

ALUMNI CORNER

MUT graduates heed management advice and start their own businesses

Two former students, Bright Hlongwane and Njabulo Mabaso, have taken a page from Professor Marcus Ramogale's book. The Acting Vice-Chancellor is on record emphasising the need for students to be job creators, and not job seekers, and has proposed that business studies be part of the mainstream academic programmes. This would offer graduates a chance either to be employed or to create jobs.

Both Bright and Njabulo have taken the decision to become businessmen, and their willpower is likely to take them further.

Bright's story clearly indicates that this young man is way ahead of his time. Bright, who recently graduated with a Diploma in Public Administration, has been nominated to serve on the Presidential Youth Working Group, chaired by President Cyril Ramaphosa. He has also recently been nominated for the Prestige Awards by his colleagues at the Isimangaliso Group, a media, marketing and communication firm based in the Durban CBD. Bright's colleagues were responding to an invitation from Corporate LiveWire, the London-based organisation that is organising the awards in South Africa and overseas.

Bright, who also runs a non-profit organisation called Youth in Business, was nominated for his sterling efforts in youth business participation. "Corporate LiveWire sent us an invitation upon seeing my profile

online. They invited us to take part in the nomination," said a very excited Bright.

According to him, the reason for the Prestige Awards is to recognise the effort young entrepreneurs put into the economic development of their countries. "I feel very excited and proud to know that our efforts as young South African entrepreneurs are known and recognised abroad," he said. The event is planned to take place towards the end of the year, or early in 2021 in London, UK, but it will all depend on the coronavirus situation.

Bright, who attended the Advanced Entrepreneurship Programme at Stanford University in the United States in 2017, has become known as a staunch advocate of entrepreneurship. During Youth Day on June 16 this year, he was on Ukhozi FM and eTV News, talking about how important it is for the country's youth to get involved in business as job creators, not job seekers.

Njabulo's story is equally inspiring. This intrepid young marketing graduate from the Class of 2019 set a deadline for employers when he sent out his job applications (usually it would be the other way around), and his impatience to get started resulted in the creation of his own business. Some months ago, 26-year-old Njabulo started a business venture that is poised to make a mark on his immediate community, and his family. Having previously tried a number of other business ventures, he spotted a gap to start a

Hard at work! Njabulo Mabaso



Njabulo's colleagues loading coal into a truck



Wood ready to be delivered to customers

