

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS MAN.



Cebisile Ngobese

Born and bred in the dusty streets of KwaNyuswa, through support from the Hillcrest Advice Bureau and Bursary Fund Organisation Nkazimulo Mhlophe is one of the fortunate people who have succeeded in pursuing a career and graduating at university.

He started his early childhood education at Umphumela Primary School from grade one to grade seven, started his high School education at Umnyameni Zenex High School from grade eight to grade ten. He then studied grade ten to grade 12 at Emaqhutshane High School, which is where he matriculated.

He says life was not always easy for him when he was growing up because sadly, his father passed away in the year 2006, and he was then left with only his mother to take care and bring up him and his siblings, a younger brother and sister. Being raised by a single parent did not break him or lead him to become a problematic child but instead it made him stronger, wiser have a strong desire to make something better of himself and encouraged him to fight even harder to have a bright and successful future.

After matriculating, he states that 'life became somewhat difficult for him as he did not have funds to apply for university, he did not have information about choosing a career path and had no idea where

he would get finance to support his tertiary studies, when he got accepted at university.’ It was through a friend, Nhlakanipho Mthiyane, that he became aware of how he could apply for university. He says that it was also Mthiyane who told him about the Hillcrest Advice Bureau and Bursary Fund Organisation.

“I am very grateful to the Hillcrest Advice Bureau and Bursary Fund Organisation for all the support they provided to me during my years of studying. They provided me with financial support as well as life skills. I owe most of my success to them”, said Mhlophe.

Mhlophe is now a proud owner of a successful Logistics Company called Ngcingweni Projects PTY LTD. He owns two trucks, which he uses to transport commodities such as coal, chrome and manganese, just to mention a few, from the Durban harbour to warehouses in Durban and from the warehouses to the harbour, for imports and exports purposes.

Even though his business is now booming, he says it wasn’t always easy when he was starting up. He said he came across a number of challenges and that he attempted starting four other businesses before he settled where he is now. “Starting a business is very hard, especially when it comes to raising capital to start off. Initially, I had attempted to start four other businesses. I worked so hard, day and night, but, they did not work out. The logistics company I own now was my fifth attempt. I came across a lot of challenges and hurdles, but in the end my hard work paid off and yielded ripe fruits”, said Mhlophe.

The rate of unemployment in South Africa continues to grow everyday. A number of young people who graduate from Universities find themselves unemployed for quite some time after graduating. This leads them to give up on life, loose hope for a better future or sit and wait for opportunities to be handed to them. This is not the case with Mhlophe. He said he has 'never worked a day in his life. His aim has always been owning his own company and being his own boss. He said he is aware of the lack of job opportunities in our country and said in order to curb this pandemic, young people should think how to make use of skills they've acquired at tertiaries to enable themselves to make opportunities for themselves’.

“Instead of being thought about unemployment, young people should be thought to go for what is relevant. They should be thought about how they can make use of qualifications they get from Universities rather than waiting to get employed by other people in the same field. Also, the older generation should believe, have faith and invest in the younger generation”, he said.

His advice to the youth is that ‘they should take things step by step accordingly and not fear being humble and moving on a slow lane. They should not get influenced by things they see on social media’.

“Great and successful things start from humble beginnings.”

Pictures Below: Trucks belonging to Nkazimulo Mhlophe. He uses them at his Logistics Company, Ngcingweni Projects PTY LTD.



