

DOUBLE DELIGHT FOR YOUNG ENGINEERING HOPEFUL AND RBIDZ BURSARY BENEFICIARY

The year 2023 ended on a high note for Sibaphiwe Mdletshe from Esikhaleni, Richards Bay when he completed his Civil Engineering Theoretical studies with Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT).

He earnestly credited his success to the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone for the life-changing opportunity afforded to him through the bursary to further his studies with the tertiary institution of his choice.

Since the bursary programme's inception in 2017, the RBIDZ has witnessed the success of many young professionals who would have struggled in their study journey, had they not been presented with the financial opportunity.

Responding to the company's mandate to change the socio-economic landscape in diverse facets, the company continues to inject millions into skills development, education, community development and other related programmes to ensure that skills development and transfer take centre stage.

This is coupled by ensuring that children from disadvantaged backgrounds are also not deterred from pursuing their dreams because of financial incapacities.

Whilst Sibaphiwe celebrated his achievements of 2023, he had no idea that he would soon join the RBIDZ for his in-service training, which will assist him in acquiring his Civil Engineering Diploma as soon as he fulfils the requirements of his studies.

To date, the young professional is groomed by seasoned practitioners who have been in the industry for many years and led mega infrastructure development projects both within the RBIDZ and outside.

Sibaphiwe is a fortunate gentleman who will be well grounded in his in-service training, witnessing and participating in multinational construction projects from inception to completion, and his experience will be unmatched from here onwards.

The overall opportunity, which includes internships and learnerships for the youth within the RBIDZ, aims to provide a level of efficiency and increase aspiring professionals' knowledge, experience and skills for future career responsibilities.

"I remember vividly sending through my

application. I believed in myself and was determined that I would be selected to benefit from the opportunity. I am thankful to the RBIDZ for trusting my capabilities and the fact that I would utilise the chance for the better.

"The support I received has made my tertiary education journey for studying seamless, released my potential and I am certain that my destiny indeed lies in the built environment," commented Sibaphiwe, beaming with excitement.

He revealed that growing up, he derived a passion from presenting innovative solutions to challenges and his interest in civil technology developed during his high school years through observing remarkable infrastructure projects and developments around his area, which drew his fascination to the fraternity even more.

"The RBIDZ's position is not only to provide for the academically deserving and disadvantaged, but to also support them throughout the journey of their career.

"We want to guide our youth and channel them towards the right direction whilst also imparting life lessons and useful knowledge.

Studies have indicated that fields such as Civil Engineering are regarded as scarce skills, hence our Bursary programme was designed to cater for such and mostly bridge the gap for unemployment in our surrounding communities," highlighted Mr. Mbatha.

"By promoting these skills, we are directly increasing the chances of our local youth to align with the market demand and shifting economies, as well as being able to compete in the world over job market. We want them to be employable and develop their skills through learnership and internship programmes, which is standard at the RBIDZ."

"We drive massive infrastructure development projects and attract multibillion investments in the Zone, which require specialised skills and we want our local communities to have befitting prerequisites," said Zulu.

"We duly look forward to our beneficiaries completing their studies and celebrating their graduation in the next season.

Soon the company will be welcoming the Class of 2023 who will be beneficiaries of the 2024 academic year."



RBIDZ
Special Economic Zone



RBIDZ CEO - Mr. Thabane Zulu

RBIDZ Social and Ethics Board Committee Chairperson – Elphas Mbatha and Sibaphiwe Mdletshe during the 2022 Bursary Awarding Ceremony.



RBIDZ Multi-billion rand investment project; Wilmar Processing SA under construction



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