

A TECHNICIAN WITH PASSION FOR ROAD SAFETY

By Temana Masekela



»» Lando Lombard, Technician at Sterling Hermanus.

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The safety of my customers on the road is what motivates me to do quality work on their cars.” This is according to Lando Lombard, a technician at Sterling Hermanus who specialises in the service and repair of vehicles.

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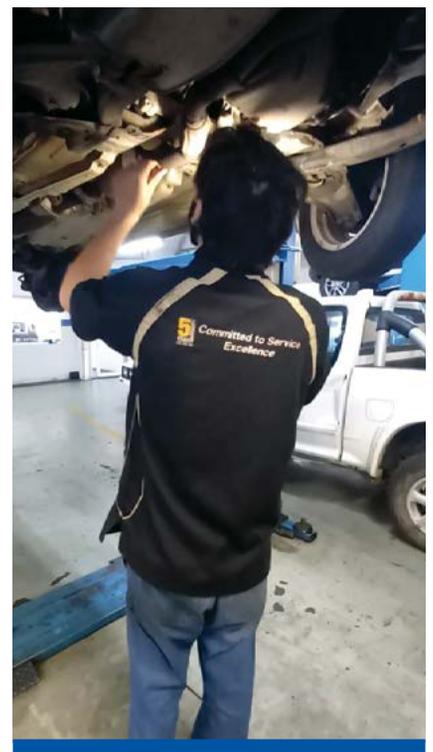
Lombard joined Sterling Hermanus as a Competency-Based Modular Training (CMBT) Learner under a merSETA-funded learnership in 2018.

After the training, he was employed by the company as a technician.

“I’ve always been fascinated with how things work and a passion to fix broken things. Cars ended up drawing my attention and that’s when I realised that mechanical work was my calling,” he explained.

Lombard was home-schooled and obtained a General Education Development (GED) matric equivalent in 2018. He explains that success as a technician comes from determination, patience and focus as well as being able to understand and notice things that other people miss.

“To achieve this,” he said, “one needs to continuously seek knowledge and keep up with technological advancements in industry, particularly since talk is now on the emergence of the 5th Industrial Revolution.”



»» Lando Lombard performing safety inspection on exhaust system.

SUCCESS STORIES

Lombard explained that his goal throughout his studies was to become successful. With daily on-the-job training, guidance and assistance from senior technicians at Sterling Hermanus, he was able to attain this goal. "I also completed a number of online Renault training modules specific to apprentices, so that I could become a qualified Renault technician," he added.

Christa du Plooy, Director at Sterling Hermanus, explained that Lombard placed a great deal of care and effort in his training and is a diligent worker, even during the trying challenges posed by COVID-19 and its lockdown restrictions. "One of the challenges has been the distance he had to travel between the workshop and the college, especially regarding the cost implications," she explained.

Lombard explained that his training enabled him to understand all aspects and operations of vehicles.

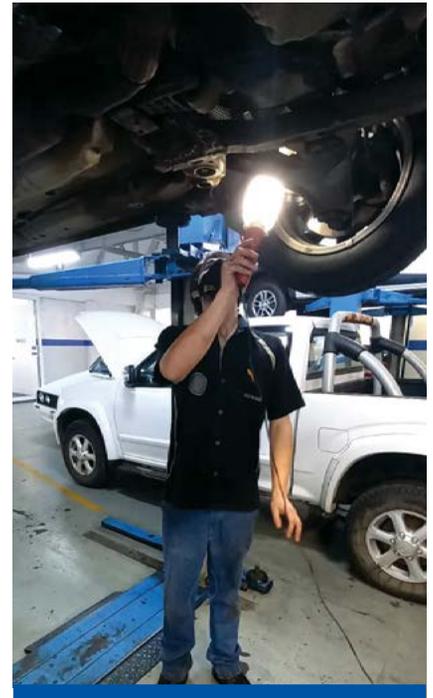
"The training assisted me in understanding the CMBT workbook modules better and I was able to complete each year's work in six months, except during the COVID-19 lockdown period. I also went to Imperial Technical College for two weeks before I was tested for each of the levels," he said.

Young people need to be supported and motivated to pursue their dreams and for Lombard, it was his parents who taught him hard work and to believe in himself.

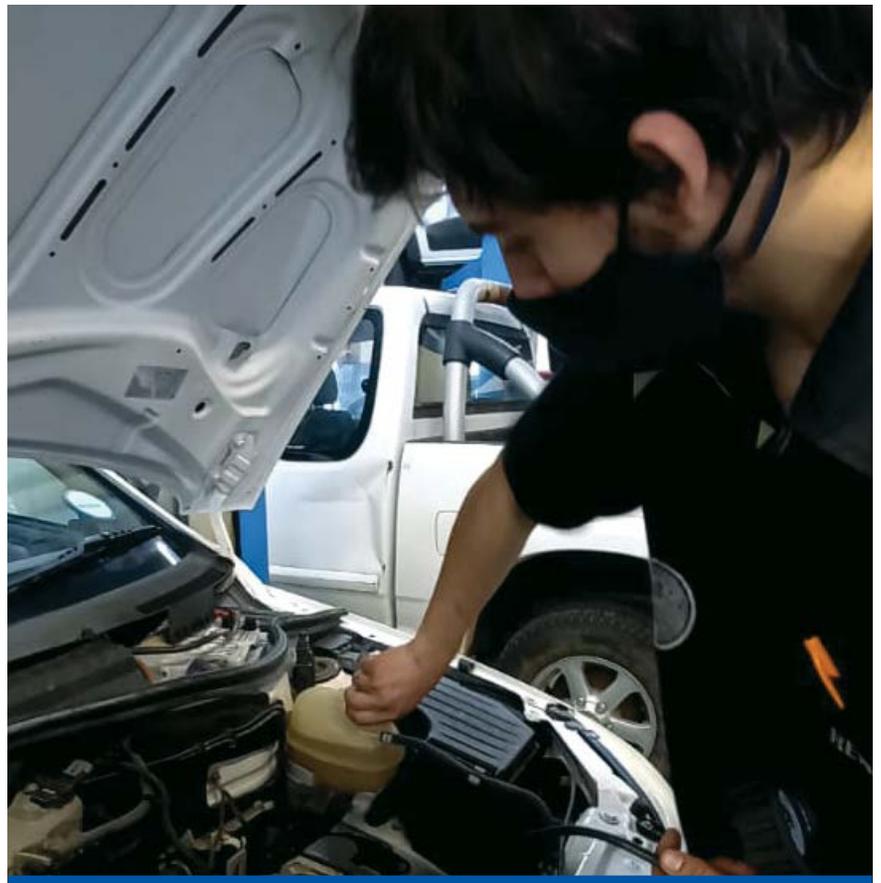
"My parents are my biggest influencers. It was through their encouragement and the support of my sisters that I was able to achieve my goals. I would also like to extend my gratitude to my senior technicians, Charl Booie, who guided and took me under his wing from day one, and Pieter Muller, who gave me a new perspective on cars throughout my training as well as my colleagues at Sterling Hermanus, who have become my second family," explained Lombard.

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Lombard is highly motivated. He is currently on an online training course to become an Electro-mechanic and plans to become an Elite Co-tech Mechanic through Renault training.



» Lombard performing safety inspection on front suspension system.



» Lombard performing pressure test on a cooling system.