

## LIVING AN HONEST LIFE

# Teen convict Mabe now saving lives

A teen murderer has extra reason to smile this women's month after she passed her training with Working on Fire (WOF) to become a crew leader at the Abe Bailey Nature Reserve on the West Rand.

Maleeto Mabe was imprisoned at age 15 after a murder conviction. She served five years.

According to WOF Gauteng communications officer, Parapara Makgahlela, Mabe believes her life will change and she will become a positive member of society.

Mabe said: "Today I am saving lives and protecting our environment. I am one of the women in the leadership role in the programme. I am responsible for 23 lives on the fire line."

She said joining WOF was more of a second chance in life after she came through the parolee programme aged 21.

Working on Fire is an expanded public works programme.

"A process of healing is to admit the offence you did and be willing

to go through rehabilitation and see life differently," she said. "But people say 'once a criminal always a criminal'. I disagree with that notion."

Mabe says the stigma attached to ex-convicts does not scare her and she vowed that will not deter her from living an honest life.

She finished a crew leader course after two years as a firefighter at Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve outside Heidelberg in Gauteng. – *Citizen reporter*