

National top achiever accommodated by MUT

The name Bayanda Mahlaba graced every publication when he defied the odds to become one of the national top achievers in the 2019 National Senior Certificate exams. Bayanda, who is doing his first year of Mechanical Engineering at MUT, did not have an easy matric journey as he was the victim of crime at his home in Inanda. Being raised by an unemployed single mother who had to struggle to make ends meet brought many challenges during his formative years, but the biggest hurdle of his life has been funding his tertiary education. Although he was a national top achiever with 100% for technical mathematics, and placed third nationally for technical sciences which he passed with 90%, he was facing the possibility of staying at home as none of the funding institutions would give him a chance. Bayanda's case is one of the sad realities that many young top achievers are faced with.

Luckily for Bayanda, it was his outstanding results and MUT's community-mindedness that changed his situation. One of the local media houses sent an email to MUT's stakeholder engagement office to enquire about the possibility of MUT funding his studies and assisting him with a space. "As soon as I saw Bayanda's matric results I knew that he is exactly the type of student MUT wants in its student records. A quick email to the head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering resulted in him being given a firm offer – but then there was the issue of funding. Fortunately for him, he met the criteria set for the alumni bursary fund which was launched in 2016 by a group of alumni who also studied engineering at MUT," said Zama Sishi, Director: Stakeholder Relations Management at MUT. Bayanda's mom broke into tears



Bayanda Mahlaba with Minister of Basic Education, Angie Motshekga

of joy when she heard that MUT was able to assist her son with registration and accommodation fees.

Ayanda Bulose, Schools Liaison Assistant in the Marketing and Communications Department, was assigned to assist Bayanda to navigate successfully through the MUT registration process, which he did with great care and professionalism. Ayanda has become a brother and mentor to Bayanda, who had at some point lost hope that he would ever see himself starting his tertiary studies in the first semester of 2020. Understanding the depth of his job as a student recruitment officer, Ayanda has approached a couple of funding opportunities and successfully secured a full sponsorship bursary that will fund Bayanda until he completes his Mechanical Engineering diploma. The student recruitment team at MUT have grasped the advantages of targeting better performing students and are making sure to exploit every opportunity to get the best students recruited and registered at MUT.



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