



South Africa's most pressing challenge right now is youth unemployment

President Cyril Ramaphosa

It is necessary and significant to mention that unemployment amongst youth (aged 15 -24 years) in South Africa stands at an all-time high of 64.4%, the highest in the world. Addressing the nation on the 6th of October 2021, President Ramaphosa said the country's education sector will need to adapt to help with the skills needed for the country. 'That places a great responsibility on teachers and education officials, to ensure that our schools, colleges, universities and other training institutions are producing the skills and capabilities that our country needs.'

Ukuwela cannot agree more, Mr President! We need to reflect on our practises and match supply with demand.

Doing our bit for skills training, Ukuwela took our school leavers on work exposure opportunities where learners are taught employable skills while gaining exposure and experience in various sectors.

Our girls attended **Garden Route Laundry** where they were instructed by the super-efficient Rochelle.

The girls also completed their cash wash skills training where they showed that they too can handle a high-pressure hose!



Our boys visited Outeniqua Palms Nursery where they participated in planting, weeding and making compost. Way to go boys!



OUR BOYS WITH RETHA STEYN FROM OUTENIQUA PALMS NURSERY

'Stomach in, chest out!'

This is the part where we get to brag about our Ukuwela candidates' achievements.

Stomach in, chest out, we stand proud and salute the following candidates:

Congratulations to Raychaan Pienaar who has officially entered, and is participating in, an 'Operator' short course presented by **Michelangelo Hair Salon** and **African Skills Village**. We believe this will greatly contribute to Raychaan's employability and growth as a worker.

We are literally bursting with excitement over Rohan van der Berg's recent appointment at **TCS Wifi George**! It has been such a patient journey, but Rohan (and his family) kept faith with us. Huge thanks to Chris and his awesome team who invited Ukuwela for a disability awareness training session on the 23rd of November 2021 before Rohan started his first day on the 2nd of December 2021. We are instant fans of TCS Wifi!



ROHAN WITH HIS COLLEAGUE, MARCUS
FROM TCS WIFI GEORGE



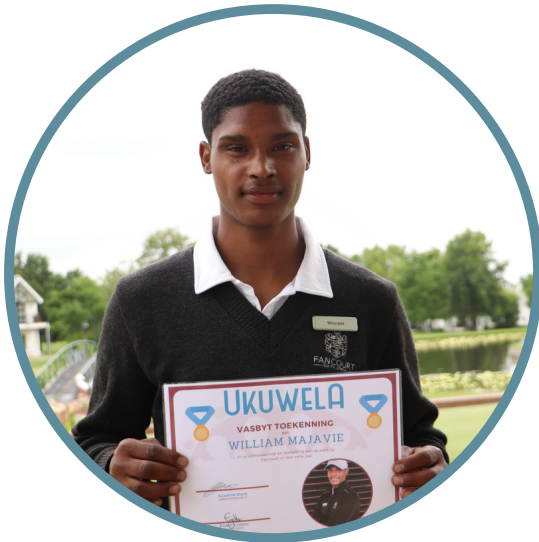
DISABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING WITH
THE AWESOME TEAM FROM TCS WIFI
GEORGE

School leaver Aisha Gentle also had a big day on the 1st of December when she started a holiday job as a packer at **Checkers, York Street**. Aisha, we are so proud of you for jumping right in and making the most of the opportunity. You've got this!

William Majavie (**Fancourt**) and John Johannes (**Safari Braai Products**) made us super proud by successfully completing their first year of work. They were both awarded the prestigious 'Vasbyt' Awards. This is a big deal to us because research has shown that the first year of work lays the foundation for future employment. Thank you Fancourt and Safari Braai Products for investing in our youth!



AISHA READY TO GET GOING ON HER FIRST DAY OF WORK!



WILLIAM (LEFT) AND JOHN (RIGHT) WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE "VASBYT" AWARDS

Reaching out

'We must ensure that every school-leaver has the confidence, the capabilities, and the opportunities to study further, find employment or gain work experience.'

President Cyril Ramaphosa

Ukuwela makes every effort to connect our school leavers with opportunities. We are connected with the local **Community Works Programme (CWP)** and, as of recently, we have committed to registering our school leavers with **Job-Abled** powered by **JobJack**, connecting people with job opportunities (www.jobjack.co.za).

Via our connection with Job-Abled, we also received tomato veggie pods donated to Carpe Diem from **McCafè**. Thanks to Marius Erasmus, the Director of Job-Abled, for his communication and advocacy!

Ukuwela is looking back at 2021 with huge gratitude and looking forward to 2022 with much expectation! Mr. Ramaphosa, we wish you could read this newsletter because we know it would make you smile. Yes, it is only a small program in a small part of the country and it is nowhere near big enough to make a difference on national statistics, but it makes a huge difference to every participant and their families. And because of that, we will keep going!

You, dear reader, might not be the President but we would like to thank you for your support and we wish you a blessed and safe time with those near and dear.

Blessings,

The Ukuwela Team



OPENING OUR BOX FILLED WITH VEGGIE PODS!



Follow us on facebook on @ukuwelaprogram
Spread the good news: like and share!
ukuwelaprogram@gmail.com