

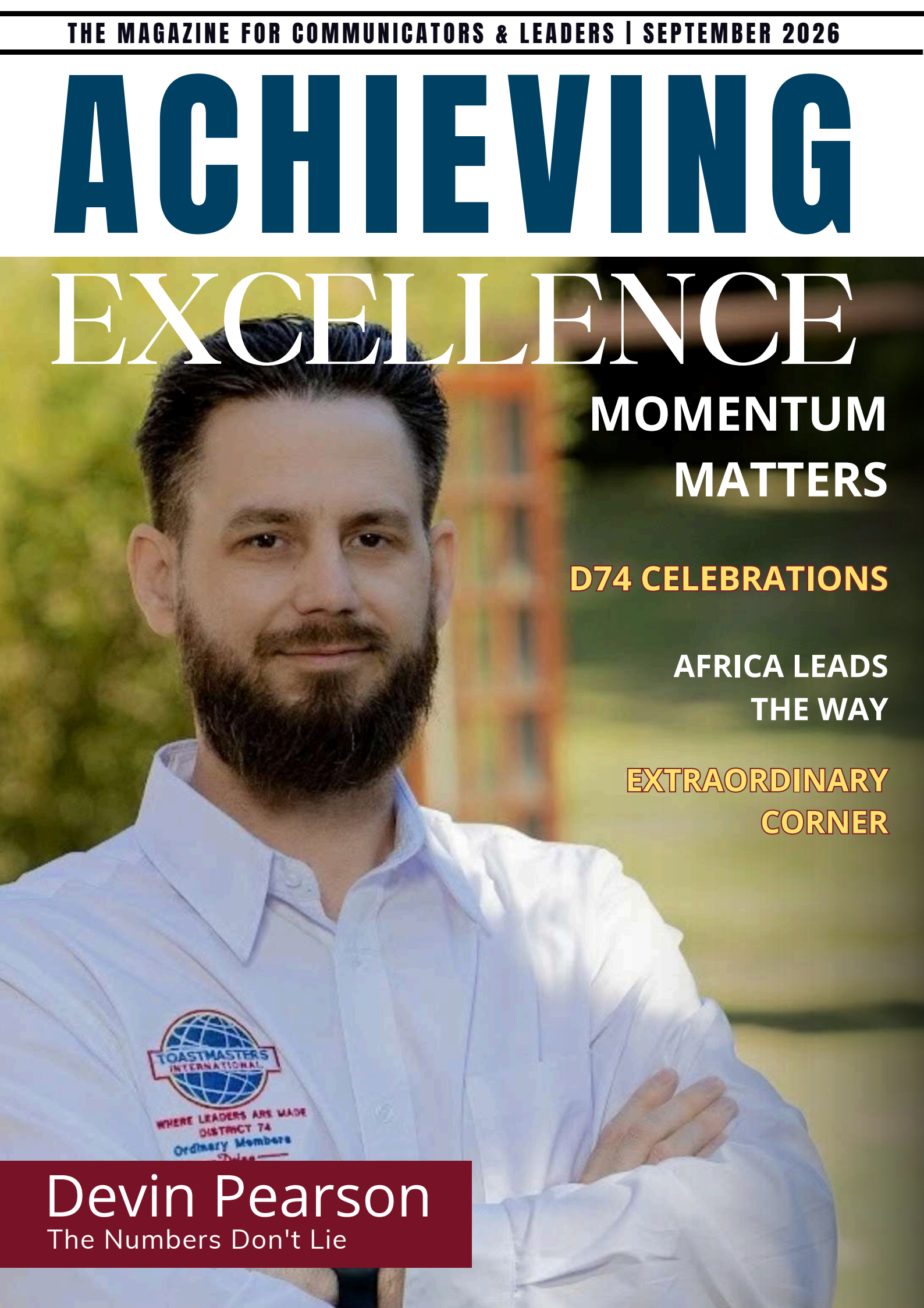
ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

MOMENTUM
MATTERS

D74 CELEBRATIONS

AFRICA LEADS
THE WAY

EXTRAORDINARY
CORNER



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The Numbers Don't Lie

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EDITORS NOTE



Momentum matters,
but what we do with it
matters even more.



By September, the excitement of a new Toastmasters year has begun to settle into something more meaningful: **momentum.**

Leaders have stepped into their roles, clubs have set their goals, and members are turning intentions into action. Now comes the important part—keeping that momentum going.

Momentum is not always about giant leaps. Sometimes, it is simply showing up for another meeting, delivering another speech, taking on a new role, completing a Pathways project, or encouraging a fellow member to keep going. Small, consistent actions build into meaningful progress.

As you explore this edition of Achieving Excellence, I hope the stories remind you that every contribution matters. Whether you are leading, learning, supporting a fellow member, or working towards your next milestone, you are part of the momentum of District 74.

We have already accomplished much together, and there is still so much ahead. Let us keep showing up, moving forward, and creating opportunities for one another to flourish.

Because momentum matters, but what we do with it matters even more.

Until next edition, keep speaking, keep leading, and keep the momentum going.

Lesedi Queen Masina

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Toastmasters District 74 Mission

We build new clubs and support all clubs
in achieving excellence.

toastmasters74.org



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DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Our theme this year, “Ordinary Members Doing Extraordinary Things,” reminds us that greatness does not always begin with a title, a big stage, or years of experience. It often begins with an ordinary member simply deciding to show up, step forward, and make a difference.

In the month of September we have moved beyond the excitement of a new Toastmasters year and **into a season of momentum**. The goals we set, the roles we accepted, and the commitments we made now need consistent action.

Every speech delivered, meeting attended, member encouraged, and leadership opportunity embraced adds to the momentum of our District. Let us remember that extraordinary results are built through ordinary actions, repeated with purpose.

District 74, keep showing up. Keep stepping forward. Keep lifting others. Together, let us turn our momentum into meaningful impact and continue proving that ordinary members can do extraordinary things.

FROM THE PUBLIC RELATIONS DESK



September reminds us that “Momentum Matters.”

As we celebrate Heritage Day (24 September) in South Africa and Botswana Day (30 September), we reflect on identity and community.

Our PR vision remains clear: consistent visibility builds lasting growth. Momentum is created when we keep showing up: online, in our clubs, and in our communities.

I encourage you to partner with your VPPR/Brand Ambassador to keep the energy alive—share your club experiences, invite guests, and celebrate progress.

Together, we are building a visible, vibrant Toastmasters presence that continues to grow beyond our meetings. Send your club success stories to pr@toastmasters74.org, as we celebrate Ordinary Members Doing Extraordinary Things.

Ordinary Members

— Strategic Visibility for Growth!

Extraordinary Things

The Numbers Don't Lie D74 Is Moving

Something is stirring across District 74. And the proof is in the numbers.



At the start of a new Toastmasters year, it is easy to feel like you are beginning from scratch — new goals, new committees, new members who don't yet know each other's names. But this year, D74 did not start from zero. It started from momentum.

Programme Quality Director Devin Pearson, DTM, has been quietly building the engine behind that momentum. And the early results of his team's work are already telling a story worth paying attention to.

Last year, D74 had 32 Potential Distinguished Clubs. This year? Forty-three, a 34% increase before the year has barely found its footing. Sixty-three clubs now have 20 or more members, compared to 53 last year. And 87% of clubs have completed their officer training, surpassing the district's target of 85%.

These are not just statistics on a report. They are the fingerprints of members showing up. Of club officers making time on a Wednesday evening to be trained. Of club presidents filing their success plans and setting goals that stretch beyond what feels comfortable.

"Our focus remains on increasing the number of Distinguished Clubs," Devin's report states, "strengthening clubs to at least 20 members and providing empowering training throughout the year."

What the report does not say, but every member already knows, is that none of this happens without the ordinary person at the meeting. The member who delivers their fifth speech when no one is watching. The VP of Education who calls to check in on a member who went quiet. The Area Director who drives an hour to support a struggling club.

That is where the real momentum lives.

The Toastmasters Leadership Institute, coordinated under the PQD portfolio, played a significant role in the officer training achievement. Led by Estelle, TLI is not simply a training day, it is the moment club leaders walk in uncertain and walk out equipped. This year's figures suggest those sessions landed. Eighty-seven percent of clubs completing training is not a coincidence. It is the result of people choosing to invest in their own preparation.

——— By Lesedi Queen Masina

Mentors Without Borders, led by Carmelita Kruger, CFR, is another quiet force doing extraordinary work. Behind every member who renewed their confidence in Pathways, there is often a mentor who walked alongside them and reminded them why they started.

Mentorship does not always make the headlines. But it keeps the door open for the members who almost didn't come back, and those are often the members who go on to become the strongest voices in their clubs.



Devin holding the South African flag during the flag ceremony at the 2026 Toastmasters International Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Progress is also being made on Club Success Plans, with 89 of 111 clubs having filed their plans. These are not just administrative documents, they are a club's commitment to itself. A plan filed is a direction chosen. The work now is to ensure that every remaining club crosses that line, with Area and Division Directors actively supporting clubs to treat the process as a genuine planning exercise rather than a compliance checkbox.

And then there is ConquerCon 2027 in Botswana, 87 confirmed attendees and growing. If you have not yet committed to joining D74's annual conference, this is your nudge. Conference is not a reward for the most accomplished members. It is fuel for anyone who wants to feel what a district moving with purpose actually looks and sounds like.

D74's aspirational goal for the year is 69 Distinguished Clubs — a Smedley Distinguished district. It is a bold target. But bold targets are earned through small, consistent actions repeated across 111 clubs, dozens of areas, and thousands of members.

The numbers do not lie. Forty-three Potential Distinguished Clubs. Sixty-three clubs with 20 or more members. Eighty-seven percent officer training completion. These are not projections or promises — they are proof. Proof that when a district commits to its people, the people commit back. Proof that ordinary members, doing their part in ordinary meetings, produce results that are anything but ordinary.

The momentum is real. The foundation is being laid — meeting by meeting, speech by speech, training by training.

The only question is what you will add to it.

Renew Early, Stay Connected: The Early Renewal Campaign

Membership renewal is more than a payment, it is a commitment to continued growth, learning and connection.

This belief was at the heart of District 74's Early Renewal Campaign, designed to encourage Toastmasters to renew early and begin the new membership period with confidence.

Why run an early renewal campaign?
Because strong clubs are built on engaged members

who choose to stay. Early renewals provide clubs with greater membership stability, help leaders plan effectively and reduce the risk of members unintentionally allowing their memberships to lapse. Most importantly, renewal is a simple way for members to say, "I'm not finished growing yet."

The poster for District 74 Southern Africa Toastmasters features a blue and white color scheme. At the top left is the Toastmasters International logo. The title 'District 74 Southern Africa Toastmasters' is in bold. A large red banner with white text reads 'WE DID IT! T-SHIRT RENEWAL CAMPAIGN CLOSED'. Below this, a message says 'THANK YOU, DISTRICT 74! Your commitment, renewals and continued support helped make this campaign a success.' The campaign details are presented in two columns: 'FIRST RELEASE' from 1-30 July 2026, where the first 100 renewals received a T-shirt, and 'SECOND RELEASE' on 25 August 2026, where an additional 50 T-shirts were awarded. A large red circle at the bottom left says 'Thank You!'. On the right, a blue T-shirt with the district logo is shown. At the bottom, it states '150 T-SHIRTS AWARDED! 100+50 = 150'.

District 74
Southern Africa Toastmasters

WE DID IT!
T-SHIRT RENEWAL
CAMPAIGN CLOSED

THANK YOU, DISTRICT 74!
Your commitment, renewals and continued support helped make this campaign a success.

TWO RELEASES. ONE BIG SUCCESS!

FIRST RELEASE	SECOND RELEASE
1 - 30 JULY 2026	25 AUGUST 2026
First 100 qualifying renewals received a District 74 T-shirt.	Additional 50 T-shirts awarded in the second release.

150 T-SHIRTS AWARDED!
100+50 = 150

Thank You!

To make early renewal exciting, District 74 introduced a special incentive for qualifying members: a District 74 T-shirt.

The campaign featured **two T-shirt releases**. The first ran from **1–30 July 2026**, with the first 100 qualifying renewals earning a T-shirt. Following the strong response, a second release began on 25 August 2026, with an additional 50 T-shirts made available to qualifying members.

In total, **150 District 74 T-shirts were awarded** to members who took advantage of the campaign and renewed early. Beyond the T-shirts, the campaign was about creating momentum and celebrating commitment.

Every renewal represents another member who remains part of a club, continues their Toastmasters journey and contributes to the strength of District 74. As the campaign concludes, we celebrate everyone who chose to renew, and the continued growth that those renewals represent.

Leya Musunga
Club Growth Director 26/27

THE MAN BEHIND SHAWN NNANA LANGA



If you attended the 2026 Induction Dinner and Hall of Fame, you would have seen that Shawn was a firm favourite. He filled two tables with members from Sandton Toastmasters Club and Rivonia Toastmasters Club, where he served as president during the 2025/2026 Toastmasters year. He also received several awards, which brought him to the stage often. When asked where his popularity came from, he was unsure, but he emphasised that he has built a reputation for being present and helpful. As a result, people find it easy to speak with him and to speak on his behalf.

Shawn joined Toastmasters International (TMI) six years ago after Jay Jay Mothusi encouraged him to do so, with his membership being sponsored. At the time, his biggest challenge was using filler words such as “um” and “ah.” Once he joined, Shawn did not remain in the background. As a member of Rivonia Toastmasters Club, he has served in every EXCO role except Vice President Membership, Secretary, and Sergeant at Arms. He is currently Treasurer at Rivonia, which achieved Select Distinguished status, and Immediate Past President at Sandton Toastmasters Club, which achieved Smedley Distinguished status in the 2025/2026 TMI year.

Anyone who knows Shawn knows his passion for chartering, coaching, and mentoring clubs. He once mentored a club that achieved Select Distinguished status in just 10 months. He is driven by the belief that Africa needs more opportunities for leaders to lead, and he wants to create those opportunities while equipping others for leadership. Mentoring brings him joy when he sees speakers grow, as he did with the speakers at Santam. He also wants to focus on developing female leaders, noting that many women in TMI do not progress beyond Division level.

Among his many roles, Shawn served as Finance Manager during the 2024/2025 TMI year and Retention Chair during the 2025/2026 TMI year. In the 2026/2027 TMI year, he is part of the Club Growth team as Expansion Coordinator and also serves as Area Director for Area E2. During his first term as Area Director, he helped revive Morningside Toastmasters Club, and his area achieved Distinguished status.

Shawn has received several awards, including the Triple Crown Award twice, the Magic Five Award twice, the Distinguished Toastmaster designation twice, Sponsored Clubs twice, Sponsored Clubs twice, the Super Sponsor award, and the John Whiffen Helping Hands Award. Most of his personal awards were earned in pursuit of inspiring members to achieve their goals. Shawn is a true leader who leads by example and sees himself as a servant leader.

As part of his TMI project, Shawn developed an app called Word Flow, which is now in its third version. The app expands users' vocabulary, supports the grammarian role, and assists with Table Topics. Before launching it, he assembled a team comprising Desiree Lee Son, Zeron Mokwale, and Naledi Manthoko to prepare it for its audience. The app currently includes 4,200 words and teaches users how to pronounce them.

Shawn Nnana Langa is an accountant with a strong passion for people, leadership, and building organisations. He is actively involved in Toastmasters, where he is working toward becoming **Toastmaster of the Year** and **Area Director of the Year**.

In the immediate future, Shawn plans to charter an Entrepreneurs' Club, further expanding his impact beyond his current commitments. His ambitions within Toastmasters extend even further, with District Director and Regional Advisor among the leadership positions he hopes to pursue. It is clear that you have not seen the last of Shawn; he is in Toastmasters International for the long haul, with a vision for continued growth, leadership, and service.

Shawn is an ordinary member who has done extraordinary things, but he does not see himself that way. For him, it has never been about doing something extraordinary. It has been about looking at the environment around him, identifying a problem, and asking, "How can I make this better?" That mindset has led to extraordinary achievements. His personal mottos capture this philosophy: "From guest to great" and "It's not about the speech; it's about the speaker becoming."

Shawn looks up to and draws inspiration from (in no particular order): Jay Jay Mothusi, Andrew Tsuro, Bryton Masiye, Jae Scott, Leseli Muyenga, Thandi Thombeni and Modiyeng Ramakosi.

To further engage with Shawn and follow his journey, visit: <https://dtm.nnana.co.za/>

By Gcobisa Sigwili

CORRECT THE MAP

By: Aletta Rochat, DTM, Immediate Past International President

I read something recently that really made me think.

On 4 September, the United Nations General Assembly voted overwhelmingly in favour of a resolution called "Correct the Map". It calls for greater use of world maps that represent the relative size of countries and continents more accurately.



Most of us grew up with the Mercator map. It was developed hundreds of years ago for navigation and, while it was useful for that purpose, it seriously distorts the size of land masses. Those closer to the poles look much bigger than they actually are, while Africa looks much smaller.

Africa is about 14 times the size of Greenland. Go and look at the world map you are most familiar with. Does it look that way?

That stayed with me. Because I started wondering whether, as Africans, we sometimes do something similar to ourselves.

Do we have an inaccurate picture of our own size? I don't mean our geographical size. I mean the size of our contribution. Our ideas. Our experience. The value we can bring to conversations and leadership tables around the world.

This is something I thought about a great deal during my year as Toastmasters International President, particularly because I was the first person from Africa to serve in that role.

There were moments when the significance of that really struck me. Not because I believed Africa deserved the position simply because it was Africa's turn. That isn't how I see leadership.



Toastmasters is actually a wonderful place to practise this.

Where else can you volunteer to lead a team before anyone at work considers you management material? Where can you practise speaking with authority when you don't yet feel particularly authoritative? Where can you try something, get it wrong, learn from it and try again?

Every time we do that, our picture of ourselves changes a little. And that brings me back to the map. I love the hashtag #CorrectTheMap. But perhaps there is another challenge in it for us.

#OwnYourValue.

Not from a place of entitlement. Not because we believe we deserve opportunities without earning them. And certainly not because being African makes us better than anyone else.

Own your value, because you definitely have something to contribute.

There are perspectives the world needs that have been shaped here. There are leaders who need to emerge from here. There are ideas, businesses, communities and organisations that will be better because somebody from Africa decided to stop underestimating what they could bring.

So, perhaps it is worth looking at your own internal map. Where have you made yourself smaller than you really are? What have you decided is "not for someone like me"? And what would you do differently if you expanded your belief in what was possible for you?

Now I challenge you to do one thing. Put your hand up. Make the call. Apply. Volunteer. Start the conversation. Africa did not suddenly get bigger because the United Nations passed a resolution.

Our Africa has always been this size, the map just didn't show it. I wonder how many of us could say the same thing about ourselves?

– Kerri-Lea Adlam, Africa Leads the Way PR

Momentum That Lasts: The Power of Showing Up

By Keitumetse Moeketsi



For Pamela Msibi, momentum is not about moving fast. It is about continuing to move when life gives you every reason to stop.

A Specialist Curator based in Randburg, Gauteng, Pamela's professional life has been centred on preserving, managing and making information accessible - a career that has sharpened her attention to detail, communication and leadership. A nature lover, avid thinker, current affairs reader and music enthusiast, she is also a wife, mother and passionate Toastmaster who believes deeply in lifelong learning.

Her Toastmasters journey has been defined by one deceptively simple choice: saying yes!

Yes to opportunities. Yes to discomfort. Yes to showing up when life became busy, challenging and demanding.

That mindset carried her through some of the organisation's most challenging seasons. As Club President in 2020–2021 and again in 2022–2023, Pamela helped keep her club afloat during the COVID-19 pandemic. As Area Director in 2022–2023, she helped lead the Area to Distinguished status. She later served as Division Director and, in 2025–2026, as TLI Chair, where she had the privilege of participating in the second round of beta testing for new club officer training material.

But behind the titles is a lesson she considers far more valuable: momentum is built through consistency, not motivation.

When motivation fades, Pamela returns to her reason for joining Toastmasters. She attends meetings, accepts speaking opportunities, volunteers for roles and seeks feedback. She has learned that confidence is not something we wait to feel; it is something we build through preparation, repetition and action.

Her greatest personal shift has been learning to receive constructive feedback as a gift rather than criticism. It has made her more self-aware, adaptable and intentional.

Her advice to new members in the first 90 days is simple: start before you feel ready. Participate. Find a mentor. Stay teachable. Focus on progress, not perfection. Give yourself permission to be vulnerable, have fun and enjoy the journey.

And when the road gets difficult, she draws inspiration from 2Pac's *The Rose That Grew from Concrete* - a reminder that difficult conditions do not have to determine the outcome.

For Pamela, Toastmasters is ultimately about more than speaking.

It is about building the courage to keep showing up - and turning small, consistent steps into momentum that lasts.

HOW TOASTMASTERS CHANGED THE WAY I EXPRESS MYSELF

Now I communicate my ideas with greater confidence, clarity and purpose.

Written By Lorato Moroeng

Tell us who you are beyond Toastmasters - What do you do, what do you love, what drives you?

Sibusiso Kananda means many different things to many different people. I am a father, a brother, a devoted employee, and community hero. One of my greatest passions is cycling because it exposes me to people from different walks of life and allows me to build meaningful connections. I believe people are not only here to help us expand our networks, but also to bring us closer to God. How could we truly appreciate the depth of God's artistry if we don't embrace people in all their diversity? Through every interaction, we learn something new about humanity, ourselves and our Creator.

What drives me most is my family, my career and my journey with God. These three pillars continue to inspire me to grow, serve and become the best version of myself.

How would the people who know you best say how Toastmasters has changed you?

It's not the easiest question to answer, because I cannot fully speak to how others perceive my growth. However, I believe they would say Toastmasters has transformed the way I express myself. I have always been a passionate and expressive person, but Toastmasters has helped channel that passion more effectively. Language is an incredibly powerful communication tool and when it is well structured and thoughtfully articulated, it becomes even more impactful. Toastmasters has helped me communicate my ideas with greater confidence, clarity and purpose.

What is the most surprising thing you have discovered about yourself through Toastmaster?

Without a doubt, it is the ability to speak for two minutes on a topic I know absolutely nothing about. Table Topics has become my favourite part of our Toastmasters Club Meeting. What makes it special is that it goes beyond public speaking. It has reminded me of the beauty of expressing myself without fear of being wrong or judged. For those few minutes, it is simply you, your thoughts and the topic before you. There is something incredibly liberating about that experience. It teaches authenticity, spontaneity and self-discovery in a way few other activities can do.

If you could go back and talk to yourself on the day of your ice-breaker, what would you say?

This is the beginning of a journey that will one day see you confidently serving as an MC at special occasions, both in your career and in your personal life. Embrace this opportunity for growth and never look back. One day, you will stand among greater speakers and it will all be because you had the courage to take this very first step. “Trust the process, keep learning and keep showing up.”



MPHO RAMASELWANE'S EXPERIENCE AFTER THE FIRST "YES"

By Kagelelo Mogotsi



For someone who describes herself as shy, quiet and reserved, saying “yes” to Toastmasters was more than a decision to improve public speaking; it was a step into unfamiliar territory. Starting conversations and engaging with others had never come naturally to Mpho. Yet that first “yes” opened the door to growth and self-discovery. Since joining Toastmasters in June, Mpho has significantly improved her communication. Shortly after joining, she stepped beyond her comfort zone and became part of the Eloquent Club Executive Committee, serving as Sergeant at Arms (SAA). She has also visited all the clubs in Botswana and participated in Open House activities, truly living up to the spirit of building and keeping the momentum.

At first, Mpho believed Toastmasters was mainly about becoming a better public speaker, speaking clearly, becoming confident on stage and managing nervousness. With time, however, she discovered that the journey was much bigger. Toastmasters became a commitment to growth through entering uncomfortable situations, learning from mistakes and discovering abilities she had not explored before. Through speeches and various meeting roles, she has faced different challenges. Being an MC, for example, taught her that confident communication is not simply about knowing what to say. It is about controlling pace, connecting with an audience and remaining present. Through these experiences she realized that Toastmasters is not about being a perfect speaker. It is a journey of becoming a better version of herself, one speech, one role and one meeting at a time. encouraging

What keeps Mpho engaged is the people and the environment. Toastmasters brings together experienced speakers, first-time speakers and members still finding the courage to raise their hands. Everyone is learning, and nobody has to be perfect before contributing. That atmosphere has made participation less intimidating and more exciting for her. “The ever-present opportunities to challenge myself are encouraging,” she adds. Roles such as Table Topics Master, Evaluator, General Evaluator and MC have taught her an important lesson: sometimes, you become ready by doing the very thing you think you are not ready for, whereas in the past, she might simply have said, “Maybe I am not ready yet.”

Feedback from fellow members has also provided a chance to improve on her blindspots. Toastmasters became a safe environment to make mistakes yet still feel supported, allowing her to take it easy and try again.

For her, there is a significant difference between becoming a member and becoming genuinely engaged. Membership may begin with registering, paying dues and joining the WhatsApp group. Engagement begins when a member shifts mindset to, “What can I contribute?” It means volunteering for roles, participating in Table Topics, delivering speeches, supporting others and taking ownership of the club. She believes fear of being judged can keep new members on the sidelines. Thoughts such as “My English isn’t perfect,” “I’m not confident enough,” or “I’ll participate when I’m better” can keep one on the sidelines. Yet confidence does not come before participation; participation helps build confidence. “Clubs have a responsibility to close the gap”. New members need to feel welcomed, noticed and given the opportunities to participate. Sometimes, all a new member needs is someone to say, “Come, and take this role. I’ll support you.”

Looking ahead, Mpho is excited about discovering how far she can grow. She wants to become a speaker who can confidently communicate in any room, whether at a Toastmasters meeting, professional event or unfamiliar setting.

She wants to strengthen her leadership, listening and teamwork skills, take on bigger responsibilities and help other members find their voices. Most importantly, Mpho is learning to become comfortable with her own voice and expressing who she is with greater confidence and effectiveness.

Her first “yes” was therefore much more than a decision to join Toastmasters. It was a yes to show up.



District 74
Southern Africa Toastmasters

SERVE AS A CLUB MENTOR

As a **Club Mentor**, you will partner with a **new club** to provide guidance, encouragement, and support to help them grow, stay strong, and achieve their goals.

AS A CLUB MENTOR, YOU WILL:

- EMPOWER** club leaders with your knowledge and experience.
- STRENGTHEN** club performance and member engagement.
- BUILD** lasting relationships and a culture of excellence.
- INSPIRE** members to grow into confident leaders.

STEP FORWARD. MAKE AN IMPACT.

Sign up to serve as a Club Mentor today.

Scan the QR code get started.

NEW CLUB ANNOUNCEMENT

WELCOME

MUTUAL IMPACT TOASTMASTERS

Division E | Area E5

Club Sponsor & Mentor Portia Shuping	Club Sponsor & Mentor Nokulunga Mlangeni
--	--

Hybrid Club
2nd and 4th Thursday @ 17:30 CAT

CLUB #1
2026/27

MOMENTUM: THE QUIET FORCE THAT TURNS ORDINARY INTO EXTRAORDINARY

by Keitumetse Moeketsi



Transformation rarely arrives with a grand announcement. More often, it begins quietly - with one decision to show up, one uncomfortable step forward and the courage to do it again.

For Lesego Nhlapo, that decision began in 2018 when she joined Toastmasters. She may have entered looking to strengthen her speaking, but what followed was far greater than mastering the stage. It became a journey of momentum - the kind built slowly, consistently and often invisibly.

A Transformational Coach, Field Application Specialist and passionate speaker, Lesego brings more than a decade of healthcare experience rooted in Medical Technology. She is also an ICF Associate Certified Coach and an accomplished Toastmasters leader, having served as an Area Director, Club Coach and TLI Trainer. Her professional journey has strengthened her passion for leadership, communication and youth development.

But her Toastmasters story is not really about titles. It is about what happens when you keep moving **“Keep going”** - that is the message Lesego would give anyone standing at the beginning of their Toastmasters journey because growth does not always announce itself while it is happening. Sometimes it looks like delivering another speech. Taking another role. Receiving feedback. Trying again after something did not go as planned. Learning something new. Showing up when confidence has not yet caught up with ambition. Over time, those seemingly small actions accumulate.

She describes herself as more confident, intentional and comfortable using her voice than when she first joined. Yet the greatest transformation happened beyond the stage. Leadership opportunities, honest feedback, challenges and the discipline of simply continuing to show up reshaped how she communicates, leads and facilitates.

That is the power of momentum.

There was no single defining moment that transformed her from ordinary to extraordinary, instead, there was one speech, followed by another opportunity; one role, followed by another lesson; one challenge, followed by the decision to continue. Consistency became the catalyst.

Toastmasters has been more than a platform to speak. Today, she sees one of the greatest rewards of the journey as being able to give others what Toastmasters gave her: a safe space to find their voice. Lesego's journey is a reminder that you do not have to see the entire road to make progress, you simply have to take the next step and then keep going.

Momentum is built one choice at a time.



By Retshiditse Talafala

About New Age Orators

Located in Gaborone, Botswana, New Age Orators was established in May 2025. What distinguishes our club from most corporates is the dynamic corporate culture. We intentionally welcome members across various managerial and non-managerial levels; different segments and walks of life. We deliberately integrate workplace skills and etiquette into our leadership practice and ultimately our speeches. This is done while actively supporting broader organisation goals through our bi-monthly meetings.

Community Engagement Beyond the Meeting Room

As a corporate Toastmasters club, our community footprint focuses on driving engagement, professional and personal development, and alignment across the broader organizational ecosystem:

Executive Touchpoints: Hosting monthly Chief Executive feedback sessions to bridge communication between leadership and staff.

Cross-Departmental Collaboration: Partnering with various divisions to run internal workshops, open houses, and team-building engagements.

Professional Visibility: Platforming employees to refine their executive presence and communication skills for bank-wide events and corporate presentations.

Biggest Driver of Visibility

Bokane Kemiso (outgoing President) has been the biggest driver of visibility for New Age Orators, with his key contributions being:

Foundational Establishment & Succession: He spear-headed the club's initial operational structure and established a clear succession strategy to ensure long-term sustainability.

Mentorship Network: He has successfully recruited and paired experienced mentors with members to foster continuous growth; gaining buy-in from various managers and executives.

Internal Sponsorships: As a result of the above, he was able to secure vital, executive sponsorship to fund and sustain club operations.

Club Brand in Three Words

Dynamic • Empowering • Transformative

District 74 Incentives Programme: **Club Fitness Rewards** (CFR) 2026/27



WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

At Toastmasters District 74, we believe in recognising and rewarding the dedication of our members, clubs, and leaders. Our Incentives Programme is designed to celebrate your achievements, motivate continued growth, and support the journey toward excellence.

The full list of CFR available for 2026/2027: <https://toastmasters74.org/incentives/>

Powerful Personal Progress Award Who: Member Criteria: Register TWO or more educational awards by 30 November . Reward: Recognition in Hall of Fame, Certificate, and Celebrated on D74 Social Media.	DCP5 Sprint Award Who: Club Criteria: Achieve 5 DCP Goals by 31 December . Reward: A Trophy OR R300 CFR Voucher usable towards stock purchases or May Conference.	Golden Area Award Who: Area Director Criteria: Area chartering a new club in the Golden Quarter . Reward: 20% off May Conference registration for each club chartered, plus a Trophy.
Super Five Member Sponsor Award Who: Member Criteria: Sponsor 5 individual members by 31 December . Sponsoring means inviting and supporting guests until they join (not paying for them). Reward: 5% off May Conference registration, Recognition in Hall of Fame, Certificate, and Celebrated on D74 Social Media.	Smedley Award Who: Club Criteria: Add 5 new, dual, or reinstated members between 1 August and 30 September . Reward: R300 CFR Voucher usable towards stock purchases or May Conference (plus a ribbon for your club banner from Toastmasters International).	Golden Division Award Who: Division Director Criteria: Division chartering a new club in the Golden Quarter . Reward: 10% off May Conference registration for each club chartered, plus a Trophy.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- All CFR vouchers and rewards must be claimed by 30 June 2027
- Vouchers for stock purchases can only be redeemed through the District 74 Stock Custodian
- Where applicable, rewards may include registration discounts for the District 74 May Conference
- For clarification or additional information, contact: cfr@toastmasters74.org

Golden New Club Sponsor Award Who: Club Sponsor Criteria: Sponsor a new club during the Golden Quarter (July to September). Reward: 30% off May Conference registration for each club chartered, plus a Trophy.

DISTRICT 74 | COUNCIL MEETING

Please diarise our next District 74 Council Meeting:

Saturday, 10 October 2026

08h00 to 13h00 SAST

Online via Zoom, register here: <https://bit.ly/D74Council10Oct26>

Attendance is required from District Council members, including :

- * Cabinet
- * Division Directors
- * Area Directors
- * Club Presidents
- * Club Vice Presidents Education (VPEs)

Please reserve the full 08h00 to 13h00 slot in your diary and prioritise attendance.

The agenda and other supporting documents will be circulated in due course.

Please diarise this important District meeting!

NOTIFICATION

DISTRICT 74

DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING

Please note that the next District 74 District Council Meeting has been scheduled as follows:



DATE
Saturday, 10 October 2026



TIME
08h00 – 13h00



VENUE
Zoom (Online)

Further details, including the agenda and supporting documents, will be shared in due course.

Please diarise this important meeting.





TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

Toastmasters District 74

Masterclass on Excellent Evaluations

Delivered by **Bob Ferguson DTM**

District International, Humorous and Evaluation Speech Champion

Help every speaker grow through high-quality evaluation.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- Build evaluation skills
- Practise with test speakers
- Use feedback techniques in clubs, contests and work

EVENT DETAILS

Date: 30 September

Time: 18:00 (CAT)

Online Training

BOOK YOUR PLACE
AND SHARPEN THE SKILL THAT HELPS EVERY SPEAKER IMPROVE.

EVALUATION MASTERCLASS with BOB FERGUSON, DTM

Ever wondered how the best evaluators nail it – clear, concise, and on time – even under competition pressure? Here's your chance to learn from the best. 🏆

Bob is a District International, Humorous & Evaluation Speech Champion, and He represented the UK & Ireland in the semi-finals of the World Championship of Public Speaking.

He's also a Certified World Class Speaker Coach, Fellow of the Professional Speaking Association, and author of "Great Technical Speaking – It's Not Rocket Science."

 Date: 30 September

 Time: 18h00 (CAT / District 74 time)

 Online: <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/ouBIPol-R1WG1cEI7z2otg>

NOTE: You have to attend to be added to the District evaluator list

Visit District 74 online platforms here:  <https://linktr.ee/toastmasters74>

#OrdinaryToExtraordinary

CONTEST SEASON IS COMING!



Contest Training

Sat, 17 October 9am

- Judges Training
- Chief Judge
- Timers
- Ballot Counters

Sat, 31 October 9am

- Contestants
- Contest Chair

Sat, 21 November 9am

- Test your skills at the Home Language Contest

You have to attend the training to be eligible to be added to the District Role Player List

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

We are getting ready for contest season! This session is specifically for those stepping into a contest role:

- 👤 Judges
- 👤 Chief Judge
- 🕒 Timers
- 🗳️ Ballot Counters
- 🎤 Contestants
- 🪑 Contest Chair

We'll cover what's expected in each role, the rules and ethics that keep contests fair, and how to handle your responsibilities with confidence on the day. ✅

🌍 To put it all into practice, we'll wrap up with a Home Language Contest practise session – a chance to run through the full contest process together, role by role.

💻 Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/CgBvuuGqT4uw9Dq1xmPaQQ>

📢 If you would like to be considered for a role, (and get added to the District list of role players) please make every effort to attend – this training is essential for a smooth, fair contest! 🙌

Strategic Visibility for Growth

— Lesedi Queen Masisi

CLUB GROWTH ACADEMY

STRONGER CLUBS. STRONGER DISTRICT



The Club Growth Academy is a series of practical and interactive sessions designed to equip **YOU** with the knowledge, tools and confidence to grow Toastmasters in your community and beyond.

 SESSION 1 CLUB BUILDING Turn your idea into a thriving Toastmasters club.	 16 JULY 2026  18:00 CAT
 SESSION 2 Marketing for club growth	 17 AUGUST 2026  18:00 CAT
 SESSION 3 More impact. More members.	 8 OCTOBER 2026  18:00 CAT
 SESSION 4 Finishing the year strong!	 10 DECEMBER 2026  18:00 CAT

OUR GOAL

Build more clubs.
Empower more leaders.
Transform more lives.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

All Toastmasters who are passionate about growth and making a difference!

WHO CAN JOIN?

Anyone with ideas about clubs or interested in club building.

VENUE

Online
via Zoom

Meet the faces behind the Scenes

Waiting to Network with **YOU**



Jabs

Say what you mean and mean what you want to say

+27 73 053 1078



Fortune

An open mind, a curious spirit and a storyteller's heart unafraid to go off script

+27 65 974 8983



Jaco

A lifelong learner striving to leave every space better than I found it

+27 76 782 4062



Yonela

A bright spark that refuses to dim its light ✨

+27 78 258 8377



Lesedi

A guiding light to creative solutions

+27 84 702 4844



Khethiwe

Stories are her sanctuary

+27 73 921 6745



Estelle

Self diagnosed coffeeholic ☕

+27 82 55 00 863



Moeketsi

Peace is golden

+27 72 078 22 93



Lame

A creative soul on a journey of growth and becoming

+267 72 590 182



Polisa

Driven by passion and gratitude

+27 73 016 6272



Carroline

Driven by getting things done

+27 79 804 1866



Mariam

+276 71 384 552

TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL

ConquerCon 6 - 9 May 2027

Momentum in Toastmasters

Written by Jaco Theron



James Clear said, “The more you move, the easier it is to keep moving.” Momentum in Toastmasters can be thought of as a car next to the road that needs to be push-started to get it going.

To be able to push-start this car, you need three things:

Curiosity:

Before the car will go anywhere, a plan of action needs to be set in place. Mindset is key. Be curious about how you can make your Toastmasters journey work for you. Instead of saying, “I can’t...”, ask yourself, “How can I?” When you open your mind up to possibilities, you’re already further along than most. If you need a little incentive, explore the District 74 recognition awards available for both individual members and for clubs.

Courage:

If you’ve never push-started a car, you need the courage to do something you’ve never done before. Feel the fear and do it anyway. Step outside your comfort zone and challenge yourself to become the person you want to be. Growth in Toastmasters doesn’t happen by staying comfortable, it happens when you put your hand up for that role, deliver that speech, or take on that leadership opportunity.

Action:

The best way to get going with push-starting that car is to take one small step at a time. Keep building the momentum. When I started my Toastmasters journey, the only difference between me and those who were crushing it on stage, was that they were **DOING** it. And this is where momentum becomes sustainable – through consistency.

Recognition also plays an important role in building momentum. The District 74 Incentives Programme provides a clear framework of achievable actions, rewarding both individual members and clubs for doing ordinary things in extraordinary ways: completing their Pathways levels, inviting guests to club events, growing club membership, promoting club quality, and so much more.

Just like push-starting a car takes time, effort, and consistency, momentum in Toastmasters is not built overnight. It starts with curiosity, is strengthened by courage, and is sustained through action. Every small step contributes to something bigger – an extraordinary club and an extraordinary you.

District 74
Southern Africa
Toastmasters



SMEDLEY CAMPAIGN IS



- Contact **past members** to rejoin
- Host an **Open House**
- Ask every member to **invite a guest**

DISTRICT 74

GOLDEN QUARTER HALL OF FAME

Celebrating excellence. Inspiring what's next.



SATURDAY
24 OCTOBER 2026



TIME
6PM TIL LATE



VENUE
ZOOM



District 74
Southern Africa
Toastmasters



RETENTION AWARD



- **Check in** with all members
- **Plan** engaging, high-value meetings
- **Follow up** with absent members

RETENTION AWARD: OCTOBER

Retain **75%** of club membership by
1 October 2026 and receive a **R300 Club Fitness Reward Voucher**



ORDINARY MEMBERS DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS

District 74
Southern Africa
Toastmasters



SMEDLEY CAMPAIGN IS



- Contact **past members** to rejoin
- Host an **Open House**
- Ask every member to **invite a guest**

AUG - 30 SEPT 2026

members and receive a
Reward Voucher

DISTRICT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

D74 SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS



VERIFIED COMPLETE CLUBS



District 74
SOUTHERN AFRICA TOASTMASTERS

Verified Complete

A Toastmasters Club with a minimum of 8 paid-up members for October 2026 to March 2027, including 3 renewing members

Congratulations

Time to Talk Toastmasters
Division D



A PRESIDENT DISTINGUISHED AND THE HOME DISTRICT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



District 74
SOUTHERN AFRICA TOASTMASTERS

Verified Complete

A Toastmasters Club with a minimum of 8 paid-up members for October 2026 to March 2027, including 3 renewing members

Congratulations

Multichoice Toasties
Division D



A PRESIDENT DISTINGUISHED AND THE HOME DISTRICT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



District 74
SOUTHERN AFRICA TOASTMASTERS

Verified Complete

A Toastmasters Club with a minimum of 8 paid-up members for October 2026 to March 2027, including 3 renewing members

Congratulations

Soweto Positive Speakers Club
Division F



A PRESIDENT DISTINGUISHED AND THE HOME DISTRICT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



District 74
SOUTHERN AFRICA TOASTMASTERS

Verified Complete

A Toastmasters Club with a minimum of 8 paid-up members for October 2026 to March 2027, including 3 renewing members

Congratulations

Rosebank Toastmasters Club
Division F



A PRESIDENT DISTINGUISHED AND THE HOME DISTRICT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



District 74
Toastmasters Southern Africa

Congratulations

to
Rosebank Toastmasters Club
 for receiving the
Smedley Award

by adding at least **5** new, dual,
 or reinstated members between
1 Aug and 30 Sept 2026.



ORDINARY MEMBERS DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS



District 74
Toastmasters Southern Africa

Congratulations

to
Moving Forward Toastmasters
 for receiving the
Smedley Award

by adding at least **5** new, dual,
 or reinstated members between
1 Aug and 30 Sept 2026.



ORDINARY MEMBERS DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS



Toastmasters Southern Africa | District 74



Khethiwe B. Malema,
DTM

From Rivonia Toastmasters Club & Nedbank Alistars
Proudly completed 2 Levels
 Since the start of the Toastmasters year!

Congratulations!

President Distinguished And The Home Of The International President



Toastmasters Southern Africa | District 74



Sudesh Kalyan

From Multichoice Toasties
Proudly completed 2 Levels
 Since the start of the Toastmasters year!

Congratulations!

President Distinguished And The Home Of The International President



Toastmasters Southern Africa | District 74



Carol-Ann Savosnick

From Chuckle'n Chirp Club
Proudly completed 2 Levels
 Since the start of the Toastmasters year!

Congratulations!

President Distinguished And The Home Of The International President



Toastmasters Southern Africa
District 74

Congratulations

to
Gaborone Breakfast
 for receiving the
Smedley Award

by adding at least **5** new, dual,
 or reinstated members between
1 Aug and 30 Sept 2026.



A PRESIDENT DISTINGUISHED AND THE HOME DISTRICT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



Toastmasters Southern Africa
District 74

Congratulations

to
Durban North Toastmasters Club
 for receiving the
Smedley Award

by adding at least **5** new, dual,
 or reinstated members between
1 Aug and 30 Sept 2026.



ORDINARY MEMBERS DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

September 2026

Division A

Green Speakers Toastmasters Club - 4 Years
L'Avenir Toastmasters - 7 Years

Division B

Siemens Club - 23 Years

Division C

Cape Town Speakers - 38 Years
The Professionals Club - 10 Years
ToastED Toastmaster - 10 Years
Speeches by Peach Payments - 3 Years

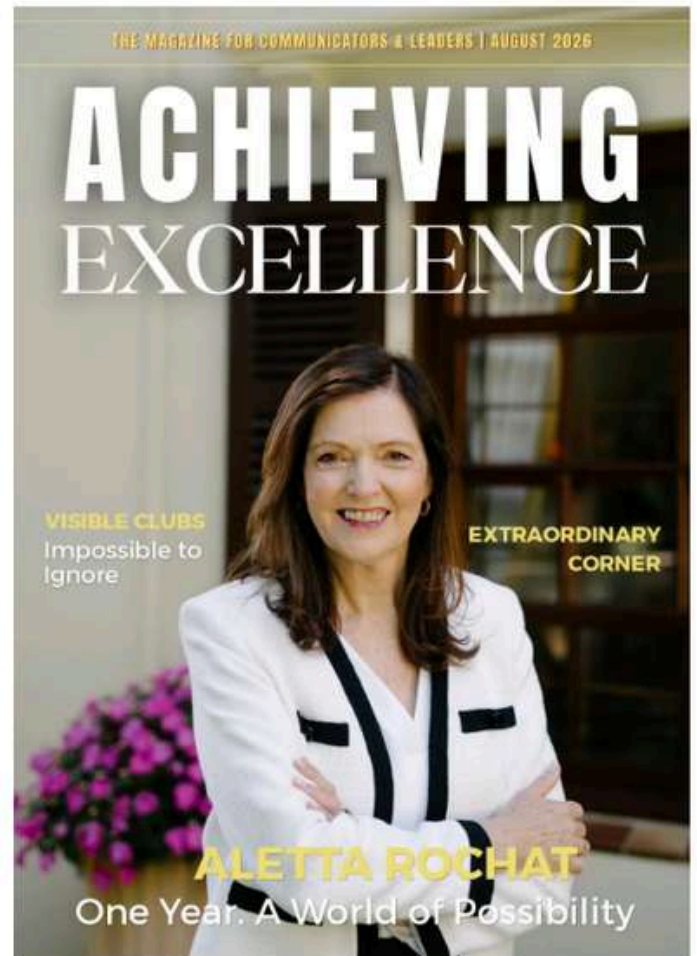
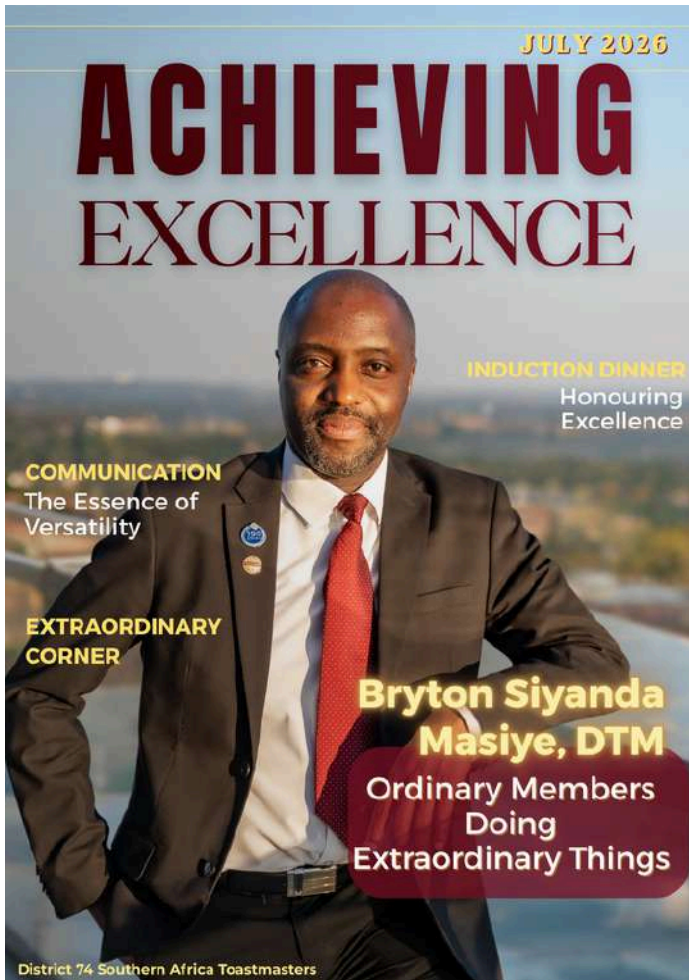
Division E

Randburg Toastmasters - 53 Years

Division F

Florida Toastmasters Club - 52 Years
Rosebank Toastmasters Club - 21 Years
Moving Forward Toastmasters - 10 Years

Missed our previous issues you can find them on
Toastmasters74.org



We believe every member has a story worth telling. If you would like to be featured in Achieving Excellence Magazine or know someone whose journey deserves to be shared, we would love to hear from you.

Contact the editors to feature your story
excellence@toastmasters74.org

Toastmasters District 74 Mission

We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence.

toastmasters74.org

