunities.



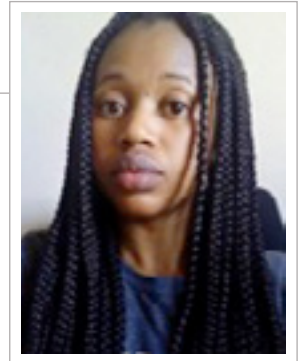
KELEBOGILE KEKAE

 **Master of Science in Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security**

 **National University of Ireland, Galway**

Kelebogile Kekae is a member of the Kader Asmal Alumni. She studied for her masters' degree in Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security at the National University of Ireland, Galway. As a requirement upon completion of her masters' degree, she completed her research project working as a graduate intern at the International Livestock Research Institute in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa. Her interests are in development of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies for the agriculture sector in South Africa and the African continent. Kelebogile is also interested in the development of sustainable agricultural systems in South Africa.

Amongst her future plans, Kelebogile plans to develop an independent scientific research institute that will focus on the development and use of cutting edge technologies, policy development and implementation and financial support, with the aim of strengthening the South African research for development within the Agricultural sector.



GREER SCHOEMAN

 **Masters in Social Policy**

 **University College Cork**

Greer is an experienced project manager who is passionate about gender equality and women empowerment. Her research interests include health promotion as linked to empowerment; and mechanisms for meaningful participation of women and girls in all their diversity in the advancement of sexual and reproductive health and rights.


With experience working at Africa Free on New HIV Infections (AfnHi), SANAC and ANOVA Health Institute, Greer hopes to continue working in this sector by making tangible differences in the lives of young women and girls. She is proud to be part of Kader Asmal Alumni and a representative of the Cape Town chapter.

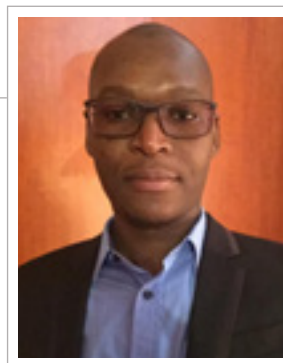




PHILLEMON SITHOLE

 **Master of Business**

 **Waterford Institute of Technology**



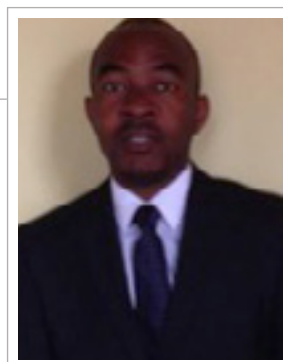
Phillemon was a Kader Asmal Fellow and obtained a Master's in Business from Waterford Institute of Technology, specialising in management. He is interested in the intersection of business and politics, SME development, Knowledge Management and International Business with a special focus on sub-Saharan Africa. He completed in-company projects for Nemeton TV on revenue diversification and Swift Print on business development. He served as the Chief Editor for The Pen and its corporate magazine and occasionally writes opinion pieces for the online newspaper Khuluma Africa on the topics of entrepreneurship development in Africa, youth leadership and corruption. He also served in

the Postgraduate Forum at TUT and as Policy Advisor for ChildLine Limpopo, an NGO. With over six years professional working experience working in higher education, research and knowledge of public policy, he is looking for opportunities in the areas of market research, management consulting, SME development and international business development.

PATRICK NGWENYAMA (ZIMBABWE)

 **MSc Food Science**

 **University College Cork**

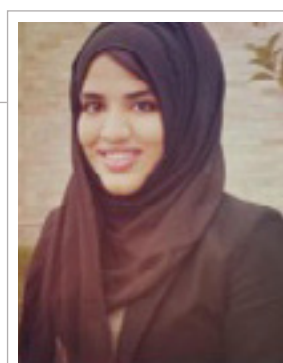


Patrick Ngwenyama is a 2014 cohort Kader Asmal Fellow and graduated with a first class honours in MSc Food Science in 2016. Patrick is currently lecturing in the Food Science department at the University of Zimbabwe and pursuing a PhD in Postharvest Science and Technology. His research work aims to help smallholder farmers on ways (technologies) to preserve their produce in a cost-effective and smart way therefore ensuring food security. Patrick has worked in the manufacturing sector for several years in Zimbabwe and South Africa in the capacity of Food Technologist.

SHAAKIRA YOUSUF

 **Master of Science in Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Development**

 **University College Dublin**




Shaakira graduated her Master's of Science in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development with First Class Honors from the University College Dublin, Ireland and now forms part of the Kader Asmal Alumni.

On her return, she joined the ASRI Future Leaders Program as a fellow where she was able to further develop her knowledge base to equip herself with the necessary skills to better apply her capabilities in the development field. She interned at the Endangered Wildlife Trust where she worked under the Urban Development and Biodiversity and Business Programmes.

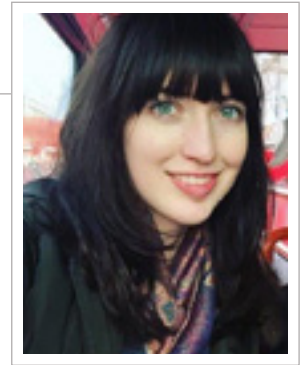
She aspires to explore social justice by tapping into the powers of collective action as well as public participation within rural communities. She maintains that her academic background; which is not only focused on sustainable livelihoods and capacity building, but also a strong social and governance aspect, has positioned her in good stead to make a tangible difference to South African citizens.





LORNA BORN

 **MSc in Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security National**
 **National University of Ireland, Galway**

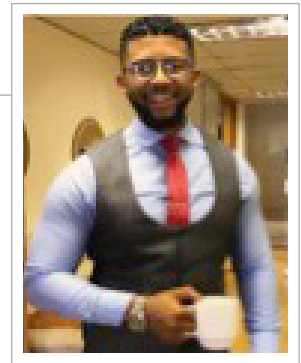
Lorna Born recently graduated with an MSc in Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security from the National University of Ireland Galway. It was there that she discovered her interest in climate risk management, particularly for smallholder farmers. Lorna's thesis investigated a project on risk management for farmers in Zimbabwe, with a focus on index insurance. She is currently working at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in Colombia, focusing on a project about areas for investment in climate services that will most benefit farmers. Lorna hopes to one day study towards a PhD in climate risk management for farmers under a changing climate.



ADV. DOMINIC KHUMALO

 **Masters of Science (Business Management)**
 **University College Dublin**

Dominic is currently the Head of Research and Cabinet Director in the office of the Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services. His passion stretches from Information, Communication and Technology policy and regulatory development. At age 26, he was enrolled and admitted as an Advocate, soon after he worked at Vodacom as a Legal & Commercial Specialist, subsequently becoming a National Account Manager. He is shortlisted for the Fulbright Scholarship to pursue a Juris Doctor (JD)/Ph.D in Law in the United State of America. Dominic is also an activist in the student movement, assisting students to apply for scholarships, especially at a postgraduate level.

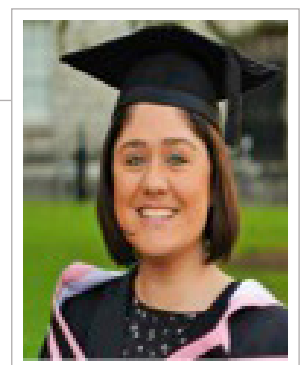


PATRICIA ERASMUS (WRAGG)

 **LLM Master's degree**
 **Trinity College**



Patricia Erasmus (Wragg) completed her LLB Law degree at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal and then served her articles of clerkship at the University of Pretoria's pro bono legal aid clinic. After completing her articles she stayed on as an attorney and then law clinic manager, specialising in providing free legal services to indigent members of the community. She then moved to Lawyers for Human Rights where she managed a pro bono legal aid clinic, assisting refugees and asylum seekers with the protection of their rights.

Patricia developed a passion for impact litigation and was promoted to the head of the Refugee and Migrant Rights Programme where she expanded her work with women, migrants, children and other vulnerable groups. Patricia completed her LLM Master's degree with distinction at Trinity College in 2017 and she currently works at the University of South Africa as a teaching assistant in the Department of Economic and Management Sciences. Patricia is driven to pursue justice for the vulnerable sectors of society and believes that advocacy, survivor empowerment, community education and (where necessary) strategic litigation all have great power to impact policy, protect rights and hold leadership accountable.





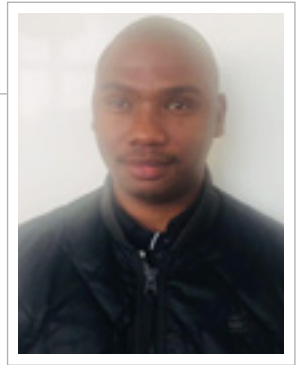
DUMISA JANUARY

 **MSc Strategic Management and Planning**
 **UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, Dublin**



Dumisa January is a Kader Asmal Fellow for the year 2016-2017 and has background qualifications in BSc Applied Geology and BSc Applied Geology (Hons.), obtained from the University of the Western Cape.

Dumisa was awarded the Kader Asmal Fellowship to study MSc Strategic Management and Planning at UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School in Dublin, Ireland. He is currently working for the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) which is an entity of the Department of Science and Technology (DST). His role is to support business development by providing funding to SMMEs.

His professional aspirations are to be a Strategist within the Public Sector. Monitoring and Evaluation within any industry is critical to the advancement and efficiency of the organization. This role would ensure that the mechanism of evaluating and monitoring are in place for operational effectiveness. Not only will the role add value to Public Institutions but it will also advance the efficiency of public entities.



NAOMI MOLEFE

 **Master of Science in Strategic Management and Planning**
 **UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, Dublin**

Naomi Molefe has graduated from the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, with a Master of Science in Strategic Management and Planning. She completed her undergraduate degree in Social Sciences, majoring in Psychology at the University of Pretoria in 2009. She has extensive experience as a researcher and data analyst with a demonstrated history of working in Higher Education, NPO, as well as the private sector. Her human capital skills are in Graduate Recruitment, Management, Succession Planning, Social Media and Training.

She is currently working as a Senior Manager: Digital Practice - Africa at Evolve Executive Search. As a strategist and business development manager she is tasked with finding new markets within Digital Technology, early adopting of clients, engaging with the digital technology ecosystem, working to build solutions for current as well as new clients, planning for future services and solutions.





KADER ASMAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The Kader Asmal Fellowship Programme (KAFF) is part of Ireland's programme of development cooperation in South Africa and was launched in 2014. It aims to contribute to addressing the skills shortage in South Africa particularly among members of disadvantaged communities. It does this through the provision of one year post-graduate studies in Ireland. KAFF is named in honour of the late Professor Kader Asmal, former Minister for Water Affairs in the first democratically elected South African government and former Minister of Education. Professor Asmal was also the founder of the Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement and the Irish Council of Civil Liberties, as well as former Professor of Law at Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and at the University of the Western Cape (UWC). In an effort to increase the number of fellowships awarded the Department of Higher Education and Training started making financial contributions to the Programme from 2016.

A total of at least ten Fellowships are awarded each year in a number of defined areas which are subject to regular reviews and may be amended as the Programme evolves. These areas are:

- ▷ Business Management
- ▷ Agriculture, Food Science & Nutrition
- ▷ Public Administration
- ▷ International Relations / Development / Economics
- ▷ Human Rights Law
- ▷ Gender Studies

Fellowships are awarded for appropriate postgraduate courses available in the Universities and Institutes of Technology listed on www.educationinireland.ie. A comprehensive list of what courses are on offer is published every academic year to accommodate changes within institutions.



Contact: Justine van Rooyen | Secretary | justinevr@gmail.com



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