

# His business made him forget studies

By SIPHELELE BUTHELEZI

**FALLING** on hard times taught him a lesson.

It encouraged him to make clothing accessories so he could take care of himself. Phumlani Mkhize (28), from Stanger, on the KZN north coast, now lives at Glendale in Durban.

He uses recyclable material to make accessories. He is a fine arts drop-out student, operating his business from the Durban University of Technology, ML Sultan campus.

He sells earrings, rings, bracelets and necklaces, all made out of materials like old SIM cards, wine corks, shells and buttons and other materials he finds on the streets.

“I don’t spend any money to buy products and my business is doing well. In a good week I make about R1 000, which keeps me going,” he said.

“The little profit I make helps me pay my rent and I’m able to buy food and even manage to save some money.”

He has launched a website, [www.abangobiartandcraft](http://www.abangobiartandcraft) and plans to go back to finish his Fine Arts Diploma next year.

“I ended up not studying this year because my mind was on my business and I forgot to follow up with the financial aid,” he said.

He said “My dream is to open my own gallery, which will focus on exhibiting the work of young crafters like myself.

“It’s hard to make it in this industry without exposure.”



**Phumlani Mkhize with his accessories.**

*Photo by Tumi Pakkies*