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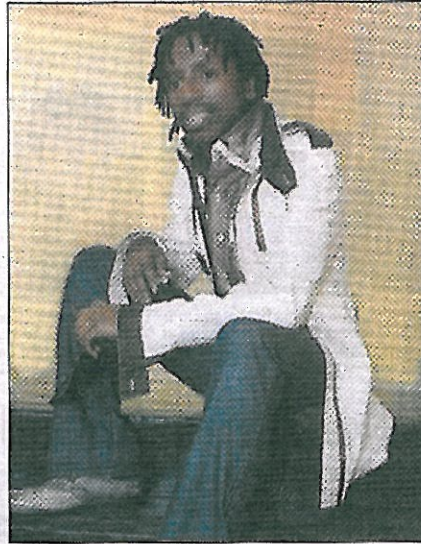


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**AFRO FLAIR . . .** Luvuyo Gakwebe used African inspired prints to give his formal suit a funky feel.



**COOL CREAM . . .** Siyabulela Noyo accessorised his brown satin shirt with a cream jacket with darker brown accents.



**PERFECT FIT . . .** Mbasa Mzili matched his tan formal suit with a blue satin shirt.

## Stunning results from those who had little hope

Eleanor Douglas-Meyers

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**A** FASHION show by graduates of the Hope Factory, Parliament Street, showed hard work can bring beautiful results. The 48 graduates who played both designer and model showed off their flair at the Hope Factory graduation ceremony last month.

The show was the culmination of five months of training which included small business and entrepreneurial skills, technical skills including sewing and pattern making, basic beadwork, paper product manufacturing, and crocheting and life skills.

The Hope Factory is a non-profit initiative that trains unemployed people from previously disadvantaged backgrounds.

According to the head of training at the factory, Jackie Gossman, the fashion show is one of the highlights of graduation day.

"To be able to show something tangible to their families and friends gives them the confidence in their own ability

and motivates others that they too can make something of their lives," she said.

Many of the graduates had never used a sewing machine before joining the course and impressed those in attendance with beautifully made formal and casual outfits.

Designers used beading, ruffles and ruching along with layering to create unique looks while innovative design and colour was the order of the day.

They also incorporated headwear and accessories to give their designs an extra boost.

The Hope Factory invited top Port Elizabeth designer Jason Kieck, who has designed for The Herald Miss Port Elizabeth competition and has dressed eight Miss South Africas, to judge the work and talk to the aspiring designers about his own career.

He was extremely impressed and commended them on attention to detail and effort put into their pieces.

"If this is what they could do in five months, I can't wait to see what they will come up with in five years," he said.



**TRUE BLUE . . .** Nwabisa Nyokana's blue and red floor sweeper dress is beautifully accessorised with matching beads and a removable hoodie.

Pictures:  
BRIAN WITBOOI

**ON OUR COVER TODAY**  
... Graduates of The Hope Factory like Sinxolo Hoboshe, Busisiwe Mjongile and Oyama Qoli acted as both designer and model at this year's Hope Factory fashion show.