

# Ntokozo Buthelezi

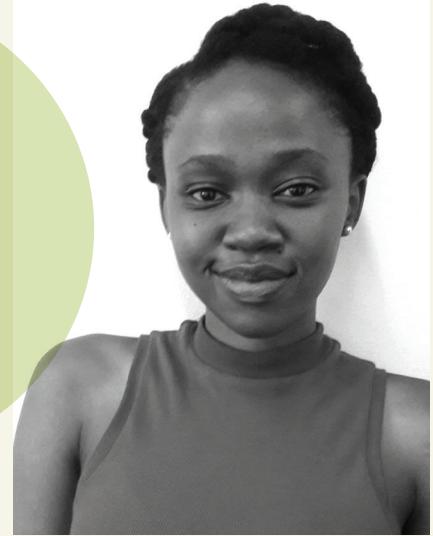
**HOMETOWN** KwaMashu

**UNIVERSITY** University of the Witwatersrand

**FUNDING** Bursary

In 10 years' time ...

*'I will hold a PhD in Economics and be working on a number of social and commercial enterprises that will help shape an inclusive development path for South Africa.'*



## Essay synopsis

Ntokozo's essay discusses the current challenges in South Africa's basic education system, focusing extensively on the quality of teachers. She then presents solutions that could improve the quality of education in South Africa.

She acknowledges that higher quality in basic education will have a positive impact on South Africa's economic growth. The outcomes include lower unemployment levels, increased number of skilled personnel in designated professions and reduced poverty, thus supporting the National Development Plan of increasing economic growth and reducing the unemployment rate by 2030.

Ntokozo finds that teachers are the second-largest factor affecting learning in school. If teachers have poor knowledge and understanding of the curriculum, learners consequently cannot gain skills that teachers have not acquired themselves.

She notes that learning gaps early in learners' primary-school years make it difficult for them to grasp concepts in higher grades, resulting in high dropout rates.

Another challenge is the lack of additional compensation for individuals who possess Master's or PhD qualifications, which she suggests is one of the reasons that such individuals are so scarce in basic education institutions.

She finds that improving the quality of South African teachers, school governing bodies and the curriculum could bring progressive and sustainable changes to the quality of education in South Africa. Ntokozo recommends that government shift a portion of funds from the education budget to furthering education and increased remuneration for teachers.

## More about Ntokozo

### Favourite subjects:

Finance and Investments, Mathematical Economics, Macroeconomics

### Interests:

Entrepreneurship, politics and leadership, health and fitness, music, dancing, singing

### Inspired by:

Individuals who excel in their profession and those workings towards the development of South Africa

### Main achievements:

- Academic awards: Grades 8, 9 and 12
- Secretary: Word and World, a non-profit organisation
- Religion prefect: Grade 12
- Treasurer: Interact Club, a leadership and charity organisation