

Luck through adversity

Nolubabalo Dyanpyi is a 43-year-old mother of one, who dreams of owning her own business one day. She grew up in the Eastern Cape and never finished high school, having to look for a job at an early age to support her daughter.

“Without Matric or any skills, I was forced to look for a job as a domestic worker. I worked for four years, during which I became ill and spent four months in hospital.”

On her release from hospital in 2005, she joined the Yabonga Project, a non-governmental organisation focused on offering education and support to people living with HIV/AIDS. Through Yabonga, Dyanpyi became involved in an Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) project dealing with crafting. “I’ve dedicated my life to crafting; I even teach people how to craft. I really like this project.”

She is grateful that she gets paid for doing something that she likes. “I use the money to support my child and my mother, who takes care of her; and also save the little money that is left for the future.”

Dyanpyi wants to own a crafting company one day and employ people from the community. This, she says, she will achieve through the grace of God and the hard work she puts in. “I’m saving the rest of the money I get from EPWP to start a craft shop. One day, I will achieve my goal and give back to my community, while creating employment.”