

Inanda resident is one of Africa's first female Master Butchers



Portia Zwakala, from Inanda in KwaZulu-Natal, became one of the first 13 women on the continent to join the global club of certified Master Butchers when she graduated from the Shoprite Group's Master Meat Artisan Programme in July 2023.

This elite butchery learning programme, underwritten by the United Kingdom's Institute of Meat, provides participants with extensive knowledge in meat processing practices from farm to fork. To qualify, butchers are required to build a substantial portfolio of evidence that includes modules on butchery expertise, business acumen and food hygiene and safety, among others.

"One of the things that I value the most about being part of the Shoprite family is that we are provided with many opportunities to continually further our careers," commented Portia.

She joined the retailer in 2009 as a Meat Market learner and has moved through the ranks, to become Meat Market Manager at Checkers Cornubia in Durban.

"The Master Meat Artisan Programme has taught me the finer details of hygiene and safety, meat cutting and production, as well as an array of soft skills that are vital to being effective in the workplace. It has also accelerated my career and made my dream of becoming a Senior Meat Market Manager a reality," says Portia.

The Group is the only company in Africa to provide this exclusive and highly specialized butchery learning programme. It aims to boost the development of a scarce and sought-after skill, provide career opportunities for its employees and put the Group on the map as world-class specialists in meat processing.

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