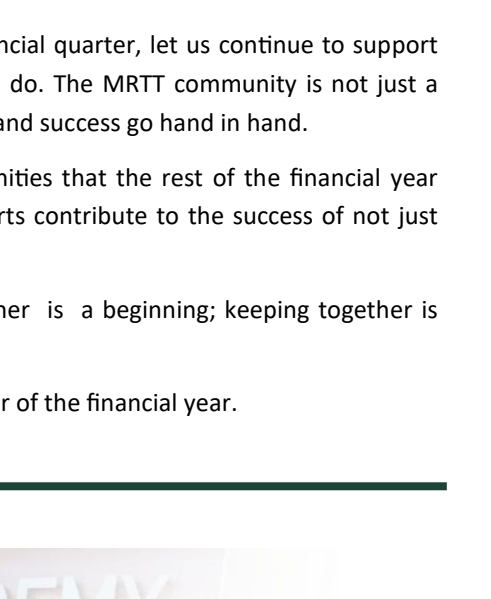
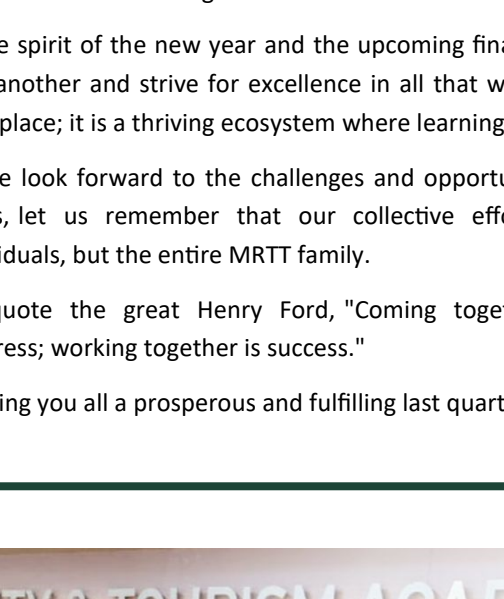


MPUMALANGA REGIONAL TRAINING TRUST NEWSLETTER

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FORMER MRTT LEARNERS EXCEL IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS



As we embark on the last quarter of the financial year, it brings me great pleasure to extend warm wishes to each and every member of our MRTT family. Happy 2024!

EDITORS NOTE



Bongani Hlatshwayo

In this edition of our newsletter, we proudly showcase the inspiring success stories of former MRTT learners who have not only completed their training but have also gone on to make significant strides in their respective fields. Their achievements stand as a testament to the transformative power of the training programs offered at MRTT.

As we celebrate these accomplishments, let us also take a moment to reflect on the collective efforts that have brought us to this point. The dedication and hard work of our team, coupled with the commitment of our learners, have laid the foundation for a year filled with achievements and growth.

In the spirit of the new year and the upcoming financial quarter, let us continue to support one another and strive for excellence in all that we do. The MRTT community is not just a workplace; it is a thriving ecosystem where learning and success go hand in hand.

As we look forward to the challenges and opportunities that the rest of the financial year holds, let us remember that our collective efforts contribute to the success of not just individuals, but the entire MRTT family.

To quote the great Henry Ford, "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

Wishing you all a prosperous and fulfilling last quarter of the financial year.

The editorial team would like to hear from you. Please send your views and opinions to us.

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VISION

To be recognised as an accredited sustainable skills development agency throughout Southern Africa.

MISSION

To provide quality customised training interventions, practical workplace training, placement and after-care according to the demands of the market that we serve for job creation and poverty alleviation

VALUES

- Accountability;
- Transparency;
- Innovation;
- Professionalism; and
- Respect

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AYANDA JIYANE PROFESSIONAL COOKERY LEARNER OF 2020

By Selby Mkhathswa



"With all the knowledge and practical work I have acquired at MRTT I have managed to establish a company in 2021 by the name Aya M Holdings after I finished the programme and I have employed more than 20 people".

A participant in Greenside Colliery community skills training programme, **Ayanda Jiyane** was one of the 10 chefs to have completed a two-year **National Certificate in Professional Cookery** at the **Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust Hospitality and Tourism Academy** situated in Kanyamazane, Nelspruit. She spent nine months receiving theoretical and practical training at the academy's hotel and conference facility.

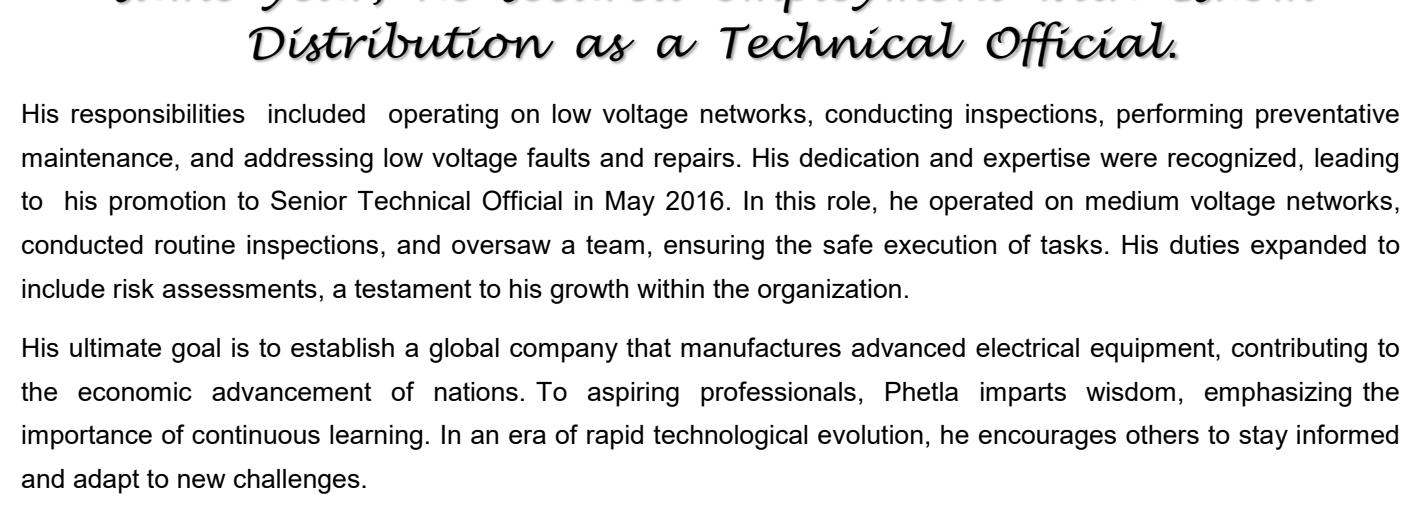
Ms. Jiyane has won two awards not only because of her hard work in the kitchen, she is the food and beverage manager for a gaming and hospitality group and she runs her own catering company. Ayanda also happens to operate a construction company and she is working on getting her own wine brand on the shelves.

Ayanda was born at Emalahleni and she mentions that she is proud to be a business owner for 20 local people. She got a price of R30 000 cash in the inaugural Bamba Business Award staged by Hollywood bets Foundation enterprise and supplier development arm. The competition recognizes entrepreneurs who are making a positive impact in their communities through their business.

Ayanda also mentions that she is happy that she was chosen as one of the people who make a difference in the community. Being a product of MRTT an unprivileged institution for students, did not stop her from achieving my goals it was just a stigma from the society and the standard of this world.

"With all the knowledge and practical work I have acquired at MRTT I have managed to establish a company in 2021 by the name **Aya M Holdings** after I finished the programme and I have employed more than 20 people with as and when contracts we receive from the mining sector" said Ms. Jiyane

Ayanda believes that success it's a state of mind-set, it does not matter which background you are from, you only need focus, dedication yourself, discipline yourself and be consistent. These values will bare massive fruits for you as u are taking a lifetime journey in the hospitality industry.



JOURNEY TO SUCCESS: CHOLOGI RUDOLPH PHETLA'S INSPIRING CAREER IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

By Bonisiwe Mashaba



Chologi Rudolph Phetla former MRTT Learner is an ambitious Electrician professional who is now working for Eskom Distribution as a senior Technical Official. Phetla embarked on a transformative journey to study **Electrical Engineering a Skills Programme** at MRTT in mid-2012 to early 2013. He was motivated by the desire to enhance his expertise in Electrical Engineering and bolster his marketability. Phetla seized the opportunity to advance his skills in this dynamic field and was referred to MRTT by a friend.

The programme, focusing on Electrical NOF skills development, proved to be a Vital moment in Phetla's career. With a clear goal to improve his prospects in the job market, he dedicated himself to the teachings, which he found to be incredibly fruitful. He expressed confidence in his ability to apply the acquired knowledge across various aspects of electrical engineering. Rating MRTT out of 10 Phetla's rate is 9.

he also highlighted the harmonious learning environment created by his **Practitioner Mr. Peter Phetla**, his emphasis on self-starting abilities fostered a culture of proactive learning, contributing to an enriching educational experience.

Following the completion of the Electrical Engineering Programme at MRTT in February 2013, Phetla wasted no time putting his newfound skills to use. In March of the same year, he secured employment with Eskom Distribution as a Technical Official.

His responsibilities included operating on low voltage networks, conducting inspections, performing preventative maintenance, and addressing low voltage faults and repairs. His dedication and expertise were recognized, leading to his promotion to Senior Technical Official in May 2016. In this role, he operated on medium voltage networks, conducted routine inspections, and oversaw a team, ensuring the safe execution of tasks. His duties expanded to include risk assessments, a testament to his growth within the organization.

His ultimate goal is to establish a global company that manufactures advanced electrical equipment, contributing to the economic advancement of nations. To aspiring professionals, Phetla imparts wisdom, encouraging others to emphasize the importance of continuous learning. In an era of rapid technological evolution, he encourages others to stay informed and adapt to new challenges.

NOMPUMELELO SIBITANE FOOD AND BEVERAGE LEARNER OF 2022-23

By Selby Mkhathswa



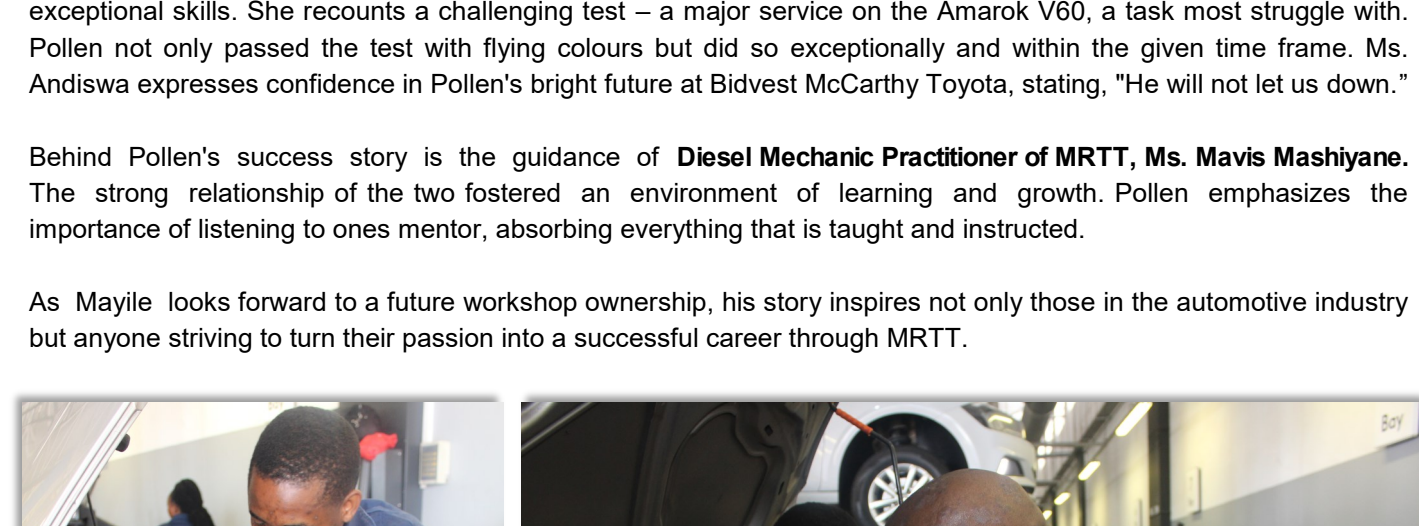
I am now a successful business owner because of the knowledge I gained at MRTT. After graduating, I started my very own business called "Bevs By Lelo".

When **Nompumelelo Sibitane** enrolled for the **National Certificate in Food and Beverages**, little did she know how many doors would open in her life. Studying at MRTT did not just mould her on becoming what she is now but it made her understand the importance of hospitality. *"We are the people of the hotel, we make people feel comfortable during their stay and we make them create the most beautiful memories"*. Said Nompumelelo, who continued to mention that she enjoyed studying at MRTT and that it was a privilege working with the best team that the hotel had to offer.

The hotel school taught her a daily routine in a hotel operates; you rotate in every department to learn how to work in every field of the hotel. The students get a chance for workplace exposure through placement on different hotels for them to gain more experience in the field. "I am now a successful business owner because of the knowledge that I have gained at MRTT. After graduating, I started my own business called **Bevs By Lelo**," said the business woman.

It was born out of a passion for mixology and a desire to create memorable experiences for her customers. As avid party-goers ourselves, she noticed a gap in the market for a mobile bar that could bring unique and refreshing drinks to various events and gatherings. She believes that a well-crafted cocktails and mock tails can elevate any occasion, and she is excited to share her expertise and creativity with the local community. In addition, her drinks are for everyone, whatever the age; her drinks will make your event memorable. She calls them Happy Sips!

Mpumali hopes people will see how doing hospitality can be both fun and profitable. "You can run your own hotel or lodge one day just by doing a course at MRTT. Anything is possible with hospitality, dreams do come true and I made mine true".



POLLEN MAYILE - FORMER DIESEL MECHANIC LEARNER NOW BIDVEST MCCARTHY TOYOTA TRAINEE MECHANIC

By Lerato Mahlangu



Meet **Pollen Mayile**, a former MRTT learner in **Diesel Mechanic** who has demonstrated not only an interest but also a remarkable aptitude for the trade. Eager to advance his skills, he seamlessly progressed to Level 3, successfully completing both level 2 and 3 of the programme.

Pollen's dedication did not go unnoticed. Upon completion of his training, he earned a valuable work placement opportunity at McCarthy Volkswagen in Emalahleni. In December 2023, he secured a **Trainee Mechanic Apprenticeship** at Bidvest McCarthy Toyota, leveraging the qualifications he acquired at MRTT.

Looking towards the future, Pollen envisions owning his own workshop. In his own words, Pollen shares advice for aspiring learners: "You go to school knowing what you want to achieve, work hard to get just that, make sure to listen and do as you are instructed by your facilitator," said Mayile.

"You go to school knowing what you want to achieve, work hard to get just that, make sure to listen and do as you are instructed by your facilitator."

Pollen's supervisor at McCarthy Volkswagen, Ms. Andiswa, sings praises of the young Mechanic, highlighting his exceptional skills. She recounts a challenging test – a major service on the Amarok V60, a task most struggle with. Pollen not only passed the test with flying colours but did so exceptionally and within the given time frame. Ms. Andiswa expressed confidence in Pollen's bright future at Bidvest McCarthy Toyota, stating, "He will not let us down."

Behind Pollen's success story is the guidance of **Diesel Mechanic Practitioner of MRTT, Ms. Mavis Mashiyane**. The strong relationship of the two fostered an environment of learning and growth. Pollen emphasizes the importance of listening to ones mentor, absorbing everything that is taught and instructed.

As Mayile looks forward to a future workshop ownership, his story inspires not only those in the automotive industry but anyone striving to turn their passion into a successful career through MRTT.



SITHANDILE SYMPATHY MASHELE ASSISTANT CHEF LEARNER OF 2023

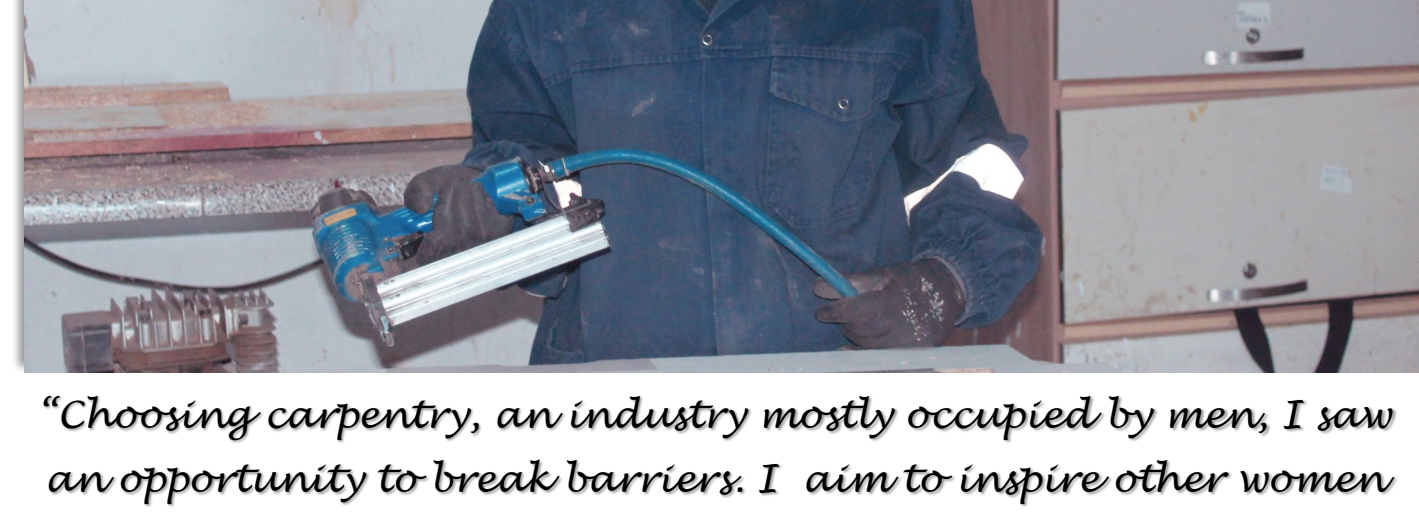
By Selby Mkhathswa



"One more thing I love about MRTT-HTA is that they will support your dreams even after you have left."

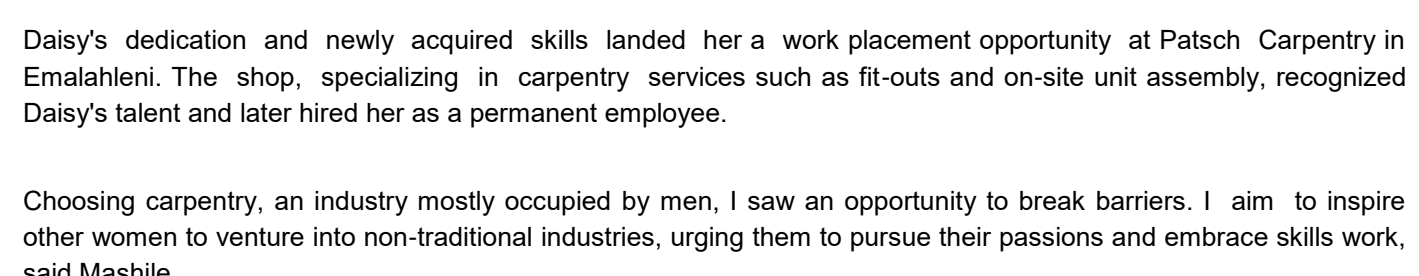
Sithandile Mashele completed her studies in the **Skills Programme in Assistant Chef** in September 2023. She was chosen as best student in her pastry class and got an opportunity for a five day exhibition in Kruger National Park where she shared her experience and knowledge as to being a chef and the opportunities around you when you qualify to be a chef. Sithandile started her own business selling birthday cakes and scones soon after she has completed her studies at MRTT-HTA.

December 2023 she started working at **Eco lux Boutique Hotel and spa** as the **commis chef** and she still runs her business part-time; Furthermore Sithandile mentions that people who are interested in Hospitality studies have to love their work and opportunities out there are going to open up for them. "One more thing I love about MRTT-HTA is that they will support your dreams even after you have left" said Ms. Mashele.



DAISY MASHILE CARVING HER NICHE IN CARPENTRY

By Lerato Mahlangu



"Choosing carpentry, an industry mostly occupied by men, I saw an opportunity to break barriers. I aim to inspire other women to venture into non-traditional industries, urging them to pursue their passions and embrace skills work"

Daisy Mashile defied societal norms to pursue her passion for carpentry. Her educational journey, guided by Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust (MRTT), is an inspirational success story of breaking gender stereotypes in a male-dominated industry.

Mashile's journey into carpentry began with a spark of interest and a friend's recommendation about MRTT. Without hesitation, she registered and immersed herself in a three-month **Carpentry Level 3 Skills Programme** in 2023, setting the foundation for her future in the craft.

Daisy's dedication and newly acquired skills landed her a work placement opportunity at Patsch Carpentry in Emalahleni. The shop, specializing in carpentry services such as fit-outs and on-site unit assembly, recognized Daisy's talent and later hired her as a permanent employee.

Choosing carpentry, an industry mostly occupied by men, I saw an opportunity to break barriers. I aim to inspire other women to venture into non-traditional industries, urging them to pursue their passions and embrace skills work, said Mashile.

The young carpenter's aspirations extend beyond her current role. Her desire is to open her own carpentry company, actively employing and empowering women. Motivated by proving to her parents the greatness achievable in carpentry, she envisions a future where her success becomes a testament to breaking societal norms.

With a passion for mentorship, Daisy advises fellow women to embrace handy work and skills trades, encouraging them to move beyond conventional office roles. She believes that limiting oneself based on gender stereotypes is a barrier to personal and professional growth.

Daisy's colleagues speak highly of her work ethic. Her manager acknowledges her dedication, expressing a desire to teach her more and envisioning her opening her carpentry shop one day. Daisy's mentor emphasizes the ability to listen, follow instructions, and work seamlessly alongside her male counterparts.

Expressing gratitude, Daisy acknowledges her **MRTT Carpentry Practitioner, Mr. Seage**, for fostering a positive and supportive learning environment. The bond they share continues to contribute to Daisy's growth.

Mashile's journey from MRTT learner to a respected carpenter at Patsch Carpentry is a story of determination, passion, and breaking down barriers. As she strides confidently towards her dream of opening her own carpentry business, Daisy stands as an inspiration for women in trades, proving that gender should never be a hindrance to pursuing one's passion and achieving great success.

