

## Young Graduate Grateful for Platform That Will Help Him Soar Internationally



*Pictured: Siza Africander, Intern from SEDA Facility Unit.*

Since he started working at the Incubator, on a one year internship contract, Siza says he has used his imaginative essence to advance information management within the Incubator. "I have created a form that helps manage asset movement with a lot of ease. I've also helped change the system to MS Access for better data management, contractor development as well as easy installation and downloading of information," he modestly recounts his achievements so far.

What drives Siza from day-to-day is his curious mind, he says. "I'm an inquisitive person by nature. I always want to know more, I'm always eager to analyze whatever information I have and try my hardest to use it to come up with innovative ideas. When I walk into a room, I take everything in – I'll analyze even the people sitting in that room or merely passing by," he laughs.

The Facilities Department at the Incubator is where Siza says he's been applying his inquisitiveness and solution skills. This department is where the management of asset movement takes place, he explains. "This particular aspect of the job requires you to always be focused and pay attention to detail because if you don't, then you will not be able to report what is required of you. You need to know the exact location of the company's assets at all times," he says. One of the main lessons he's taken from this part of his job is accountability, he adds.

If you are looking for a solution of any kind within the workplace, Siza Africander is your go-to guy. The 27-year-old says analysing information and creating solutions is what challenges his mind more than anything. True to his word, he has been rising up to that very challenge at SEDA Construction Incubator where he started working in June 2018.

The Eshowe born youngster is yet another beneficiary of the EThekweni Maritime Cluster's graduate placement programme which is accomplished through the organisation's Training and Skills Development Unit. Siza, currently residing in Amanzimtoti, graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce in Management Information Systems from the University of Zululand just last year.

Like many other graduates to have been introduced to the work environment for the very first time through the EMC's graduate placement programme, Siza says he is grateful for the opportunity because it has helped him grow, not only career-wise but also on a personal level. "I was quite a shy person when I started out here, without much self-esteem but because the work that I do here requires that I interact with a lot of people on a daily basis, I now can safely say my confidence has been given quite a boost," he shares.

With the experience that Siza has gained through the Incubator, coupled with his qualifications, he says he plans to soar as far and wide as out of the country. "One of the best things about my qualification is that it doesn't confine me to a specific field. I can be anything and apply my skills anywhere. I simply believe that every field has input and output of information as well as processing of that information," he says. Describing his experience in one brief sentence, Siza says he has become a manager.