

## YOUTH WITH A CAUSE: DUT GRADUATE GOES THE DISTANCE

**GABISILE NGCOBO**

DURBAN University of Technology graduate Samuel Ntsanwisi is set to run 1 010 km to raise funds for a multipurpose centre in Limpopo in a crusade against "woman and child abuse".

The 25-year-old, who is originally from Limpopo, is putting tekkie to the tar from tomorrow until November 26.

His marathon will coincide with the 16-day campaign of activism for no violence against women and children.

Ntsanwisi holds a bachelor degree in video technology from DUT and is completing his masters in film and television. He is involved with an NGO, Vantshwa va Xivonoo, which means "youth with a vision", in Limpopo.

He ran 120 km from Polokwane to Nkowankowa in 2009, and to Nkowankowa from Johannesburg in 2010 and managed to raise R300 000 towards the multipurpose centre.

The centre will also house orphans, Ntsanwisi said.

This year he is taking his running to another level. He will cross four provinces, starting in KwaZulu-Natal.

"I wanted to open a platform to start discussions on how to cut down the number of abuse cases. As a youth organisation we deal with so many cases of abuse," he told *The Witness*. "Abuse comes in many forms and I believe that the children are the future and we need to protect them and empower women."

Ntsanwisi will not be in this marathon alone. His brother, another runner who was inspired by his story, and three cyclists decided to join him.

"I've been in extensive training for the past three months. I run about 120 km per week and I'm on a healthy diet," he said.

The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) will host a send-off for him in Durban today.

"The municipality is now finalising the land application process and my goal is to raise R1 million this year so that the construction can begin," he said.

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PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Durban University of Technology graduate Samuel Ntsanwisi (25) during a training session.