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Lead SA Hero upskills youth in Soshanguve

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Students who attend TVET colleges or take technical matric to study auto mechanic only get theory, but they also need practical training for them to get trade tested and achieve recognised national qualifications - that's where Isaac Boshomane's business, Kgabo Cars comes in. Isaac turned his township auto mechanic workshop into a training centre which took on young people who had studied auto mechanics and gave them practical skills that allowed them to get national qualifications.

His main objective when he first opened his business, Kgabo Cars was to supply professional automotive services within his community.

We didn't have a car at home, but I loved cars so much. When I was doing Standard four that is when I decided that I wanted to be a mechanic. I realised that people were taking their cars to the back-yard mechanics and in most cases their cars would come back in a worse condition than before.

— Isaac Boshomane, Kgabo Cars

Isaac never thought that he'd be training people, but he soon recognised that in his community of Soshanguve, many young people turn to drugs and crime because there were not many options available to them. He started sharing his auto mechanic skills over the weekends with young people, which later turned into a training centre.

I started teaching the young ones on weekends, and I never thought it would turn out to be a business. The process of qualifying to be a mechanic was very difficult for me. What I am doing now is making it a bit easier for these kids

— Isaac Boshomane, Kgabo Cars

He has successfully transferred skills to 60 students who are now fully qualified mechanics. The training centre currently has 21 pupils from Soshanguve Technical High School. The biggest challenge they face is lack of sponsors to accommodate more students.

He said job creation cannot be left only to government and big corporates and that small businesses with the right support from government can make a huge difference in the country's economy.

With this initiative Isaac wants to give the youth of Soshanguve the skills necessary for them to play a meaningful role in the economy of the country. He has, through his work, changed many stories from potentially bad ones to good ones.

For more details about the training centre visit: www.kgabocars.co.za

LEAD SA salutes, Isaac!

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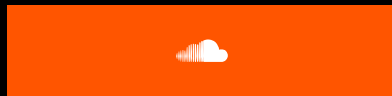
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