



COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS: Pastor Samuel Ambraal and his wife, Brenda, operate a soup kitchen from their Vergenoeg home. Picture: THEO JEPHTHA

Retired pastor always there for needy and hungry of Vergenoeg

ZENAKHE GXASHE

After retiring, Pastor Samuel Ambraal started a soup kitchen catering for about 60 children and 40 adults in Vergenoeg and its surrounding suburbs.

He works with his wife Brenda and all the meals are prepared and distributed from their Vergenoeg home.

Ambraal, who is also a commissioner of oaths, realised his calling to serve when he used to transport his late pastor and mentor, Pastor Errol Williams.

They would drive around Oxford Street in East London and come across many homeless people.

"We started by distributing clothes which we mostly collected from the church congregants.

"The decision to start a soup kitchen was made in 1999. Operating informally, we were able to cook in our home, using a gas stove, until we officially reg-



istered our NPO.

"We served the East Bank, Scenery Park, Pefferville and Sewende Laan communities.

"The distribution of the clothes and food to the needy started in January 2000.

"I worked closely with the late Pastor Williams's wife, the late Phyllis Williams.

"We would do the distribu-

tion at night starting from the then Premier Bakery to the beachfront."

Ambraal's aim is to have a well-run establishment which operates across the city.

"It is amazing how God can stretch his hand and that is why we did not want to focus on one area."

But there were challenges. "In 2020, amid everything I was busy with, I was admitted to hospital for three months after testing positive for Covid-19."

The soup kitchen came to a halt for five months until he regained his health.

"God came through for me and helped me to cling on to life. It was the grace of the Lord.

"I then decided to move the soup kitchen from my house and into the communities.

"We were able to do all that using my bakkie. Fortunately, there have been people who are sponsoring the food we cook,

such as mealie meal, flour and vegetables.

"I also have seven women around the community who have been supporting me with the growth of the Trinity House Foundation. They have been my pillar of strength."

Shawn Jacobs nominated Ambraal as a local hero for the work he is doing for his community.

"He is a man of honour, stature and a father figure to all communities.

"He is a caring and loving person who cares about the wellbeing of his people.

"Many people look up to him as he sacrifices most of his time for other individuals and makes sure their needs are met.

"He helps people in need and feeds the hungry. His door is open to any person in need."

Ambraal said nothing warmed his heart more than seeing people's comments of gratitude.

Dispatch documentary honours Woods and Biko

Eastern Cape filmmakers tap into audiences at National Arts Festival

ROSA-KAROO LOEWE

Eastern Cape filmmakers are debuting their work at the Eastern Cape Film Expo, part of the National Arts Festival programme in Makhanda, this week.

Among the seven films selected is the Daily Dispatch documentary *Power of the Word*, directed by filmmaker Craig Frieman.

The documentary unpacks the friendship between struggle hero Steve Biko and former Dispatch editor Donald Woods, whose quest for unearthing the truth about Biko's death in detention during apartheid led to him being forced into exile.

"The Biko and Woods story is such an integral part of our history — I sometimes feel that it is under-documented or under-explored," Frieman said.

"Biko and Woods's friendship at that time was extraordinary; that these two men found each other in this incredibly difficult political time. It's very moving. Their ideas were threatening to the regime because they were about empowerment, liberation and pride.

"If you go to Qonce, go to the Steve Biko Centre and allow yourself to spend some time

with that period of history that was so brutal on one level and also so hopeful on another.

"Hope and discovery was coming out of Black Consciousness — so liberating and inspiring and so brutally dealt with.

"Those two things collided, the inspiration and the brutality met each other at that time."

Daily Dispatch editor Cheri-Ann James thanked the expo for the opportunity to showcase the work to a larger audience.

"*Power of the Word* demonstrates the Daily Dispatch's commitment to report on stories that matter and pursue the truth, without fear of reprisals," James said.

"We take this promise seriously and aspire to always follow the examples set by great editors, such as Donald Woods, to truly serve the community of the Eastern Cape and the country."

Dispatch general manager Ryan Megaw said: "We are delighted that *Power of the Word* has been selected to be screened at the Eastern Cape Film Expo at the National Arts Festival.

"This documentary was produced to celebrate the Daily Dispatch's 150th year of publishing and tells the story of the relationship between Black Consciousness leader Steve Biko and former Daily Dispatch

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industry to tap into festival audiences.

"The National Arts Festival is a multi-genre event and film has become a powerful industry driver in the Eastern Cape," she said.

"Our partnership with the Eastern Cape Development Corporation [ECDC] helps position this to the industry professionals at the festival and also to audiences who are curious about the developing space.

"Many creative professionals work across multiple industries and the film industry, like festivals, creates a lot of opportunities for these artists, creatives and technical professionals."

ECDC spokesperson Nobulali Myataza said the expo platform allowed filmmakers the opportunity to network and develop their craft.

"The seven selected films will be screened through the three days of the expo. These are films submitted by upcoming film producers.

"The Film Expo is planned to provide filmmakers with an opportunity to network with film industry experts and keep them abreast of new developments pertaining to the industry and its entire value chain."

● *Power of the Word* will be screened on Thursday at 7.50pm at the Olive Schreiner venue.

Machine learning helps South Africa-led team 'see unexplained astronomical object'

Machine learning is helping a team of South African, US and Australian scientists better understand a rare "unexplained astronomical object" observed in space.

Scientists are still working out what a newly discovered class of radio sources, known as Odd Radio Circles (ORCs), are and how they originated.

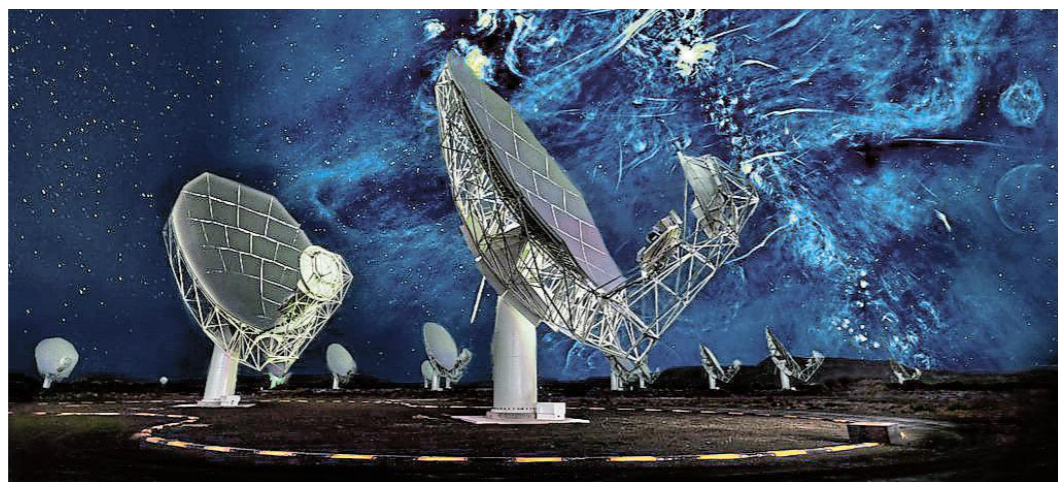
The team was led by Michelle Lochner, who holds a joint position at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) and the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (Sarao).

They combed through data generated in the MeerKAT Galaxy Cluster Legacy Survey (MGCLS), a programme of observations of 115 galaxy clusters, run on South Africa's MeerKAT Radio Telescope between June 2018 and June 2019, as reported on Monday in the publication *Nature*.

This led to the "seventh sighting" of what the team named Sauron — in keeping with a *Lord of the Rings* theme — which shares characteristics of an ORC but needs further study before it can be officially confirmed as one.

Only six confirmed sightings have been recorded, the first by the Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder (ASKAP) in 2019.

"There is a good chance that scientists may have overlooked Sauron were it not for machine learning, which is essentially a set of algorithms that are designed to automatically learn patterns and models from available data. This bypasses the



SEARCHING THE STARS: Scientists say the use of machine learning is helping in their ongoing research.

Picture: THE SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY

laborious and time-consuming work where because of human constraints, novel objects may go undetected," said the publication.

While more is being learnt about ORCs, there are various schools of thought as to what they are, one being that they are normal radio galaxies observed from odd angles. Another attributes them to an intense period of star formation and a third views them as remnants of a huge explosion caused by the merger of supermassive black holes.

"Sauron could plausibly be the result of the enormous release of energy resulting from the rare merger of two of these 'supermassive' black holes," suggests one of the team members, Lawrence Rudnick, Professor Emeritus at the University of Minnesota. — *Times-LIVE*

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Invitation to the MEDIA BREAKFAST SESSION

Nelson Mandela Museum invites you to a Media breakfast session at the Nelson Mandela Museum Youth and Heritage Centre in Qunu. The planned Media breakfast session will take place on the 30th of June 2023 from 08h00 to 11h00.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Museum Dr Vuyani Gweki Booi will inform and update Media and Eastern Community on temporal extended Historical sites to be administered by the Museum.

The CEO and his Executive will further give an update on the status quo of the Nelson Mandela Museum Youth and Heritage Centre and further unpack the 23rd Anniversary programs of the Museum that are aligned to the 10th Commemoration of Nelson Mandela.

Journalists are invited to cover the event and to engage Museum Management on the latest developments.

EVENT DETAILS Date: 30th June 2023 Venue: Nelson Mandela Museum Youth and Heritage Centre in Qunu
Time: 08h00 to 11h00

Media RSVP: Contact Mr. Fumanekile Wisani | Tel: 0768429432 | Email: fumanekile@nelsonmandelamuseum.org.zaShape