

Unemployed Rustenburg youth becomes Trainee Manager at Shoprite Moruleng

Phenyo Mogale (25) from Bapong, Rustenburg, was unemployed when he joined the [Youth Employment Service \(YES\)](#) in September 2020. Just 8 months later he was a Trainee Manager at Shoprite Moruleng.

Mogale, who initially worked as a till packer, still can't believe that he is employed in a senior position with Africa's largest food retailer.

Branch manager Matsomagae Motshabi recognised Mogale's potential early on and trained him to work in various departments before recommending him for the Trainee Manager programme.

"Working in several departments empowered me with valuable skills and I grabbed every opportunity that came my way with both hands," explains Mogale.

The Shoprite Group is South Africa's largest private sector employer with over 140 000 employees, excluding indirect employment. Despite the effect of the lockdown and unrest on retail trade, the Group still managed to create 4 608 new jobs in South Africa in the past financial year.

Over the past five years, the Group has spent more than R700 million on extensive retail skills and training programmes and about 65% of its employees are youth (under the age of 35). It was a first responder to President Cyril Ramaphosa's call to support the YES-programme and has been the highest-impact employment creator with over 5 765 young people trained, including Mogale.

"The YES-programme changed my life – it helped me find my passion and now I get to fulfil my passion through this job at Shoprite," says Mogale.

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