GERT SIBANDE TVET COLLEGE AND SASOL BRIDGE TO WORK

MANDELA HOUSE

PROJECT HANDOVER

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GRADUATION CEREMONY

GERT SIBANDE TVET COLLEGE

FIRST BLIND STUDENT
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Welcome yet to another jam-packed edition of the Gert Sibande TVET College newsletter. The third quarter of 2022 saw several activities within the college that resulted to staff unity and encouragement to students. In this edition we congratulate the college students who participated in different sporting activities because a healthy mind and energetic body are productive and positive, contributing to excellent service delivery and academic performance.

The College was recently visited by a dark cloud that saw the passing of Advocate Amanda Buzo-Gqoboka. Advocate Buzo was a serving member of the Gert Sibande TVET College Council as a Ministerial Appointee since 2019. She passed on after a short illness on 24 August 2022. The Gert Sibande TVET College community again sends condolences to family and friends, indeed a fruitful tree has fallen.

August marked the celebration of women’s month and it was a time of reflection for the college in terms of women empowerment, gender equality, human rights and the role that women play in the TVET sector and in our communities. The College was involved in a number of activities that were aimed at creating awareness about TVET month among the youth and the community of the Gert Sibande Region. The focus was on college programmes, occupational programmes and other Skills programmes that are offered by the college.

The College managed again to build and donate a fully furnished house in Balfour, Ridgeview through the annual Mandela Project under the stewardship of the Business Unit Department. I will like to commend this initiative and the stakeholders who take part in making the project a success. Let’s continue working together to make this country a better nation because indeed it takes a village to raise a child.

Gert Sibande TVET College continuously supports the rights of students living with disability to participate equally in ways and approaches that are not constrained by physical or mental limitations. The college recently handed out technological devices such as electronic wheelchairs and laptops, and trained staff members and students on the usage of these user-friendly devices to assist students living with disability to easily reach learning facilities for the realisation of academic excellence.

I will also like to take this opportunity to applaud the great work that is done by the college’s Centre for Entrepreneurship Rapid Incubator (CfERI) in their efforts to foster the culture of entrepreneurship.

The Centre’s entrepreneur Nkosinathi Nkala successfully competed in the National studentprenership competitions supported by the Allan Gray Makers that were held in Boksburg on the 2nd of September 2022. I commend all the SMMEs who appreciate the opportunity the centre presents to them because entrepreneurs are the future in terms of tackling the toll of unemployment in the country.

Furthermore, we welcome newly appointed staff members within the Central Office of the college with the hope that they will complement the vision of the college and put it in high ranks. Over and above, we shine a spotlight on Siphesihle Masina who will be representing the college and the country at large abroad, competing in the World Skills Competitions in the heating and plumbing category. His superiority will indeed leave a mark on the college and on other students who are keen to join such bold competitions. The college and the country are proud to have talented students who are leaving a footprint not only academically but also through college activities.

Lastly, I would like to wish fortune to the students who will be writing their exams. It is through you the college is ranked highly academically.

Read more on the above stories inside this exciting edition. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed putting it together for you.

**MEMORIAL LECTURE**

The College honoured the late Mrs Tebogo Percians Portia Mange on the 19th of August 2022 with a Memorial Lecture at Graceland Casino and Country Club, Secunda. Amongst the guests who attended there were representatives from the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET): Deputy Director General (DDG) of TVET branch - Sam Zungu, DHET Regional Manager - Dr Nick Balkrishen and N Nwebani from the office of the DHET.
ADVOCATE AMANDA BUZO-GQOBOKA

On 24 August 2022, the College learnt about the sudden passing of the late Gert Sibande TVET College Ministerial Council Member Advocate Amanda-Buzo Gqoboka. Advocate Buzo was laid to rest in Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape on 01 September 2022. The Council and Management of Gert Sibande TVET College send words of comfort and encouragement to the family of our beloved fellow Council Member, sister, and colleague. May the memories the family shared with her bring strength and comfort.

MANDELA HOUSE

The College successfully unveiled and donated a fully furnished house to the Mavimbela family. Director General, Dr Sishi, Deputy Director General, Hon. Zungu, Regional Director, Dr Balkrishen, College Council Chair, Dr Mwale, college executives and the Dipaleseng Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Moeketsi officially unveiled the house in Balfour Dipaleseng Municipality on 23 September 2022.

NELSON MANDELA 67 MINUTES CAMPAIGN

The college held a staff wellness programme in collaboration with the 67 minutes Mandela day campaign on 05 August 2022. The college donated sanitary towels to three (3) local schools, gave food parcels to needy families and worked with the Lekwa Local Municipality to fill potholes and clean the town.

Ermelo Campus also donated eight (8) floor carpets at Isibusiso Child Care in Ermelo. This initiative was in collaboration with staff wellness held at the campus on 02 September 2022.

SASOL BRIDGE TO WORK

The College in partnership with Sasol held a graduation ceremony for Agricultural students at Secunda Sasol Recreation Club. The ceremony was in combination with the concept of improving access to economic opportunities and finding means to bring the country to normal after the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. A farming plot and two (2) bakkies were donated for agricultural use.

MESSAGE FROM THE SRC OFFICE

In the achievements of our struggles, one does not forget that the trajectory on curriculum review has significantly shifted.

Not all is achieved but nevertheless in 4 years that:
• The admission level will now be grade 12
• Vocational subjects to be changed
• Occupational subjects to be implemented to speak to local economy
• Alumni and Convocation be implemented across the branches

We note with pride the swift transformation and direction of our branch (The TVET branch).

OPEN DAYS

Gert Sibande TVET College Balfour Campus hosted an open day on 23 August for; Nthoroane, Setshepa, Tshepeha, Isifisosethu, and IM Manchu Secondary school learners to be exposed to critical lacking skills. Stakeholders like the College Cieri, NYDA, NHBRC, Public Works, and Tychoflash honoured the open day. The College further hosted two (2) more open days from 24 – 25 August 2022 for female students, in the Highveld and Lowveld high schools under the ‘take a girl child to work campaign.’ The open days commenced at Isiqalo Guesthouse for Khula Sakhile Secondary School female learners who got an opportunity to be exposed to the hospitality field and got an opportunity to tour the Guesthouse facilities. The open day further proceeded to the Tyre Fitment and Automotive Motor Services & Repairs centre with Kiriyatshwane, Ikusalethu, Kl Thwala, Osizweni, and Thomas Nhlabathi Secondary School’s top-performing female learners in Maths and Science being exposed to more detailed industry study fields.

ELECTRONIC ASSISTANCE DEVICES

We continue to support students living with disabilities. The College handed out technological devices such as electronic wheelchairs and laptops, and trained staff members and students on the usage of these user-friendly devices to assist students living with disabilities to easily reach learning facilities for the realisation of academic excellence.

MIRAE ROBOTICS TRAINING

The College in partnership with Mirae Robotics hosted a 3 days 4th Industrial Revolution (Robotics) training for the College staff members with the purpose to familiarise and capacitate the college to constantly changing times of technology. The training took place from 13 - 16 July 2022 at Waterfront, Standerton.

SUMMER BALL GAMES

The College successfully competed at the 2022 College Sports, Arts and Culture South Africa (CoSACSA) summer ball games. They commenced at Balfour Campus on the 3rd of September and ended in Gauteng Province on the 24th of September.
The South African Technical Vocational Education and Training Student Association (SATVETSA) held its Provincial elections on 15 July 2022. The elections were held at Waterfront Lodge, Standerton to appoint new Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) members, out of the three (3) Mpumalanga TVET Colleges (Gert Sibande, Nkangala and Ehlanzeni). SATVETSA is a National Student leadership body for all 50 TVET College SRCs; and was established in 2013 with a mission to coordinate student voices in the TVET Sector, Provincially and at the National level. This structure has a direct interest in influencing the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) on implementing Policies that favour TVET Colleges to be an institution of first choice.

The outgoing Provincial SATVETSA President – Simphiwe Khumalo mentioned the peaks of the organization and advised unity among the SRC members so they can fully meet the needs of the students, “SATVETSA has developed a structure that aims to assist all students in the TVET sector to be more relevant, share common qualities and employability skills with those in private sectors. This mandate must be followed by all SRC members to present students without personal interests and be in the same direction with their needs. The goal is to promote effective learning environments for all students within the TVET sector.”

The 2022 SATVETSA SRC Conference saw two (2) Central Student Representative Council (CSRC) members from the Gert Sibande TVET College obtaining high seats in the Province as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME AND SURNAME</th>
<th>NAME OF COLLEGE</th>
<th>PROVINCIAL PORTFOLIO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Genius Shabalala</td>
<td>Gert Sibande TVET College</td>
<td>Chairperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sibongiseni Ntshangase</td>
<td>Gert Sibande TVET College</td>
<td>Deputy Chairperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morunga Sechaba</td>
<td>Nkangala TVET College</td>
<td>General Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nokuthula Nkosi</td>
<td>Ehlanzeni TVET College</td>
<td>Deputy Secretary</td>
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<td>Innocentia Nene</td>
<td>Nkangala TVET College</td>
<td>Treasurer General</td>
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<td>Mfundo Zitha</td>
<td>Nkangala TVET College</td>
<td>Policy Development</td>
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The newly elected Provincial SRC who also holds the Central Student Representative Council Presidency portfolio at the Gert Sibande TVET College – Genius Shabalala directed appreciation remarks to his team for support and reflected on his thoughts with the new responsibility in hand. “I am very happy about this opportunity and I am ready to extend my services, provincially. The plan is to have weekly reports that will measure the results of activities done. We will also have a programme-orientated structure that will assist us to identify the needs of the students for the realisation of improved teaching and learning facilities within the Mpumalanga Province. I would also like to appreciate the efforts and energy I’m receiving from my team. Together we can rise the TVET sector!” he closed.
PROVINCIAL ARTISAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Gert Sibande Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College held a Provincial Artisan Development Committee meeting with Nkangala, Ehlanzeni TVET Colleges, Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) Regional Office, and other delegated stakeholders at Waterfront Lodge, Standerton on the 2nd to 3rd of August 2022. The purpose was to check the standard of workshops and implement strategies to promote the training of artisans in the province and country at large.

Phuti Modiba Deputy Principal: Academics at Gert Sibande TVET College welcomed all the attendees and opened a room to improve implementation strategies. “We are ready to hear any other comments, inputs, and advice for the improvement of our facilities and what is needed for the province,” said Modiba.

The stakeholders took a tour to Gert Sibande Skills Academy and Artisan Development Centre to check the standard of the workshops and the team was highly impressed with what they saw. Solomon Moloko – Acting Deputy Director – Indlela DHET spoke highly of the Skills Academy facilities and mentioned that the Gert Sibande TVET College is capable of meeting the Minister of Higher Education’s artisan development strategy system. “We are impressed with what we saw, the workshops are in a level of friendliness to the students and my wish is we have this kind of workshops in all TVET colleges,” he said.

“In our review strategy at DHET we stated that TVET workshops should be aligned with relevant needed skills in the country. Once that happens it will mean all those skills lacking in placement stations will be covered and the country will be able to share best practices abroad,” Concluded Moloko after the tour.

The College with the 4IR team conducted a three (3) days Peer Educators Training from 15 to 17 July 2022 at Waterfront, Standerton. A total of 65 students from the six (6) College campuses and Skills Academy attended the peer educators workshop to shoulder the peer educational responsibility through the grounds of their respective campuses, the college and beyond communities with a common mandate of advocating controversial peer topics, fostering a positive environment, and communicating clearly and persuasively with other peers.

The first day session was facilitated by Dr David Molapo who is a founder of the I Can Leadership Institute Africa and CEO of I CAN 4IR. Molapo gave a brief explanation about the services they offer and introduced a topic for the day. “The 4IR team provides coaching and workshops for individuals, organisations & teams to improve performance. Our specialist area is Leadership skills including personal development, team working, change management, business development and motivational speaking. We also develop workshops and mentoring programmes that support our clients’ ability to deliver on their own learning goals. Our workshops focus on using your strengths and supporting your growth & development through ongoing self-awareness, positive mental attitude and practical application. Today we will be looking at a topic called Understanding substance use disorder.” Molapo further divided the peers to four (4) groups, differentiated with team colours and set out activities relating to the day topic to get a clear understanding of how substance can damage people’s lives. After the activities, the teams were given a platform to present their outcomes also attend questions from other teams. Dumisani Zwane
from the Balfour Campus Student Support Office announced the activity results and closed the day. “Today we saw commitment and growth from our students we are grateful to the 4IR team.”

Deandre Adams - Administrative Assistant at I can 4IR gave a brief background about the 4IR team and conducted day two (2) training. The day unfolded with a similar routine as day one (1) but with a new topic called ‘understanding history and classifications’ and the last day’s topic was ‘understanding the impact of substance abuse on families.’ Andre Marich founder of URUP Connect which provides a digital communication platform to enhance stakeholder’s engagement was also in the midst of the training. Marich presented services they render in his company he also answered questions from the peers which reflected as a sign of interest. “URUP Connect offers a unique solution that is concentrated within the digital mobile space, which is easily customizable, manageable and flexible in both design and creation, to facilitate this ever-changing environment. With our 1-click to engage solution, we allow your audience to engage, quickly and effortlessly with no signup or app download. Through these customizable engagements we create rich and dynamic data to enhance your digital strategies,” he said.

The Deputy Principal: Academics – Phuti Modiba condoned the workshop and directed his praise to the 4IR team. He also mentioned that trainings of such nature not only significantly capacitate students but staff members benefit too. Ayanda Lukhele Balfour Campus peer educator appreciated the opportunity to form part of the training and highlighted that it was beyond her expectations, “the college went an extra mile for us to organise this training, it shows that we are a crucial asset to the institution. What I expected was multiplied and I have learnt a lot. Going forward I will implement everything they taught me and I aim at making a difference on my peers’ lives,” she closed.
MANDELA HOUSE

PROJECT HANDOVER

On 23 September 2022, the College donated a fully furnished house at Dipaleseng Municipality, Balfour Ridgeview to Ms Sindiswa Mavinmbela who is disabled. Sindiswa was renting a two-bedroom house with her five (5) children (under 10 years of age), two of which are also disabled. According to the family, they tried applying for subsidised housing but unfortunately the local municipality couldn’t locate their name in a database system. Sindiswa is the 6th beneficiary since the commencement of the project in 2016. The intent of the initiative is to commemorate the International annual Mandela Day celebrated each year on 18 July by donating a house to a less fortunate member of a society located within the district of the six (6) Gert Sibande TVET College Campuses.

This project is funded by the college, donors and stakeholders to build one house per side each year with the College Skills Academy Civil and Construction Engineering Students getting an opportunity to be part of the manufacturing of the house, under the supervision of a current appointed and qualified contractor on site, for work exposure and a certification award.

It was a glittering day with interesting speeches, and guest speakers from the region, college council, local municipal delegates and the Balfour Campus Manager – Zine Beku-Matlala with the day programme reigns.

The Executive Committee Member - Dipaleseng Municipality Cllr. Khethiwe Moeketsi was the first speaker to the podium. Moeketsi praised the efforts of stakeholders who were in the midst of the project and supplementary condoned the college to continue expanding its horizons to meet more needy beneficiaries. “Today we mark greatness. The Gert Sibande TVET College has assisted us to fulfil a dream of a family. It is such occasions where someone’s life is changed forever. This event is not about us but it is about this family that will sleep with peaceful hearts knowing they have a sustained roof above their heads,” she said.

The College Student Representative Council, Director of Health Residence, Gender & Disability – Eunice Mabena followed to the podium and said, “today It’s a special day because a tittle deed and a house was given to someone who actually deserves it. Having a home provides security, control, belonging identity, and privacy, among other things. The magic about a home is that it feels good to leave, and it feels even better to come back on it.” In closure, the Health Director shared a quote by John Ed Pearce “Home is the starting place of love, hope and dreams.”

The College Council Chairperson – Dr Bongani Mwale was the next speaker to the podium. In his speech, Mwale emphasised
the principle of charity to students. “It is indeed an honour and a
privilege for me to stand and speak in such a delightful occasion.
Principal, thank you very much for taking pride in everything
you do. Our focus is quality. We need the college to instil this
fundamental principle to our students that charity begins at home,”
stated Mwale.

The Regional Manager for North West and Mpumalanga Region
- Dr Nick Balkrishen highlighted the importance of the day in the
college history and humility. “Today marks a very important day on
the college calendar and indeed in our country. It is a day where
we join hands to celebrate a remarkable tradition. A tradition that
exemplifies the spirit of Ubuntu (humanity), a tradition to contribute
to those who needs our support the most. The region wants to
congratulate the college for setting a sterling example to the rest
of the country.”

The Deputy Director General of TVET Branch Hon. Sam Zungu
emphasised the spirit of Ubuntu as an African notion in recognition
of others humanity. “Having Ubuntu is showing care and concern
for your neighbour. It’s lending a helping hand and displaying an
understanding of the dignity with which human beings ought to
be treated, for the simple reason that they are humans. Umuntu
ngumuntu ngabantu. As people we must learn to help one another
in times of need,” he said.

The Deputy Director General further welcomed the Director
General from the Department of Higher Education and Training
(DHET) who holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in
Management and currently the President of the Patrick Ambrose
Foundation for sustainable development – Dr Nkosinathi Sishi. The
DG urged the family to take care of the house and alluded unity to
the community for growth in the area. “Today I stand on behalf of
the minister and the entire department, I must acknowledge that
in honour. We acknowledge the college for the work they did in
building this house, you could see it’s very beautiful indeed. My
appeal to the family and community is that they must ensure that
this infrastructure is well looked after for generations to come,” he
said.

The vote of thanks was given by the College Acting Principal
Molifi Mabe and he directed his appreciations to stakeholders and
everyone who played a positive role in realisation of the project
and congratulated the Mavimbela family on their new house. “I
would firstly like to thank the Dipaleseng Municipality for the land
they gave us to build on. Without this piece of land, this project was
not going to be a success. To our different stakeholders; internal
and external your support goes an extra mile. You didn’t just mark
the college for greatness but you left a mark that will forever stay
in hearts. Congratulations to the beneficiaries I wish peace and
warmth in your new home,” he said.

We caught sight with one family member Oupa Mavimbela who
couldn’t hold his excitement after he toured inside his family house.
“I would like to thank the municipality and the college for building
us a home as a family. We encourage the college to continue the
good deed to other needy people. Thank you very much,” he said.
Phehelo Nala a construction student who was part of the team
that was responsible to build the house said, “I have learned a lot
through this project. It has been a hard and productive three (3)
months, but it was worth it. It pleases me today to see my hard work
putting a tear of joy in someone’s face. I am happy,” he closed.
Gert Sibande TVET College in partnership with Sasol held a graduation ceremony for Agricultural students at Secunda Sasol Recreation Club on 30 August 2022. The ceremony was in combination with the concept Bridge to Work (BtW), a portfolio of initiatives to improve food security and reduce unemployment in communities across the country. Sasol has handed over 285 hectares of agricultural land to the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) to support the further development of emerging farmers. Minister Thoko Didiza officiated the handover on the day.

Speaking at the handover, Minister Didiza said, she would like to congratulate Sasol for this programme. “What is important is the approach of this programme, you could have given these young people the piece of land and disappear, but you also trained them and gave them starter packs which are necessary skills they need.”

Sasol acquired Esperanza farm in 1980 and used it mainly for the establishment of the Sasol Secunda factory site. The land was then used by the Esperanza Trust to promote vegetable and chicken farming by community members before being leased to the Govan Mbeki Municipality after the Trust dissolved. Part of it is currently used for agricultural and manufacturing activities.

Last year, the programme produced 85 emerging farmers who received training at the Buhle Farmers’ Academy. A further 88 farmers are due to complete their training this year. These emerging farmers will be assisted with business starter kits, mentorship and market access to make their businesses grow and thrive.

The graduation event was opened by the Executive Mayor of Govan Mbeki local municipality Cllr. Nhlakanipho Zuma.

The Executive Mayor alluded on the challenges faced by the Govan Mbeki Municipality at large and condoned Sasol not to seize such initiatives. “We are here to celebrate the same advancements which seek to address the majority of challenges we are facing and it is very crucial to indicate that the Govan Mbeki Municipality is classified as a rural municipality because of the diverse economical foundations in its midst. The interventions made by Sasol are really appreciated and it pleases me to see our very own farmers benefiting in such developments. Moving forward we should seek more ways to consult with other stakeholders and farmers for the realisation of diversified training and employment opportunities in the country.”

Charlotte Mokoena, Executive Vice President: Human Resources and Stakeholder Relations at Sasol, commented on the decision to confer Esperanza to the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), under the auspices of a 99-year lease, which is informed by Sasol’s vision of a just transition by growing shared value through the development of key economic growth sectors, such as agriculture.

“The Sasol’s just transition Vision is a shared value proposition that will come to life through the inclusive transformation of our business, people and society. This is in line with our core value of care, which we demonstrate through caring deeply for our people, planet, and communities.” Mokoena further explained that they have another programme under the Sasol’s Bridge to Work (BtW) portfolio called Iphephe which is a programme that aims to improve access to economic opportunities for the youth, women, and adults.
out of work in its fenceline communities in Mpumalanga, Free State, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal. This is by providing vocational training and skills development in the areas of agriculture, motor mechanics, welding, technology and digital development, among others.

“We had to reconfigure our portfolio of projects to focus on vocational training aligned to the needs and opportunities identified by our fenceline communities, social research and local government. These growth accelerator projects, housed under the Bridge to Work programme, will enable those we are targeting to access meaningful work opportunities that can be converted into small businesses through organised development opportunities.

Other programmes under BtW include:

- **Community welding** aimed at creating qualified welders who are equipped to meet the required skill level for new and existing projects in Mpumalanga and Free State;
- **Handyman services** to create jobs for unemployed youth and unskilled school handymen;
- **Motor mechanics** to produce certified Motor Mechanics, who will contribute to the motor industry and be positioned to enter the renewable energy powered vehicle industry;
- **Business technology programme** to assist youth in our communities achieve applied technology skills in order to create scalable start-ups and sustainable digital SMMEs that are relevant to their community; and
- **Community service programme** where the unemployed will be mobilised to become active citizens of the country’s democracy, while earning an income and increasing their employability.

These will be implemented in partnership with Buhle Farmers’ Academy, Afrox, The Automotive Industry Development Centre (AIDC), Aurex, and the Gert Sibande TVET College. Other strategic partners are Productivity SA, the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA),” explained Mokoena.

Gert Sibande TVET College has been in partnership with Sasol for more than five (5) prosperous years now, with the vision to bridge the toll of scarcity of skills from graduates and artisans at large. With the 2024 decade of the artisans’ vision set in line by the government, it is with that regard the college has embraced this partnership with the vision to turn every workplace a training space.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES

Gert Sibande TVET College continuously supports the rights of students living with disabilities to participate equally in ways and approaches that are not constrained by physical or mental limitations.

On the 1st of September 2022, the college held staff and student training on the usage of assistive technology devices. These devices are aimed to be used in classrooms to aid access, accessibility, institutional, attitudinal and environmental barriers and they belong to Special Needs Students until the end of their studies with the college. The training further covered implementations to avoid discrimination based on disability. All six (6) college campuses and the Skills Academy received the training and were handed the devices according to the capacity and states of students with disabilities present.

The overall breakdown of items dispatched:

1. Front Wheel Drive Power Wheelchairs
2. Foldable Electronic Wheelchairs
3. Digital Personal Listener
4. Micro-Speaker Digital Voice Recorders
5. Handheld Electronic Magnifier
6. Laptop 14” Screen
7. Advanced Visualiser for e-Learning and Signing
8. Screen Magnification Reading Software, for all colleges to have access licenses for students and lectures
9. Program management services, hourly rate
10. Professional Development services per delegate

The Acting Deputy Principal: Registrar – Regina Mampye alluded to the campuses to grasp more information relating to the devices and use them accordingly as an asset of the college. “It’s very important to look after these devices. Always make an assurance that they are kept in safe spaces for the possibility of relevant students having access to them when needed. Students living with disabilities receive these assistive devices because we want them not to be limited but we want them to feel relevant in the college and for them to be able to achieve good academic results.”

Nechie Manombe - Skills Academy Project Manager, Bafana Motha - Skills Academy Campus Manager and Chris Mahlangu - Gert Sibande Municipality Project Manager
NEW ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FOR THE COLLEGE

Life always asks people questions through different opportunities that come knocking in their doors. A passionate, hardworking and a happy soul as he describes himself. Masilu Ramalapa (30) is the newly appointed Gert Sibande TVET College Assistant Director: Accounting in the Central Office. He is the last born in a family of four (4), humbly raised by an uncle, aunt and a grandmother in the Botlokwla Village, Limpopo Province. He started his primary schooling in 1998 at Puledi Primary, progressed to Moloto Senior and matriculated at Seshego High School in 2009. He described his uncle Refus Mabitsela as his role model because of the hard work principles he instilled unto him ‘Hard work beats talent when talent doesn’t work hard,’ he quoted.

In 2011, he joined the University of Limpopo; obtained a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting (BCom Accounting) undergraduate degree in 2014. In 2016 he obtained a post graduate Diploma in Accounting Science with the University of South Africa (UNISA) and further passed his first board exam with SAICA in 2020. He's currently enrolled with SAICA for board two qualification. Masilu recounts his varsity days as best motivational memory highlights “You know at tertiary is where one lives his best life,” he alluded.

The newly appointed Assistant Director started working as a Trainee Auditor at the Auditor General of South Africa (AGSA) in Pretoria from 2017 – 2019. From 2020 – 2022 he was promoted to a senior auditor position at the same company and later left to join the FTMG Africa Business Advisory as a senior accounting consultant.

To date, he lies with the responsibility to manage the financial record keeping, forecasting business activities and financial performances in areas of income, expenses, and earnings based on past and present expected outcomes of the college “The job requires one to have ethical integrity and objectivity principle,” he explained.

Ramalapa mentioned that his vision is growth and stability “I want to see the college financially organised, through development or maintenance of finance systems that will align to various laws and regulations. A poor accounting system opens the door to the kinds of mistakes that catch the authority’s eye. No organisation wants to go through a bad audit” he said.

In closure he mentioned that he wants to create a foundation of mentorship for young students in the field of finance, “Accounting is a foundational element of business, linked to providing control, stability, and accountability to the company’s finances. It’s a role that will likely always be in demand in the country and even abroad.”

NEWLY APPOINTED INTERNAL AUDITOR
FOR THE COLLEGE

Zizo Rwayi, born on the 28th of December 1983 is a strong woman with 14 years of experience in the auditing industry. She hails from Idutywa in the Eastern Cape Province and she has the vision to keep the college’s auditing report positive and transparent for a long run, “The determination of success drives me. I don’t just give up. I push and make sure that whatever I have planned must be achieved,” she said with her welcoming smile. Zizo was given a thumbs-up by Management on the 10th of August 2022 and she is stationed at the central office of the college.

Growing up, Zizo described her upbringing as normal even though there were challenges, her family was warm and united. “My upbringing was beautiful. I was the youngest in the family so I was spoiled a lot. My mother was a teacher and she was working far from home so most of the time I was staying with my grandmother and my cousins. My father passed on when I was seven years old and I didn’t have siblings however I regarded my cousins as my siblings because we grew up together,” she explained.

Zizo started her schooling in 1989 at Morrison PJS Primary School located in Idutywa in the Eastern Cape and she moved to Bethel College Primary School in 1994 where she completed her lower grades and matriculated at Strelitzia High School in 2002. With the passion she has for accounting, she chose to enrol with the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University to do a 3 years National Diploma programme in Internal Auditing and completed it in due time.

Zizo started her auditing journey in 2008 at SARC Academy in the Eastern Cape as a Senior Internal Auditor. In 2011 she moved to the South African Revenue Services (SARS) head office with the same occupation of a Senior Auditor until 2014. She worked as an Audit Manager at SM Xulu Inc. from 2016 until 2018. She further worked for Ngubane Assurance as a tax Advisory in 2020 until she was appointed at the Gert Sibande TVET College in 2022.

She described her varsity life as that of a student with a focus and a desire to see a transformation within her peers “My varsity journey was interesting though there’s nothing much about it because it was books and church. I was not too much on the social stuff of the varsity except that in my 1st year I joined a choir, I was a Peer Helper and I was also the Secretary for the Black Management Forum (BMF),”

Zizo mentioned that her vision is to see the college on good terms with audits and she would like to see her team players well equipped with relevant training and skills, “We live in forever technologically changing times, so we always need to keep up with new systems and develop matching strategies. My mission is to work closely with service providers to understand their vision and needs. I will also identify gaps that need improvements within my department to concur with modified systems for us to drive this train without fear,” she closed.

Gert Sibande TVET College Newsletter | September 2022
Liyabona Maseti, we see as his name describes, is a 24-year-old visionary for entrepreneurship development to bring about economic growth, stability and equal labour opportunities within the country. He hails from the Eastern Cape Province raised by his mother Millicent Maseti as an elderly son. Liyabona started his primary schooling at Tsembeyi Primary in 2008. He later moved to live with his father Mabhoko Mahlangu in Breyton Mpumalanga and joined Murube Primary School to finish grade 7 in 2015. Liyabona continued to persuade his studies and joined Masizakhe Secondary school in 2016. According to him, his eyesight problem started 2006 and became more effective in 2018 when he was in grade 10 but with the passion and encouragement, he was receiving from his teachers he managed to obtain a matric certificate with good results. “When I was in grade 10 that’s where the cataract started to mature and at school they didn’t have enough resources to assist me so I was grabbing as the teacher is in class explaining the lesson and later I would google and listen to videos relating to that actual topic,” he explained.

In January 2022, he decided to step into the tertiary level when he joined Gert Sibande TVET College, Ermelo Campus and enrolled for the National Certificate Vocational (NCV) Level 2 Office Administration course. To his surprise, Liyabona was told that he is the first-ever blind student at the college. “I remember when I came to enrol at the college, they were surprised how they can assist me because it was the first time they encounter a student with my kind of disability but fortunately they made means for me to write a placement test. I wrote and passed the placement test and that was the beginning of my journey with the institution,” he said.

Liyabona indicated that he chose the field of Business studies because he promotes entrepreneurship and in a near future he would be pleased to see himself running a business that will cater for a majority of people living with disabilities because he believes they are not limited but as capable as the ones labelled as normal. “For me disability is just a name. I am able to do many things on my own, I can walk from home to the campus and now I know every corner of the campus.” Liyabona’s strengths and capabilities are extraordinary, he excels on the New Venture subject and he has mastered the computer keys on the back of his head. “I know every key on the computer the challenge starts when I have to write using a pen but fortunately I have a turtor who assists me to write. He reads for me and I tell him what to write,” he explained.

His Level 2 New Venture lecturer – Ma’am Khumalo spoke highly about Liyabona and made mention that the college should invite more students with disability and develop training programmes for lectures to be familiar with easy ways of handling them. “My wish is that the college can select a specific campus for these kind of students, have more learning and teaching technologically gadgets to make the teaching and learning day to day activities more effective because these students are special and they have big dreams just like the ones we label as normal,” she closed.
The College honoured the late Mrs Tebogo Percians Portia Mange on the 19th of August 2022 with a memorial lecture at Graceland Casino and Country Club, Secunda. The memorial lecture comes after the passing of the former Gert Sibande TVET College Principal on 30 June 2021. Portia Mange was a far-sighted Principal who was able to drive transformation in providing innovative and industry sought ideal programme mix to the marginalized rural students of the great Gert Sibande District. She achieved that through establishment of a Business Innovation & Partnership Department which in-houses a family of Isiqalo business units namely; The Guest House, Tyre Fitment Centre, Tissue factory & the Farm. Her business enterprises now stand as a physical testament to students that whatever their previous educational achievements or socio-economic backgrounds, the students of the Gert Sibande District Municipality deserve tuition and facilities which – at the least – match those of older and more prestigious global TVETs. Her quest for attainment of equal education manifested in her establishing a bursary for the girl child. She believed without a shadow of doubt that the vital mechanism to address the triple socio-economic ills of the country and achieve desired reconstruction and development of the nation was to empower a girl child so she can gainfully participate in the mainstream economy.

Council Tinyiko Lourence Chauke, highlighted the vitality of impacting lives while you still have a chance and touched on the footprints left by the late Mange “Today we are reflecting on the life lived by Portia. She has walked her journey to the fullest and we can still see her footprints. There are people who lived before our generation but we read about them, there are people who lived in our times and we still read about them too. The person we are commemorating is historic, her life was based on changing the life of an African Child through transformed educational systems and laying a foundation for the less privileged. That alone is worth commemorating”

Basani Hlekani Vhembe TVET College Principal reminisced over some memories she shared with her late friend. “The memories I have with Portia they relate to almost everything in life that one of you know about her. You knew her as a mother, a colleague, a wife, in church but I was privileged to know her from all sides. We shared everything and travelled a lot.”

The Evander Campus Manager – Jabhi Nkosi indicated that the college will keep the legacy of Mrs Mange and they have an idea in the pipeline to name one of the college campuses before her. “A memorial lecture doesn’t happen to everyone. A memorial lecture is done for a legend with a purpose. We honour this because Mrs Mange was not just any other person but a legend. Hopefully next
year around this time, through this pronouncement; DDG, Mr Mabe, College Council and the labour we want to open a campus with a new name ‘Portia Mange Campus’

Deputy Director General – Sam Zungu extended credit to the Mange family for allowing the college to commemorate one of their own “Let me extend my greetings to the Mange family and also say thank you for allowing us as the Department and the Institution for the opportunity to honour our own heroine, a giant of the giants that we worked with over the years. How defeating it is for us to honour this gigantic heroine in the month of August which is women’s month. Mrs Mange is one of the greatest heroines, not only in the TVET Sector but the entire South African Education System. She was indeed a visionary and a forward thinker, hence I find this thing to be so defeating in defining what she strived and lived for. And I would like to give this memorial lecture a theme called ‘Recalling South African Youth for the 21st Century challenges through a responsive and relevant TVET system because that’s what she thrived for. In all the work it was about young people, those less privileged and how they can be emancipated so that they can get better opportunities for better living.”

The vote of thanks was given by the Acting College Principal – Molifi Mabe. Mabe directed his acknowledgments to the DDG, College Council, the Regional Office, delegates from sister colleges, key stakeholders to the TVET sector and the Gert Sibande TVET College family at liberty. ‘Long live the spirit of Portia Mange, Long live!’

ADVOCATE AMANDA BUZO-GQOBeka

It is with great sadness to inform you of the sudden passing of Advocate Amanda Buzo-Gqobeka. Advocate Buzo was a serving member of the Gert Sibande TVET College Council as a Ministerial Appointee since 2019. The College has learnt that she passed-on, on the 24th of August 2022 after a short illness.

Advocate Buzo-Gqobeka has in her short-lived lifetime efficiently achieved among other the following profile: LLB and B. Proc from the University of Fort Hare, PME from Rhodes University Investec Business School, Consciousness Coaching Certificate in Masters I-III, Conveyancing Certificate, Legislative Drafting by the Chief State Law Advisers Office, JBCC SERIES 2000, Advanced Trial Advocacy Skills, Share Point Document and Records Management Investigative Skills. Her highlights in government include, amongst others;

- During the period that she spent in the Public Sector, she was fortunate to have been part of the drafting of various environmental legislation, setting up of successful prosecuting unit environment crimes, with an overshadowing success and legacy.
- She also played a huge role in setting up of the Green Scorpions and being able to prosecute multinational companies that committed environmental crimes in South Africa.
- She was part of the rehabilitation and refurbishment team of the hospitals in the Eastern Cape through a facilities management process by Maxima Global Holdings Inc. as a Deputy President.
- She served on various boards and Councils including Gert Sibande TVET College where she was the Chairperson of the Policy Review Committee in 2021 and later appointed Chairperson of the Audit & Risk Committee in 2022.

Advocate Buzo-Gqobeka will be remembered as an epitome of good corporate governance, Good Leadership Skills and Accountability. Her passion to advance good governance in the public sector will be missed. The Council and Management of Gert Sibande TVET College sends words of comfort and encouragement to the family of our beloved fellow Council member, sister and colleague. May the memories that the family shared with her bring them strength during this difficult season.

May the spirit of Advocate Amanda Buzo-Gqobeka live on!
The 2022 national College, Sports, Arts and Culture South Africa (CoSACSA) Festival was held in the Eastern Cape Province East London, Buffalo City Metro Municipality from 22 - 25 July 2022. The Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) competitions started from the inter-campus, provincials until it reached the national levels with the theme ‘disaster’ and the following sub-themes: Covid-19, gender based violence (GBV), HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), floods, unrest, and corruption. The Mpumalanga province was crowned 1st in performing arts and got 3rd position in visual arts.

50 Technical Vocational Education and Training Colleges from the nine South African provinces came with strong and prepared teams to compete in the following categories: Visual Arts, Performing Arts, and Choral Music. Under visual Arts, there were three categories; Pencil drawing, Charcoal drawing, and Brush Painting. Performing Arts had Gumboots Dance, Hip Hop Dance, Pantsula Dance, Freestyle, Poetry, and Drama. Choral Music had nine categories namely; Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Baritone, Chamber Choir, Female Voices, Male Voices, Mixed Choir Western, and Mixed Choir Vernacular.

The first three winners of each category were presented with trophies, overall province trophies were also awarded and individual medals were handed to individual winners. The Gauteng province got 1st position and scored a R10 000 price cheque and musical instruments worth R60 000. Mpumalanga got 2nd position followed by Free State province in 3rd position. Although the province was crowned 2nd in overall it projected quality performance and high commitment through the competitions.

Tlamelo Motlatsi arts and culture convener thanked all the stakeholders who took part in making the festival a success. “We appreciate the effort that you are taking to change the perception of the TVET sector in the country. This sector remains the most underrated and left-hand part in the country, but when we are working together there is no structure that will be seen as an orphan of the sector. The aim of CoSACSA is to bring all stakeholders under one umbrella and transform the Technical Vocational Education and Training sector through sport, Arts and culture,” he said.

Amanda Khoza a Gert Sibande TVET College student who was performing in the solo choral music – mezzo soprano took the lime light with her angelic voice when she performed a song by Weziwe Vandala-Moya called Khanya Khwezi Lokusa. Amanda obtained position three (3) and mentioned that it was her first time performing in the solo category “I had a great experience with less challenges but I was scared to face such a large audience, knowing I will be performing alone with all eyes on me. My appreciations goes to the college for the opportunity and special thanks to the conductor who advised and directed my performance,” she said.

All the participants from the nine provinces were given a platform to showcase their talents and left the audience surprised if not speechless. “I never expected what I saw, I never thought the Technical Vocational Education and Training sector have so much quality talent,” alluded one of the judges

CoSACSA provincial secretary (prize winners from Gauteng province) Tshepo Mokoena shared their proud moment “Today we are reaping our intense preparations and sleepless nights, in preparations for this competitions. The competition was touch but we gave it our best and today we are standing tall. I’m proud of my team and this prize will benefit us a lot to prepare for the 2023 competitions,” he closed.
The College successfully participated in the 2022 College Sports Arts and Culture South Africa (CoSACSA) Summer Ball games competitions. The games commenced on the 3rd of September 2022 at Balfour Campus, Hoërskool field with the 6 (six) college campuses and Skills Academy competing internally, in different sporting codes such as basketball, chess, netball, rugby, soccer, table tennis and volleyball accommodating both male and female students.

The College further locked horns with its Sister College’s Ehlanzeni and Nkangaka TVET Colleges during the provincial stages that took place at Witbank Mpumalanga on 10 September 2022. Gert Sibande TVET College was crowned as winners in different sporting codes and as overall winners for the day. The winners were crowned from 1st – 3rd position and the college walked with the average winner’s trophy, followed by Nkangala TVET in 2nd position and Ehlanzeni College sitting in 3rd.

The Mpumalanga Province obtained position 5 in the National tournament that took place from 22 – 24 September at Gauteng Province, Tshwane University of Technology west campus. Both genders from the nine (9) provinces were given a platform to exhibit their best in the following fields; rugby, football, netball, volleyball, chess, and table tennis. The tournament was supported by the presence of the Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology Buti Manamela and the Deputy Director General of the TVET Branch at DHET Sam Zungu.

According to Sabelo Zulu, from the Sibanesetfu Campus the Mpumalanga Province gave their best throughout the competitions although the Province did not win. “The province was not crowned
first but we played good sport. The gents managed to obtain position 1 in volleyball, position 2 in chess and position 2 again in netball. Obtaining position 5 out of nine provinces is not bad, it shows that all the provinces were prepared and ready. I’m happy with the results because our team went all out and it was a predominating team. I will like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the competitions.”

The Gert Sibande TVET College Deputy Principal Academics, Phuti Modiba believes that the college and the province will come back stronger and conquer in the next season’s competitions. “What we saw is true determination from our students and I believe we can win these competitions if we can continue with positive energy. When it’s time for sports, we need proper preparations and support. Next year let’s have enough time to prepare and avoid last-minute disappointments.”

The inter-college competitions unfolded as follows:

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VISION
The Global developer of productive citizens for sustained economic growth

MISSION
We deliver responsive quality education and training to meet stakeholder needs

VALUES
Performance
Integrity
Innovative
Excellence