

2021

TVET

Success stories

In celebration of
TVET Month 2021,
we bring you inspiration
from the sector



higher education
& training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



TVET Colleges
SOUTH AFRICA

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DID YOU KNOW?

There are **50 registered and accredited public TVET Colleges in South Africa** with more than **370 campuses** spread across the rural and urban areas of the country.

Over the last several years there were over 600 000 students enrolled in public TVET Colleges.



For more information on TVET careers:
www.tvetcolleges.co.za

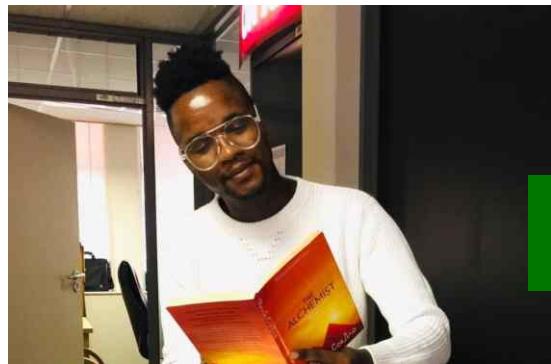
Follow us: TVET Colleges of South Africa

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JEWELLERY DESIGN

Student strikes Gold



Edgar Roosevelt's quote, "the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams" speaks directly to Thato Makhotla, an ORBIT TVET College, Jewellery and Manufacture Design graduate. Makhotla says his love for jewellery developed when he was young and becoming a jeweller seems a natural next step.

Makhotla began his studies at Rustenburg Campus. His commitment and hard work paid off in his final year of studies, when he was one of the Jewellery Design and Manufacture students from various TVET colleges (public and private), universities and universities of technology in the country selected to take part in a 24-month Goldsmith Art and Jewellery Design International Scholarship in Italy in 2015. For the duration of the programme, the students were placed at Tari Foundation Training School in Naples, where the training included laboratory and project work, as well as an internship component. They also participated in the main Italian trade fairs in the fashion, jewellery and design fields. "My experience there was mind-blowing, as I was exposed to the latest manufacturing styles and also got to meet and learn from renowned jeweller, Mr Rudolfo, who was our mentor and lecturer whilst in Italy," explained Makhotla.

Upon successful completion of the scholarship and his return to South Africa in 2017, Makhotla continued with his studies and passed his trade test at Pneuma Jewellers in Kyalami, Gauteng, and qualified as a Goldsmith in 2019. Makhotla then worked for a jewellery company and is doing what he loves the most. He has been a facilitator at NPO, Iketleng MoAfrika Skills Development, based in Sandfontein, North West, since 2019 where he teaches students how to design and manufacture jewellery.

"I am truly grateful to my institution, ORBIT TVET College, especially my former lecturers, Tebogo Molefe and Mbulelo Ntshali for their guidance and for also introducing me to opportunities I could only ever dream of. It would make me so proud to see one of my students having a success story like mine one day," added Makhotla.

The goldsmith says his dream is to own his own jewellery store and to produce high end jewellery pieces including luxury timepieces. For now though, his greatest passion is training young upcoming jewellers.

Makhotla's former lecturer at ORBIT College, Tebogo Molefe proudly added "it is always heart-warming and very fulfilling when our students go into the world to make us proud after completing their studies. It is definitely assurance to us that we are doing something right."

Name: Thato Makhotla

Studied: Jewellery Manufacture Design

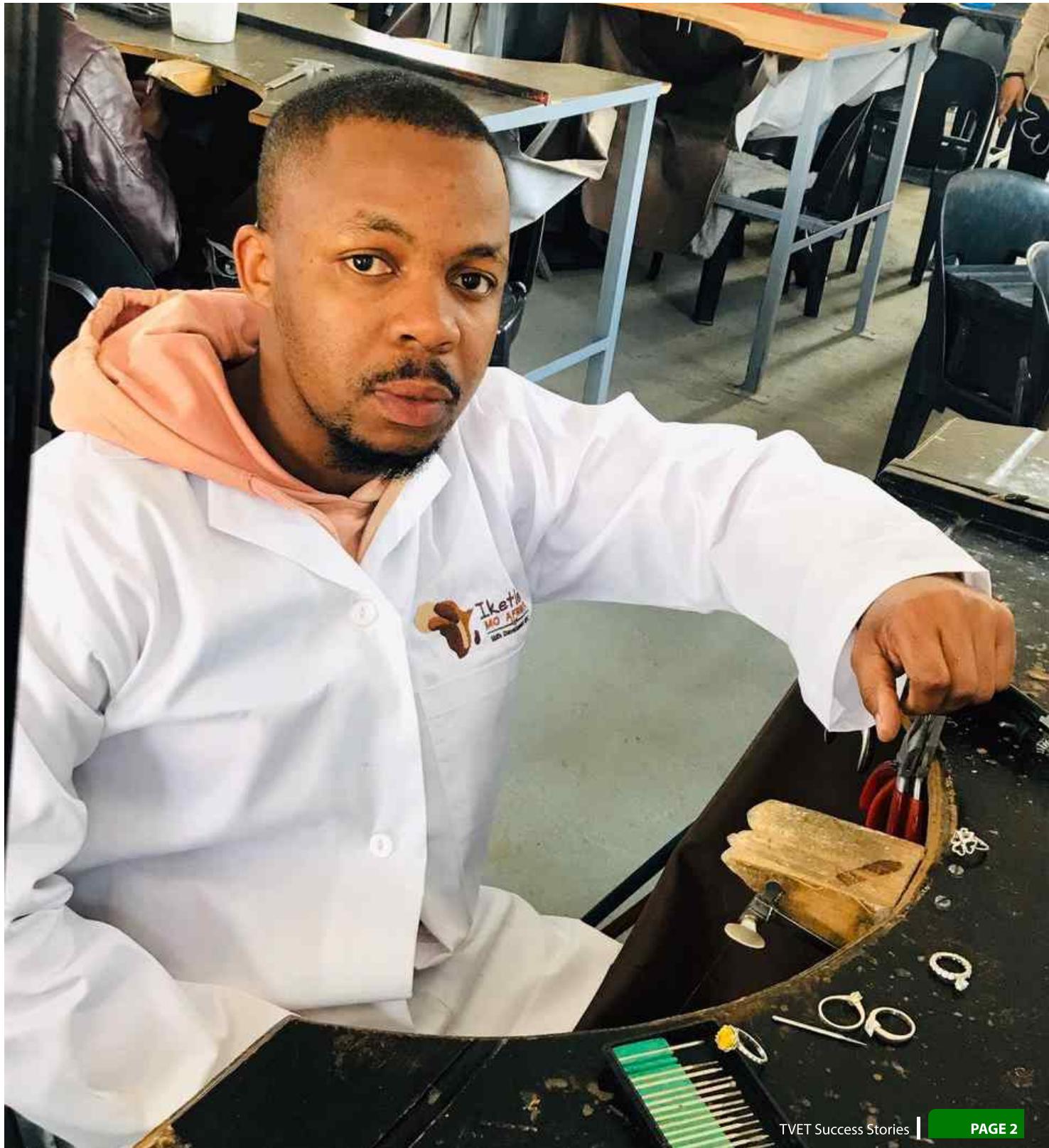
Institute: ORBIT TVET College

Current Job: Jewellery Making Facilitator

at Iketleng MoAfrika Skills Development

"ON-THE-JOB TRAINING AT ORBIT TVET COLLEGE HELPED ME BECOME A GREAT GOLDSMITH"

- THATO MAKHOTLA -



From Student to Lecturer

SEIPATI TLADI

SHARES HER STORY

"Electrical engineering has always been my passion," says Seipati Tladi. In fact, she's so passionate about this career that it's also something she does during her free time. The Sebokeng-born lecturer helps her community resolve electrical issues when she's not at work. Respected by students and lecturers alike, Tladi wants to pursue her Masters in Electrical Engineering.

Tladi is currently the Programme Head for Electrical Engineering at Sedibeng TVET College. She got a head start in her career as an Electrical Engineering student at Sedibeng TVET College. Being a former student at the College, she has gone on to achieve great success such as receiving the award for Best TVET Lecturer in Electrical Engineering in 2017. All of this would have not been possible without the College being a stepping stone to her fulfilling her dreams.

"Students always want to know more about the Electrical Engineering industry, and I think as soon as they start understanding the course content, they start being fascinated", said Tladi. And while her journey as a student is not over, she explained the route she has taken so far. Tladi attended Sedibeng TVET College and obtained her N6 Certificate in Electrical Engineering, did her apprentice training at Arcelor Mittal, and then obtained her National Diploma in Electrical Engineering. And when the teaching bug bit, she enrolled at Unisa for her PGCE and obtained her Wireman licence.

The energy she brings to her class encourages students to work harder, and as a result she was awarded the Best TVET Lecturer in Electrical Engineering in 2017. She reiterated that in any profession you need to ensure that you have mastered the field as students must have faith that you understand the content you teach. Tladi believes that if lecturers are adequately academically-equipped, their students will be more invested in what is being taught and will improve their results.

In celebration of TVET Month, a video was released of Ms Tladi taking us through a journey of her TVET career.



Watch the video here:

<https://youtu.be/GbNANEKrdbo>



Seipati Tladi is the Programme Head for Electrical Engineering at Sedibeng TVET College.



Some of her achievements include receiving the award for the Best TVET Lecturer in Electrical Engineering in 2017.



Tladi with her vibrant team at the College.

Student paves his way to entrepreneurship

Name: Mihle Mvelakubi
Studied: Civil Engineering and Building
Institute: College of Cape Town TVET
Owner of: Mvelakubi Civil Engineering Projects



One of the main intentions of the Decade of the Artisan by TVET Colleges was to instill the idea of entrepreneurship among students. That has certainly been the case for 24-year old Mihle Mvelakubi, a qualified bricklaying artisan. The former College of Cape Town TVET student used the skills and expertise gained from the College to open his own engineering company, Mvelakubi Civil Engineering Projects (PTY) LTD, which provides the following services: bricklaying, tiling, plumbing and paving.

His passion for engineering began when he was a learner at Agulhas School of Skills in Napier (Western Cape) where his main focus was bricklaying and plastering, woodwork, welding and agriculture. He then enrolled for the NC(V) Civil Engineering and Building Construction Level 2-4 programme at a TVET College, and then decided to further his studies by obtaining a National Diploma in Civil Engineering and Building after completing his N4-N6 at the College of Cape Town TVET.

Studying at College of Cape Town TVET opened the doors for him to represent South Africa at the 2017 WorldSkills International Competition in Abu Dhabi. In 2016, Mvelakubi was asked by his lecturer if he would like to participate in the WordSkills Competition. He had no idea of what he was about to embark on, but jumped at the opportunity.

After winning the provincial level of the competition, he invested most of this time practising, as he knew that he was going to compete against the best in South Africa. "Being at the National stage, was the best feeling. What was in my mind was that I made it, even if I don't win here, I still am a winner. What made the competition tougher was the crowds of people, which was completely different from the Provincial leg of the competition. The competition ended with me being recognised as the best bricklayer among my competitors, and I was going to represent South Africa at the global stage in Abu Dhabi" said Mvelakubi. One of his proud achievements in his career was representing the South African team in the bricklaying trade at the 2017 WorldSkills International Competition in Abu Dhabi (UAE), where there was competition with 76 other countries.

Mvelakubi enrolled for a trade test in bricklaying which he completed while he was busy with his N5 Civil Engineering and Building studies at the College. He recently completed his Assessor and Moderator training with the College of Cape Town TVET, Crawford campus. In 2019, he decided that he would use the skills and expertise gained from the College to open his own engineering company. One of their main aims of being an entrepreneur is to create job opportunities in order to lower unemployment, and boost the economy of South Africa. Mvelakubi believes that success is not defined by where you are, or what you have right now, but where you are heading.



In celebration of TVET Month, a video was released of Mvelakubi taking us through a journey of his TVET career.

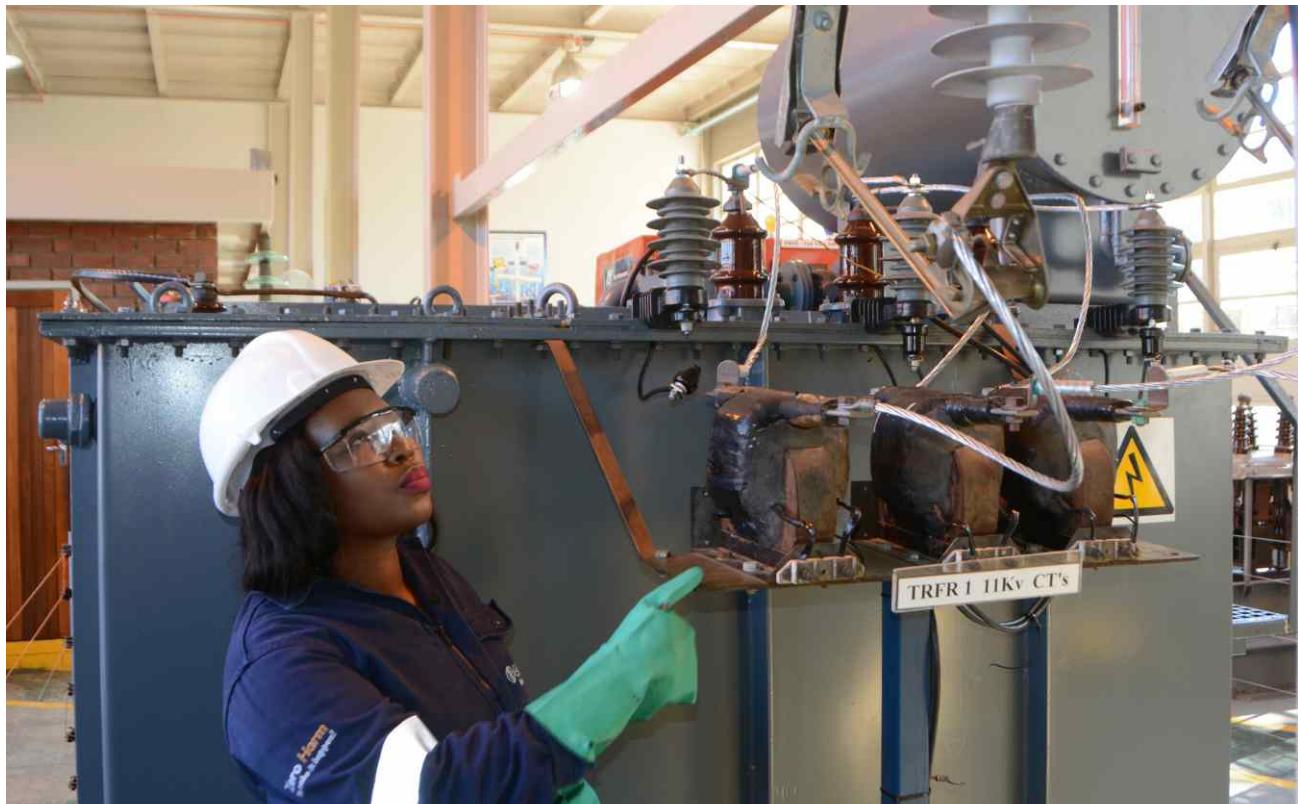
Watch the video here: https://youtu.be/fmQ_njL0VDE



“
**KEEP
MOVING AHEAD
AND NEVER
LOOK BACK**

- MIHLE MVELAKUBI -

Entrepreneurship skills acquired at TVET Colleges
can be used to start a business.



POWERED UP

ABOUT ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

In Women's Month, we also celebrate 31-year-old Snethemba Mpontshane, a former Majuba TVET College Electrical Engineering student. This dynamic, young artisan from Ulundi is now employed as a Senior Electrical Supervisor at Eskom based at the Kusile Power Station.

Mpontshane is very passionate about her job as a supervisor and is a role model to all TVET college students.

Born and raised in KwaSishwili in Ulundi, Mpontshane always knew she was destined for greatness, thanks to the love, support and guidance she received from her mentor; her mother.

"My mother has always been my role model. She is the strongest and most multi-talented woman I know. She is passionate and caring and has always inspired me to follow my dreams, and she will forever remain my everything, my nurse and my hero."

Mpontshane excelled at school in Mathematics and Science, and was inspired to sign up for the Year of the Artisan at Majuba TVET College in 2006, where she began her trade in N1 Electrical Engineering.

While there, she focused on Mathematics, Industrial Electronics, Engineering Science and Electro Technology.

"I grew up with two brothers so naturally I developed a passion for all things electronic. We would try to fix anything that had to do with electricity. I remember we once opened a two-plate stove just to see what was inside it and what made it generate heat and electricity," she said.

Mpontshane also admitted that from an early age she knew she wanted to work in the engineering industry. This motivated her to excel in her studies and pursue a career at Eskom.

"I remember my father once tried to decide a career for me, and I asked him not to choose a different career for me, as I was happy with my engineering choice."

For Mpontshane, working at a company such as Eskom has been a great journey for her, where she learned something new on a daily basis, such as safety, production, quality and even job planning.

"Electrical engineering as a whole has made my dreams come true. I had always prayed I would get into a big company such as Eskom, and it feels as if God answered my prayers."

Being a former student of Majuba TVET, Mpontshane firmly believed the College was a stepping stone for students, as it provided a platform where engineering students could be spotted by major companies looking to employ talented and skilled staff.



"I know of many students who have gone on to work for well-known companies following their studies, so I would advise anyone looking to go into the Engineering or artisan industry to start their journey at Majuba TVET College."

Her advice to women who may be considering artisanship as a career, is that when it comes to the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, you have to work hard to get the recognition you deserve. "What used to be a man's playground is a place for women too; Amandla!" she said excitedly.

WHEN ASKED WHERE SHE SAW HERSELF IN 10 YEARS TIME, MPONTSHANE SAID SHE HOPED TO SEE HERSELF AS A BOARD MEMBER AT ESKOM

"Ever since I was in school, my mission has always been to say 'no' to failure. The idea of possibly failing makes me push even harder to achieve my goals. My life's motto is whatever leadership looks like to you, whether at home, at the office and even in the world, always remember you are an inspiration to those who follow your path. If anyone doubts how far you can go in life, then push through it and go so far that you no longer hear them," she concluded.

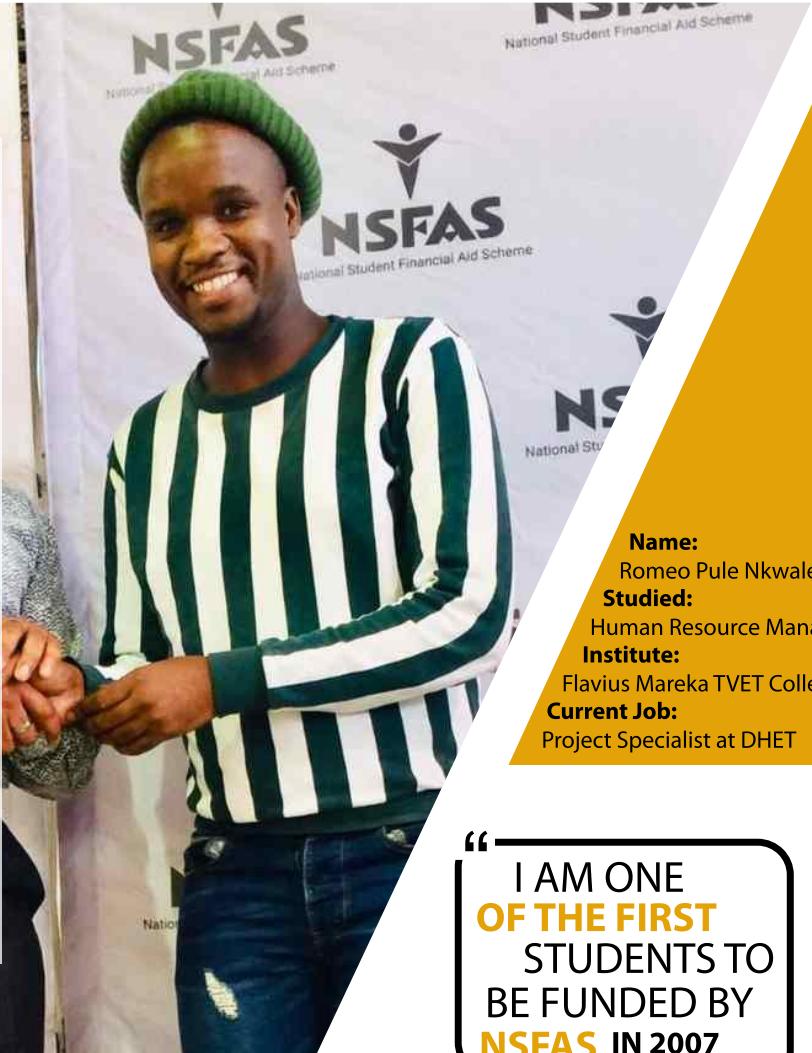
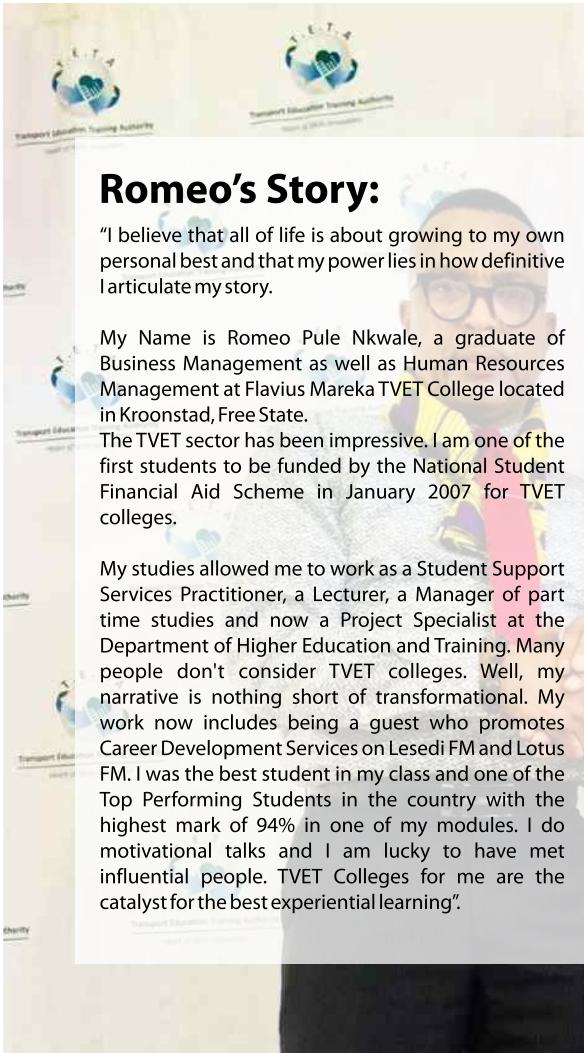
In celebration of TVET Month, a video was released of Mpontshane demonstrating how we receive electricity from the power stations at Eskom to our homes.

 Watch video here:
<https://youtu.be/w9rVSu84AHM>

**TVET Colleges
produce graduates
who are work-ready**



Bursary helps Romeo fulfil his dream



Name:

Romeo Pule Nkwale

Studied:

Human Resource Management

Institute:

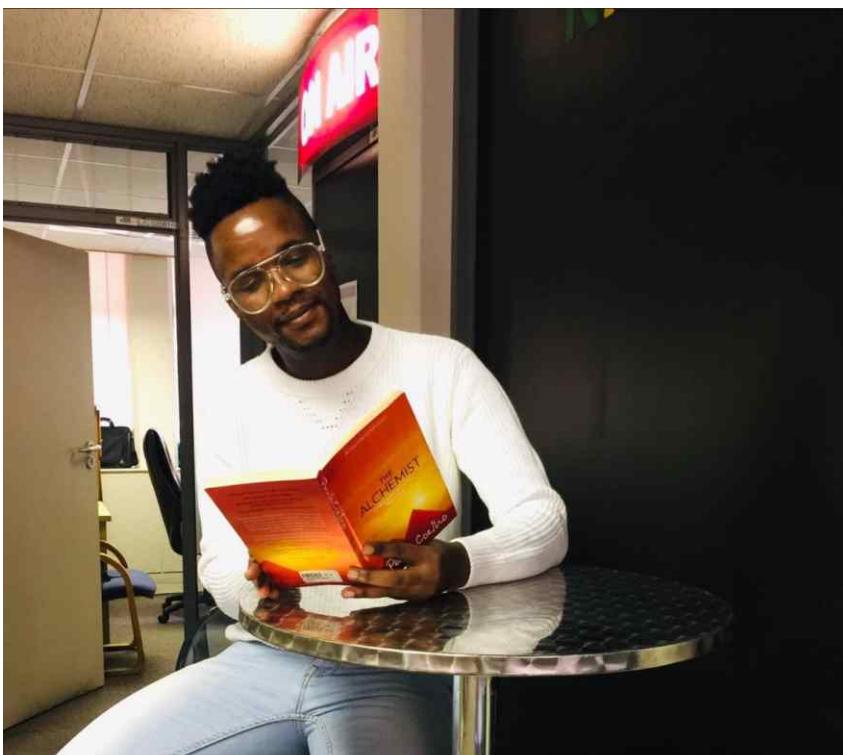
Flavius Mareka TVET College

Current Job:

Project Specialist at DHET

**I AM ONE
OF THE FIRST
STUDENTS TO
BE FUNDED BY
NSFAS IN 2007**

- ROMEO PULE NKWALE -



We also celebrate Romeo Pule Nkwale, a graduate of Business Management as well as Human Resources Management from Flavius Mareka TVET College. With the aid of the NSFAS bursary, he was able to fulfil his dreams and now is a proud employee of the Department of Higher Education and Training in Pretoria where he serves as a Project Specialist in the Career Development Services unit. Prior to this, he has worked as a Student Support Services Practitioner, a Lecturer and then as a Manager of part-time studies at Flavius Mareka TVET College.

In celebration of TVET Month, a video was released of Romeo Pule Nkwale taking us through a journey of his TVET career.



Watch the video here:

https://youtu.be/z_teyJJelqU



HOSPITALITY STUDENTS

— AIM TO BE A CUT ABOVE THE REST —

We are proud to celebrate the four N6 Hospitality students from Port Elizabeth TVET College who recently completed a one year advanced training programme at the Tourism College of Zhejiang in China, which is also known as the first of its kind Tourism Professional Institution in China. It was a very rewarding experience for Neliseka Lolwana, Phambili Sulelo, Shaheeda Fondling and Ongenzwa Gcau as they were given the opportunity to gain valuable work experience with the day-to-day duties they can expect to encounter in the Tourism field. This advanced training opportunity was also aimed at providing them with an edge in the job market and to stand out to potential employers. The Tourism College of Zhejiang has recently established cooperative relations with Port

Elizabeth TVET College with the approval of the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China. Tourism College of Zhejiang is considered one of the most prestigious universities of China and is placed among the top five educational institutions of the country.

The Hospitality students were sent to four different kitchens, where each of them had to perform different tasks as part of the training programme.

For Neliseka Lolwana, it was a dream come true for her to work in the pastry kitchen. "I loved every second of it and have now mastered the art of working with pastry and making all different kinds of dough. Furthermore, I learnt how to use a cleaver knife which is used in China to perform all the tasks usually done by a complete set of

knives such as mincing, chopping, slicing, grinding and pounding", said an excited Lolwana.

Phambili Sulelo plied his trade in the main kitchen. "Some of my training included learning new techniques to place food orders and also to steam food. We noticed that in China most of the food is steamed and not fried. Steamed food has a long history in Chinese cuisine and is very healthy", said Sulelo.

Upon returning home, the Hospitality students expressed gratitude to Port Elizabeth TVET College and the Tourism College of Zhejiang for providing them with the best learning and living environment, and said that they gained a lot from the training opportunity.

Congrats Veels Geluk Hartsele



Shaheeda Fondling's experience at the Tourism College of Zhejiang in China

“

I worked as an all-rounder in the restaurant at the Tourism College of Zhejiang in China and enjoyed the whole experience.

I am extremely grateful to be part of the team that went to China.

I feel that this advanced training will open the door for new opportunities for me in the near future.

Shaheeda Fondling (Port Elizabeth TVET College)



Phambili Sulelo's experience at the Tourism College of Zhejiang in China

“

Some of my training at the
Tourism College of Zhejiang in China
included learning new techniques to
place food orders and also to steam food.
We noticed that in China most of the food
is steamed and not fried.

Steamed food has a long history
in Chinese cuisine and is very healthy.

Phambili Sulelo (Port Elizabeth TVET College)



POR T ELIZABETH
TVET COLLEGE

Congrats Veels Geluk Hala!

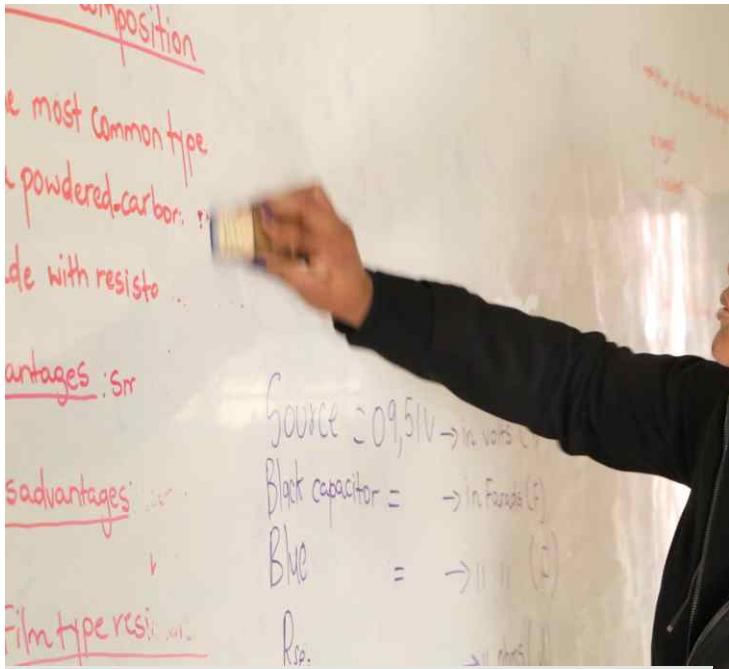


Ongenzwa Gcau's experience at the Tourism College of Zhejiang in China

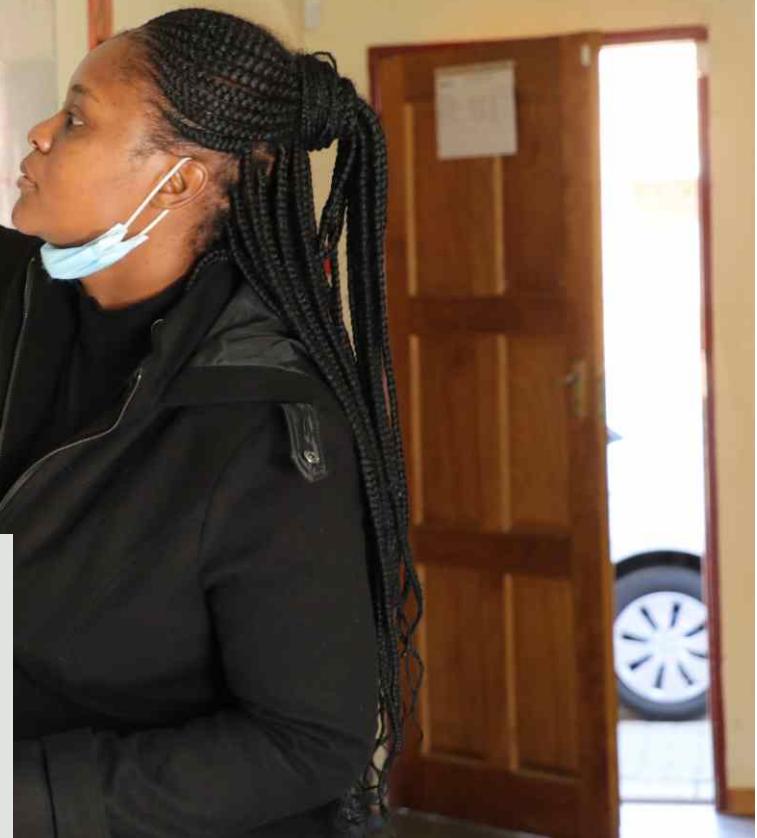
“

I worked in the main kitchen at the Tourism College of Zhejiang in China where I was mostly making desserts. My main focus was Western desserts and I enjoyed every experience of learning how to make all the different kinds of desserts out there in the world. It was a life-changing experience.

Ongenzwa Gcau (Port Elizabeth TVET College)



Name: Siphehle Mathebula
Studied: Electrical Engineering
Institute: Gert Sibande TVET College
Current Job: Electrical Engineering lecturer



This TVET month, we are proud to celebrate the 27-year old Siphehle Mathebula, a qualified artisan from Gert Sibande TVET College in Mpumalanga. She is currently employed as an Electrical Engineering lecturer at Gert Sibande TVET College, Standerton Campus, lecturing the following subjects: Mathematics, Industrial Electronics and Electro Technology. Her passion for engineering and boundless determination have led her to success in a challenging field.

Mathebula was born in Warburton near Ermelo, Mpumalanga. She completed her studies (NSC) at Warburton Combined School in 2011.

Mathebula has a brother who led by example in joining the engineering field, and she also fell in love with engineering. She was inspired by motivational speaker John Oscar Kubheka during a school visit in 2012. She immediately decided to enrol for Electrical Engineering at Ermelo Campus.

Mathebula stated that her college life was not easy, but her lecturers gave her support. "During my college days as a student, it was not easy, but with the support and motivation of good lecturers, today I am also a lecturer and a qualified artisan," she added. She completed her N6 in 2014, and then in 2016 she took up apprenticeship training at Skills Academy for 36 months, where fundamental knowledge training was followed by on-the-job experiential learning, which was supplemented with core industry knowledge training and practice. She then went for her trade test. She passed and became a qualified artisan.

According to the National Development Plan, South Africa needs to produce over 30 000 qualified artisans a year to meet the labour demand by 2030. With such a high demand for artisans, it is vital to encourage more women to occupy the engineering field. "To all women out there, it is possible. It's time for us to take a giant step towards our dream careers," she said.

Mathebula also holds a Postgraduate Certificate in Education which she obtained from the University of South Africa and out of the 10 modules, she bagged six distinctions and she intends to do her Honours Degree next year. Mathebula plans on becoming an education specialist at Gert Sibande TVET College. "Specialised knowledge, rather than physical strength is required to be an excellent artisan. I urge women to conquer and excel, despite being in a trade dominated by men," she advised.

In celebration of TVET Month, a video was released of Siphehle Mathebula taking us through a journey of her TVET career.



Watch video here:

<https://youtu.be/w9rVSu84AHM>



Woman Artisan

shares her secrets for success

Siphehle believes it's a beautiful tribute that her name means 'a beautiful gift from God' in isiZulu. She said, "It was never easy to get where I am today, but with hard work and determination come success." Studying through the NSFAS Bursary also played an instrumental role in her success.



Meet the former EMC TVET student doing facebeats for celebrities

The entrepreneurship skills she acquired at EMC TVET College helped her to start this business

Eastcape Midlands TVET College (EMC) is proud to celebrate one of its former students, Amanda Nyoka, who is rubbing shoulders with international and local celebrities. She is also the Director of Amish Beauty and Glam beauty business and has recently launched her own skincare range "Amish Healthy Skin".

Name: Amanda Nyoka

Studied: Marketing Management

Institute: Eastcape Midlands TVET College

Company: Director of Amish Beauty and Glam



The dynamic young woman completed her Marketing qualification at Eastcape Midlands TVET College (EMC) in 2011 and is currently one of the leading celebrity make-up artists in the country. This EMC alumna, has put the knowledge acquired as a marketing student to accentuate her entrepreneurial skills. According to her, studying Marketing at EMC has afforded her the opportunity to brand herself.

Nyoka was born in a small town called Uitenhage, now Kariega, in the Eastern Cape.

She is a self-taught beautician, specialising in make-up, hairstyling, nails and wardrobe styling for TV, weddings, functions and special occasions.

It all started in 2013, when she volunteered at Bay TV in the Make-up Department. A year later, Nyoka put her entrepreneurship skills to good use by starting her own beauty

business called Amish Beauty and Glam. She has had the opportunity to do make-up for celebrities like Zandile Khumalo, Busiswa, Zahara, Deborah Fraser, Berita, Moonchild Sanelly, Nomcebo Zikode and many others who have graced the shores of Nelson Mandela Bay.

In 2017 she was approached by Connect TV to be one of the makeup artists for Diski Divas Season 3. Nyoka has also featured on radio stations such as Umhlobo Wenene, True FM and KQFM as a beauty coach.



ONE OF THE MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF HER CAREER WAS IN SEPTEMBER 2018, WHEN SHE RECEIVED A CALL FROM BBL PRODUCTION IN LOS ANGELES TO DO MAKE UP FOR THE AMERICAN CELEBRITY KATHERINE KELLY LANG DURING HER STAY IN SA.

In October 2018, Nyoka launched her skincare range "Amish Healthy Skin". She is also a freelance make-up artist with SABC and she facilitates her own beauty sessions, teaching women make-up skills.



Amanda's words of encouragement to students:

"You can be anything you want to be in spite of the challenges you may face. All you need to do is, accept your background, work towards making a difference, stay focused on your goals, work hard, be disciplined, pray and go for it!"



In celebration of TVET Month, a video was released of Amanda Nyoka taking us through a journey of her TVET career.

Watch video here:

<https://youtu.be/VNXFdxEi1r4>

AGRICULTURE STUDENTS

RAKE UP EXPERIENCE IN THE USA

We celebrate four students from Elangeni TVET College who recently completed an Agricultural internship at the Kirkwood Community College in the USA. Upon completing the Community College Initiative (CCI) programme, Bonisiwe Sithole, Nonkuleko Mkhize, Sihle Thabethé, and Vincent Majangaza returned home with new skills and expertise in agriculture which could help them play a role in contributing to the economic growth and development of our country. This life-changing programme is designed to recruit participants from historically-disadvantaged communities.

The CCI, in collaboration with Elangeni TVET College, offers a fully-funded programme to eligible South African technical and vocational students, offering them a non-

degree, academic programme at a community college in the USA.

Students are selected based on academic performance, as there are various stages followed before appointment. These include agricultural know-how, listening skills and communication skills. The test scripts are marked by the United States Consulate and the successful candidates for that year are announced.

Nonkuleko Mkhize shared her feelings of how fortunate she was to have been part of the programme. "The chance to study in the USA made me feel great. I gained a lot of knowledge in my studies abroad with regards to management of cattle, animal nutrition, and swine production." Mkhize also acknowledged the assistance she has received from the College and plans to help

those who require assistance, both in terms of education or starting an agricultural project.

" ELANGENI TVET COLLEGE IS VERY PROUD OF ITS STUDENTS AND THIS RARE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY IN THE USA TO DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE FOR TOMORROW, AND URGES POTENTIAL STUDENTS OF THE CCI SCHOLARSHIP TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY, AND TO DEVELOP THEIR FARMING SKILLS IN PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY.





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Elangeni
College

Nonkuleko Mkhize's experience with the Agriculture Internship in the USA

“

The chance to study in the USA made me feel great. I gained a lot of knowledge in my studies abroad with regards to management of cattle, animal nutrition, and swine production.

I studied a module based on Animal Nutrition and as a result was exposed to more animal feed information such as identifying feeds, protein percentages and crude fibre. From the knowledge I have gained, I plan to help those who require assistance in terms of setting up an agricultural project from scratch.

Nonkuleko Mkhize (Elangeni TVET College)

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Elangeni College

Technical and Vocational
Education and Training

Elangeni College

Technical and Vocational
Education and Training



Sihle Thabethe's experience with the Agriculture Internship in the USA

“

It's been a great experience in the USA and I have learnt more about their culture and history.

My syllabus mainly dealt with 2 subjects: Swine Management and Animal Nutrition.

The resources and training equipment used was very modern and increased our chances of learning more.

I learnt a lot on pig production and how to effectively manage a pig farm.

I also learnt about feeds which I really took for granted but now I know the importance of nutrition.

Sihle Thabethe (Elangeni TVET College)





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REPU

Elangeni College



Bonisiwe Sithole's experience with the Agriculture Internship in the USA

“

My experience in the USA was phenomenal through the way of living, cultural exchange and being exposed to a different academic life.

There was a lot of knowledge that I gained in the agriculture field from my professors at the Community College in the USA.

It was also an experience to travel away from home for the first time for me and gave me a different perspective of the agriculture field.

Bonisiwe Sithole (Elangeni TVET College)