

WorldSkills SA national expert: Once a competitor now a coach

TUMELO MOROBE



Treasure Mokgohloa at the Automation Expo held at Spier Wine Estate in Stellenbosch, Western Cape

Support and installation technician at Festo South Africa, Treasure Mokgohloa, is on the team of national experts for WorldSkills South Africa. The national certificate vocational (NCV) Level 4 graduate in electrical infrastructure construction is mentoring and coaching mechatronics competitors representing South Africa at the 45th World Skills competitions in Kazan, Russia.

The 26 year-old was born in Moletjie village and raised in Seshego in Limpopo. He completed his Level 4 certificate at Capricorn College for TVET in 2013 and subsequently enrolled for a national N Diploma in Electrical Engineering at Tshwane North TVET College.

In 2015, he represented South Africa at the 43rd WorldSkills competition which took place at Anhembi Parque, São Paulo, Brazil. Since then, he never looked back as he remained involved in the WorldSkills competitions as a floor manager and technician. He explained that it has been the best experience ever.

"The WorldSkills competition is fun and I also get to learn new things, share my skills and knowledge. There is always a challenge and a lot of joy comes when things come together. I am passionate about physics and astronomy and have always seen myself working on smart technologies, such as robots, automated-guided systems and computer-integrated manufacturing equipment," he said.

Speaking on his appointment as the national expert in mechatronics, Mokgohloa said he was honoured and humbled. "It's

an honour for me to have been given the opportunity to showcase my talent and also help competitors in achieving their goals in the competition. This is the competition that has launched my career, and I am now permanently employed at a leading automation technology company, Festo South Africa, after making a



Technology enthusiasts listen attentively to Mokgohloa's presentation about Festo products and services at the Automation Expo held at Spier Wine Estate in Stellenbosch, Western Cape



notable impression at the national competition back in 2015," Mokgohloa added.

Christopher Oliver, area manager South Africa and Southern African Development Community at Festo said: "I met Mokgohloa in 2015 when I was a national expert for mobile robotics at the national WorldSkills competition and he possessed this great attitude that attracted us to him. He has been with us for four years now and it has been great having him here. He is a dynamic, hard-working and reliable young man who puts his all in everything he does."

His responsibilities as a national expert include preparing, mentoring, motivating and coaching competitors at the international competition. He will forever be grateful to his brother who inspired him to study at a TVET college. Mokgohloa attributes his success to the support he got from dedicated lecturers at the college.