

# Dyala is engineering her way to the top

**M**s Thuletu Dyala was born in Alexandria, in the Eastern Cape, and received a secondary school education at Ukhanyo High School, where she matriculated in 2012.

She went on to study Electrical Engineering at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape.

A self-motivated and courageous young woman who is not afraid to take risks, Ms Dyala draws inspiration from icons such as Mr Gary Player, one of South Africa's golfing legends, who once said: "The harder you work, the luckier you become."

Her excellent matric results earned her a merSETA bursary. She was also presented with an award for being one of the top matric achievers in the Ndlambe municipality and she has not looked back since.

"The day I was offered a bursary by merSETA was a life-changing moment for me. I was given a chance to fulfil my goals and dreams," she says.

Her passion for Mathematics and Physical Science started early in high school, and she knew then that

whatever career path she chose, it would have everything to do with both subjects.

But what informed her career choice?

"In 2010, when I was in Grade 10, I visited my grandmother in Walmer, Port Elizabeth, during the December school holidays," she says.

"There was an electrician who was fixing my grandmother's stove. He asked me what I intended studying after matric. I had no idea what to say. He saw my marks and advised me to try Electrical Engineering. I researched the subject and I knew right there and then that it was what I wanted to do.

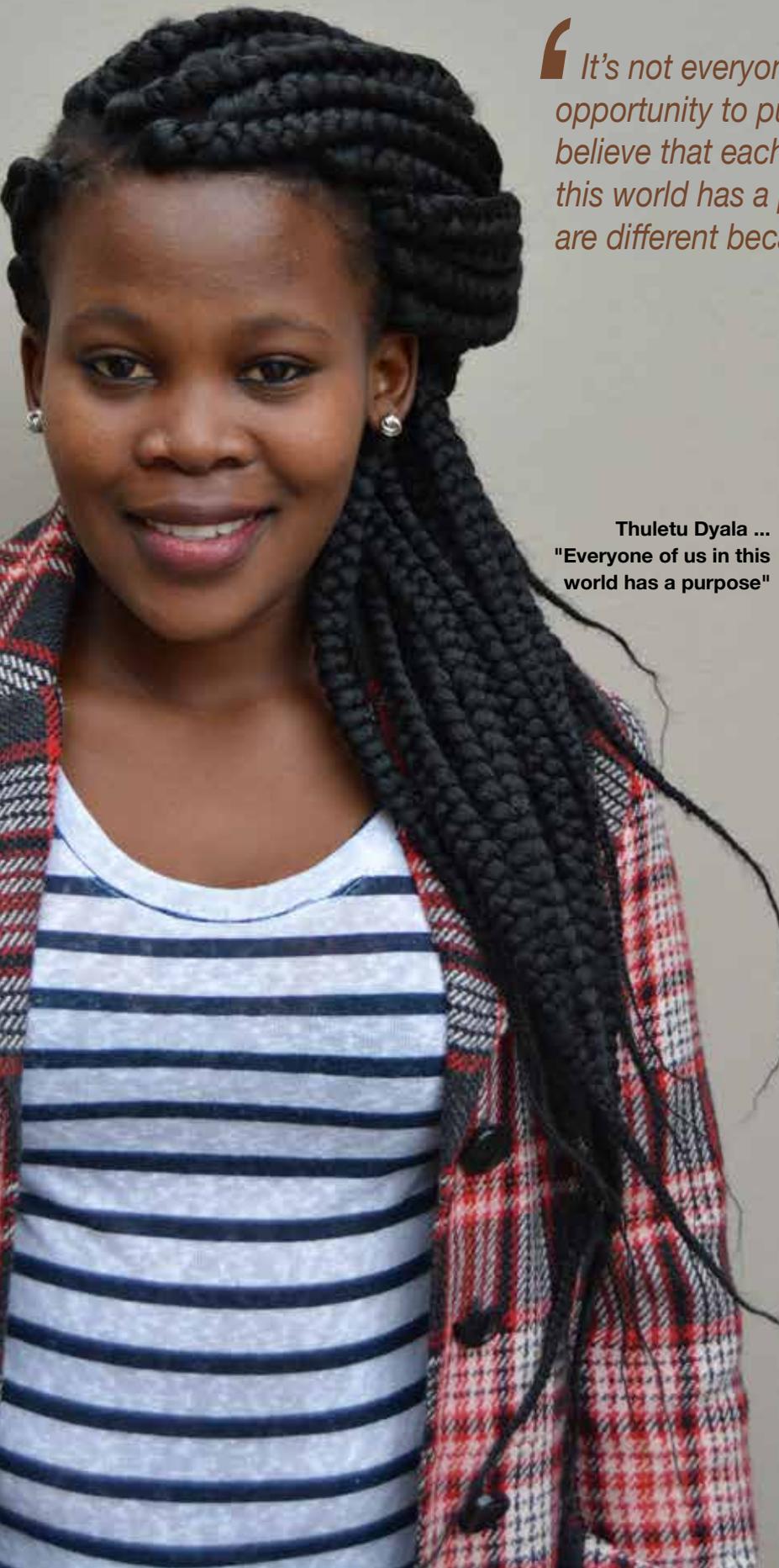
"I always wanted to do my mother proud and change our situation at home for the better. That gave me the motivation to work hard and give 100% in everything I did."

Ms Dyala says her love for Electrical Engineering stems from the fact that it is practical and deals with real world situations.

She says her aspirations include studying towards a PhD degree and working in the telecommunications and automation environment.

"I also intend to acquire business management qualifications, because





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**Thuletu Dyala ...  
"Everyone of us in this world has a purpose"**

I would love to work for myself one day and start a company that will create opportunities for other women.”

Ms Dyala encourages more women to enter the engineering field.

“There is this stereotype that engineering is only for men. As women, we have to constantly prove that we know our work and we know it very well.”

She is a member of Women in Engineering Leadership Association (WELA). The association’s members get together regularly to discuss the challenges that women face in the engineering field.

“It’s an association that empowers women and gives us courage to deal with the challenges in the industry. We also attend a lot of workshops that deal with assertiveness, conflict management, self-leadership and project management, just to mention a few.”

She says she is grateful to merSETA for giving her the opportunity to fulfil her goals and dreams.

“It’s not everyone who gets the opportunity to pursue what they love. I believe that every one of us in this world has a purpose and that our purpose is different because of our uniqueness. And I also believe that it is not about how you start, but how you finish,” she concludes.