ROBERT GUMEDE FAMILY KENI FOUNDATION

Scholarship Launch & Award – Wednesday, 02 February 2011, Mbombela/Nelspruit, Mpumalanga Province

PRESS RELEASE

ROBERT MATANA GUMEDE is a son of the soil of Mbombela, born to a single live-in domestic worker, the Late, hardworking and loving mother, **KENI** and looked after by his beloved grandmother "**MEMEDE**" Gumede, who also worked as a domestic worker.

These two heroines, "**KITCHEN GIRLS**" made the successful global entrepreneur and philanthropic Robert Matana Gumede we know today. Robert who was one of 7 siblings started to work at the early age of seven as a **golf caddy** and "**GARDEN BOY**" in Nelspruit. Today, the second nine holes of the same Nelspruit Golf Club is named the **Robert Gumede Nine** in honour of his success and continued support given to the golf club and caddies.

In 2005 Gumede was a finalist for the South African Chapter of the World Entrepreneur Award, a first for an Mpumalanga businessman.

In honour of his Late mother Keni, Gumede as Chairman established the Robert Gumede Family Keni Foundation, which is broad based black empowerment trust whose primary role is to contribute to underprivileged communities, ploughing back to our communities in the form of development and value-add to society. The Foundation through its various development programmes is focused on inter-alia education, sport, healthcare, religious organisations and community infrastructure development. The foundation is managed by Gumede's loving wife, Dr Tee Portia Gumede who is the Chief Executive Officer.

The Robert Gumede Family decided in 2010, through the Foundation, to dedicate R40m to provide at least 20 annual full fee university scholarships for successful matric students from Mpumalanga Province. Annually, at minimum, one caddy will also receive a scholarship to further his studies, as well as the best students from Gumede's ex-schools in Kanyamazane, namely Khalipani High School, Thembeka Secondary School and one school from Kabokweni where his mom Keni lived and sold vetkoeks during school breaks.

The Scholarship Programme is focused on providing financial and social support to young people born to single parents, orphans, unemployed parents, disabled persons and children looked after by pensioners.
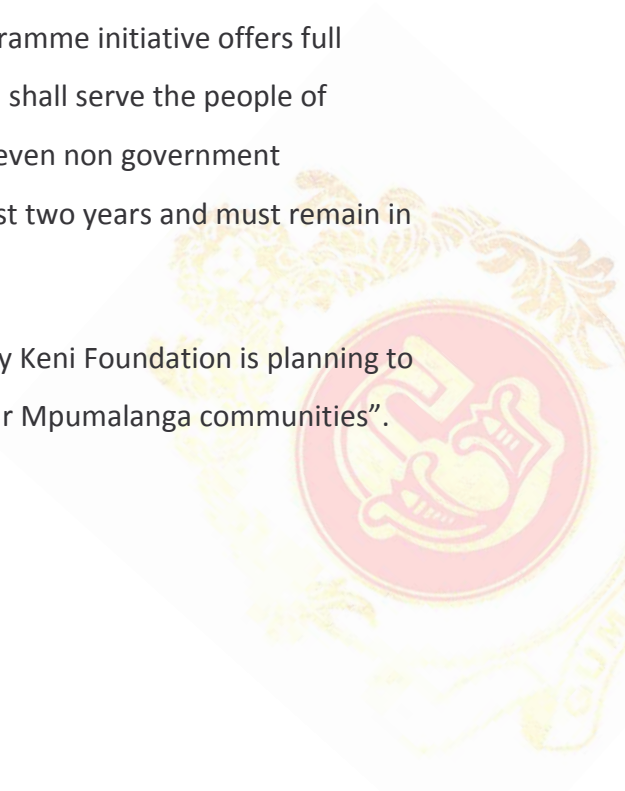
Mpumalanga students today have no access to a fully fledged university or medical school in the province to service the 5million inhabitants. The few students who are able to study at far flung universities like University of Zululand (800km from Nelspruit), University of Limpopo (450km), University of Johannesburg (400km), are lost to the province after they graduate.

Gumede wants to stop the brain drain from Mpumalanga and ensure that all the Mpumalanga province's qualified skills are retained and service the communities of Mpumalanga.

Recent announcements by President Zuma and Minister Blade Nzimande that Mpumalanga will finally have a new university and tertiary hospital/medical school have been welcomed.

"The Robert Gumede Family Keni Foundation Scholarship Programme initiative offers full scholarships on condition that the students, after qualification, shall serve the people of Mpumalanga by joining the Local or Provincial government or even non government organisations where they must serve the community for at least two years and must remain in the province for at least five years", stated Gumede.

Gumede says: "In the next ten years the Robert Gumede Family Keni Foundation is planning to provide and produce at least 200 graduates who will serve their Mpumalanga communities".

For the class of 2010, the Foundation has focused on the Mpumalanga Enhlanzeni Region as this region is the furthest away from any existing universities in South Africa. The Foundation will also decide which region/s will benefit for the class of 2011 and thereafter.

The Foundation has taken a transparent and independent approach in awarding the scholarships and have appointed an Mpumalanga Chapter Scholarship Trustees Committee made up of respectable leaders such as Prof John Shongwe, Dr Tee Portia Gumede, Pastor Mxolisi Lephoko, Ms Happiness Magagula, Mr Oupa Pilane, Mr Mfana Lushaba, Ms Irma Green and Mr Phillip Hlabangane, who are responsible to identify, assess and award the scholarships.

Gumede in the true spirit of Ubuntu decided to award the scholarships to the parents of the students, who in turn pay for their children so that their parental role is never diminished nor replaced by the Foundation.

"The scholarships awarded to the recipients are for the study of Medicine, Civil Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Mining Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Economics and Finance, Biochemistry and Social Sciences. Each student will be allocated a mentor who is a successful leader in their own right and who will monitor and support the student throughout their scholarship programme duration. Furthermore, the Foundation social worker will make unannounced visits to the students at their places of study, whilst the Robert Gumede Family Keni Foundation Scholarship Programme Mpumalanga Chapter Trustees will also liase directly with the university continuously so as to monitor the progress of the students on the programme", states Dr Tee Gumede.

Some of the recent education programmes initiated by the foundation in education are the donation of computers to schools to establish computer laboratories, construction of staff rooms, school offices, computer laboratories and award of bursaries to students.

The Foundation also donated R1million towards the Mpumalanga Higher Education and Training Community Forum, which is led by the heads of Mpumalanga's various tertiary institutions and civil society, with a view that they will work with the Ministry of Higher Education and Training in the establishment of a university in Mpumalanga.

It is also important to note that the Robert Gumede Family Keni Foundation Scholarship Programme is an entirely separate initiative to the current starring role played in education by the other companies owned by Gumede, who in their own right award scholarships to young people to further their academic qualifications and training. Some of Gumede's companies who invest in education are, Public listed Gijima, Tourvest and the Guma Group. They collectively invest millions of rands on an annual basis in these initiatives.

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ABOUT GUMA GROUP

The Guma Group is a 100% black owned (with no institutional shareholders), entrepreneurial diversified group with interests in Information Technology, Infrastructure & Construction, Energy, Water & Sanitation, Property, Mining, Transport & Aviation, Strategic Consulting, Tourism and Leisure. The Guma Group today employs over 12000 staff members spread all over the world.

In 1997, Robert Gumede started Gijima (now called Guma Group) and grew it rapidly.

Gumede, in 2005, through his IT company, **Gijima Technologies** engineered the reverse takeover of the then ailing white-owned company AST and at the time called it GijimaAst, which today is known as **Gijima**.

Gumede turned **Gijima** into the 2nd largest IT company in South Africa, employing about 4000 staff members with international offices and clients in Australia, Canada, Chile, Indonesia, the Middle East and Africa.

The Gumede owned Guma Group owns the largest integrated tourism company in Africa, called **Tourvest**, which has offices on five continents and boasts clients such as Virgin, British Airways,

Singapore Airlines, etc. Tourvest is involved in retail, African craft, jewellery, restaurants, hotels, duty free shops and American Express Foreign Exchange. Tourvest employs almost 5000 staff members all over the world.

Guma Group's latest acquisition is their 49.9% share in the Lions Rugby Club, a first by a black person in breaking barriers in rugby and to help transform and awaken the Lions and rugby in South Africa.

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