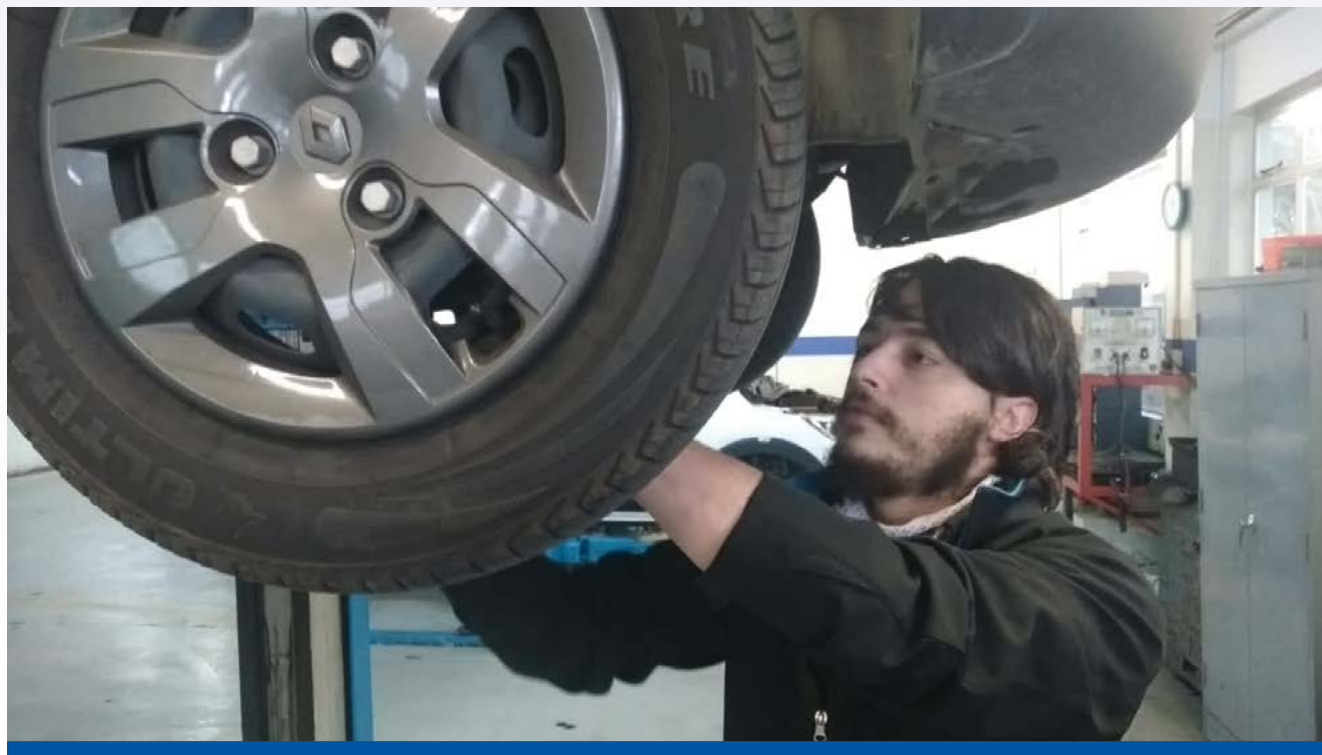


THE TRICK IS ATTENTION TO DETAIL

By Temana Masekela



Being a successful technician is hard physical work but the trick, according to Dirk-Wouter Immelman, is being observant and focusing on detail.

Immelman is a Technician at Sterling Hermanus, responsible for service and repairs of petrol and diesel vehicles. He joined Sterling Hermanus in 2018 under a Competency-Based Modular Training (CMBT) Learnership, funded by the merSETA.

"From a young age, I would tear things apart to see how their mechanical components worked. As I grew up, I realised that my passion was in mechanical work," explains Immelman.

Upon completion of his matric in 2015, Immelman worked in different workshops, where he gained two years' experience. "Having two years' experience assisted me in grasping

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many aspects of the training quicker. I also attended Renault training and undertook some online training, which got me qualified as a Renault Technician," says Immelman.

He explains that through hard work and assistance from co-workers, he



» Dirk-Wouter Immelman conducting service on a vehicle.

SUCCESS STORIES

was able to complete his four-year CMBT Learnership in two and a half years. Immelman says that he always strives for quality. "People's lives are reliant on the work that I do, and I always remind myself of this when I work on their vehicles," he says.

Christa du Plooy, Director at Sterling Hermanus, says the company was sceptical about the success of the CMBT programme, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. "Our doubts were cast aside by the enthusiasm of learners such as Immelman, who recognised the opportunity afforded to them by the merSETA and put in a lot of hard work to complete the training. We are grateful for the support the merSETA offered us, particularly the dedication showed by Natalie Venter, a merSETA Client Liaison Officer who visited the learners to support and guide them, even on weekends," she explains.

Immelman moved to Hermanus from Villiersdorp, a small town in the Western Cape, which he says lacked opportunities for him to grow and develop. He says the move was his best decision as Sterling

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His motivation, he explains, has been wanting to support and provide for his family. "My parents worked very hard for everything we have and taught me the value of family."

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Hermanus and the merSETA gave him an opportunity to obtain his qualification and get employed.

His motivation, he explains, has been wanting to support and provide for his family. "My parents worked very hard for everything we have and taught me the value of family," he says.

His advice to young people is to study and empower themselves



» Immelman checking electric fan operation on a vehicle.

with knowledge, so as to be able to access opportunities in life. He plans to become a master technician and run his own diesel workshop in the future.



» Immelman removing vehicle gearbox for repairs.