

Limpopo Bar

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2023 PUPILLAGE EXPERIENCE

by Lutendo Tshisikule



On 16 January 2023 the Limpopo Society of Advocates commenced its pupillage programme, with an opening at the Polokwane High Court. Dressed in traditional black and white, the leadership of the programme welcomed us.

Pupillage was a very challenging year, a year requiring great compromises. The programme was very selfish when it came to time and refused to share with other parts of one's life. It required a lot of time, energy and dedication. Time management is a very important factor.

The programme turns one from being simply a law graduate into being an advocate, ready to serve the public. It is the skill that pupillage equips one with that makes a person an advocate, and not the legal knowledge obtained from university.

From the first day of the pupillage programme, our seniors told us about it being a different animal. Each day they were proven right as it got harder each day. Throughout the year, there were many tears, feelings of lost hope, anxiety and exhaustion, to say the least.

To say pupillage was challenging would be an understatement. During pupillage there is no luxury of time. We had to get our priorities right and use a trial-and-error method to determine what works.

However the positive thing is that it teaches one that, by nature, humans are social beings. You can't survive alone. We are like hyenas. We survive in packs, from group discussions, sharing of materials, to studying together. We ate together and lived together. Your fellow pupils become your immediate family.

You're forced to network and learn to live with different personalities. Team work was the best method of learning in this programme.

Considering the fact that most of us in the programme were freshman with no legal experience, it made us realise that the journey to success is never easy, one needs to conform to uncomfortable circumstances in order to reach one's preview of one's own life's coming attraction.

Apart from the training aspect of pupillage, we made beautiful memorable moments and gained a family. The crème de la crème of all is that we are grateful to have been graced with such a lifetime opportunity, we can truly attest that we are better and more knowledgeable legal practitioners than before.