MPUMALANGA REGIONAL TRAINING TRUST
MRTT
Empowerment Through Training

MPUMALANGA REGIONAL TRAINING TRUST NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 46| MAY 2024

30 Years of Democracy: Partnership and Growth

30 YEARS OF FREEDOM South Africa 1994 - 2024 #Freedom30

From the EDITOR'S desk

The May newsletter carries more exciting stories about the entity's skills development activities driven by our mandate to develop and empower the youth of the province, through skills development. We bring you views from our recently fully qualified Bricklaying artisans who started their journey with us in 2021.

Having worked with them in various projects, during my time at TTO, I am reminded that these group of Bricklayers learners was one group of excellent, dedicated and driven learners who were very passionate about their training and eager to learn. We will sure miss their excellent skills and work ethics and have no doubt they will make us proud in their new ventures on joining the real world of works.

The Marketing team's attendance of the Annual Mondi Science Week Career EXPO, opened doors for the entity's participation in another event, a recommendation resulting from another stakeholder. Such encounters are testimonies to the relevance of the entity's existence in the province. Knowing that there are stakeholder that value our training services and products to refer us to participate in events that we were not initially considered for, is very encouraging and inspiring too.

HTA recently secured funding from the Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality, Sports, Sector Education Training Authority, (CASTHSSETA). We congratulate, the total of 30 qualifying beneficiaries who were selected from a huge number of applicants. We will keep you updated of their journey with us for the duration pf their training.

We trust you will enjoy and have a great reading of our stories in our May 2024 Newsletter.

Ms. Zanele L. Khoza

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;*
- *Commitment;*
- *Innovation;*
- *Professionalism; and*
- *Respect*

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A GLORIOUS END OF FULLY QUALIFIED BRICKLAYING ARTISANS FROM THE MRTT - CETA FUNDED THREE-YEAR APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME

Thabang Malapela and Furtunate Nonhlanhla Khoza arrived at MRTT in August 2021 for the CETA-funded Bricklaying Apprenticeship. The today two qualified bricklayers attribute their awareness of MRTT and the opportunity to an advertisement on Facebook and word of mouth, respectively. The two amongst many others applied for the apprenticeship, underwent induction within a week of submitting their applications, and embarked on a journey they now reflect upon with great gratitude.

Commencing their apprenticeship at MRTT Ekandustria Training Centre, under the guidance of Bricklaying Practitioner Mr. Tlaka, the learners immersed themselves in their training. *"I chose this trade because my father is a bricklayer; I grew up in it,"* shared Thabang. Nonhlahla expressed that Civil Construction was not her initial school choice but grew to love it unexpectedly after other trades were already full.

Reflecting on their three-year apprenticeship journey, the bricklayers described it as an enriching experience. They gained skills such as interpreting plans and translating images into tangible structures. *"Although I grew up in a bricklaying environment, there is much I've learned in the apprenticeship,"* remarked Thabang.

Having completed four hard days of trade testing at MRTT, the learners described it as the toughest part of their journey. *"We barely slept during those four days,"* they recalled. Now competent awaiting certification, they expressed sheer joy. *"I wish I could shout to the world that 'I am qualified',"* exclaimed Fortunate. Mr. Sibanyoni, the MRTT assessor, praised their excellent work.

Discussing their future aspirations, Thabang expressed a desire to continue as a bricklayer in his own company, where he plans to impart his skills to others. Fortunate aims to establish her own construction company. They encouraged others to seize such opportunities, emphasizing the lasting value these opportunities bring. *"Apply and make the most of the opportunity because what you gain will be yours forever,"* advised the two bricklayers. They stressed the importance of dedication, respect for practitioners, and fostering good relationships during the lengthy apprenticeship.

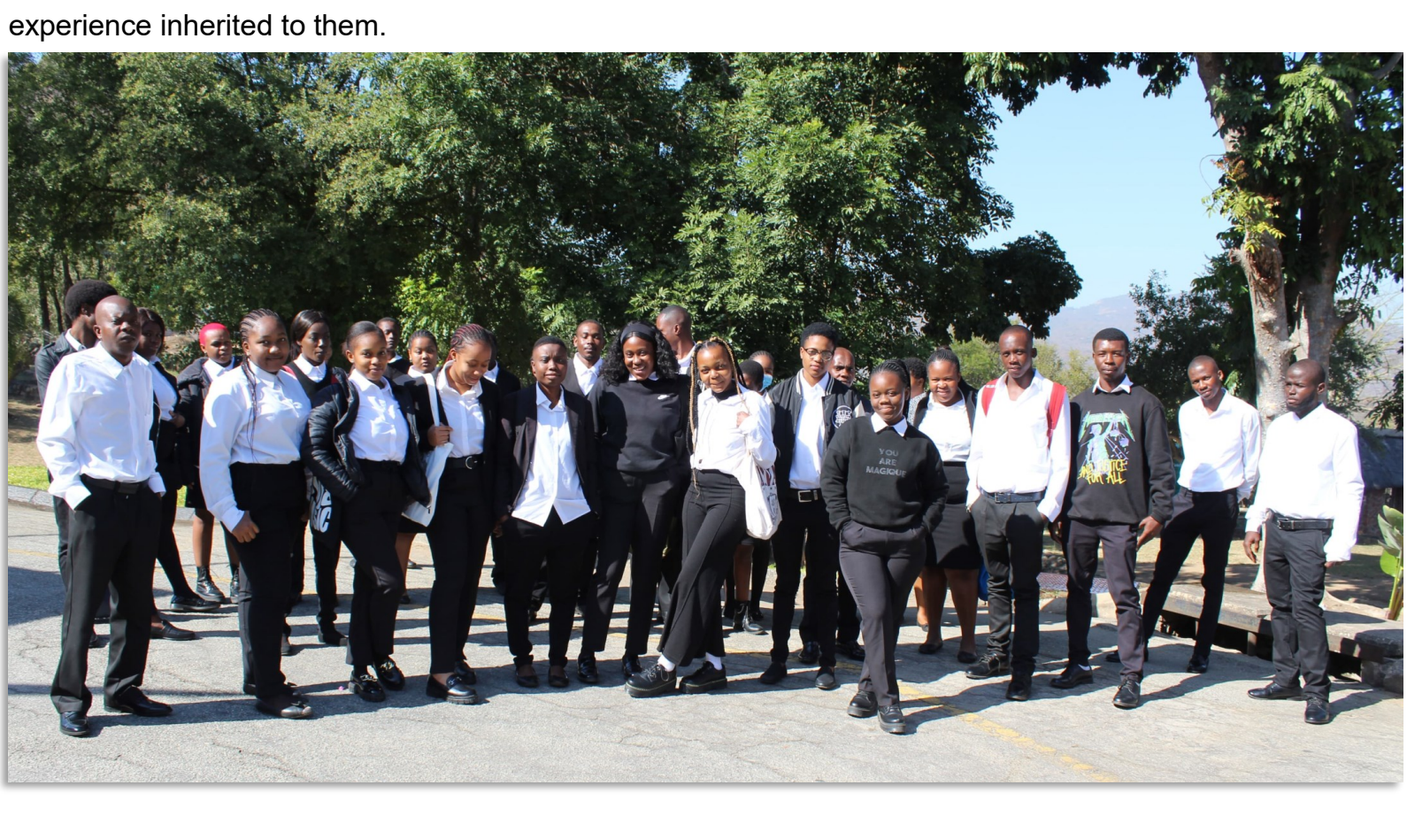
MRTT will continue sourcing various funded training opportunities and partnerships to enhance skills development initiations towards fully qualifying our learners to achieve their deserving artisan qualifications with a Trade Test Certificate, expressing confidence in their competence.

COLLABORATION BETWEEN CATHSSETA AND MRTT-HTA LED TO A FRUITFUL LEARNERSHIP PROGRAMME

Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality, Sports, Sector Education Training Authority, (CATHSSETA) approached Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust Hospitality and Tourism Academy (MRTT-HTA), a training institution to collaborate in training students. The collaboration was based on a learnership for training 30 students from a disadvantaged background who have passion in hospitality to get funded for Professional Cookery over a period of one year to become professional chefs. The academic manager for Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust Hospitality and tourism academy, informed the marketing team about the opportunity and it was advertised on all the entities social media platforms.

The minimum requirements for the learnership was a passed grade 11/12, age 18-35, a clear CV, ID copies, affidavit, learnership form, South African born citizen, Mpumalanga Province residence, who are interested in culinary studies, and students had to come to the academic office to submit their applications. Applications were open for two weeks and 1068 students applied. After they have submitted their applications, they were called in for selection tests and interviews, the applicants were informed that if they do not receive any form of communication until the end of May 2024, they must consider their application unsuccessful. The selection process was based on the neediness, passion and the ability to read and write. The 30 students who were successful received notification to come and sign their contract, and they all availed themselves. After they have signed their contracts one learner did not show up to begin her training, leaving us with a number of 29 trainees.

They were invited for induction from the 18th of June 2024, Tuesday which took place for 4 days until Thursday the 20th of June 2024, before they officially begin their training. The induction was held at the Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust Hospitality and Tourism Academy (MRTT-HTA). The induction was based on welcoming the new leaners to their workplace environment, introduce them to the staff, and explaining to them how they must behave, and what is expected from them as they are embarking on a new journey to become chef's. Their sponsors Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality, Sports, Sector Education Training Authority, (CATHSSETA) was also present on the day to welcome the leaners and explain the programme and how the leaners will benefit from it. The duration of their training is 12 months and they will be enrolling for Professional Cookery (NQF L4). Their training has begun and they are being placed on different department on the hotel, they will rotate until they get the required knowledge about the function of a hotel, and get placed on different hotels for exposure. The learners are required to complete their notional ours, tasks and portfolios in order for them to receive their qualification upon completion. We are excited to welcome the new leaners, and we hope they enjoy their stay and get the necessary experience inherited to them.



Some of the beneficiaries of the learnership share about their journey to enrolling in the programme:

Siphokazi Langa

Twenty-year-old Siphokazi Langa, who completed her high school education at Cebisa Secondary School, says her love for social media and cooking led her to a life-changing opportunity.

While scrolling through her Facebook feed, Ms. Langa discovered a post about a learnership programme offered by Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust – Hospitality and Tourism Academy, a culinary skills development training institution. Excited by the prospect of pursuing her dream, she shared her interest with her guardians and then applied for the learnership opportunity. Soon after her application, she received a notification SMS inviting her to take the selection test, which she nervously awaited.

Her vision of becoming a chef and starting her own business filled her with determination. The aspiring chef's prayer was answered when she was accepted into the programme. Upon acceptance, she understood the responsibilities that came with this opportunity and committed to giving her best effort to achieve her qualification.For Ms. Langa, hospitality extends beyond cooking: "*It's about treating others with kindness and respect*," she says. Her journey serves as a reminder that with hard work and dedication, dreams can become a reality.

Sifiso Mdonsela

Ngodini-born and bred Sifiso Madonsela, who describes himself as a motivated individual, stumbled upon the Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust learnership advert on Facebook and seized the opportunity to pursue his passion for cooking and hospitality. Madonsela is eager to learn the operations of a hotel and to expand his knowledge of culinary studies.

With a clear vision, Sifiso aims to start his own business in the hospitality industry after completing his qualification. He is dedicated to learning and gaining the necessary experience to succeed in this field. His enthusiasm and willingness to learn are evident in his determination to excel in the programme.

Themba Nkosi

A driven 27 years old Themba Nkosi from Moremela Village in Enhlazeni District, matriculated from Sekwai Secondary School in 2015. Coming from a rural village with limited opportunities and high unemployment, Themba is grateful for the learnership opportunity presented by the Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust (MRTT). Despite completing his matric in 2015, he had almost lost hope of pursuing his passion for cooking and opening his own business in his village. The learnership has brightened his dreams, and he considers it a "dream come true."

Growing up, Mr. Nkosi developed a love for hospitality, often helping his mother in the kitchen. He is now determined to create employment opportunities for his community and make a positive impact. The learnership has given him a new lease on life, and he is eager to learn and grow in the hospitality industry.

Lindokuhle Tibane

Lindokuhle Tibane, a 27-year-old ambitious individual from Pineer in Enhlazeni District, matriculated from Bonginhlanga Secondary School in 2015. She seized the learnership opportunity at MRTT with enthusiasm. Lindokuhle's family's catering business, "Tibane's Catering," played a significant role in shaping her passion for cooking. By assisting her parents, she developed a deep love for the culinary arts and discovered her joy in cooking, plating, and receiving feedback from satisfied customers.

With a clear vision for her future, Lindokuhle aims to establish her own restaurant, building a successful career that showcases her culinary expertise. Her ultimate goal is to create a sustainable livelihood through her dedication to the culinary industry.

Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust wishes all twenty nine trainees the very best on the training journey they are embarking on.

MRTT- Empowerment Through Training

MRTT LEARNERS OF VARIOUS SKILLS TRADES EXCEL IN VARIOUS PROJECTS

A group of 57 learners, including 40 Bricklaying apprentices funded by CETA and 17 Painting learnership participants in the Artisan development Programme funded by the Mpumalanga Department of Education were making significant strides at Witbank High School from 10 June to 22 June 2024. The learners participating in the learnership were recruited by MRTT in partnership with the local municipality through an advertisement placed by the Dr. JS Moroka Local Municipality. This initiative aims to enhance educational infrastructure while providing participants with valuable hands-on experience.

The learners describe their journey as the greatest learning experience so far, filled with varied projects in different environments. Despite the challenges the come across like the shortage of materials, they have consistently completed their assignments successfully. Many of these learners were also involved to the Mpumalanga Department of Education Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena launch that took place in the month of April at wakkerstroom, KwaMhlanga , and Bushbuckridge, aimed at enhancing school environments through activities such as repainting, paving, and ceiling replacement.

The painting group was engaged in road marking on pavements constructed by the Bricklaying group at Emalahleni, this task represents a new practical experience for the painting learners and they were excited about expanding their skill set. Beyond their work at various schools, these learners have also contributed to community projects. The painting group has recently painted the roof of a youth centre and have volunteered at other schools, further honing their skills and giving back to the community. Dimpho Sekgobela, a painting learner, expressed joy at receiving positive feedback for their work. She noted that mastering skills on-site has made the learnership fascinating and inspired her to consider starting her own painting company in the future.

Ntokozo Msibi, a member of the Bricklaying group, highlighted the immense support from facilitators, which has been crucial in their development. He is proud to say he is now a qualified Bricklaying artisan and appreciates the opportunity to work independently, which has enhanced their teamwork and problem-solving abilities. One of Ntokozo's proudest moments was when the team independently designed, planned, and built a house within a month. He emphasized the complexity of bricklaying, noting the importance of precision, plan interpretation, and understanding material quantities and site conditions. He passionately advised aspiring artisans to have a genuine passion for their chosen skills to excel.

The Bricklaying team has accomplished significant projects, including constructing a 130-meter-long boundary wall and a church in Mbonisweni, and paving approximately 5,000 square meters. These achievements underscore the learners' capabilities and the practical value of their training.

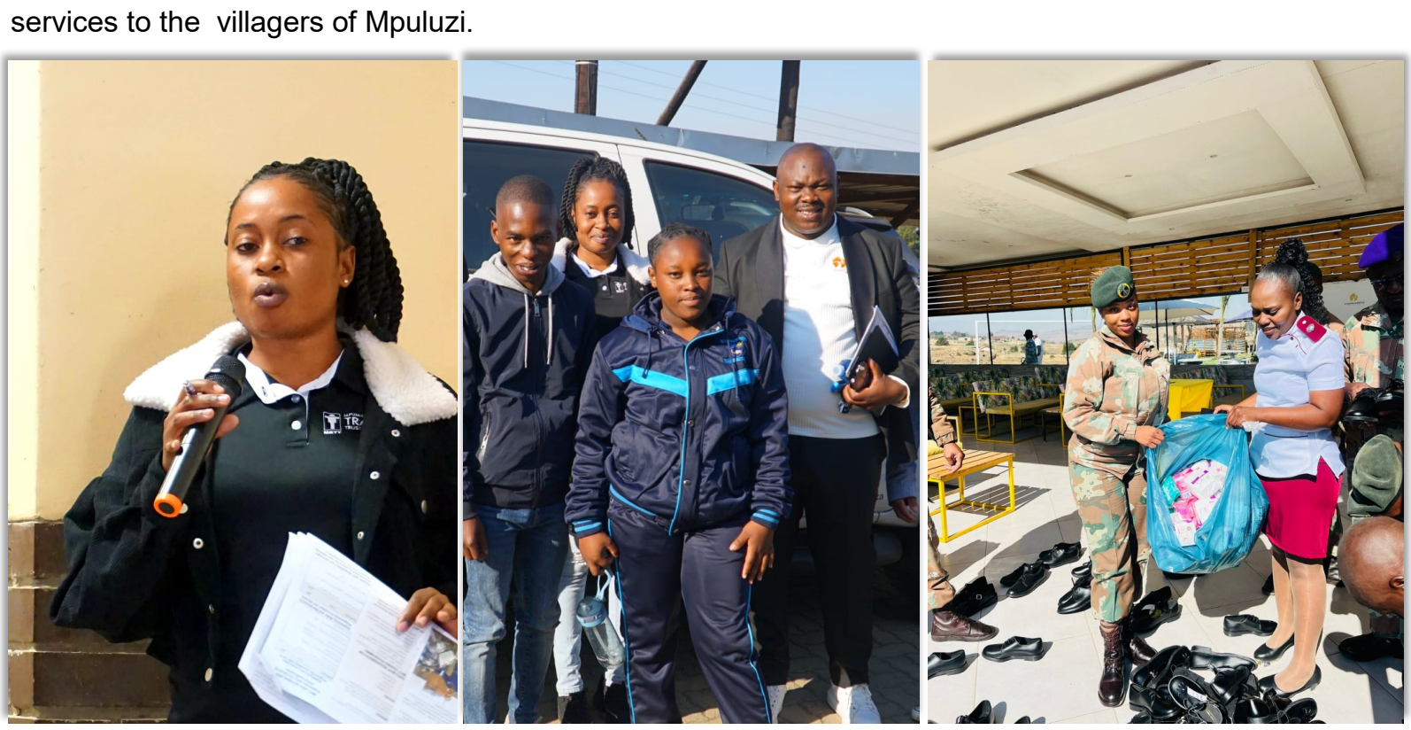
The learners expressed deep gratitude to their facilitators, Mr. Nkosi, Mr. Ntlaka, and Mr. Mtimela, for their rigorous training and support. Dimpho Sekgobela particularly encouraged more women to engage in skill-based learning like painting, breaking the stereotype that such trades are only for men.

MRTT will continue bringing up opportunities to uplift communities, empowering individuals through skills training and development training and improve the learning environment to various schools.

MRTT'S MARKETING TEAM PARTICIPATION AT THE MONDI SCIENCE WEEK OPENED DOORS TO AN INVITE TO FURTHER PARTICIPATE AT METHULA HIGH SCHOOL EVENT.

On June 11, 2024, the MRTT (Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust) marketing team had the honour of attending an event at **Methula High School.** This event was a collaborative effort between the school and Lekelela, a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting children in need at various schools around Mpuluzi and surroundings. The invitation was extended to MRTT following the Marketing's attendance of the Mondi Science Week Career EXPO in Mkhondo Local Municipality, where a fascinated stakeholder recommended the entity's participation to provide valuable information to the community.

The event provided a platform for MRTT to connect with community members and showcase our commitment to empowering individuals through skills training and development. It was heartening to see the interest and enthusiasm from community member's eager to learn more about our centre and the opportunities available at MRTT. The MRTT's marketing team was delighted to present our programs and services to the villagers of Mpuluzi.



The community's eagerness to engage and explore educational opportunities with MRTT underscored the importance of such outreach initiatives. We were pleased to see a strong turnout and genuine interest in our training offerings.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the event was witnessing the collaborative spirit between Methula High School, Lekelela, and other stakeholders. Together, they managed to make a positive impact by donating resources to learners in need. This collective effort demonstrated the power of community partnerships in supporting and uplifting those who require assistance.

The success of the event at Methula High School reinforces MRTT's commitment to community engagement and educational empowerment. We are grateful for the opportunity to participate and look forward to future collaborations with organizations like Lekelela. It is through such partnerships that as a willing participant skills development entity, we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives others.

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