

Disabled pupil beat odds with ‘a straight seven’

SIYA MITI

PHYSICAL disability and poverty did not stop Kayaletu Makha from a great performance in his matric exams last year.

The Ngwekazi Senior Secondary pupil from Mount Frere has credited his teachers and peers for encouraging him in achieving seven distinctions, a record for his school.

Makha, 19, cannot walk or stand without crutches.

He almost did not complete high school and missed many classes because of his difficulty walking to school.

But the Ngwekazi principal

found him accommodation at the mission close to the school.

Makha’s family survives on government social grants as his mother is unemployed.

“We have always just survived through these grants but I have never felt like giving up,” he said.

“I gained a lot of strength because my friends and teachers never made me feel like I was not like the others.

“My friends encouraged me not to give up and now I get to tell others not to give up.”

Makha was honoured by the MEC for education Mandla Makupula at an awards function in early January.

He was also awarded a

bursary by the SA Institute of Chartered accountants to study BCom Accounting at Walter Sisulu University and found accommodation on campus.

Sondezwa Zantsi, the National Education Collaboration Trust’s pupil welfare specialist who works with Ngwekazi Secondary School, said it was important to identify pupils with challenges so support could be given.

“I have worked with Kaya. He is a highly motivated young man and was always confident that he would do well in the exams.

“We are all proud of him.”
provinces@thenewage.co.za



I SHALL OVERCOME: Not even a disability could stop Kayaletu Makha from achieving outstanding matric results.