

Siyaqhubeka Nursery



“I now have to be a leader to the people I used to work alongside” – Cebisile Shongwe

Cebisile Shongwe, born and raised in Mpumalanga, was working as a nursery supervisor for Mondi contractors when she was talent spotted by the Mondi Zimele team who saw in her a potential entrepreneur.

At just 29 years-of-age, with a matric and first aid certificate behind her name, Cebisile accepted the challenge.

Mondi Zimele assisted Cebisile to register a company, Siyaqhubeka Nursery, and in August 2017 she landed a contract with Mondi to run their Iswepe nursery.

“Owning my own business is something I never dreamed of, but now it’s a reality.”

“The hardest thing has been the shift from supervisor to business owner,” says Cebisile, who has a team of three people working for her at the nursery. “I now have to be a leader to the people I used to work alongside. I am the employer now, which is a big responsibility.”

Mondi Zimele provides ongoing business support to Cebisile, including coaching in compliance and co-operate governance (UIF compliance, record-keeping and invoicing). She also attended training (funded by Mondi Forestry Partners Programme and DTI) on BBBEE, HR and continuous improvement. Cebisile has also done computer training as part of her personal development and has been working on her communication skills.



Preparing seedlings for planting out

Siyaqhubeka Nursery is a holding facility for seedlings sourced from the surrounding nurseries. The shaded facility has a capacity to accommodate approximately 4 000 trays, which amounts to 512 000 seedlings.

The Siyaqhubeka staff are responsible for offloading the seedlings and doing a thorough quality check. While in the nursery the seedlings must be carefully managed so they stay healthy and strong until they are planted out in Mondi’s plantations.



Hilton Office
Tel: 033 329 5506
Fax: 033 329 5507

Richards Bay Office
Tel: 035 902 2624
Fax: 035 902 2136

Piet Retief Office
Tel: 017 824 8054
Fax: 086 743 9999