



MEDIA RELEASE

A lovely tribute to one of the Vineyard Hotel's longest serving staff members and an absolute inspiration to the youth involved in hospitality

Livingstone Gxabagxaba has been working with the Petousis Family in their hotels since 1982, when he was employed as a porter at the Townhouse Hotel in the Cape Town CBD. The Vineyard Hotel re-opened after renovations in 1983, and Livingstone was transferred to the Vineyard Hotel. He was one of the first employees to work at the establishment. Livingstone speaks fondly of the late Mr François Petousis, who he says was the most wonderful mentor and teacher. "He was a father figure and really cared for his staff in a way that made us feel that we really were part of his family." said Livingstone.

Livingstone has a strong message for the South African youth wishing to enter the hospitality industry. "You should have passion for people and a great set of values which to live by. Have respect and an enquiring mind. Always be willing to learn, think of your future and keep in mind that you're are a stakeholder in the business. You need to play a vital role in making sure guests come back to the hotel – that is your contribution in growing the business."

Livingstone, who is retiring in October, will be returning to his home and family in Qokolweni, Umtata, in the Eastern Cape where he will start farming with his children. Livingstone is happy to have had all these years at the hotel, but is pleased that he is able to go back to farming, his first love. Livingstone is also very grateful that he is fit and healthy enough to enjoy his retirement, however is going to miss his second family at the Vineyard Hotel & Spa very much.

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