

Abled manager

When Noah Hugo lost his job as a security guard in Johannesburg after he suffered a stroke that paralysed the right side of his body, he thought his chances of ever again working were ruined. Hugo has been living with a disability for over four years now.

“There was a time when I thought I’d never find employment because of my condition. I have four children and come from a rural area in the Northern Cape, where the majority of people are unemployed. However, I didn’t use my disability as an excuse not to support my family.”

Instead of giving up hope, he joined Hope for Life, an organisation that works with the Expanded Public Works Programme on a recycling project. The 48-year-old is now a supervisor with 20 people under his guidance, and says that his hard work has paid off. “We recycle paper, card boxes, glass and all kind of plastic. The project is very busy.”

He says the project has helped him support his family. “Through the project, I’ve managed to send all my children to school; I’m a proud provider for my family.”

Hugo says his strongpoint has always been perseverance. “Most people living with the same condition would’ve stayed at home and felt sorry for themselves. But from a young age, I was never someone to give up, even when it seemed difficult to succeed. Today I’m living proof that perseverance pays.”