



## My Mabula Lodge Experience

by **Oreratile Mosiane**, pupil at North West Bar

Everybody has that one moment when everything comes to a stop. For me, it was the day we began the week-long advocacy training at Mabula Lodge.

The long drive there, of about five hours from the North West travelling to Bela-Bela, we were a small group of eight pupils all trying to keep calm and remember all the preparations getting to this very moment.

After a quick meeting with the pupils from Limpopo, a quick cup of tea, I was off to the room assigned to the group I was part of. All seven pupils sat down and awaited our tutors, nerves rising and excitement filling the air.

The experience of being in the presence of judges, senior counsel and various other prolific members of the GCB was indeed overwhelming. Starting from the coaching on presentations in court; how to present oneself and master the art of advocacy was true and genuine experience.

Some notes that I carry with me every day:

1. Silence is golden;
2. Get all your orders;
3. Work with what you have;

4. One fact at a time; and
5. Convince the court of your arguments.

I will always carry these with me to make me a better advocate and to be the best advocate for any client seeking my legal services.

The tutors definitely instilled confidence and imparted a great deal of knowledge and most of all provided a platform which encouraged growth and intellectual curiosity in learning more about the law.

I walked away with courage to take on the duty and services of an advocate and I know now that I will be able to conduct myself with integrity and self-determination while doing my job.

One cannot go on without acknowledging the staff at Mabula Lodge for their courtesy and care, and tremendous applause to their kitchen staff for keeping me well fed. The highlight would be the meal I had on Wednesday evening at the Boma, it was just truly incredible. The hospitality of the lodge was awesome.

To all the judges and counsel and members of the GCB and representatives



of the Legal Practice Council, an enormous thank you and utmost heartfelt appreciation for taking the time out of your hectic schedules to be a part of my journey to being the advocate I want to be. A tremendous and utmost appreciation for sharing knowledge, skills and professionalism which will carry me through all the years of practice I'm going into.

