



INTERNET ARTICLE

Face to Face with Lancelot Tibana

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Lancelot Tibana was born in Soweto and grew up in Tiyani Village, Limpopo Province. He matriculated at Akani High School with good grades in Mathematics and Physics. Through his enthusiasm and love for education he did all his qualifications part time. "I own my education and no one can take it away from me", he said. Tibana is a Principal Security officer at the Free State Water and Sanitation Department (DWS) and believes it is the ultimate way to serve and take care of assets and employees in the department.

In DWS he has been in various positions including Senior Water Control Officer and Chief Water Control Officer. He studied for his National Diploma in Safety Management at UNISA. "I attained my qualification and proceeded to study for Bachelor of Technology, commonly known as B.Tech in Safety Management with UNISA in between my studying, I did Disaster Management programmer for one year at UNISA and passed with cum laude" he said proudly.

Tibana has been with the department since 2008 after working in the private sector. His responsibilities include operational management of the Physical Security Units and to ensure that a condition of security is maintained on an acceptable level. He also conducts investigations into security breaches and maintains a tracking database, provides event security control management and assesses the impact of incidents and makes recommendations. Part of his responsibility entails ensuring security surveillance equipment is working.

"I enjoy interacting with people at different levels and knowing that the Department entrusts me with its assets, such as buildings, working equipment, employees and information", said Tibana. Tibana believes that people are rewarded based on how they do their work. "Martin Luther King Junior once said 'If you cannot fly, run, if you cannot run, walk, if you cannot walk, crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward'", this quote is my motto, he said.

The challenges that he experiences in the office are that some employees do not understand that security duties are all about enforcing the law. "The government of South Africa has approved acts to ensure that all government employees are protected but you still find some officials failing to comply with security procedures", he said. "It becomes frustrating because if some believe procedures do not apply to them it creates a security breach, officials, especially top management, need to lead by example and support security in enforcing compliance", said Tibana.

Asked what advice he would give to those who want to be like him he replied; "I believe that South Africa is one of the most beautiful countries to live in today. We have to work together as officials, government, civil society and community leaders to make sure that all South Africans of all colours see their future and opportunities in South Africa", he concluded.

Larry Crisp