



How apprenticeships can boost your bottom-line.



Indenturing apprentices is more than a noble act, it is plain good-business sense.

When a business properly indentures apprentices and ensures that they are provided with the necessary training support, its bottom line stands more to benefit and this is why:

- Apprentices help to keep the workplace competitive and promote business sustainability
- There is a continuous culture of learning in the workplace
- Apprentices attending OEM training promote a sharing of new knowledge and technology
- Apprentices can easily fill skills gaps in the workshop when necessary
- Businesses employing apprentices can qualify for tax breaks and discretionary grants from MerSETA
- Businesses can earn more points in the new BBBEE codes for Skills Development (old codes 15 points, new codes 20 points)
- If trained and developed correctly, apprentices could easily become the most profitable employees in level 2, 3 and 4

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Blasting off with a bang!!!

As the year progresses and the motor repair industry continues to pick up momentum on repairing damaged vehicles, NF alongside its partner shops has also picked up speed in placing Spray Painting and Auto Body Repairing apprentices to begin their trade qualification training.

After placing the first apprentice group in February, NF has begun the process of recruiting candidates for the next intake which will begin this April and continue periodically throughout the year. NF aims to add at least 30 more apprentices to the programme by the end of the year.

NF's vision is driven by its mission to assist young people who desire to be professional artisans in the automotive repair industry. Such youth are identified and taken through various assessments that are focused at pinpointing their strengths to the Spray Painting and Auto Body Repairing trades. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed with the relevant body shop owners and successful interviewees are then taken through an intensive NF readiness programme which is conducted to prepare candidates for the work environment.

The NF recruitment process is an exciting one as it allows the foundation to delve deep in the hearts of communities that need our involvement. These communities are flooded with idling youth whose dreams and aspirations have been limited by their lack of resources. NF in partnership with repair shops, sponsors and key industry stakeholders, is adamant to curb youth unemployment by creating access to these sort after trades in South Africa.

Partner Shop Spotlight – MF Autobody



What a privilege for NF to partner with auto body shops that have come on board to do their part in touching the lives of young people and ultimately changing their circumstances forever. NF's partner shops play a vital role in the NF system.

One such shop is MF Autobody, situated in Boksburg - 38 Northrand Road, Hughes. The shop boasts world class facilities with manufacturer approvals from Land Rover, BMW and Audi to name a few. MF Autobody has joined forces with NF to help train, guide and mentor aspiring artisans whose passion is working with cars. Armando Figueredo, the co-owner at MF feels that it is their duty to get involved in uplifting the community.

Mf Autobody has been delivering top quality results in body repairing and spray painting since 1986 and they also offer a towing service for their clients. Like many shops in the business, they too have had bumpy experiences with apprentices in the past. "One of the biggest challenges is that candidates that have been given apprenticeship opportunities don't have enough staying power to see the course through, so they drop out of the training programmes before they have even begun to fully understand the job", Says Armando.

There is a great demand in the motor industry for professional artisans who will not take short cuts in properly restoring motor cars to their original state. It is a prerequisite at MF Autobody to "strive for perfection". Together with NF they are hoping to deliver the best, fully qualified artisans who will take this industry to higher levels in future.

(Picture: The Figueredo brothers, John and Armando - proud owners of MF Autobody)

Apprentice Spotlight



Name: Obvious Vundla
Age: 19
Based at: Cornright Motors (NF Partner Shop)

Tell us a little about yourself:

"I am a shy committed/dedicated person who likes using his hands. I like listening to music and watching TV in my spare time. I also like keeping my space tidy. I live in Ivory Park in a one room. I was raised by my aunt who is a domestic worker and she has been supporting me throughout my high school."

Why did you apply for the NF Apprenticeship Programme?

"I heard about NF at school and I did my research about it and found that it is a good programme that I should get into because I have always wanted to work with cars and I did not know which doors to knock to, then I applied for the NF scholarship."

Has the apprentice program changed your life, if so how?

"Yes, it has changed my life in that I am now independent and living a better life. I have also gained knowledge about cars which I didn't have before."

What do you hope to become in the industry?

"I want to become an owner of a successful workshop so that I can hire people and minimize the unemployment rate and poverty which is a big issue in our country."

Why choose Auto Body Repairing after scoring very good results in your matric finals?

"Well my heart is set on working with cars and that's what I am doing and that fulfills me completely. it is a profession that is sort after in SA."

Pearls of wisdom to your mates who are still in school

"If you want to get somewhere in life, you need to be driven by passion and you need to stay focused on the goal, then go get what you want."

Welcoming the first apprentice intake for this quarter



Nothing beats the end of a long recruitment drive at Ntuthuko Foundation (NF) like finally placing apprentices at the various partner body repair shops.

NF placed its first group of apprentices for the year in February. They were welcomed by four reputable partner repair shops, namely MF Autobody, Cornright Motors, Auto Body Specialists and Dent Doctor Randburg.

All the Ntuthuko Foundation apprentices are from disadvantaged backgrounds and have shown zeal and eagerness towards the undertaking of their Spray Painting and Auto Body Repairing apprenticeships.

“Every Ntuthuko Foundation apprentice has to prove themselves” said Caleb Makhela, programme co-ordinator for the foundation. To earn a spot on the programme, candidates have to pass all the required assessments; have a financial need and show commitment and drive, all key ingredients of a successful apprenticeship career.”

Nineteen year old Ntsako is looking forward to his first year as an auto body repairer apprentice. He understands that the environment he will be in is very different from his high school days which were just a few months ago when he completed matric. Eager to get his qualification and contribute to the well-being of his family, Ntsako has had to quickly adjust to being an adult and take on all the responsibilities that come with it.

Partner repair shops play their part by making sure that apprentices are given the necessary on the job training and support in order to succeed. The Ntuthuko Foundation is interested in partnering with shops that understand that the apprenticeship process does not happen on its own and that they will need to actively participate and support the process.

Get involved with NF

BECOME AN NF PARTNER SHOP

Repair Shops are invited to sign up with Ntuthuko Foundation (NF). 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 proper facilitation of the apprenticeship programme.

SPONSOR AN NF PROGRAMME

Make a socio-economic development donation to earn BBBEE points or fund a core programme within the foundation.

Recruitment Programme

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

Development Programmes

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

The Readiness Programme

Apprentices are orientated into the industry before reporting for duty. All NF apprentices are taken through a course on how to manage their training programme and their relationships with mentors to successfully complete the programme.

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.

Training Programme

NF has partnered with training providers who pay NF Partner Shops monthly site visits and prepare apprentices for their level tests.

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

Contact Us

Tel: 011 312 8479

Fax: 086 293 4427

Email: info@nf.org.za

Website: www.nf.org.za

Physical Address: Auto Body Specialist, 989 Richards Drive, Halfway House, Midrand

Well Done Xolani !!

Congratulations to Xolani Malaza, NF Apprentice at Auto Body Specialist for passing his Spray Painting Level Two Test! Way to Go!! 😊



(Please send an email to info@nf.org.za to opt out of receiving email communication from Ntuthuko Foundation)