

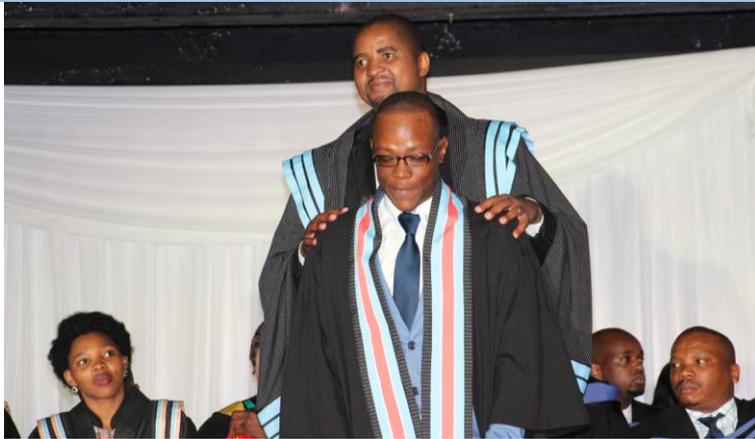
One of the SAPSET's beneficiary graduates receives 10 distinctions

Facing what many would deem insurmountable challenges, the triumphant Godfrey Monene managed to obtain 10 distinctions during the years of his tertiary education, thanks to his family and the financial support of the **South African Police Service Education Trust (SAPSET)**.

Godfrey Monene is the son of the late **Warrant Officer Tsietsi Monene**, who lost his life along with one of his colleagues, Sello Lepaku, while they were performing their duties during a wage protest in Marikana on 13 August 2012.

The 22-year-old graduate of a National Diploma in Journalism at Rosebank College, told the Internal Communications team at his graduation ceremony, which was held at the Tshwane Monument, how he had succeeded against the odds.

The older of two children born to the late Warrant Officer Monene and Lieutenant Colonel Monene, did not lose hope following the tragic event of his father passing away. He successfully completed Grade



12, assisted financially by the **SAPSET**.

Godfrey eventually enrolled with Rosebank College, but was faced with financial difficulties. To achieve his goals, the book wizard with 10 distinctions, knew that hard work and dedication would put him where he wanted to be in life, but financial difficulties were his nightmare.

The **SAPSET's** vision is "to be an organisation which provides the best education and training for the development of children of the SAPS's employees who died in the line of and on duty". The **SAPSET** stepped in to ensure that this vision was kept alive and that children of deceased employees were looked after, not only financially, but also through emotional support.

Similar to many other beneficiaries of the **SAPSET**, Godfrey's needs became a social responsibility, which the SAPS supported by funding his studies to obtain the education which would have made his late father proud.

"The bursary I received from the **SAPSET** saw me through financially. For that I am grateful. It is through this gesture that today I stand here with 10 distinctions," a delighted Godfrey told the Internal Communications team in an interview in front of hundreds of graduates.



"I managed to pull through since 2015 with the help of a study group of hard-working, dedicated students. I hardly slept. My

mother used to fight with me to sleep, including me nearly being hospitalised due to a lack of sleep. The journey has been very difficult since I lost my father, but I know that wherever he is, he is proud of me and my achievement," he said before being bestowed with a National Diploma in Journalism.

Godfrey's mother, Lieutenant Colonel Monene, said that the passing of her loving husband had been very difficult for the family to deal with, but with the support the family had received from the SAPS and the SAPSET, the road became easier.

"For the past three years, Godfrey became a bookworm in an amazing way. I saw a different person who would study non-stop and at some point I would ask him to at least take a break and rest. He was not sleeping and sometimes when I woke up in the wee hours, I would find him sitting at his study desk, hard at work. He did not have time to rest, hence the 10 distinctions," said Lieutenant Colonel Monene.

"I appreciate the support from everyone who made it possible for us, especially the regular visits by personnel of Employee Health and Wellness (EHW), by keeping close ties with us even after we laid my husband to rest. They never turned their backs on us," said Lieutenant Colonel Monene.

The CEO of SAPSET, Ms Catherine Hendricks, joined the Monene family to witness and celebrate one of the education trust's own, writing a successful story for himself and the **SAPSET**. Ms Hendricks explained that taking care of deceased members' children was one of the SAPS's key intervention mechanisms.



"By giving opportunities to the children of our fallen heroes and heroines to educate themselves, the SAPS led them to a bright future, which would have made their parents proud. We cannot forget our fallen members, because they are a part of us. Their children are our children," said Ms Hendricks.

On 23 November 2010, the **SAPSET** was established and officially assumed its mandate to look after the educational interests of the children of the deceased members of the SAPS. The **SAPSET** is a non-profit organisation under the leadership of a Board of Trustees and an Executive Committee, chaired by Lieutenant General B Mgwenya. The **SAPSET** is funded by donations and individuals, and an appeal is

made to all the SAPS's colleagues to support this noble cause in memory of our colleagues who have died in the pursuit of a safer country. **"Today it is you, tomorrow it may be me"**.

Since the inception of the SAPSET, 455 beneficiaries have been registered from Grade RR to tertiary level. These learners have enrolled for their studies at a number of universities across the country, including universities in Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal, the Rosebank College, a number of TVET institutions, the Tshwane University of Technology, the University of Johannesburg, Unisa, Mancosa, the Cape Peninsula University of Technology and the Mangosuthu University of Technology. To date, the SAPSET has supported 93 tertiary and matric students, of which 16 have successfully completed their studies.