

# Top achiever bags 22 distinctions

Student hails family, lecturers and God for his achievements in engineering studies

MOIPONE KGATLE

**T**SHWANE University of Technology student Yannick Kala-Konga has lots to look forward to. The electrical engineering student has managed an average of 87 percent with 22 distinctions in the 23 subjects he sat for.

This has led to bigger things for the 23-year-old final year student. The achievement of the distinctions over a period of four years has earned him the Eskom Excellence Award and a Mandela Rhodes Scholarship.

Originating from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kala-Konga was one of the top 10 school-leavers in his home country.

This won him a scholarship from Vodacom Congo to study in South Africa. "Studying in my country was not really a good option, because of the education system... and South Africa was the best option in Africa," he said.

Kala-Konga's interest in electrical engineering comes from his father. Being an electrical engineer himself, Kala-Konga's father has been motivating him to pursue the same career since he was a child.

"I didn't do it alone; I had the support of the faculty, my lecturers, family and, most importantly, God." Eskom awarded Kala-Konga a trophy, a certificate and a cheque for R5 500 last month.

His sights are firmly set on studying for a postgraduate degree at TUT. The Mandela Rhodes Scholarship will pay for his postgraduate studies and related expenses. Some of the scholarship conditions are



TUT student Yannick Kala-Konga shows some of the merit awards he has won in the course of his studies.

maintaining a high academic standard and being involved with leadership development programmes.

Kala-Konga's involvement in extra-curricular activities also

helped define him as a recipient of the scholarship. Between mentoring at his residence and his faculty, he is also a student assistant and a part-time lecturer.

When asked about his plans for the future, Kala-Konga said going back home was a definite. He wants to go and work with his father in his business.

Although he has job offers from local companies, Kala-Konga's focus is on his studies.

For now his top priority is "to learn as much as possible".

# Falcon Security CEO quits after racism scandal

SAPA

FALCON Security CEO and director Ben Burger resigned yesterday in an attempt to "stabilise" the company after it became embroiled in a racism incident.

"I've never made myself guilty of any form of racism, which made

taking this decision very difficult," he said in a statement.

"However, I have to think of the employees of the company and Falcon's long-term future.

"It has become clear to me that, particularly from the labour union's side, I am regarded to be part of the problem."

Burger was arrested at a Sun International staff party last month after police received complaints that a CD was played from the company's stand "containing remixed lyrics of the national anthem" which called former president Nelson Mandela a "k\*\*\*\*\*".

A Falcon Security employee had

apparently placed the personal CD next to the sound system, and it was played for about 15 seconds before being removed.

"Ben Burger has resigned with immediate effect as CEO and director of Falcon Security following the playing of an offensive song by one of the company's employees at a

function at Sun City last month," a statement released by his public relations company on Thursday read.

"Burger said that the incident had caused the company immeasurable damage and he hoped that his resignation would help stabilise the situation."

# Fraudster uses name of SA kids' charity

JACQUES BREYTENBACH

SOUTH African and Italian authorities have begun an international search for those responsible for conning generous people out of money by pretending to be one of the country's best known charities.

The Johannesburg-based charity, Children of Fire, has come under attack by a Nigerian national living in the Italian town of Vercelli.

Operating under the name, Ventures - Children of Fire Center, the unidentified man used two bank accounts and the power of the internet to launch his quick money-making scheme.

Since the director of Children of Fire, Bronwen Jones, got wind of the scam on October 14, the two bank accounts at IWBank and Intesa Sanpaolo Bank in Italy, have been frozen. Italian authorities also raided the man's house, confiscating two computers and prompting Interpol's commercial crime unit to step in and try and track down the culprit.

Jones said that on the night of October 14, she received an email with the hoax email attached.

"The person who sent it to me asked whether the email in question was real," said Jones outside the Italian Embassy in Pretoria after a meeting there.

"I was shocked to see our children on the email which stated that three cents will be donated to the hoax charity if the recipient were to forward it to members of their particular address book."

The pictures, said Jones, belonged to John Moore who took them for Getty Images while he was in South Africa to cover the April elections.

"John was interested in our work and undertook a picture essay about Children of Fire. Now, whoever was responsible for the scam, has simply taken Moore's images and text, and copied it onto a document which he emailed as a play to get money from unknowing people," Jones said.

The email included two bank account numbers where people could make their donation, as well as a physical address and a phone number. An Italian journalist helped her with the names and contact details of senior staff members at the banks. It took just 24 hours for the account at IWBank to be frozen and 36-hours for the one at Intesa Sanpaolo Bank.

On Friday, October 16, Vercelli police raided a house belonging to a Nigerian national who, since the raid, has not returned to the premises.

An Italian criminal lawyer is building a case against the man, and Jones said that if the man is named and stands trial in Italy, she will fly there to represent the charity. At this stage, it is unclear how much money there is in the two accounts.

Marco Giungi, the minister counsellor at the embassy, said they felt it was their moral duty to help fight the scam.

CELEBRATE A WINNING YEAR WITH A WINNING DEAL!

1000 Limited Edition Road to Victory DVD's when you sign up for a new contract or Top Up deal at one of these Vodashop stores:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Vodashop Atterbury Value Mart</li> <li>o Vodashop Brooklyn</li> <li>o Vodashop Centurion</li> <li>o Vodashop Centurion Lake</li> <li>o Vodashop The Grove</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Vodashop Hatfield</li> <li>o Vodashop Irene</li> <li>o Vodashop Kolonnade</li> <li>o Vodashop Loftus</li> <li>o Vodashop Menlyn</li> </ul>
---	---

Offer valid only on the following dates:  
6, 7, 12, 13 & 14 November 2009

PLEASE VISIT WWW.VODACOM.CO.ZA FOR FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS. FACE

SPAR

Weekend Special

3

for

R20

good for you

Specials available at all SPAR stores from 6 November to 8 November 2009 inclusive, while stocks last. We reserve the right to limit quantities. Prices include VAT, E & OE.