

**Daily News**  
FOUNDED IN 1878

## Fine innings of Proteas skipper

**P**ROTEAS skipper Graeme Smith can look back on his Test career, and especially his leadership, with immense pride. Thrust into the captaincy role just eight Tests into his international career as a brash but talented 22-year-old, he matured into a respected leader, passing many milestones and setting records along the way.

The King Edward School product captained South Africa 108 times, notching up 53 Test victories, the most for any Test captain. The historic 2008 series win in Australia and leading the Proteas to the No 1 spot on the Test table in 2012 must rank at the top of his achievements.

Smith played in 117 Tests, amassing 9 257 runs, second only to Jacques Kallis for number of runs scored for South Africa and 12th on the all-time list. His Test average of just under 49 is testimony to his consistency in his career.

In the one-day format Smith played 197 matches, 150 as captain, scoring 6 989 runs.

A fact often overlooked is that Smith was not only captain for the memorable "438" match against Australia at the Wanderers in 2006, but, starting down the barrel of a 434 target, he scored 90 off just 55 balls to help set up an improbable victory.

Under the microscope of notoriously fickle South African sports fans for more than a decade, Smith's commitment and leadership weathered a great deal of criticism.

Never one to back away from a challenge, his style started off rather confrontationally, but mellowed and progressed over the years to the point where he dealt well with controversy, eventually presiding over one of South African cricket's most successful eras.

Smith met and beat the very best opponents, including Ricky Ponting, MS Dhoni and Michael Vaughan, and outlasted many. It was a great pity his last innings at Newlands yesterday fizzled. His service to South African cricket deserved a far better exit.

## Hope and despair

**I**MAGINE strolling around your property one day, and stumbling on wealth – a buried trove of gold coins worth R108m. Suddenly, there lies the answer to a dream: no more financial anxiety. Life changed – more unexpected, even, than a lotto jackpot. Then, just as suddenly, a newspaper reveals this may be the stash from a robbery at a mint 114 years ago. All the excitement and relief of treasure trove finders "John and Mary" may come to naught if the mint robbery report is true and they have to return the loot.

## AFRIKAN AFFIRMATION

**Ali Mazrui: Guest of the Es'kia Institute**

The concept of race will not vanish after South Africa is liberated. Race as a concept of biological differentiation is a permanent fact of life... (1980)

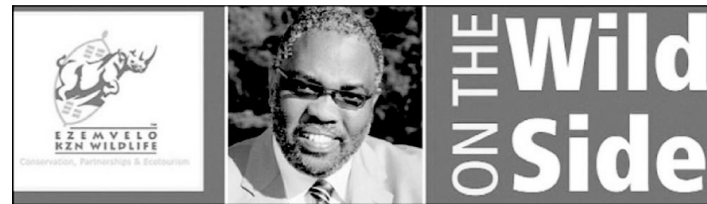
The Es'kia Institute, Private Bag X63, Rivonia 2128  
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## OPINION

# Our success stories

Beyond rhinos, there's so much good out there, writes **Dr Bandile Mkhize**



**F**LICKING through these columns, I read something that is as meaningful today as it was when I penned it 18 months ago. This rhino war is blanketing people's minds to the greater, wider effort of what formal conservation is doing in this province.

Let me, then, take your (and my) mind off this for a moment. I have cast my eyes further afield and noted some wonderful work being carried out by Ezemvelo.

The integration and upliftment of our communities is integral to our conservation mandate. Our people's buy-in is critical to the health of our natural environment.

This might sound obvious, but the truth is this engagement is not a one-sided affair. Utilising our natural resources is a balancing act, by all means feed from nature's fruits but never threaten or damage its ability to sustain itself.

Two wonderful projects illustrate this equation. At the northern end of Richards Bay, on a remote section of the coast, you will find a long-standing project where about 140 members of the Sokhulu community have, for the past 15 years, been harvesting mussels in a controlled manner that has kept this resource healthy.

The community consumes about 5 000kg of mussels annually. Part of this programme involves our employment of six monitors as well as four extension officers to train, liaise and help control this harvesting process.

Aside from the employment we offer, it is so pleasing to see the communities' acceptance that they can only harvest roughly once a month (spring low tides) as well as their ready understanding that the mussel off-take might vary, depending on what nature provides.

Further north at Bhanga Nek, the home of Ezemvelo's Turtle Monitoring Programme, another 21 local community people have made outstanding progress in protecting the loggerhead and leatherback turtles that annually come to nest

**At one time only 10 leatherback turtles were recorded on our beaches, establishing about 50 nests. This season we recorded more than 80 with 300 nests.**

Dr Bandile Mkhize

along the beaches of Maputaland. During the season (six months), we employ these people to protect and record our turtles.

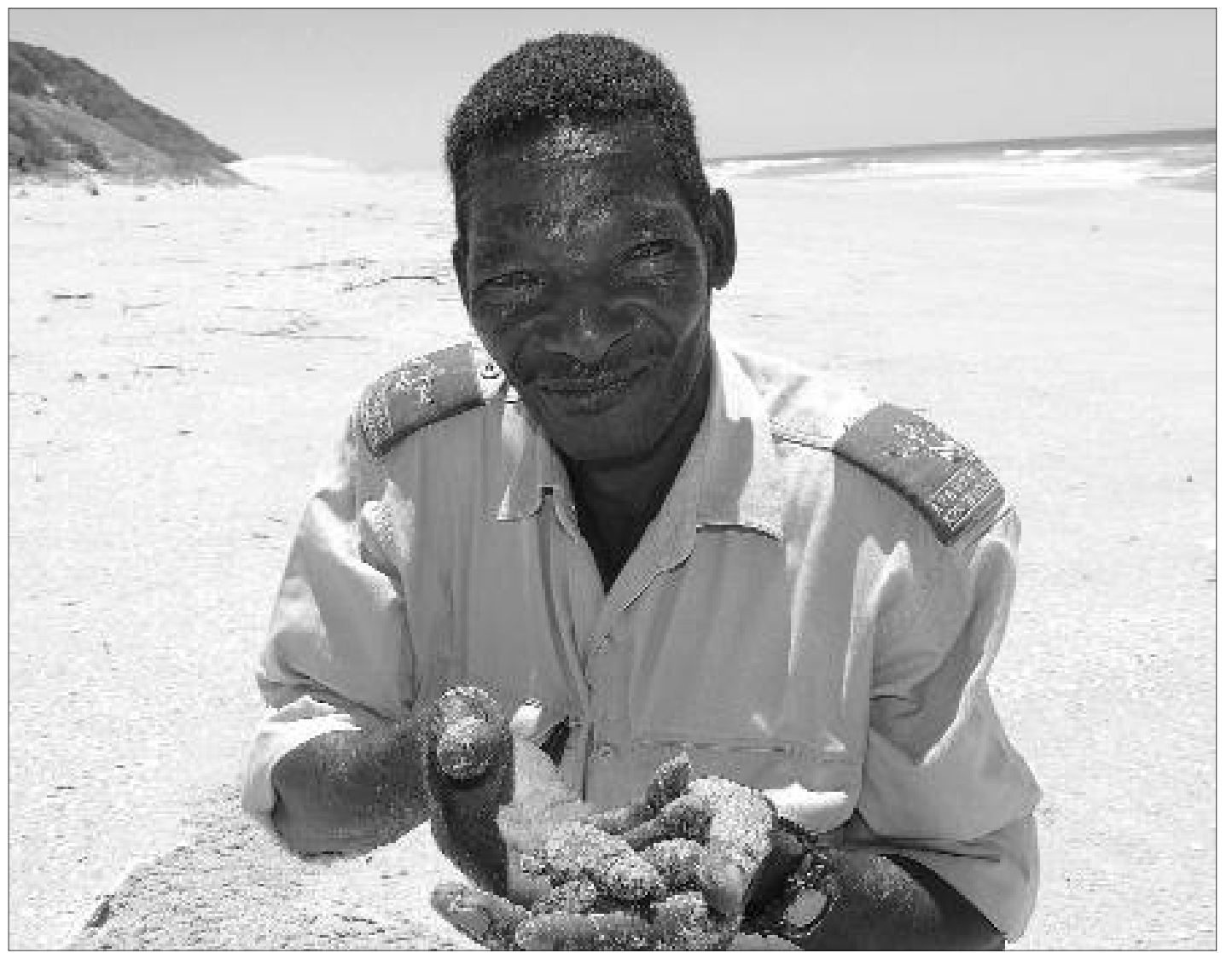
And the results speak for themselves. Only a single turtle was lost to poaching this last season. Now look back to 1963 when this monitoring project began. At one time, only 10 leatherback turtles were recorded on our beaches, establishing about 50 nests. This season we recorded more than 80 with 300 nests.

As for the loggerhead turtle species, well, at the outset, 200 or so with about 450 nests were recorded. But this year about 800 came ashore creating about 4 000 nests!

I learnt something that makes this all the more special. Loggerheads only reach sexual maturity at about 35 years and they only return to nest every three years or so. That means that they must survive long enough to return to nest so that they can replace themselves, and then return to add to the population.

Tourists have responded to this. About 1 000 came from 30 countries to view them at just the Bhanga Nek beach.

(There are other private concessions along this 60km coastline.) And they were all guided by locals from the resident KwaDapha community, who were granted a walking



July Ngubane celebrated his 31st year with Ezemvelo's Sea-Turtle Monitoring Programme – and on the day found a nest of loggerhead hatchlings at the Bhanga Nek beach. **LEFT:** Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's Turtle Monitoring Team: Santosh Bachoo (senior marine ecologist), July Ngubane (turtle co-ordinator) and Mary Pieters (senior marine community conservation officer).

devilled by people's exploitation of fish, mainly through the use of illegal gill nets.

As with our recent raid at False Bay where we confiscated and destroyed 42 homemade boats and 7km of gill nets, fish are being scoured from Kosi, more for commercial purposes than subsistence needs.

Yet, from among these very same gill-netters and poachers, 30 of them have joined the side of conservation and are working with us now as compliance officers.

Yes, similar to our mussel monitors, the very people, who for years used to indiscriminately suck the lifeblood out of these lakes, are now trying to stop the very practice they themselves employed.

*Mkhize is the chief executive officer of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife*

concession to undertake these tours. These concession holders earned about R180 000 for their community from doing this – a substantial cash injection into one of the poorest regions in South Africa.

Of course, I look at this success within my motto of "African Conservation". These projects are not simply a barometer of fabulous biodiversity health, but it tells us a great deal about our community engagement. Our employment and training of local people is one thing, but to see them all perform so conscientiously in protecting and recording

these resources does so much towards expanding the message of sustainable utilisation. Yes, like our Sokhulu Mussel project and the subsistence fisheries project, it's vital to see programmes like this being sustained. Ezemvelo's original objective in the Sixties was to monitor these turtles with a view to controlling harvesting once the turtle populations recovered sufficiently. However, the global decline in turtle populations meant that this objective was never realised.

The objective then changed to only conserving them. Frankly, the turtle conserva-

tion programme has shown that greater value is derived not from the direct consumption of turtles, but from the creation of sustainable employment for the community and for tourists who come here in droves to witness this remarkable phenomenon.

Understandably, the headlines cry "rhino". But scratch the surface and you will see so much good going on in KZN conservation – and I believe sustainable utilisation is slowly taking hold among our people.

I can see signs of it at Kosi Bay, where these lakes are be-

## President must provide answers

**P**RESIDENT Jacob Zuma is a past master when it comes to charm, deflection and keeping what's important out of the limelight. There is no better example of this than his recent State of the Nation address – in particular the manner in which he seduced the opposition into engaging in hostile invective and puerile point-scoring.

The level of debate has been pathetic. I am sure threats of impeachment, comparing his first term with that of his predecessors, and arguments about the medical benefits of marijuana are – besides being water off a duck's back – exactly what he wanted, as the most important failures of his administration go largely unnoticed and uncontested.

The first is that of an increasingly incompetent state. Under his tenure, the government's own assessment on national and provincial performance reveals that:

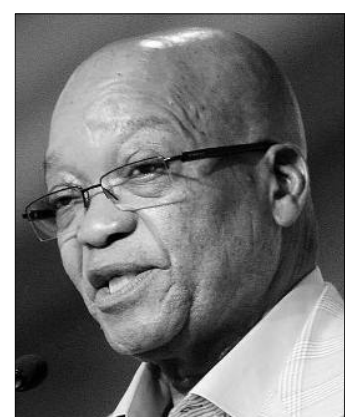
80 percent of government departments are non-compliant with service-delivery improvement requirements.

76 percent are non-compliant with policies and systems for promoting professional ethics.

64 percent are non-compliant with legal requirements for fraud prevention.

74 percent are non-compliant with organisation structures reflecting funded posts only.

88 percent are non-com-



JACOB ZUMA

pliant with human resources planning.

60 percent are non-compliant with processes for detecting unauthorised expenditure and communicating audit findings to responsible officials.

I'd like to know what those percentages are going to be in 2019.

The second is corruption. Under his tenure, our corruption ranking has fallen 22 places from 50th to 72nd out of 175 countries, and PricewaterhouseCoopers tells us we are "world leaders" when it comes to corruption and money laundering by senior management.

I'd like to know where we will be positioned in 2019, above 50th or below 72nd.

The third is National Development Plan implementation and getting the show on the road, which would entail Zuma

dismissing internal squabbles between ministries, telling Cosatu to wind in its neck, and setting clear milestones for his administration for the next five years.

I'd like to know what these milestones are.

The fourth is education. In a recent DA newsletter, Helen Zille tells us that education "has turned the corner" in respect of textbook delivery, testing and time management, but that teacher competence and trade union discipline are holding our progress to ransom.

Improved education has been at the heart of economy renewal in other parts of the world. Our education ranks 146/148 in the WEF Global Competitiveness Report, and our maths and science at 148/148.

I'd like to know what our president is targeting as an improved ranking in 2019.

The fifth is job creation. It must be obvious to all that 7 percent growth and 6 million jobs by 2030 is a nonsense. Given our declining competitiveness as an investment destination, large-scale industrialisation is not going to happen – and, anyway, in the minds of many, "decent work" doesn't happen in factories.

We should be following the example of many African countries and enabling the establishment of cottage industries on a large scale by creating an enabling environment

where people can work from home. This means doing away with minimum-wage legislation and stopping bargaining council inspectors closing down non-conforming small businesses. I'd like to know what Zuma's target for SMME growth is by 2019.

The sixth is social cohesion and trust.

Nedlac is not supported by the big decision-makers in government, the private sector and labour. It's a lackey organisation, overruled when government thinks it to be expedient. Business is sitting on mountains of cash in the absence of policy clarity. Ministers argue about economic models. The mining industry, in particular, leaves investors looking elsewhere. Our trade union movement seems determined to darken our investment reputation at every turn.

I'd like to know what foreign investment our president would like to see return to this country in the next five years. I'd also like to know what target Zuma has set for the reduction in man days lost through strikes.

In my view, the opposition response should be to demand a clear, measurable response from our president on all these issues. They are the key to our future sustainability.

**STEUART PENNINGTON**  
Chief Executive  
South Africa –  
The Good News

## LETTERS

### Doctors exploiting elderly patients

**I**T SEEMS that many doctors who take the Hippocratic Oath to serve their patients forget about this sacred pledge.

It should be sustained with devotion, but they replace it with a concept loosely termed (cash or medical aid) and make money the primary issue and not caring about the well-being of their patients.

Many doctors are "milking the system" by an insatiable greed for money. The exploitation of the elderly is of great concern, with most of them having faith in their doctors.

When many of them are gravely ill, some unscrupulous doctors will not send them to specialists.

The reason is that doctors want to make as much money as possible from these pa-

tients, merely giving them injections and cheap symptomatic medication when specialist intervention is critically required.

This is a common practice and there is evidence these doctors want to enrich themselves and don't care about their patients' well-being.

The community cannot depend on such doctors and we need to challenge and expose them.

Unfortunately the poor elderly patient becomes either a victim of this type of abuse or another inevitable death statistic.

To all doctors who exploit their patients, remember the law of karma.

**DHAYALAN MOODLEY**  
Mobeni Heights



A reader questions Graeme Smith's presence in the team and why he has to open the innings.

### It is just not cricket

**I**NTERESTING criticism from Darryl Cullinan about Hashim Amla and JP Duminy: remember, both learnt their cricket in the backyard.

I am still waiting for some acknowledged authority to query Graeme Smith's presence in the team, and more so, why he must open the innings.

As a middle-order batsman, he could demolish most bowling. Does he realise the opener has to blunt the attack, defend or leave and build an innings? Does he realise he is representing 50 million people?

Thabo Mbeki once said that when he saw Smith opening the innings, he switched his TV off. No wonder our famous Jacques Kallis got used to opening after Smith's regular debacles.

The demonstration by Kepler Wessels et al on Saturday at St George's Park about slip fielding was nothing new.

I suggest further that close fielders crouch and keep their feet apart, like in golf, to leap for a catch. What happened to the forward dive roll?

**NM ISRAEL**  
Pinetown

### IT'S YOUR PAPER, TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

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