

## JUGGLING LIFE AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FOR SUCCESS

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*At the Institute of People Development's (IPD) graduation ceremony, held in November, learners and staff alike were taught how to juggle... literally. Figuratively they have all been juggling real life, busy careers, family responsibilities and personal development all year – with amazing results.*

The ceremony was opened by IPD's CEO and Chairman, Mark Orpen, who welcomed guests and introduced IPD's Director, Gizelle McIntyre, to present the keynote address. McIntyre inspired learners to balance their work and personal lives by taking care of their own personal well-being and paying it forward to others. She shared some leadership insights, reminding the graduates that they are now leaders in the Learning and Development sector.

Moving testimonials were given by three of the top graduates, all of whom expressed their excitement for what they have achieved and for the learning yet to come. Kearabetswe Mokoka confirmed that, when she enrolled with IPD, she didn't know what she was getting herself into. "Many things had to be sacrificed to be able to achieve the results. The biggest challenge is really trying to juggle between work, family and study commitments and one really has to find the right balance to do that. I must admit I received incredible support from the IPD staff who were always willing to support and advise all the time."

Similarly, Lucky Thango confirmed that he underestimated the skills development process, seeing it at the onset as a sprint, rather than a marathon. Yet through determination and support, he finished the marathon and looks forward to studying further. Nombuso Myataza stated that studying through IPD gave her hope and inspired her to change her life. "Studying made me believe again. I decided to make my challenges my stepping stones instead of stumbling blocks."

Once the Graduates had been given an opportunity to don their robes, IPD's L&D Coordinator, Nomava Nkosi, gave a vote of thanks and then the long awaited Awards and qualification certificates were handed out. A grand celebration followed filled with camaraderie and high spirits. "Congratulations to all of the IPD graduates that celebrated their achievements at the Graduation Ceremony. This special day was enjoyed by all," concluded McIntyre. "Remember that graduating is just the beginning!"