

WHY DO WE DO WHAT WE DO AT ZIKULISE? AND, FOR THE PAST SIXTEEN YEARS!

It's because of the GOOD NEWS that we hear from past trainees like Bongamusa Zwane

His words: "It's unbelievable, what I thought would be my stopgap has, in fact, lead to my passion!"

Here is his brave story:

"I studied so that I could eventually become an IT specialist, however, due to my financial circumstances I was not able to enroll for my final year. How disappointing this was for me! My life's dream dashed, smashed into the ground!
But life has a funny way of showing one some other way and this is what happened to me. My cousin, a baker, asked me to help him in his business and in the process taught me how to bake muffins using pre-mixes. After working for him for a while, I realised that I was actually quite good at it and concluded that I could earn an income from baking, if I tried. But I did not want it to end there, I wanted to learn how to bake properly as, after all, men do make the best bakers!

As things would have it, I heard about the Zikulise Community Upliftment Project NPC based in Empangeni and, in 2018, I applied and attended their baking and business management course.

It was the best thing that I could ever have done as I became so interested in baking and decided to start my own business baking muffins, scones and snowballs from home. They are baked properly with fresh ingredients! I have done my costing and pricing and worked out that it is so much more cost effective to use fresh ingredients and I can also get a lot more cakes out of the dough.

At the moment, I'm baking from home with a very small two-plate oven! It is very difficult to keep up with my orders as I can only bake a few at a time. Sometimes I have to ask my cousin to assist. My main markets are schools, offices, colleges and the community. I taught my brother how to bake and he helps to sell and deliver the orders.

I told my brother that he really needed to attend a baking course at Zikulise to learn the right way. You know, younger brothers don't always listen to their older brothers! But he did listen and recently attended a baking and business management course at Zikulise at their Richards Bay training venue. He has told me that he learnt so much but he is not as good as me! Not yet, anyway!

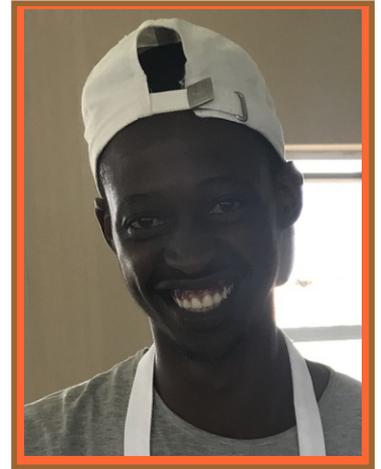
The business management section of the course was a real eye-opener for me. It taught me to keep my business income separate. Before I was just wasting my money spending it on nonsense things! Now I put the money I make back into my business, I only buy essentials and, of course, I do treat myself when I can, and I save.

My dream is to open a bakery and coffee shop in Esikhawini where I live as there isn't anything like that there. Firstly though, I need a decent oven for baking at home! Small steps at a time.

On Zikulise's recommendation, I applied to the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) for financial assistance but then Covid-19 hit and everything changed. They temporarily closed their offices, so I have had to wait. Also, during the hard lockdown, my sales and consequently my income dropped by 70%! Now that the lockdown is relaxing things are picking up slightly, but people are still scared about buying during this time. Some of my customers have asked for my recipes so that they can bake their own, but I just laugh, no ways are they getting my secret recipes!

Baking was a stopgap so I could complete my studies, but I really enjoy baking and it has become a passion for me now. I would still like to pursue a career in IT but it comes second now!

Zikulise gave me direction. After I found that I did not have the financial means to continue with my studies, I was at home and I just didn't know how I was going to make a living. If it wasn't for Zikulise, I'd probably be on the streets, doing no good. Zikulise helped me to grow and in doing so made me a better person. Now all I want to do is make my customers happy, grow my business and to support my family."



ZIKULISE IS IN THE BUSINESS OF CHANGING LIVES

Please consider joining us in this awesome opportunity of changing lives for the better by donating to the work of our non-profit organisation. Our bank details are listed below.
We also have a DONATE button on our website at www.zikulise.org.za

ABOUT ZIKULISE

Zikulise Community Upliftment Project NPC
Entrepreneurial Skills Training for the Unemployed
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=776tXUgzrr0>
Non-Profit Company and Public Benefit Organisation
Company Registration Number 2005/003021/08 and PBO Number 93018804

Operating from:

Offices: Suite 6(b), Sterling House, 7 Maxwell Street, Empangeni
Skills Training Venue #1: Units 4 and 8, SMME One-Stop Shop, 44 Turnbull Street, Empangeni
Skills Training Venue #2: Eagle Hall, Zululand Chamber of Business Foundation, Richards Bay

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BANK DETAILS FOR A DIRECT ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER (EFT)

Zikulise Community Upliftment Project NPC
Standard Bank
Bank account no. 062416863
Branch number 05 75 30
Swiftcode SBZA ZA JJ
Universal Bank code 05-1001

