

## **Lerato Lethole's Testimonial**

I first heard about SAGDA from a class mate while studying for my BCom Honours degree after more than a year of applying for jobs and not being called for any interviews. I called SAGDA and they advised that I should forward them my CV. I sent SAGDA my CV and kept following up with their placements department for a period of 5 months, Ms Ntombenhle Mkhize, the current Placements manager, was amazingly helpful during this period, graciously taking all my many phone calls and giving me updates on upcoming employment opportunities.

Finally, they secured me an interview with DHL Global Forwarding and ultimately I got a position as a logistics consultant intern with the company. This was the perfect work experience I needed for the Bcom logistics Honours degree I was busy completing at the time. I worked at DHL for a period of eight months then I received a call from the logistics manager of one of the companies (Schneider Electric) that consulted with me on their logistics while I was interning at DHL. The manager proceeded to offer me a permanent position as their companies Logistics Coordinator.

The internship opportunity SAGDA gave me within a leading company in the logistics sector gave me the much-needed work experience, industry knowledge, platform to showcase my skills and talents and network to be able to secure the high paying job I had always wanted, which I was not even able to get an interview for just a year ago.

After a few fruitful months with Schneider Electric I decided to start my own business, armed with all the experience I had gained in the corporate world. I started a bakery, Ooh Nice Bakery operating from my home kitchen. SAGDA's entrepreneurial department at this time took me under their wing. Mr Tommy Madikoto, Ms Nono Likhoeli and Ms Zaziwe Dlamini were pivotal to my development at this time, the business mentorship, and resources I received from the organization assisted to fuel my business. God is so good as the center of my business, He enabled Ooh Nice Bakery within less than a year of operation to grow from operating in my home kitchen to moving into our own retail premises at Maboneng Precinct and we continue to grow.

A huge thank you to SAGDA's amazing entrepreneurship department, for their continued selfless support and complete commitment to my business success, your efforts are so appreciated. SAGDA is an organization that not only assists South African youth to realize their career and entrepreneurial aspirations but looking at the bigger picture they also give us the youth a platform as future leaders the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the country's economy. Ultimately to God be the Glory for current successes and continued future success.