

Botshabelo matriculant reaches for the stars

SEITHATI SEMENOKANE

seithati@centralmediagroup.co.za

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.

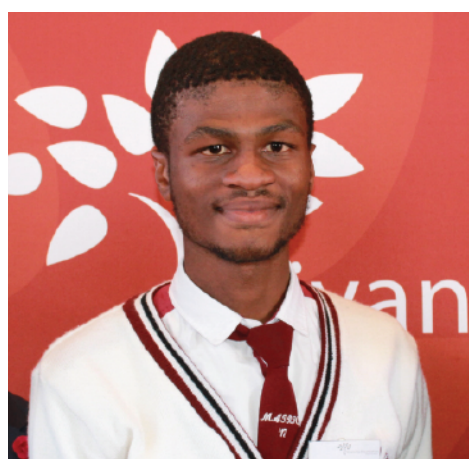
The scholarship programme provides study as well as personal support to the learners – the only scholarship programme to do so in the country.

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 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



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

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."

Learner from Brebner High crowned Miss Teen FS '17

SEITHATI SEMENOKANE

seithati@centralmediagroup.co.za

The 19-year-old Puseletso Makoro, a matriculant from Brebner High School, was recently crowned Miss Teen Free State 2017 in the first pageant she has ever entered. Makoro said she entered the pageant to gain a platform which would help her start her cause, which sees both privileged and underprivileged to realise their potential. "I've been wanting to enter modelling competitions for a long time, but I had medical complications, so I had to deal with that first. I was a dancer, and now that I'm better, I wanted to be an example to others, to show that it doesn't matter when you get there, you just have to believe in yourself," said Makoro. Makoro said she felt overwhelmed that she had started with such a big pageant, but as time went by she found her feet. "It was my first pageant ever, I didn't know what to expect. I did not know how I had to look or act, but I decided to just be myself. I was also writing exams at that time, and applying to further my studies. I had to go expose myself to the public so that they could vote for me. Finding the perfect dress was also challenging." She said she also felt that she had to choose between her studies and the pageant, with her parents, Michael and Elizabeth Makoro constantly reminding her that she was in matric, which took priority.

Makoro said because the pageant is a philanthropic pageant, she has met a lot of wonderful models and philanthropists



Miss Teen Free State 2017, Puseletso Makoro, with her proud mother, Elizabeth Makoro.

who have dedicated their time to giving back to others, which has inspired her to do more. She said that she has a great love for children, and has always been a part of charity organisations in her schools. She is currently a member of Interact, a Brebner organisation which supplies a soup kitchen in Bloemfontein that helps to feed those in need. She is now focusing on her campaign #Don'tAbuseHerEducateHer. The project asks people to donate stationery, books and sanitary pads to help young girls in need. She also wants to hold more educational talks at schools, which will help people talk out against women and children abuse.

Makoro said she is thankful to everyone who donated and helped her raise funds during the pageant. She added that she was also grateful for the great support she has received from her school and peers. To find out more about her charity work, or for bookings contact her at puseletsobarbie@gmail.com.

Bloemfontein-skole se trots



Die Hoërskool Jim Fouché se eerste netbalspan het die skool die afgelope vakansie op provinsiale vlak verteenwoordig tydens die Vrystaatse Kampioenskap van die Winterspele in Kroonstad. Van links is, voor: Annamé Fourie (Lynx o.15), Rochelle Pelsner (Lynx o.19), Lize-Mari de Wet, Marli Kotzé (Lynx o.19, Top 35-speler) en Elizna Greeff; agter: Elmeré van der Berg (nasionale o.16-span), Annelize Strauss (afgrifter), Meghan Maasdorp (Lynx o.16), Melandri Meyer, Marianna Wessels (afgrifter) en Micaela Meyer (VS o.16-span).



Tian Bester van die Hoërskool Jim Fouché het die Vrystaat die afgelope skoolvakansie op die Karate Suid-Afrika Elite-byeenkoms in Durban verteenwoordig. Hy het in sy divisie, seunskadet, 'n derde plek verower. Hy is nou derde op die SA ranglys in sy kadetdivisie.



Luhan Potgieter (links) en Stephen Hiten van die Hoërskool Jim Fouché het die afgelope vakansie aan die SA Stoeikampioenskap vir kadette in Pretoria deelgeneem. Albei het 'n 4de plek op die kampioenskap behaal.

GET YOUR CAREER OFF TO A flying START

AVIATION TECHNICAL - CAREER WEEK BLOEMFONTEIN

DURING THE WEEK OF THE 14TH OF AUGUST WE WILL BE VISITING HIGH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES IN BLOEMFONTEIN TO SHOWCASE WHAT WE CAN OFFER IN THE AVIATION TECHNICAL INDUSTRY

QUALIFICATIONS ON OFFER:
AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE MECHANIC

43

AIR SCHOOL
NEXT GENERATION TRAINING

+27 46 604 3600 | FLY@43AIRSCHOOL.COM
WWW.43AIRSCHOOL.COM



Lalique Titus of St Michaels School for Girls participated in the IDO Disco-Freestyle Championships in Chomutov in the Czech Republic during the June/July school holidays. The group she formed part of was called Synergy and they were placed 19th in the world.



Nine Grade 12 learners from St Michaels School for Girls entered the ATKV Afrikaans Olimpiade. Two of them, Jadah Gordon (left) and Monique van Schalkwyk, finished in the Top 20 in the Free State – Jadah with 88% and Monique with 86%