



higher education
& training

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Skilling the Nation for Excellence

Cover: The SRC President - Pg. 4

GBV - a concern for male
Students - Pg. 11

Women in artisanship - Pg. 15



MyColMag
"Keeping You Updated"

Editorial Team



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Vision

A leading institution in integrated education and training for sustainable development

Mission

Provision of industry-aligned training and education programs for sustainable development

Values

*Innovation
Integrity
Team-work
Excellence*

Editorial Comment

Despite the COVID-19 lockdown regulations, MyColMag presents the latest edition that is filled with nothing but informative and inspirational stories of the College. 2020 has not been what we expected due to the pandemic. The College had to adapt to the new teaching and learning methods. So we recommend the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system for you to zoom into your lives and assess if you have been effective in the past few months of the national lockdown regulations.

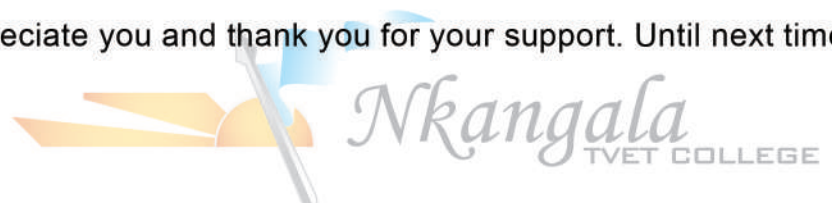
Even though the pandemic had kept us behind the closed doors, but it did not strip us off our humanity. We collaborated with Deaf Federation of South Africa (DEAFSA), Mpumalanga to commemorate the iconic Mandela by donating food parcels and clothes. Get the full story on **page 5**.

The country has been and still battling against Gender Based Violence (GBV). The statistics had risen up during the national lockdown and the College had taken the step towards fighting against this nightmare. The male GBV event was held to give men the opportunity to practice their sense of patriotism, discipline and national identity to stand against GBV. Read the full story on **page 11**.

Women have taken the stand in the engineering field which was male dominated in the past. The stereotyping that women cannot perform engineering related roles is being crushed down. The editorial team had featured one of those courageous women, who are changing the narrative that engineering studies are only suitable for men. Ms Moshidi reflects on her journey to becoming a qualified boilermaker/welder artisan. You may read about her inspirational story on **page 15**.

Remember, the publication is yours (MyColMag), be part of it! Who knows? You may be featured in the next edition.

We appreciate you and thank you for your support. Until next time.



Statement of the Principal

As not expected, the year 2020 has been a tough one for the nation due to the worldwide pandemic of Corona virus. Our normal teaching and learning activities were disrupted. The academic calendar had to be halted for some few months and rearranged due to COVID-19 regulations. However, we managed to pull through.

The Mpumalanga TVET Colleges developed extra learning support methods of teaching and learning by securing slots in different radio and television stations. We would like to thank our lecturing staff for contributing their whole-hearted efforts during the lockdown. Catch-up live and pre-recorded lessons that were easily accessible played a vital role for students to study at home during the national lockdown. Students may still be able to retrieve the information or lessons on the internet for revision.

The pandemic is still roaming amongst us, the only way we can defeat the enemy is to abide and ensure everyone protects themselves, by so doing we protect ourselves and others. With the recent alert level 1 briefing from the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande, "a 100% student population is now allowed to return on campuses". Therefore, I urge all College staff members and students to continue to practice safety precautions in order to avoid the spread of more COVID-19 infections. Face masks are still obligatory in public spaces and physical distancing should be adhered at all the times. Rotation of classes will continue as planned, furthermore, e-Learning support materials use by students must be encouraged.

On the other hand, the College is fully migrating to e-Learning. We are moving with the digital era, evolution is key. The College has introduced a system to improve the Information Technology (IT) systems for the provision of continued online teaching and learning. Instant digital interaction between the College staff and students will bring changes in teaching and learning since it is convenient. Digital literacy trainings will be organized for the staff and students to master and advance new digital skills. We have noted the challenges that this technology migration might bring, the transition is going to be smooth and accommodating.



Mr CM Maimela - Principal

There is an alarming high number of young people who are Not in Employment, Education Training (NEETs), therefore they are unable to access the labor market opportunities due to the lack of skills and formal trainings. The College is developing an industry-aligned training and education programmes for sustainable development plans to expand its doors to accommodate such individuals.

The College has some new programmes that would be added in 2021 academic year to increase the enrollment rate. Amongst the new courses, the National Certificate in Agricultural Science will be offered. The programme's stakeholders and role-players include the Department of Water and Agriculture in Netherlands, University of Stellenbosch, NUFFIC, MSM and AgriCollege SA. COVID19 delayed the progress of this programme, but the staff are moving up to speed to ensure that by 2021, the programme will be ready for students' intake.

The introduction of occupational programmes that are in demand on the market will assist the country with creation of jobs.

One-on-one with the deployed SRC President



Who is the person behind the SRC presidency?

My name is Craik Marimane. I am 26 year-old from Thulamahashe in Bushbuckridge. After studying commercial studies at high school, I decided to further my studies at Nkangala TVET College, Waterval Boven Campus in 2018 enrolling for Hospitality level 2.

How was your admission process at the College?

My admission process at the College did not go the way I expected. I thought things were going to be quick. I had to experience some delays to a point where I found out the course that I wanted to enroll for as my first choice of study was full. However, at the end of the day, I ended up registering for Hospitality, which I am currently enjoying.

What is your role as the SRC president?

My role as the SRC President is to make sure that the students' rights and expectations are met as well as to ensure that they are responsible towards their studies I am the spokesperson of students towards the College management. I make sure that things run well in all campuses. For example, I do frequent campus visits just to see how things run as well as to address some of the challenges students come across.

Our administration aims to protect rights of the students and to fight against the higher rate of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in all surrounding communities of our five campuses. We want to make sure that the College becomes a safe place to be. Safety is our priority at the moment because where there is safety, there is higher level of concentration that can enable students to focus more on their studies. We have started an awareness campaign about GBV and safety on campus, while on the other hand we are working towards to find accommodation and transport for all students who are staying far from home.

Did you have any experience as a leader before?

Yes, I have the experience as a leader. I was part of the 2019 SRC administration serving as a chairperson at Waterval Boven Campus. On the other hand, I have been and still serving as a regional chairperson of South African Student Congress (SASCO) in Mpumalanga.

How do you balance your studies and the SRC activities at the same time?

To be honest, I am really struggling to balance the time but by God's grace I am doing it appropriately. Luckily, I am working hand in hand with my fellow classmates, so they normally help me with the class activities that I have missed when I was attending meetings and other SRC occasions. The lecturers also help by explaining what I have missed in class and what is expected from me. I use my personal time to study at the best of my ability. We even created a way to communicate when we are not within the campus. We have the WhatsApp group that enables us to help each other to overcome some of the difficulties that we come across in our studies.



SRC President addressing students

A partnership to commemorate #67 Minutes for Mandela



Some of the beneficiaries

Deaf Federation of South Africa (DEAFSA), Mpumalanga in collaboration with Nkangala TVET College commemorated the Mandela Month by getting together to start an initiative of distributing food parcels and old clothes to be donated to the needy deaf community. A large number of staff members from the College, especially Middelburg Campus donated food parcels and clothes as part of their outreach.

DEAFSA is a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) advocating for the rights of deaf people in South Africa. The NPO also caters for the deaf community through the provision of qualified South African Sign Language (SASL) interpreting services to various government departments.

According to Christopher Nair, Provincial Director at DeafSA Mpumalanga, the donations aim to assist the needy deaf people and families since most of them are unable to access employment and the disability social grant that they get is not sufficient for their livelihood.

“We have realized that the disability social grant for deaf people is not sufficient to meet their daily needs. Hence, DeafSA is coming up with initiatives to boost the already existing efforts by the government. Beyond Nelson Mandela month, DeafSA continues requesting donations of food parcels and clothes from various organisations and individuals within the area of eMalahleni. These donations will go a long way for us, and we appreciate the support that we got from the organisations we requested assistance from”, said Mr Nair.

Let the spirit of Ubuntu reign over anything.



2020 SRC induction was an attainment



Nkangala TVET College held the 2020 Student Representative Council (SRC) induction in Nelspruit from the 3rd - 6th of July 2020. The purpose of the induction was to ensure that the newly elected SRC members are equipped and empowered with essential skills and lessons to prepare them for leadership roles within the College. The SRC constitution as amended in 2015 clause number 15, clearly states that the SRC must be inducted and sign an Oath of commitment to serve their constituents. All SRC members signed their Oath and took a vow to take full accountability as student representatives of the College by honouring their constitution.

The Nkangala TVET College SRC is made up of six (6) local SRC members that serve on campuses and eight (8) members that serve as the College or Central SRC. Each member holds a portfolio with roles and responsibilities that they are expected to fulfil during their term of office. The SRC is thus expected to sit and plan their activities for the year and submit them to the College's management team through the SRC President.

The induction programme was led by the student support officials of the College. Mr Mashiloane began by presenting the College academic results (2017-2019); the College's targets as well as the current certification rates.

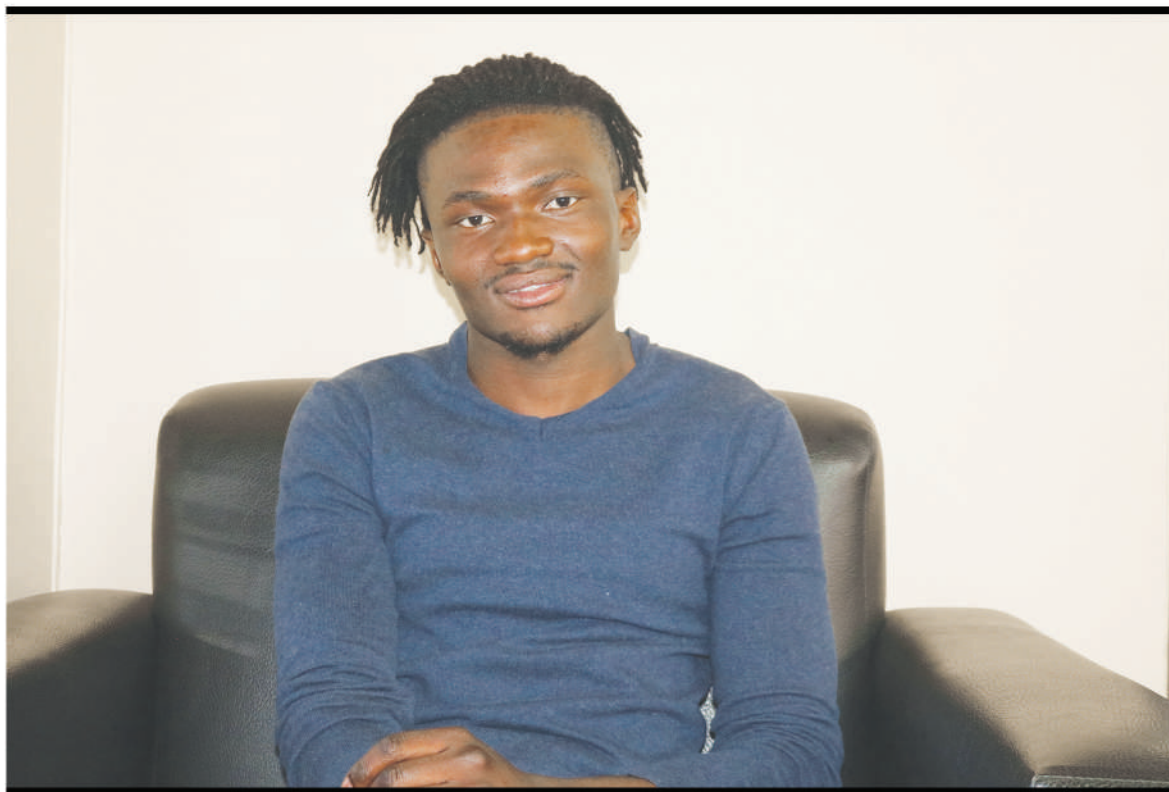
Mr Malibe then made a presentation on National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) rules and guidelines for 2020. He emphasized the important role the SRC have in disseminating NSFAS related information to the students' and encouraging all to apply.

Ms Nkala outlined the roles and responsibilities of the SRC within the Student Support Unit and highlighted how the College expects the SRC to conduct themselves during their term. She further emphasised the importance of the SRC induction and the importance of SRC participation in matters that affect the larger number of students.

The final part of the programme was concluded by Ms Green-Thompson and Mr Makhushu, who facilitated the formation of commissions where SRC members were divided into sub-groups and given instructions to gather information on the roles and responsibilities of their portfolios.

The induction was a success and student support officials extended their gratitude to the College Management and the entire staff who contributed and availed resources that enabled the event to take place during the tough time of Covid-19 lockdown.

Young Nkosinathi makes academic achievement fashionable



The twenty-one (21) year-old Nkosinathi Nsibanyoni born and raised in Nhlazatje, Mpumalanga broke the boundaries in Engineering Studies by maintaining the record of passing his subjects with flying colours. Nkosinathi is a Level 2 student at Witbank Campus studying Engineering and Related Design (ERD).

According to one of his lecturers, Mr Guma who is lecturing Engineering Systems, Nkosinathi turned the tables by changing the narrative that the subject was difficult. “I couldn’t be more proud and motivated”. Mr Guma also describes the young man as a highly disciplined, dedicated and hard-working student that pays attention to details and attends classes regularly.

The MyColMag editorial team got the opportunity to get to know the learning styles Nkosinathi uses in order to obtain higher marks within the course that a lot of students’ regard as difficult. “My learning style is very simple but requires commitment. I tend to study the prescribed textbooks, previous question papers and research for more information on the internet before going to each lecture session. And then if there is something that I do not understand, I seek clarity from the lecturers. I ensure that I am always ahead of the syllabus, so that the lecturing lessons be likely as revision to me”, said Nkosinathi.

Nkosinathi is not only aiming to achieve top grades and exit the College system, but the young man is also aiming to organize group studies with those who struggle to pass the course. “I am not a supporter of individualism, we need to achieve together with my fellow classmates, so that we can shine together. Selfishness is an enemy to me, so the more I share my knowledge with others, the more I learn and equip my mind with new information”, concluded Nkosinathi.

Students who wish to be part of the learning group can contact Mr Guma from Witbank Campus, Top of the World.

SRC induction



Entrepreneurship workshop



People living with disabilities deserve inclusion in the TVET Sector



Nomfundo Mahlangu, a 20 years old Nkangala TVET College student, who is regarded as a differently abled person living with a disability called epilepsy. She is studying mechanical engineering (Fitter N2) at Mpondozankomo Campus.

People who are disabled were treated differently in the past and excluded in participation of economic and many social activities. Young Nomfundo is one of the people living with disabilities that have all the plans to change the narrative that with their disabilities, they also can participate well like their abled counterparts.

Nkangala TVET College admitted Nomfundo and other students to equip them with the necessary tools and skills to contribute in communities. She could not afford to study far because of her condition. "I need my family around, they know my condition, and I need their support", says Nomfundo.

She also mentioned that when she enrolled at the College, she did not know what to expect, but the support from the institution was overwhelming. "The main challenge I had was fear of acceptance in the beginning. However, I overcame that within a short period of time because I was surrounded by people who care for others".

"The extra efforts that the College staff took made my life much easier, and I highly appreciate that, from delivering supporting materials at home to help me study during the national lockdown. I feel included, mostly because I am not just a number from statistics of people living with disabilities. People know my name. I will use my condition to motivate other people living with disabilities and help to change the narrative that we are also able, but differently. Our disability does not make or define us. It is who we are inside that will help the people see the world differently", concluded Nomfundo.



Gender Based Violence - a concern for male students

Writes Emmanuel Bafedi



Nkangala TVET College held the Imbizo on the 27th of August 2020 at Witbank Campus for male students to come together to address the issues of Gender Based Violence (GBV) around the campuses. The event sought to give these young men the opportunity to practice their sense of patriotism, discipline and national identity to stand against GBV. This was the hope for the new generation that will take the next one to the land of none violence against women and children.

Mostly men are the perpetrators of GBV, hence the College saw a need to call young men to come together and talk about GBV. The event raised an awareness about the negative impacts that violence and abuse have on women and had created a safe platform for male students to address these issues among themselves.

Amongst the speakers, there were Dr Mohlala and Rev Mangoedi. Dr Mohlala is a psychiatrist at Witbank General Hospital, and she has covered a range of topics such as; the causes, effects, prevention and types of GBV. She emphasized on the importance of being able to speak out and control the emotions without taking cruel actions. "Always speak up if something is troubling you, do not bottle up your feelings because you may end up doing things that you never intended to do. Let effective communication be valued to understand and solve problems".

On the other hand, Rev Mangoedi covered the spiritual upliftment encouraging men to seek spiritual guidance to find calm in the mist of the storm in the quest to stop GBV. The College wishes to give young men the obligation to enjoy all the rights as normal citizens of South Africa as contained in the Bill of Rights and the Constitution and encourages them to give women dignity, equality and freedom from any form of violence. Young men have the responsibility to promote and advance these rights as they relate to other young women in participation and fellow South Africans in general.

NKANGALA TVET COLLEGE – YOUR 21ST CENTURY COLLEGE

Digital transformation is here!

In the fast-changing educational environment, the College is constantly adapting in response to changes in technology, so that it can remain relevant. This is also in line with the strategic goals of higher education. We are operating in the 21st century environment where digital transformation is the buzz phrase. Nkangala TVET College is therefore determined to equip both staff and students to thrive this 21st century world.

Our office 365 subscription

Office 365 is a cloud solution from Microsoft. As you may know, the College has an existing Office 365 A1 for education (faculty and students) subscription which we are now leveraging to get access to cloud based services. ***Nkangala TVET College working together with Gemini Moon Trading (GMT), a Microsoft Gold Partner rolling out Microsoft Teams for Education and SharePoint Online which are cloud-based apps. All this without any costs to the College.***

Microsoft Teams for Education

With Microsoft Teams on your device (laptop or smartphone), you can:

- Keep classes, notes, assignments and your College calendar together;
- Collaborate on group work, projects and College activities;
- Meet anywhere and anytime with College students and staff;
- Assign work and give assessments;



- Share content with College staff and students;
- Use chat instead of email;
- Securely edit files at the same time (co-authoring).

Sharepoint Online

With this cloud-based service you can do the following:

- Document collaboration and sharing;
- Store, organise and access information from any device, anywhere;
- Easy control of document versions;
- Create intranet sites and subsites for team communication and collaboration.

This change is exciting for both our staff and students.

For any enquiries regarding this momentous change, please contact: Teams@nkangalafet.edu.za

Policy Matters:

Asset Management Policy

Assets serve as the significant supporting tools that enable the employees to perform their daily duties effortlessly and be able to meet deadlines. Proper Asset Management practices ensure better financial management, proper control and greater efficiency in the use of the College's assets.

The Asset Management Policy aims to provide a structured process of planning and control over the acquisition, safe acquisition and disposal of assets to the following objectives:

- ▶ Maximize the service potential of existing assets by ensuring that they are appropriately used, maintained, safeguarded and that risks are mitigated;
- ▶ Optimize the life cycle cost of owning and using these assets by seeking cost –effective Options throughout an asset's life cycle
- ▶ Reduce the demand for new assets through optimal use of existing assets; and
- ▶ Establish clear lines of accountability and responsibility for the performance of the assets.

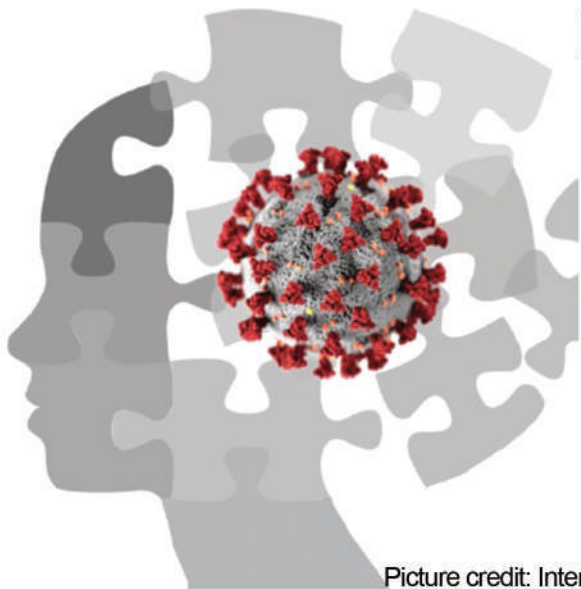
It is the responsibility of the staff members to ensure that all recorded College assets are utilized effectively, efficiency, economically and transparently. The assets custodians (employees) should ensure that:

- ▶ Appropriate system of physical management and control established and carried out for assets in their area of responsibility;
- ▶ The College assets assigned to them are utilized effectively, efficiently, economically and adequately safeguarded;
- ▶ No movement of the College resources takes place without approval from the delegated authority;
- ▶ The College assets are not utilized for personal purposes;
- ▶ Upon the termination of employment all assets allocated or used by employees are returned to the College;
- ▶ Any loss, damage or discrepancies to College resources are immediately reported to the assets manager;
- ▶ Any unauthorized, irregular or wasteful utilization of assets and losses resulting from criminal or negligent conduct are prevented;
- ▶ Their management systems and control can provide an accurate of the assets under their control; and
- ▶ They are able to justify that their plans, budgets, purchasing, decisions for assets optimally achieve the College strategic objectives.

Employees of the College are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the content of the policy framework. Failure to comply with the requirements is subjected to misconduct and action may be taken against the perpetrator.

COVID-19: GRIEVING THE TIME THAT WE LOST

Writes Alana Green-Thompson



Picture credit: Internet



Alana Green - Thompson

When most of us think about the concept of grief and loss, we tend to only focus on losing a loved one in death and while this is true, the distress of grief and loss is not only limited to death. The loss of anything dear or significant to a person's life can trigger the same emotional distress associated with losing someone to death. This partly explains why the worldwide lockdown has had a negative impact on people's mental health with more people experiencing symptoms of depression, stress and anxiety.

It goes without saying that this has been a difficult year for most of us and what compounds that difficulty is probably many unanswered questions we still have. In March 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced a nationwide lockdown with the commencement of a national state of disaster. What we thought would be a three-week lockdown, saw us entering five (5) lockdown levels and life as we knew it prior to March 2020 was gone.

Yes, gone. Not only did most of us lose our civil liberties in the night of 26 March 2020, but lost so much more than that. Some people lost their jobs or their ability to go to work; others could not proceed with their life changing events like their wedding, graduation or the trip they planned to take - the list is endless.

Human beings not only form attachments to people, but also to places and things. So grieving the loss of these is a natural part of the human experience. People grieving a loss may experience feelings of sadness, yearning, guilt and even anger. If you have been experiencing these feelings for an extended period of time you could be experiencing a genuine grief response. If this is the case, it is important to realise that your feelings are valid regardless of what 2020 has taken away from you. It is also important to know that pain is part of the human experience, so is healing.

Here are some tips to help you through this difficult time of Covid-19:

- Firstly, it is important to have self-compassion and treat yourself the way you treat someone you love. Non-judgementally acknowledge your feelings and allow yourself to feel what is there.
- Set aside time every day to revisit your loss and take a break from these feelings when they become overwhelming for you. The point is to make space for the pain and for the healing.
- Seeking support from loved ones can also help. Find a trusted person whom you can talk to about what you are going through.
- Being altruistic can also go a long way. Helping other people who are also experiencing other problems of their own can also help you to feel better. It helps to know that you are not the only one going through difficult times.
- Take care of yourself physically by exercising, meditating and eating healthy. When we are unwell physically, this can also compound our emotional and mental distress.
- Try to take delight in simple things like your favourite meal, nature, art or music.

In conclusion, always try to put your losses and problems into perspective, firstly from a chronological point of view and secondly from an existential point of view. For example, asking ourselves how long this pandemic will remain, either a year or even five (5) years from now may help us see that perhaps it is not as big as we thought it was. This may even remind us that with time, 'this too shall pass'.

Also remember the thousands of people who have lost their lives to COVID-19. A medical doctor named Ronald Pies wrote in a blog, "having problems means being alive". Even though we may struggle in this life, being alive is something to be grateful for.

May you find comfort.

Meet the colleague: Journey to the trade test



Ms Moshidi with students in the workshop conducting practicals

Thapelo Moshidi, a boilermaker/welder facilitator, accredited assessor and moderator in Nkangala TVET College stationed at Witbank Campus, Top of the World. The path towards becoming a qualified artisan in the country is not always without obstacles, even more so for women.

Ms Moshidi reflects on her journey to becoming a qualified boilermaker-welder artisan. In high school, Moshidi loved mathematics and physical science. “I always loved engineering. I was never really interested in other subjects”, said Ms Moshidi. She completed her matric at Mphegolle High School, ga Masemola in Limpopo and shortly joined Nkangala TVET College to study mechanical engineering (N1-N6).

The corporate doors opened for her in 2007 when she got a learnership programme at Khutala Colliery Mine as a boilermaker and got trained for a period of three (3) years. She obtained her trade test certificate and qualified as an artisan in 2010. After the completion of her training, she joined the ranks of women artisans at the mine. In 2011, she got a contract occupation at the Steel Fabrication Technology serving as a boilermaker/welder artisan.

Afterwards, she joined Shepard Academy in 2013 as a lecturer for mechanical engineering and then two (2) years later she got employed in the College as a facilitator for boilermaker/welder. Since her appointment in the College, she has already produced a lot of qualified artisans, while on the other hand she is still sharpening others. In 2018, she participated in the World Skills Competition as a provincial expert and the national judge in welding.

Ms Moshidi also plays a mentoring role to aspirant artisan women within her workshop. “I encourage my students to understand and value their work as well as to have confidence. As women, it is all about proving their capabilities in this male dominated industry. It is still a man’s field, but if they know they have a passion and they are good at what they do, then they can set boundaries and get the job done”, she said.

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses which may cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The most recent Coronavirus disease is COVID-19

Typical symptoms include cough, runny nose, fever and shortness of breath

**MONITOR
YOUR
HEALTH
CLOSELY**

1

All travelers to monitor their health closely for 14 days upon returning to South Africa

2

If you have fever, cough or runny nose, wear a mask and seek medical attention promptly

3

Call the clinic or doctor ahead of your visit or the NICD Hotline: 0800 029 999

PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE



Wash hands frequently with soap



See a doctor if you are unwell



Cover your mouth with a tissue paper when coughing or sneezing



Observe good personal hygiene at all times

CONTACT the NICD Hotline: 0800 029 999

REMAIN VIGILANT AND ADOPT GOOD PERSONAL HYGIENE PRACTICES

The situation is evolving, check updates on www.health.gov.za and www.nicd.ac.za




health

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

 Nkangala TVET College

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