

Reaching for the stars

SEITHATI SEMENOKANE

Emmanuel Mofammere from Lenyora la Thuto Comprehensive School in Botshabelo is one of the 25 recipients of the first ever Siyandisa Foundation Scholarship.

The scholarship is awarded to the Top 25 performing matriculants in the province who attend non-paying schools and have an academic average of 85% or higher across their Grade 11 subjects.

The scholarship programme provides study as well as personal support to the learners – the only scholarship programme to do so in the country. Although the 25 learners were all impressive, Mofammere stood out from the group because of the camping project he had initiated at his school. He said the school's results last year were not good, and this prompted him to start this project.

"I thought if we work as a team we could produce massive results. I can identify and help you with your weaknesses and you could do the same for me. And that way we can help each other to get to the level we want to be. So I thought if we work and sleep at school we won't be bothered by the distractions we



Emmanuel Mofammere from Lenyora la Thuto in Botshabelo is well on his way to fulfilling his childhood dream of becoming an astrophysicist. PHOTO: SEITHATI SEMENOKANE

have at home," said Mofammere. Their school does not have a hostel, but this did not stop him from coming up with a plan. Principal, Talla Modupe, said they realised that other learners are struggling, especially those who aren't top learners like Mofammere, and that is when they realised it was a good initiative and supported the Grade 12 learners. "Sometimes they don't have enough time at home to study and sometimes they are dealing with issues such as poverty. We let them study until as late as 10 pm in the evenings so that

they are ready for school the next day, and in the afternoons they study and complete their homework. This way we can monitor them. We also give them a warm meal.

"We have a great group of committed teachers who are available to stay with them, monitor them and help them out during the evenings. They also cook for them, it's a lot of hard work and dedication," said Modupe. Mofammere added that he started working hard for his top marks in Grade 8. While growing up he attended different astronomy competitions and astronomical quizzes, which sparked his interest in the field.

"Very few people do it and it is viewed as a difficult subject. Not a lot of people consider it as a career. That is why I was interested in it. I want to experience that hardship that people are always talking about regarding astrophysics," he said excitedly. With an average academic mark of 90%, Mofammere is sure to reach his goal. "I want to find myself in a position where I could grow in the field of astrophysics – to a point where we can operate and compete globally with other countries that have bigger programmes."

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Koue keer nie Heidedalse aktivis

Tony Marais, gemeenskapsaktivis, het Maandagoggend op die hoek van Murison- en De Vriesstraat in Heidedal betoog.

PIETER DELPORT

Die Heidedalse gemeenskapsaktivis en EFF-lid, Tony Marais, het nie Maandagoggend se geniepsige koue hom laat keer om sy misnoeë met die huidige ANC-leierskap in die land te wys nie. Marais het Maandagoggend van 06:00 af stoksielalleen op die hoek van Murison- en De Vriesstraat in Heidedal teen die ANC betoog. Sy betoging het plaasgevind slegs enkele ure voordat die speaker in die parlement, Baleka Mbete, sou aankondig of gister se mosie van wantroue in die Parlement teen pres. Jacob Zuma met 'n oop of geheime stemming sou plaasvind.

"My stille betoging is hoofsaaklik gemik teen korrupsie, wat die afgelope twee dekades veroorsaak het dat die land se mense

stelselmatig armer geraak het. My eie gemeenskap, Heidedal, staan voor 'n steil afgrond met geen hoop vir die toekoms nie. "Ek wil elke greintjie energie wat ek nog in my liggaam oor het, gebruik om my stem dik te maak teen korrupsie. Maar ek besef dat al sou ons die stryd teen korrupsie wen, die skade in baie gemeenskappe reeds gedoen is, en gaan dit moeilik wees om ongedaan gemaak te word," het Marais aan *Voice* gesê.

Heidedalse inwoners het uiteenlopend gereageer op Marais se eenmanbetoging. Sommige het hom bloot geïgnoreer, maar die meeste het geesdriftig op hul toeters geblaas en vir hom gewaai. Een jongman het selfs vir Marais koffie aangedra en hom lank geselskap gehou.

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Botshabelo excited about new centre

LEBAKENG NKABI

Excitement and jubilation were written all over the faces of hawkers and residents of Botshabelo as the new business centre, located in Re A Hola Complex, was officially opened by the Mangaung Metro Executive Mayor, Olly Mlamleli, last Thursday.

Forty nine hawkers, who had successfully completed their business training programme, were awarded certificates. The hawkers were offered training on entrepreneurship through a partnership between the Standard Bank SA and Marema Tlou Training Institute.

They were trained in: introduction to entrepreneurship; advertising

and promotion; customer care and service; financial management and marketing. The project goal was to identify, train, mentor and provide infrastructure support to the hawkers.

Mlamleli explained that this initiative is part of small business development in the metro, which seeks to create a conducive environment for informal business to participate in the mainstream economy. "These business stalls are equipped with electricity meter boxes, a tap and sink for washing hands, because we promote hygiene and each one of them has got a key to lock up. They should treat this place of business with care and save money so that they will grow." Mlamleli added that

they will pay the vendors a visit every now and then to see how they are doing, and to ensure that they are keeping the stalls and surrounding environment clean. Chairperson of Mangaung Hawkers' Association, Mmalerato Mathiya, told *Voice* that the journey was not an easy one. "We have struggled to be where we are today and these business stalls given to us to use by the municipality will offer us the opportunity to operate our business in a safe place. We can feed our children through our business."

She added that as hawkers they will work collectively to make sure that the business area is always clean.

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