

# Amathole Regional Office inducts APTCoD Learners

Abongile Sitishi (28) who hails from eLitha Township is among a group of learners whose lives have been changed as they were recently inducted at the department of public works Amathole regional office following her successful recruitment into the accelerated professional and trade competency development programme (APTCoD).

Sitishi is a mother to a 9-year-old girl and lives with her unemployed mother and 4 siblings.

She passed Grade 11 in 2008 at Zanempucuko Secondary High School and joined the department through the APTCoD programme after she learned about it during a career exhibition at John Knox College where she passed her level 4 brick laying certificate in 2016.

Sitishi said her life change for the best after she passed her plumbing trade test in March 2019 and has learnt a great deal of skills.

“This opportunity has taught me a lot and I believe it will propel me to greater heights and my dream is to starting my own plumbing company where I will employ the youth in my community” she said.

The third (3) of five (5) daughters says her family no longer depends on their mother’s pension grant and is happy she will now be able

to contribute financially at home.

Her mother Nosithile Sitishi (63) described Abongile as a well-mannered young girl who is always up for a challenge and says she is very grateful that Abongile secured this opportunity.

“I have never had problems with her as she is a very quiet girl who helps me with everything and now financially. She explained.

“I recently complained about a leaking tap and the fact that she managed to fix it herself got me interested in what she is pursuing at the department of public works” Nosithile uttered.

APTCoD mentor and electrical artisan, Lindile Sangotsha said mentoring learners starts with evaluating the level of theory learner possess and then they are taken through workshop and site safety measures.

“It is important to instill safety measures as we often work in challenging environments and we practically train them according to their specific trade before dispatching learners to various sites” Sangotsha explained.

He further explained that after two-years the learners are subjected to a pre-trade test in order to become eligible for a trade test.