

Local graduate lends a helping hand

THANDI SETOKOE

TO spend years at varsity, with parents having to sacrifice to make ends meet, only to end up being unemployed, is by far every graduate's worst nightmare.

However, with the unemployment rate increasing ever year, this is the sad reality that most youth face.

As a means of trying to improve access to employment opportunities, Port Elizabeth graduate, Sisanda Mabona-Mlisaba, has established a Facebook page for job seekers. To date the page, titled 'Job opportunities (only) in PE and surrounding areas', which was created in March last year, already has over 68 000 members, with more than 300 people having been employed since joining the group.

"Since 2012, as an intern at the Department of Roads and Public Works in Port Elizabeth, for the EPWP programme, which is aimed at alleviating poverty and empowering the youth, I developed a passion to lend a helping hand," Mabona-Mlisaba said.

The 28-year-old goes beyond just sharing jobs but also shares posts on how to write a curriculum vitae, create and send e-mails, as well as how to dress for job interviews.



Sisanda Mabona-Mlisaba.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

"When I created the group, I honestly had no idea that it would be such a success and that so many lives would be changed.

"I have threads of testimonies doing the rounds from people who have found employment through the group, all testifying about how grateful they are."

Mabona-Mlisaba strongly believes that the idea of helping others is part of a meaningful life.

"Doing things for others, whether small, unplanned acts or regular volunteering, is a powerful way to

boost my own happiness as well of those around me."

She further described how she has friends in different companies who always alert her when there are vacant job positions.

"I google different sites all day long searching for opportunities, go knocking door to door at different companies and I also randomly call places to find out if they are not looking to hire."

This is the attitude that Mabona-Mlisaba tries to instil in her fellow group members.

The group is mainly for job opportunities around Port Elizabeth and surrounding areas but due to an outcry from other cities' residents, Mabona-Mlisaba is now looking into expanding.

"I plead for the government, municipality, prominent business people and other potential employers to come forward and assist. Together, we can combat the unemployment rate in our province.

"Giving also connects us to others, creating stronger communities and helping to build a happier society for everyone. It is not all about money, we can also give time, ideas and energy. If you want to feel good, do good."

Those in need of assistance with employee outsourcing can e-mail jobspepage@gmail.com.