

New lease on life

Twenty-five-year-old Tshepo Motshabi comes from a family of three, and completed Matric in 2007. As it is for any other young person, passing Matric was a highlight, but he was uncertain about his career.

His father had passed away in 2005, and with his siblings still at school, he was forced to be the family's breadwinner. After completing Matric, he enrolled in different short courses to be more employable. Yet he still struggled to find a job. He then joined the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Philani Health Centre Project as a data capture.

"I was blessed to be involved with the project, because I was starting to get desperate for a job. I must admit that this project saved me from many things I could've done in desperation. I benefited a lot from the project, and gained experience that will benefit me in future."

Though he is working, Motshabi says he'd like to further his studies in the near future, as he doesn't want to be a data capture forever. "I'm currently saving to study further, as I want to have a bright future. I'm also able to support my family and buy clothes with the money I earn."

Motshabi used his first-ever stipend to subscribe to the TopTV pay channel, as his family has always wanted it. He says they're comfortable now, because money is no longer the challenge it was before.

One of his desires is to see his community developing and more young people being employed. "I wish more EPWP projects can be launched, so that people from the community can get opportunities like I did. That will really uplift the community."

Motshabi says though he lost his father, he has never lost his self-belief; and that people should believe in their abilities and grab all the opportunities that may come their way.