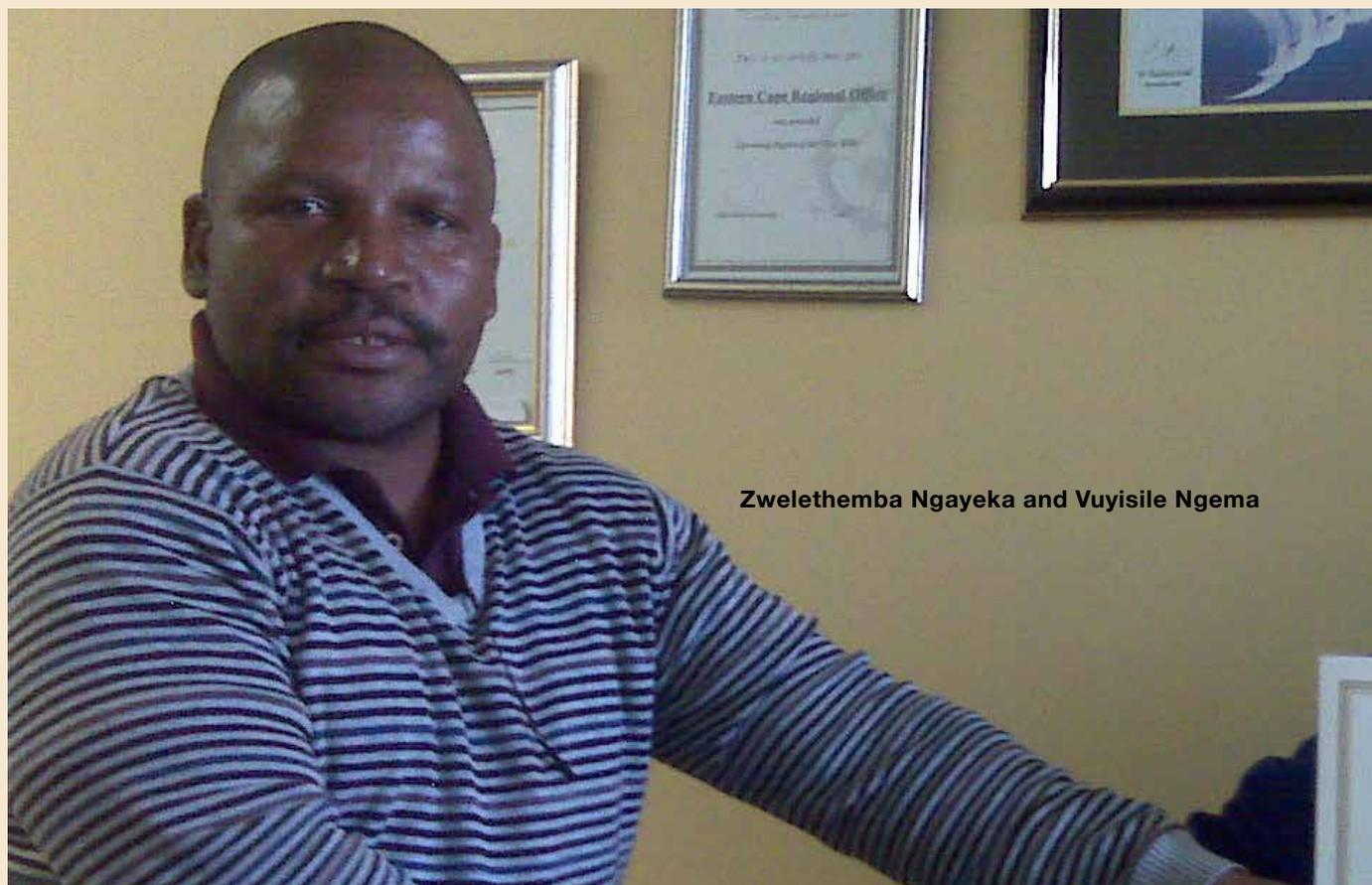


Hard work and fortitude pay off

By Independent Correspondent

Vuyisile can attest to the adage that 'all that glitters is not gold'. Like any other young man, he had a dream of making it big in the City of Gold, but it was not to be. Instead, he found his niche back home in the Eastern Cape.



Zwelethemba Ngayeka and Vuyisile Ngema

Leaving behind his family to work in Johannesburg as a core driller was what Mr Vuyisile Ngema had always dreamt of.

“However, things didn’t work out for me in Johannesburg and I decided to go back home to the Eastern Cape. After working as a tyre fitter, I joined Coca-Cola Fortune as a workshop assistant,” explains Mr Ngema.

With the passion and the drive to achieve even more, he felt there was something missing in his life – the desire to be a qualified diesel mechanic. This meant he had to undergo a trade test assessment.

In 2006, he applied for a Section 28 trade test with guidance and assistance from merSETA’s Eastern Cape Regional Office. He was

advised to undergo a pre-assessment and to improve his educational qualifications. In 2007, he enrolled for an Adult Basic Education (ABET) course.

“It was very difficult, but I knew what I wanted and in 2009 I successfully obtained my ABET level 4 certificate,” says Mr Ngema.

It is often the last key in the bunch that opens the lock. After four unsuccessful attempts, Mr Ngema achieved success in the January 2011 test and was issued with a trade test certificate.

Indeed, life is not about how fast you run or how high you climb, but how well you bounce back. He passed the practical trade test at DTTC in the Eastern Cape with distinction. He has extended his gratitude to

Coca-Cola, ABET Educator, Mr Fred Ras, and merSETA for their assistance in making his dream come true.

He now calls himself a “Diesel Mechanic-*ambagsman*”, and is in a position to send his children to university and provide his family with a better life.

Mr Ngema is living testimony of not knowing how many miles you have to run when chasing a dream.

As Mr Ralph Waldo Emerson once put it: “Our greatest glory is not in never failing, but in rising up every time we fail”.

The merSETA is proud of playing its part in closing the skills gap. Mr Ngema can take a bow for his relentless effort and determination.



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