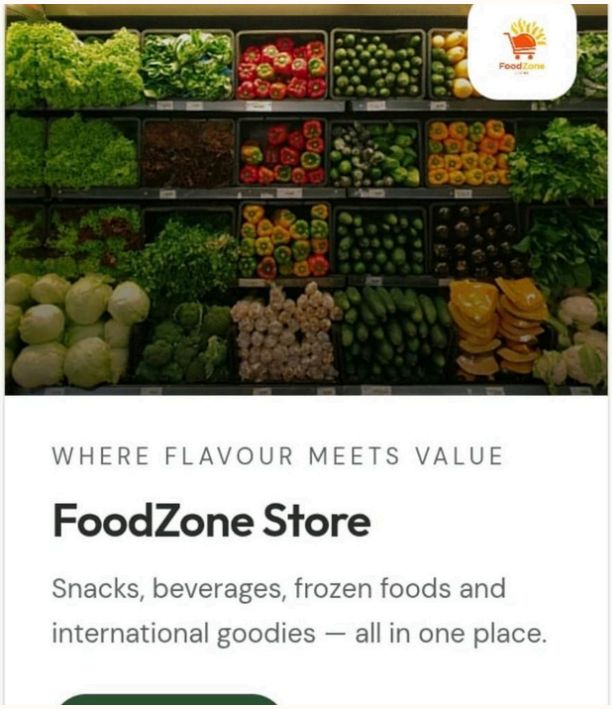
Your Story Matters; Meet Wendy Sibiya, the Young Woman Bringing Local Shopping Online



Komati power station village is one of many communities navigating the challenges of South Africa's Just Energy Transition. As the region adapts to economic changes linked to the transition away from coal, many families are facing uncertainty about jobs, skills development, and what the future holds for the next generation. While training initiatives and support programmes continue to be introduced, many young people remain unsure about where opportunities will come from.

Yet amid this uncertainty, 24-year-old Wendy Sibiya is choosing to create her own opportunities.



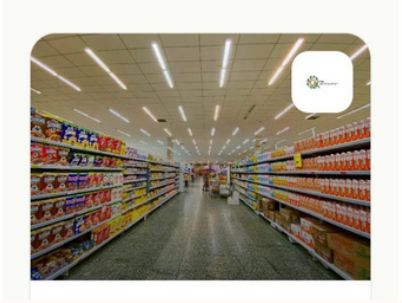
Rather than waiting for change to happen, Wendy is helping to shape it. Through innovation, determination, and a commitment to her community, she has developed Community Mart, an online grocery ordering platform designed to connect residents with trusted local businesses.

The app allows customers to order groceries from local stores such as OK Grocery and FoodZone, helping small businesses embrace digital technology while making shopping more convenient for residents.

For Wendy, the journey has not been easy.

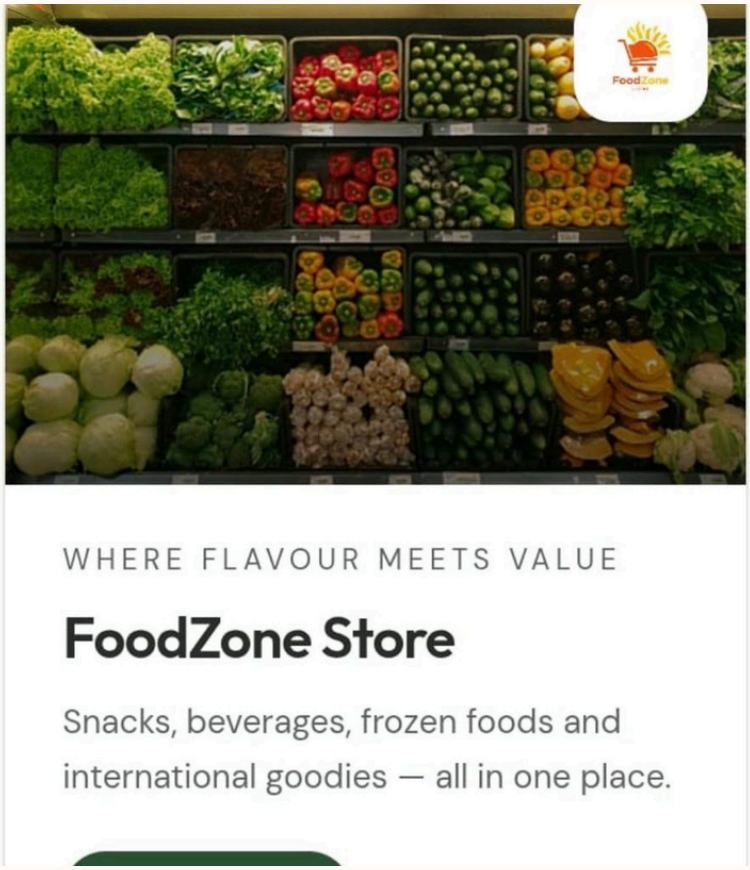
"As a young woman, approaching business owners can be difficult," she says. "Many people are still uncertain about technology and don't always trust online platforms. But I believe this can work and make a real difference in our community."

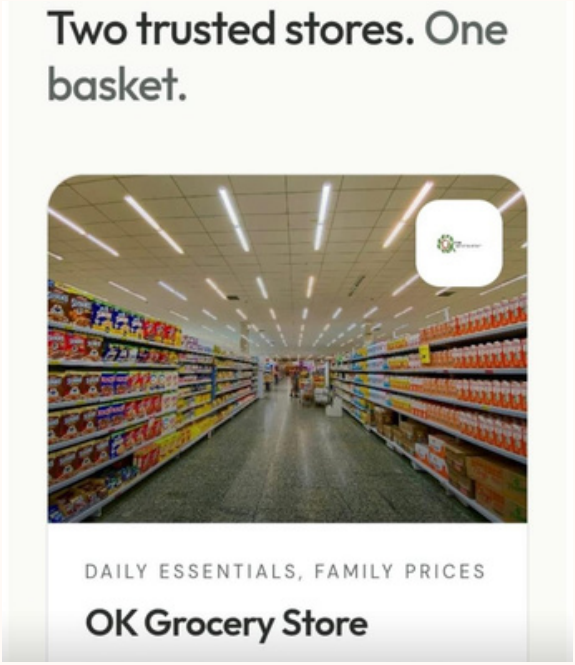
A Vision Beyond the Present



Wendy's vision extends beyond just two stores. Wendy hopes to help local shops in Komati and across Steve Tshwete Local Municipality to sell online within seven days, and at no upfront cost. She believes this can strengthen local businesses, keep money circulating within the community, and make life easier for the elderly, workers, and busy parents.

Building a Future of Resilience and Innovation





This month, she is launching a free one-week pilot programme with OK Grocery and FoodZone. If successful, she plans to expand the platform and bring more businesses on board.

Wendy's story is about more than technology. It is a story of resilience, innovation, and hope. In a community grappling with economic uncertainty, she represents a generation of young people who are refusing to let circumstances define their future.
Instead, they are writing their own stories.

As South Africa continues to celebrate Youth Month, Wendy Sibiya reminds us that young people are not only preparing for tomorrow, they are building it today.

