

HL: Bonani learner shines

Aubrey Tepanyekga, a graduate from the Fasset-funded 2007 Bonani Work Readiness Programme, joined Ngubane & Co in March 2008 in a permanent junior accountant position. Much to his surprise, in December last year he walked away with the accolade Best Employee of The Year in the Tax Department.

“I would not have achieved this if it was not for Guarantee Trust Corporate Services (GTCSS). The support, skills acquired, the supervisors, monitors, admin staff and placement officers made it possible for me to be the best I could be. The regular visits by monitors also play a pivotal role in my performance, always encouraging us to do very well and beyond the call of duty,” he reveals.

Fasset CEO, Cheryl James says Fasset staff, together with Fasset’s project partners derive an enormous amount of job satisfaction and pride from seeing Fasset learners excel in the workplace. “Learners express their gratitude and appreciation for being given a chance to achieve their dream, by working very hard and by always giving of their best,” James explains.

Prior to being accepted onto the Bonani Work Readiness Programme, Tepanyekga’s career aspirations seemed, but a distant dream. Armed with a good academic record and a Diploma in Cost & Management Accounting, he was unable to find employment as an accountant, and was compelled to work as a labourer.

“Although life’s journey has been full of stop signs, humps, robots, toll gates, traffic officers, traffic, accidents and many more road directives that impede the progress of an individual to arrive at his or her envisaged destination at ease, I am well on my way to reaching my desired destination,” he informs.

His life changed for the better when he applied for the nine-month Fasset-funded Bonani Work Readiness Programme in June 2007 and was accepted onto the programme.

“While delighted to hear of Aubrey’s achievements it is important to point out that learners, who have graduated from the Bonani Work Readiness Programme, often shine in the workplace as they have been equipped with communication skills, rules of professional conduct, an accounting refresher course, a computer refresher course, office orientation and a filing course, enabling them to ‘hit the ground running’ from day one. The Virtual Office component sharpens their skills even further as learners spend a three-month period in a workplace simulation, completing the trial balances for five businesses. The latter component is funded by the National Skills Fund,” James explains.

Tepanyekga says he really enjoyed the first part of the programme. “This made me who I am now, a real fighter. The first part of the training sharpened and nurtured my prowess in different ways, my communication skills, leadership skills, arithmetic and numeric skills were sharpened,” he explains.

Tepanyekga applauds initiatives such as the Bonani Work Readiness Programme. “I hope that one day we will have a Guarantee Trust University for Accountants that will take as many disadvantaged students as possible. I am ready to plough back my skills to Guarantee Trust as a part-time lecturer,” he concludes.