



Meet Amanda Hili

Womb to Tomb
George

Amanda Hili was born in Knysna. She enjoys spending most of her free time reading or playing netball. Amanda has had the opportunity to visit Northern Ireland to showcase her skills.

Her aspiration in life is to be happy and touch people with her smile and loving heart. Amanda wanted to be a nurse or an engineer. This changed for Amanda after her time as YeBoneer. The programme opened her world to new possibilities, and she now considers education part of her life plan.

How do you deal with stress and being under pressure?

I think and then pause. I say to myself "okay, this happening". I then ask myself how I will react to the situation. I recognise that I may be stressing and try to think about how I should best handle the situation. Then I'll play with some solutions in my mind and try to figure out the best way forward. When I am stuck, I'll go to people who can help guide me and ask for their views. I try to combine my own thinking and the suggestions and guidance from others, to get the best outcome.

How would you describe your YeBo Academy experience?

If I could use one word, it would be family. It is a safe space where we can share our views, opinions without being judged. We learn from each other. The support I get from other students makes me feel supported in everything I do.

What will you tell a younger version of yourself?

The younger Amanda was bullied by friends who she thought were like her family. I was the one who always gave, but I didn't receive anything back. I would tell her to trust in herself and tell her to stand firm in what she believes.

This interview was conducted and compiled by fellow YeBo Academy student, Naigan Wolmarans.

YeBo Academy Class of 2023