

2025 Graduation Report



# 500





# FUTURES UNLOCKED and counting...

500 Graduates. 500 Lives Changed. 500 Families Ripped Out of Poverty.

And We Are Just Getting Started.

## THE ROAD TO 500

GRADUATES OVER THE YEARS





## Agcobile Mkwakwi

Diploma in IT

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*This graduation means a lot to me. It shows that all my hard work and effort were worth it. It also means I have grown as a person and that I am ready for the next step in my life.*

*There were times when things were really hard, and I felt tired or alone. But I kept going and did not give up. One verse that helped me is Galatians 6:9 - "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." This reminded me that giving up was not an option, and I am so thankful I made it to this day.*

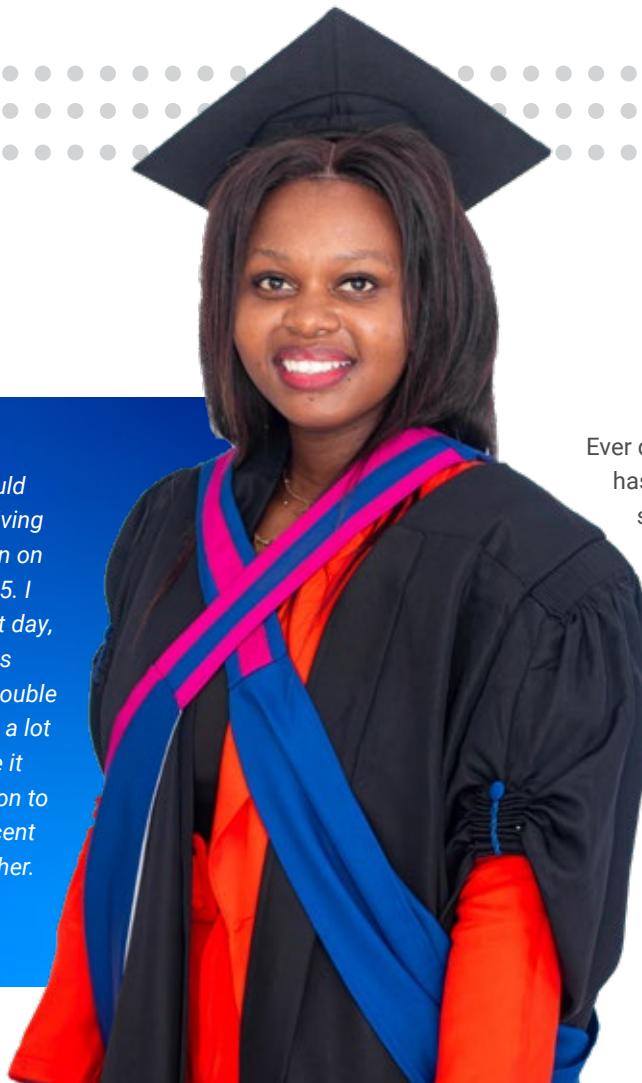


## Athule Fumbeza

Advanced Diploma  
Economics

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*A happy memory I would like to share was receiving my letter of completion on the 11th of March 2025. I jumped out of bed that day, and I was crying. It was happy tears. Being a double graduate really means a lot to me, mostly because it gave my family a reason to celebrate, after the recent sudden loss of our father.*



Ever quiet and unassuming, Athule has always been a young lady who simply "gets the job done." At her first graduation, her parents celebrated proudly with us, a perfect picture of a couple beaming with pride at their daughter's achievement. Her father was sorely missed at her second graduation, and the family still choking up when talking about him.



## Akhona Mbulali

*National Diploma - Human Resources*

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*Being the VERY FIRST one in my family to make it to varsity and finish, graduation is a dream come true for me. It has been a journey, and I would never have completed this without Masinyusane. Living in the Masi House is the happiest memory of my academic journey. Ngibonga ngako konke, Masi!*



Akhona had a tumultuous time on her journey to getting her qualification. In isiXhosa the saying 'umzingisi akanashwa' (meaning he who perseveres, will never know ill fortune), pertains to her. Despite a very lengthy sojourn, and many a lesson learnt, she has always maintained an honest smile and a steely commitment to seeing things through.





## Babalwa Otolu

Marine Engineering



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*I honestly have no words, but as the first family graduate, it meant the world for my family; not just any graduate, but an Engineering graduate in a new course in the country, to be amongst the first few females to actually finish the degree.*

*This graduation was for my late dad and granddad - my first loves. Every time I felt like quitting I would always imagine them cheering for me, edging me on. Even when I was going through depression and anxiety, losing funding which caused me to go to bed without food, their memory kept me going.*

*Now I have made a family for myself during the course. I made true friendships which have now become solid sisterhoods. This course taught me patience, and to love and believe in myself despite the hardships. Not all of us have the same goals but at the end of the road we reach a particular destination and mine was to prove to myself that everything is possible and I am able, not by my own works, but with God and support from loved ones. What a long and bittersweet 5 years of my life but I am glad I went through it. I have now opened portals in my life which I never thought I had.*

## Busisiwe Mbobela

Quality Management



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*For me, being a graduate means I am an achiever. From being a grade 12 Masinyusane Top Learner to being a Masinyusane Graduate, means my name is now attached to a diploma. As of April 2025, I am a qualified HR practitioner!!!! What makes me happier is seeing my parents proud and happy because of me. Hearing my name being called on stage made me realize that I did it!*



## Nosicelo Jongolo

Advanced Diploma - Logistics

After she completed her Logistics diploma, Nosicelo endured a lengthy period of uncertainty. There was nobody working at home, and covid and its restrictions made it incredibly difficult to find work. Fast forward to 2025, and the same young lady with the big bright smile in her grade 12 year, now had an even bigger smile, being a double graduate and securing a learnership at one of the biggest auto parts companies in the city.

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*My journey was filled with ups and downs, where there were times that I felt like giving up. But the passion I have for logistics, and the support I get from my family and friends kept me going. I feel so privileged to have received all this support, and this has now helped me become a double graduate. Being a double graduate means more doors will open where great opportunities arise. It also means my hard work was well worth it.”*



## Enzokuhle Gede

Bachelor of Arts



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*Post graduation, my days are filled with a mix of responsibilities and new opportunities. The job hunt has started, which means I am now adjusting to the the lack of structure which school and work bring.*

*I am actively applying for jobs, tailoring my applications to highlight my skills and experiences. I have also recently joined an FNB academic programme for coding. It is an exciting way to develop a valuable skill and of course stay busy.*

*Did I also mention that I am preparing to write my learner's licence, which is another step towards my independence. I pray and hope to secure an internship soon, as I know it will provide me with hands on experience and help kickstart my career.*



## Hlomla Thomi

*National Diploma Human Resources*

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*Being a graduate for me means that now you are an adult, and it is time for you to face the world. However, you can face the world armed with a shield (your qualification). If it were not for Masinyusane, I don't think I would be a Nelson Mandela University graduate. I am so grateful that they made my graduation day special, with a wonderful celebration. It was truly one of the best days of my life.*

## Luyanda Oliphant

National Diploma Management

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*It has been a challenging journey, from late nights and early mornings, to moments of self-doubt. Today's graduation is a testament to my growth and perseverance. Each assignment completed, each test taken – these were all lessons inside and outside the classroom. Being a graduate does not mark an end, but rather a new beginning to my journey as I will carry the lessons I have learned and achieve my accomplishments and desires.*



## Mihle Vika

National Diploma Human Resources

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*This graduation is my pride and joy, the pillar of hope that all hardships we have gone through and sacrifices we have made will lead us to a successful future.*

*I see this graduation as a big step in this chapter of my life, a tangible accomplishment that shows the progress I have made so far. I would love to give thanks to everyone who has supported me and my family. I also need to thank God and Masinyusane for giving me access to university and supporting me.*

*There are a lot of memories, both happy and sad. University life is hard, it makes one question everything about themselves. The work, the stress and pressure are undeniably high but I knew that I had a goal in mind, and that alone was enough to give me the strength and motivation to adapt to university life.*

*I would like to motivate all new students with these words: "Do not lose sight of your goal, do not be afraid of change; always respect yourself and those around you, don't let anyone change who you are and what you stand for."*





## Pontso Lekaba

*B Eng Tech Electrical Engineering*

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*Graduation is more than just a personal achievement for me. It is a symbol of perseverance, faith and purpose. As I reflect on completing my bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering, I think back to the moments I felt like giving up. Engineering is a demanding field, and being a woman in a male-dominated space added an extra layer of challenge. But through every late night, every setback and every doubt, I held onto my faith in God. That faith gave me the strength to keep going, even when the road seemed impossible.*

*Being the first in my family to graduate from university makes this moment even more meaningful. It is a victory for my parents, who sacrificed so much; for my siblings, who now have a path to follow; and for every young girl who dreams of succeeding in a field where she may feel unseen. My graduation represents hope, strength and the belief that no dream is too big when you are willing to fight for it.*

Doing one of the most challenging Engineering courses as a young woman from an historically disadvantaged school, was never going to be easy. Indeed, watching her classmates fall off, whilst herself struggling with her own academics, led to many moments of self-doubt. It has been an absolute pleasure watching this prayer warrior dig in her heels and stop at nothing in order to fulfill her dream.



## Sibabalwe Magala

Advanced Diploma Economics

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*This graduation means everything to me. It symbolizes not just academic success, but personal strength, resilience and the power of support. It is a reminder that even through the darkest times, I did not give up. Completing this qualification is a dream come true and a tribute to my journey and those who have helped me through it.*

*This journey has been both beautiful and painful. I lost my father while I was studying for this qualification, and it broke me. I went through depression and struggled mentally and emotionally. Financially, I had no source of income or funding and often didn't know how I would continue. But through all the hardship, Masinyusane stood by me. They supported me in every way possible and gave me hope when I had none. For that, I am forever grateful. This graduation is not just mine - it is for my father, for those who believed in me, and for everyone who is still fighting through challenges. Never underestimate the power of perseverance. Even when life feels impossible, keep showing up for yourself. Your current struggles do not define your future. Believe in your journey, lean on those who support you, and never be afraid to ask for help. If I could make it through grief, depression and financial hardship so can you. Keep going. Your victory is coming!*



Blessed with a kind and bubbly personality, Siba is almost painfully honest. She is not shy to ask for help and support, and has a gritty determination to excel in her studies and be the pillar which her family needs, especially after the loss of her father, the patriarch of the family. We have no doubt that this brilliant graduate will go far in life, both for herself and for her family.



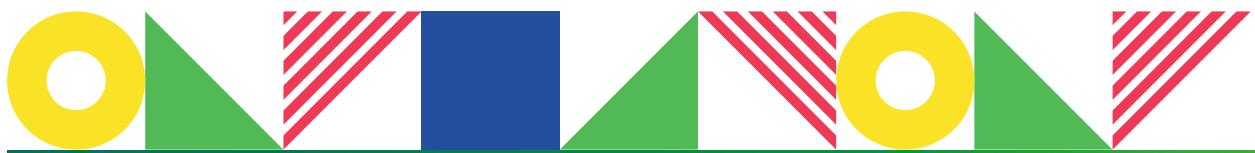
## **Siphesihle Montso**

*National Diploma Human Relations*

**“**

*In 2022 when I was doing my first year I was introduced to a new environment, an environment which I not only had to adapt to, but excel in. This was not an easy journey, because the transition from high school to university is a massive one, where you get to discover other aspects of yourself whilst also transitioning into adulthood and its challenges. However through the support of my family and friends I pulled through and graduated in the scheduled time.*





## **Sisipho Hanabe**

*National Diploma Human Relations*

**“**

*This graduation is a promise kept and a dream come true. When I registered for this course without any financial aid, I made a promise to myself that I will push through any difficulties I will encounter and I will finish the course and obtain my qualification. At the time, I was a full time customer service employee and a full time student at the same time. I was going through the most! There were many times where I wanted to quit because I was exhausted mentally, emotionally and physically. Dealing with different people each day was sometimes mentally exhausting, and coupled with academic stress... it was a lot. But because I had a promise to keep, I worked hard to ensure that I finished what I had started in order to reach the end goal, which was a second graduation!*



<b>Abongile</b> Jacobs	<b>Afika</b> Gxumisa	<b>Alex</b> Dickson	<b>Alwaba</b> Nxawé	<b>Amlindile</b> Maneli
<b>Aphelele</b> Njajula	<b>Aphelele</b> Mosani	<b>Aphiwe</b> Magaya	<b>Asemahle</b> Mlomzale	<b>Asiphumze</b> Ntabeni
<b>Aviwe</b> @angule	<b>Azama</b> Zamani			
<b>Bathi</b> Boyce	<b>Chulumanco</b> Mali			
<b>Elethu</b> Mchwechwi	<b>Esethu</b> Ndlungwane	<b>Felicia</b> Geelboi	<b>Jean-Earl</b> Hill	<b>Khutazwa</b> Swayi
<b>Kwanda</b> Mbengashe	<b>Lelethu</b> Oliphant	<b>Lindokuhle</b> Mcopele	<b>Liyabona</b> Malangeni	<b>Lukhangela</b> Malahla





<b>Lunathi</b> Boltina	<b>Mandilakhe</b> Sito	<b>Lelethu</b> Oliphant	<b>Mekyle</b> Solomon	<b>Mihlali</b> Ndulula
<b>Minqweno</b> Mapuma	<b>Mpho</b> Nemudzivhani	<b>Nolusindiso</b> Silumko	<b>Nomaphelo</b> Baxana	<b>Nomfundo</b> Wyn
<b>Ntombuzuko</b> Qoko	<b>Ntsika</b> Mayekiso	<b>Okuhle</b> Nyoka	<b>Philasande</b> Nohamba	<b>Pilani</b> Nama
<b>Sanelisiwe</b> Shiyani	<b>Sibongile</b> Ntantiso	<b>Sibongisipho</b> Jola	<b>Sikhona</b> Gude	<b>Simamkele</b> Madlebe
<b>Simamkele</b> Mngcongo	<b>Sinazo</b> Mpofu	<b>Sinokhanyo</b> Swartbooi	<b>Sinovuyo</b> Nombona	<b>Siphehle</b> Doyi
<b>Siphiwe</b> Mabuya	<b>Siphosethu</b> Fenibanzi	<b>Siphosethu</b> Mafenuka	<b>Sisanda</b> Solani	



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