

The education route of the celebrated Siphon Hardly Ramahlo

It is trite that House Protea highly values the academic development of the Society from all spectrums in accordance with the banner quote and content prominently coined on the House webpage. The preceding statement is informed by the education route of the celebrated Siphon Hardly Ramahlo, who is employed as a Security Guard under the department of Security Services at the University of Pretoria, posted at House Protea postgraduate residence. Siphon commenced National Diploma in Security Risk Management course at the University of South Africa in July, 2011 through the sponsorship of NSFAS. According to him, his interest in Law enforcement was triggered when he learned that his Father and his Uncle, who were both Police officers, were law abiding citizens who strictly adhered to the prescribed procedure. He said he opted for Security Services because he wished to broaden horizons vis-à-vis confinement to Government departments as a Police Officer.

Ramahlo was initially deployed at P8 Parking when he first got employed under the department of Security Services at the University of Pretoria beginning of 2014. Nonetheless, in view of the tight work roster at P8 Parking, he chose to become a Spare Security Guard at House Protea in February, 2014 with permanent redeployment in March, 2014. He attributed a number of factors to the success of his study endeavour while concurrently carrying out his work duties. He was authorised by Dr Maximus Sefotho who is the House Father of House Protea, to use part of his unutilised time on duty to engage in reading. Dr Sefotho is said to have emphasised the utmost importance of personal development. Khutso Bapela, who is a former House Protea Resident, further encouraged Ramahlo to work hard in order to accomplish his goals. He stated

that he greatly got inspired as he daily observed House Protea Residents investing a significant portion of their time in studying hard. That fact in itself, in his own words: “reminded me that the University of South Africa owed me a diploma, and I could as well make it.” Since July, 2011 to June 2015, he studied 30 modules, six of which he obtained a distinction. He successfully completed his Programme in June, 2015, and certainly aspires to further his studies in Advanced Security Management course with career options as a Security Manager, Investigator, just to mention but a few.

He pointed out that his ambitious accomplishment came about through hard work and utilisation of all leisure time as study opportunity. He believes it is God’s blessing that the work place roster too allows him to concurrently study while he respectfully carries out his duties which include but are not limited to patrolling the building, inspecting the premises and IT Lab, observing the gate, attending emergencies. He enjoys applying the theory to the real world because he studies the course that bears relevance to his job.

A word from Ramahlo that goes to other security officers out there is that they should seek for information, read a lot in order to be knowledgeable, they should not just look out to the Government for help, they should work hard and as they do, God will help them. He concluded by saying: “it is not about how intelligent you are, it is about what you want in life, know your purpose and live it.” We are proud as House Protea to extend support to people like Ramahlo, who diligently carries out his duties while at the same time having an unquenchable desire for self-development.