



■ Seriti Skills Development's Igsaan Hugo watches over his students as they show off their newly acquired plumbing skills.

■ From left, Sisanda Mphumela, of Nyanga; Thandeka Koba, of KTC; and Nomasizakhe Buthi, of Gugulethu.

Plumbing course taps new opportunities for women

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More than 20 women from Khayelitsha, Langa, Gugulethu, Mitchell's Plain and other communities celebrated their completion of a 13-week plumbing course, at the JL Zwane community centre, in Gugulethu, on Saturday.

The free course, which is geared for residents of communities with high unemployment, especially women, is run by Rainbow Education and Skills Development, a non-profit organisation, with instruction provided by Igsaan Hugo, of Siriti Skills Development, another NPO.

The course also taught the women basic business skills.

"I believe that I am a better person now after this. I have never done plumbing before, but I feel like an expert right now. I know a lot of things. I will no longer hire plumbers instead I will be hired," said Sethu Gwanya, of Langa, who applied for the course after seeing it advertised on Facebook.

Thandeka Koba, of KTC, said they could now start their own businesses and help their neighbours.

"I am glad because I will manage my own plumbing instead of having to pay a plumber. I feel empowered and very independent."

Mr Hugo said the course created opportunities for women from disadvantaged areas.

"We not only teach them business skills but also teach them about abuse. We want them to know that abuse is a two-way thing. There are men who are abusive to their partners, and there are women who are also abusive. But we mainly aim it at women who want to be independent."

The course was in demand and would soon run in Makhaza, Khayelitsha, he said.

Rainbow Education and Skills Development's Nokubonga Mepeni said the course empowered women and created work for them.

"We are in areas where unemployment is high. Now they will be able to fix taps and install cisterns and other things and make money."



■ Two taxi owners were killed while sitting in a bakkie at the Langa taxi rank last Friday.

Police looking for information

From page 1

"But at this stage we found nothing untoward. This is strange to us. We are deeply saddened by the incident and wish that the suspects can be arrested. We hope that the police will intervene and arrest the murderers. We also have hope that people will give information to police," said Mr Sityebi.

Langa police spokesperson, Captain Nondumiso Paul, said they are searching for the suspects.

"It is alleged that two unknown guys fired several shots at two taxi owners who were inside a white double cab Toyota Hilux. Seventeen cartridges were found on the scene," she said.

Police said anyone with information can contact Crime Stop on 086 10111.



■ The bodies of the two slain taxi owners being removed from the bakkie on Friday.