



## September Edition

### Artificial intelligence in the motor industry

From the time that first car was created back in the 1800's till now, the motor industry has produced so many different models of cars with growing sophisticated technology. This growth, has throughout the years improved the driving experience of the car and safety for those in it. Artificial intelligence (AI) has been the most influential factor in this transformation.

AI is popularly known to be the theory and development of computer systems' ability to perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and translation between languages. This is the simulation of human intelligence by different machines.



Ever since the outbreak of AI in the industry, there have been dramatical changes to how vehicles are built and used. Manufacturers are continually incorporating more artificial intelligence into every aspect of the automotive industry.

The concern around AI has been technology taking over human work; will human beings still have work to do in the work shop with all the accuracy that these computer systems have?

The truth about AI is that it has been created to be the assistant to the human being. Human abilities are limited and that is where AI comes in. Another great advantage of AI is the ability to look at a massive amount of data and perform complex calculations to extract insights.

No one could have easily thought that our cars would be able to assist us in driving them, speak to us and even operate only when a specific finger print has been detected. We can now believe that AI will be reason for cars that fly in the near future.

## NF Apprentices Changing lives

In the effort to change the lives of ordinary citizens, NF Apprentices (NF) has partnered with Toyota Academy of Learning Africa (TALA) on the Toyota Technical Training (T-Tep) competition. The T-Tep competition is an annual competition, coordinated by TALA, to expose learners from technical high schools to the automotive industry. The competition is in the areas of motor mechanic, autobody repairs and spray painting.



In partnership with BASF Coating Services, NF Apprentices sponsors two of the three prizes, one in auto body repairs and the other in spray painting and TALA sponsors the motor mechanic prize. The learners are taken to BASF and Toyota training facilities to prepare and take the tests and winners are then announced at a gala dinner, hosted by TALA.

The NF programme director, Ms. Yvonne Lushaba was invited to address audience, selling the automotive sector to the delegates and motivate them to choose to work in the sector. In her address, she gave an overall picture of the skills needed in the sector, highlighting the fact that the automotive sector is the biggest employer in the industry, but has very few qualified artisans. She indicated that these learners should pursue a career in the sector, as there is a need and limited qualified people, they will thus have the power to negotiate terms with potential employers. Although there were few female scholars, she inspired them to take pride in what they do. Neo Mutshabela, an NF apprentice alumnus, also told his story of how he became an apprentice, where he is now and how it has changed his life, to inspire the learners. He related how he joined the sector by accident but is now loving it.

NF Apprentices, BASF Coating services and Toyota Training academy would like to congratulate the 2017 winners, Gavin Brand and Griffin Gillion from Westcliffe Technical School in Cape Town. They have each been awarded a sponsorship to the value of R80 000. Although NF is based in Midrand, in partnership with BASF, NF will make sure that the apprentices are taken care of and monitored to ensure that they complete their training timeously. Gavin and Griffin have already shown their passion for the two trades through working hard to qualifying for the competition and winning.

We have also learned that the two winners have been diagnosed with a learning disability. However, they are not letting it hinder them in establishing their career and obtaining a qualification. Although they may take longer, NF is in communication with Merseta regarding the qualification at the completion of their studies. The government and Merseta have adopted a goal to increase the number of people with disability obtaining qualifications. NF presents itself as a conduit to reach that goal. Gavin and Griffin are NF's first apprentices with a disability and critical to the success to this mission as we hope to take on more apprentices of this nature. Training learners/apprentices with a disability to obtain a trade



qualification is a national imperative and NF apprentices is strategically positioned towards the realization of this mission.

We would like to wish Gavin and Griffin the best in their training and let them know that NF Apprentices will be there to support them every step of the way. Ensuring that they complete their training timeously and are empowered with life skills through personal development workshops to help them cope with the demands of the world of work.

### **Apprentice flash**



Bethuel and Silas Timba are the first brothers to work together as apprentices in all our partner shops. These almost identical brothers have been placed at East Rand Motor Lab situated in Boksburg.

The two dedicated young men are from Ivory park in Midrand and their decision to go into the industry together was not only inspired by their love for Auto body repair (ABR), they also want to one day be in partnership together and run their own Autobody shop.

Their greatest challenge so far has been working on short time, but they exchange weeks so that they both keep focused on the goal and complete their apprenticeships on time. East Rand Motor Lab has done an exceptional job of taking them in and ensuring that they develop these two talents from young boys who came in with no experience at all to becoming who they are today. We feel privileged to be in partnership with a shop that believes in the importance of skills development and training in our industry.

### **Elite Autobody apprentices move to the next level**



Sikhona Madondo and Ntlantla Dumbisa have successfully completed their apprenticeship journey at Elite Autobody. These hardworking apprentices started their Auto Body Repair (ABR) journey on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2014 and finished 9 months before their contracts expired. They always work and study together, said Alan, their workshop manager. He further mentioned that they were always eager to inquire about test dates and they showed commitment and dedication at the work place.

Sikhona said he is very happy that he has now completed his apprenticeship and looks forward to the next level of his career. Ntlantla expressed his gratitude to the shop that housed them for their apprenticeship and agreed to the fact that they received support and mentoring from all the

staff members at the shop, hence they were successful in completing their course. Both Sikhona and Ntlantla remain employees of Elite Autobody and they wish to continue sharpening their ABR skills at the shop.

We as NF Apprentices appreciate Elite Autobody for their continued partnership in ensuring that we help these disadvantaged young people become qualified and skilled artisans in the industry.

## **Get involved**

### **DONATIONS**

Make a Socio-Economic Development (SED) donation to NF Apprentices, a registered Non-Profit Company and earn BBBEE points.

### **SPONSOR AN INDIVIDUAL APPRENTICE**

Sponsor individual apprentices recruited and placed by NF Apprentices at one of our qualified partner repair shops. This is a great investment that will ensure a young person is given an opportunity at a brighter future.

### **SPONSOR A PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITY**

#### **RECRUITMENT PROGRAMME**

NF embarks on a rigorous recruitment campaign to recruit apprentices which involves engaging with communities, facilitating repair shop site visits and candidate assessments.

#### **DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES**

NF offers apprentices a vibrant network for them to engage with each other collectively through industry excursions and development workshops

#### **MENTOR PROGRAMME**

NF hosts regular mentor workshops facilitated by Young and Able (Y&B). These workshops are aimed at building bridges between mentors and apprentices to allow for the conducive transfer of skills in the workplace.

### **BECOME AN NF PARTNER SHOP**

Repair Shops are invited to sign up with NF Apprentices. In order to qualify as an NF Partner Shop, a shop needs to be merSETA Workplace Approved and have at least one qualified Spray Painter and Auto Body Repairer. Partner Shops will be required to contribute towards the apprentice's training needs as per merSETA requirements.

We also work closely with mentors, workshop managers and support staff to ensure the proper facilitation of the apprenticeship programme.

To enquire about getting involved, contact us today on [info@nf.org.za](mailto:info@nf.org.za), or call us on (011) 312 8479. You can also visit our website on [www.nf.org.za](http://www.nf.org.za) for more information.

### **NF bank Account details:**

Ntuthuko Foundation

Nedbank

Account Number 1013419944

Branch code 146905

### **Quote of the month**

"The ultimate victory in competition is derived from the inner satisfaction of knowing that you have done your best and that you have gotten the most out of what you had to give." **Howard Cosell**