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TVETs A BEACON OF EXCELLENCE
WITHIN THE POST-SCHOOL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SECTOR




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Orbit TVET College Football Club – affectionately known as the “Mswenko Boys” from Rustenburg – has set the entire nation abuzz after earning a historic promotion to the Premier Soccer League (PSL). Their gritty 1-0 win over Cape Town City during the promotion/relegation playoffs at Olympia Park on 25 June isn’t just a footballing victory – it’s a watershed victory for the TVET sector.

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PSET Nurturing And Producing Future Leaders



Lucky Masuku, Acting Chief Director: Corporate Communications and Media Liaison

Holistic development within the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) sector extends far beyond academic achievement. It is about shaping well-rounded individuals by nurturing intellectual growth, emotional intelligence, social responsibility, physical well-being, and ethical values. Our goal is to prepare students not only for the workplace but also for life's many challenges and opportunities.

In this edition, we celebrate a milestone that has placed the spotlight on our Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges. ORBIT TVET College has achieved promotion to the Betway Premiership, South Africa's premier football league. This is not only a triumph for the College but a victory for the entire PSET system demonstrating the talent, discipline, and opportunities nurtured in our institutions.

We also highlight other inspiring stories in student sports. A young footballer from Capricorn TVET College is making strides with Magesi FC's reserve team in Limpopo, while False Bay TVET College continues to impress against university sides in the Western Cape. These examples affirm that students in higher learning institutions need not choose between sport and academics both can serve as powerful platforms for unlocking potential and making meaningful contributions to society.

We are equally honoured to welcome the new leadership of the Department of Higher Education and Training. The appointment of Minister Buti Manamela and Deputy Minister Dr Nomusa Dube-Ncube marks a new chapter for the sector. Minister Manamela brings with him invaluable experience, having previously served as Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training.

Dr Dube-Ncube adds to the leadership team her extensive track record in governance, including her tenure as Premier of KwaZulu-Natal.

This edition also shines a light on the critical partnerships shaping the TVET and SETA landscape. Together, these institutions continue to drive innovation, tackle pressing social issues such as gender-based violence and femicide, and expand opportunities for skills development ensuring that our youth are empowered to take their rightful place in the economy.

As we move forward, let us continue working collectively to strengthen the PSET sector, ensuring that it remains accessible, inclusive, and impactful in advancing student success.

Happy reading!

Statement By Higher Education And Training Minister Buti Manamela On Plans For The Post-School Education And Training Sector, 12 August 2025

Over the past nineteen days, we have listened carefully. We have engaged with students, lecturers, principals, vice-chancellors, researchers, SETA leaders, labour, employers, civil society, and government partners. We have engaged with our universities, our TVET and CET colleges, our skills centres, and our communities. We have listened to the frustrations, the hopes, and the ideas. We have heard the calls for a system that works for the people of South Africa.

The truth is that our Post-School Education and Training (PSET) system remains fragmented and uneven. Too many young people are locked out of opportunity. Too many skills taught are not the skills the economy needs. Too many institutions are underperforming. Governance failures weaken delivery. Funding models remain unstable. Data is incomplete. The system is not coherent enough to guarantee the return on investment that South Africans expect. After three decades of transformation, ten years since Fees Must Fall, and twenty years since our universities and colleges mergers, we must admit that progress has been uneven. We must learn from the past, fix what is broken, and reimagine what is possible.

We are restating these challenges to re-establish national consensus on the monstrosity of the problem in front of us, and to remind ourselves, in the spirit of Professors Bengu and Asmal, that nothing is insurmountable.

Our work from today is guided by six core objectives. First, to integrate the system into a single, coordinated whole. Second, to expand equitable access to all who can benefit. Third, to ensure responsiveness to the needs of the economy, the labour market, and society. Fourth, to raise the quality of provision and learning outcomes. Fifth, to improve efficiency,

governance, and accountability. And sixth, to guarantee sustainability – in funding, in institutional stability, and in the confidence of our people.

These objectives are anchored in five strategic pillars. Economic renewal and jobs, ensuring that our graduates are employable and our institutions are aligned to growth sectors.

A green just transition, making our skills system a driver of climate resilience and low-carbon innovation. Building public sector capacity, so that our state is equipped to serve the people effectively. Research and innovation, to strengthen our intellectual sovereignty and generate solutions from Africa, for Africa, and the world. And social inclusion, to make sure no one is left behind – whether they live in a rural village, a township, an informal settlement, or a city.

To give effect to this, we are structuring our work over three timelines. In the next three months, we will stabilise NSFAS and set in motion a sustainable student funding model. We will establish the PSET Reengineering Task Team, bringing together expertise from across sectors to guide the redesign of our system. We will strengthen SETA oversight, finalise their realignment, and ensure every SETA delivers measurable value.

We will begin engagements with the National Treasury on long-term funding solutions. We will launch three major strategic projects – focusing on Skills to Work Transitions, targeting young people not in employment, education or training; Career Choices (currently known as Khetha), targeting school learners from an early age to guide them into learning and work pathways; and Adult Literacy, targeting the four million South Africans who are functionally illiterate.

Over the next twelve months, we will pilot autonomous colleges and new CET models to improve agility and responsiveness. We will review the CET landscape to ensure it plays a meaningful role in community development. We will launch TVET curriculum pilots aligned with emerging industries. We will establish a national PSET database to improve planning and accountability. We will begin the roll-out of the NASCA as an alternative pathway for school leavers. We will complete our legislative reviews, addressing gaps and contradictions that undermine system coherence. We will accelerate infrastructure upgrades and ensure campus safety across the system.

Over the next four years, we will fully implement a sustainable student funding model. We will consolidate SETA and CET reform. We will drive digital learning across the system, ensuring every learner can benefit from technology-enabled education. We will institutionalise career guidance and lifelong learning pathways from school to work to retirement. We will deepen research and innovation capacity, strengthen our partnerships with industry, and expand our presence on the continent and globally. And we will ensure that our system, as a whole, delivers a clear and measurable return on the public investment it receives.

The three flagship projects we announce today will be the spearhead of our renewal. Skills to Work Transitions will connect young people who are out of work and education to structured training and work opportunities, with clear pathways to employment or entrepreneurship. Career Choices will ensure that every learner, from primary school onwards, is exposed to the full range of career options, and guided to choose study and work pathways that match their interests, talents, and the needs of the economy.

Literacy for Empowerment will tackle one of the greatest barriers to full participation in our democracy and our economy – the inability to read, write, and comprehend at a functional level – by mobilising institutions, communities, and technology to reach every adult who needs it.

To secure the future of our system, we will set up a multi-sectoral task team to review and consolidate three decades of policy and legislative reforms. This task team will learn from the crises that forced transformation, the Fees Must Fall movement, to

institutional mergers, and will chart a deliberate, planned transformation for the next generation. The aim is simple – to build a single, coherent, and high-performing Post-School Education and Training system that is fit for purpose in a changing world.

We know that none of this can be done by government alone. We will build a broad national compact for skills and knowledge. We will work with students, staff, labour, business, civil society, and communities. We will build partnerships that are transparent, accountable, and focused on delivery.

And we will take this compact to a higher education national convention in 2026, where the sector and society will set the long-term direction together.

We have listened. We have understood. Now, we act. We will reimagine and reengineer our Post-School Education and Training system for a changing world. We will fix what is broken. We will strengthen what works. And we will build what is missing. We do this because South Africa deserves a system that delivers skills, knowledge, and opportunity for all – and because our future depends on it.

Campus Matters

SA Top TVET Labour Relations Officer Excels In Labor Trial Advocacy Training

Supplied by Roshin Schmidt

False Bay TVET College is proud to celebrate Althea Oliver, the Labour Relations Officer (LRO), who recently graduated top of her class in Labour Trial Advocacy. This accolade highlights the importance of creating fair and healthy working environments, underscoring the value this brings to both employees and institutions.

In South Africa, labour challenges remain an ongoing issue. According to the most recent data, approximately 50% of South African employees feel unsupported in their workplace environments, with grievances often related to unfair labour practices, unsafe working conditions, or lack of growth opportunities. Additionally, the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation, and Arbitration (CCMA) handled nearly 200 000 workplace disputes in the past year alone, signalling a significant demand for skilled labour professionals to address these issues effectively.

The Labour Trial Advocacy course, facilitated by Mr Haggai Makatu of Brigitte Mabandla Justice College in Pretoria, covered essential skills for promoting fairness, advocating

employee rights, and establishing a constructive workplace culture. This training was endorsed and driven by the Department of Higher Education and Training together with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

Ms Oliver's achievement reflects her dedication to advancing fair labour practices at False Bay TVET College, where she participated in this programme in her role as the Labour Relations Officer for Western Cape. Her impressive accomplishment stands as a testament to the College's commitment to professional development and quality working conditions.

During the graduation ceremony, held at Umgungundlovu TVET College in Pietermaritzburg, Ms Oliver delivered an inspiring speech to labour professionals from TVET colleges across South Africa. Her audience included esteemed figures such as Dr Nkosinathi Sishi, Director-General for the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), and Judge Zolashe Lallie. In her speech, Ms Oliver discussed the vital role labour officials play in fostering fair practices, emphasising how healthy

work environments encourage productivity, job satisfaction, and loyalty.

She concluded her speech with a favourite quote by Richard Branson: "Train your staff well enough so they are able to leave but treat them well enough, so they do not want to leave." Her words captured the essence of a supportive workplace – one that nurtures growth while building trust and dedication.

Ms Oliver's achievement not only brings honour to False Bay TVET College but also reinforces the significance of skilled advocacy in maintaining balanced and equitable workplaces across South Africa.



Althea Oliver, the Labour Relations Officer who recently graduated top of her class in Labour Trial Advocacy

College Achieves Clean Audit For 2024 Audit: A Milestone In Financial Governance

Supplied by Sibusiso Mdunyelwa

Ingwe TVET College has proudly received an unqualified audit opinion with no material findings, commonly referred to as a Clean Audit Opinion for the 2024 financial year, marking a significant achievement in its commitment to sound financial management and institutional accountability. This means the College's financial statements were free from any material misstatements, and there were also no significant issues related to non-compliance with legislation.

This accomplishment reflects the College's dedication to transparency, effective internal controls, and responsible use of public funds. It also highlights the leadership of the College's Council, the entire Management Team and the diligence of

its finance department as well as full compliance to laws and regulations.

A clean audit is the highest accolade an institution can receive from the Auditor-General of South Africa. It indicates that:

- Financial records are accurate and complete.
- There is full compliance with relevant laws and regulations.
- There is oversight by Governance and assurance is provided by the Internal Audit Activity.

This outcome not only boosts public confidence in the College but also strengthens its credibility with all stakeholders, including current and potential funders, students, parents, and the Departments.

Ingwe TVET College, with campuses across the Eastern Cape including Mount Frere, Maluti, Mt Fletcher, Lusikisiki, and Bizana, plays a vital role in providing vocational and technical education to thousands of students. The clean audit reinforces its position as a well-managed institution capable of delivering quality education while maintaining financial integrity.

The College's achievement sets a benchmark for other institutions in the TVET sector. It also aligns with national goals of improving governance and accountability in public education. As the College continues to grow and serve its communities, this clean audit serves as a foundation for future success and a testament to the power of good governance.

6th Clean Audit Outcome For A Rural TVET College

Supplied by Danel Gillespie-Conradie

Boland College once again received a clean audit outcome from the Auditor-General South Africa (AGSA) for its 2024 Annual Financial Statements. This marks the 6th consecutive year that the College has earned an unqualified audit with no findings – an achievement that reflects the institution's steadfast commitment to sound financial governance, legal compliance, and operational excellence.

The AGSA's rigorous audit was conducted by ARC Sakhile Chartered Accountants and Auditors Incorporated in April and May and encompassed key focus areas such as compliance with Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP) standards, procurement and contract management, asset and human resource management, ICT systems, and legislative and

governance compliance.

The College thanked Mr Hannes Barnard (CA[SA]/RA) – Director of ARC Sakhile for their diligence and professionalism throughout the audit process. "This clean audit outcome is more than a financial milestone – it reflects the shared values and collective integrity that underpin Boland College. It reinforces our standing as a responsible public institution and affirms the trust placed in us by our stakeholders," said Mr Charles Goodwin, Principal of Boland College.

The College extends sincere appreciation to its Finance Department for their professionalism, precision, and dedication throughout the year, which was instrumental during the audit process. Recognition is

also due to the dedicated teams in Human Resources and MIS/IT, whose collaborative effort ensured audit-readiness across all systems and departments.

Strategic oversight by the Audit and Risk Committee, chaired by Mr Tom Blok (CA[SA]), played a pivotal role in ensuring compliance and accountability. In addition, the contributions of Internal Audit, Risk Management, and Quality Assurance further reinforced Boland College's culture of ethical governance and continuous improvement.

While much of the audit coordination was undertaken at Head Office, the achievement is shared across the institution. "It is the day-to-day diligence, compliance, and commitment of staff and managers across our campuses

that make this level of excellence possible,” Goodwin added.

The College Council, under the leadership of Chairperson Mr Neil Jansen, has played an essential governance role by providing strategic oversight, ensuring accountability, and upholding the principles of good governance. Their unwavering commitment to institutional excellence and their support of the executive management team have been vital to this achievement.

“We as Council are extremely proud of the dedicated work and unwavering commitment of the College management team in securing yet another unqualified audit outcome. This remarkable achievement is a testament to the

culture of accountability, excellence, and service that defines Boland TVET College. Keep up the outstanding work,” said Mr Neil Jansen, Chairperson of Boland College Council.

“We also extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Audit and Risk Committee for their steadfast guidance and strategic oversight – your leadership has been instrumental in making this success possible,” he said.

As Boland College continues to set a benchmark in public higher education and financial stewardship, this milestone serves as both recognition and motivation to continue striving for excellence. Boland College’s dedication to fostering a culture of entrepreneurship among the students.



**Boland TVET College’s Council
Chairperson Mr Neil Jansen**

Joining Hands To Combat GBVF

Supplied by Dineo Mononyane

The Services SETA, in partnership with African Civic Education Foundation (ACEF) and Capricorn TVET College, launched a Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) campaign in Polokwane, Limpopo on 20 March.

The launch marked the beginning of the GBVF Mitigation Civic Education Programme, which is designed to empower students and college staff members with the knowledge and resources to create safer learning environments. The programme further aims to reach over 7 000 students and staff members in the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) sector.

The event featured a keynote address by Florence Radzilani, MEC for Social Development in Limpopo, who emphasised the importance of working together to create change. She urged citizens to uphold the constitution and respect the country’s laws, rather than feeling like outsiders in their land. The MEC also spoke about the need to make Capricorn TVET College a safe and inclusive



**African Civic Education Foundation founder and CEO, Dr George Peta,
sharing statistics and real stories about abuse in South Africa**

space where students can learn in an environment of mutual respect.

In her concluding remarks, she highlighted the shared responsibility of ending GBVF and pledged financial support towards the movement.

The Acting CEO of Services SETA, Mr Sibusiso Dhladhla, pointed out that institutions meant to offer protection often become places of

silence instead of justice.

He further elaborated, "Under the leadership of Mr De Vries and the board, we have made GBV mitigation a strategic priority, and as a skills development institution, we cannot afford to turn a blind eye to this crisis," he said.

Dr George Peta, Founder and CEO of ACEF, shared statistics and real stories about abuse in South Africa to show

that GBV is a serious and ongoing problem, becoming more like a pandemic daily. He urged everyone to help combat this problem through inclusive education.

Various stakeholders emphasised that fighting GBVF needs everyone in society to work together. The Services SETA takes a zero tolerance towards GBVF.

Cover Story

Talk Of The Town: Euphoria Sweeps Beyond The TVET Community As Orbit College FC Rises To The PSL

Supplied by Tshepo Mokono and Reuben Marakalala

Orbit TVET College Football Club – affectionately known as the "Mswenko Boys" from Rustenburg – has set the entire nation abuzz after earning a historic promotion to the Premier Soccer League (PSL). Their gritty 1-0 win over Cape Town City during the promotion/relegation playoffs at Olympia Park on 25 June isn't just a footballing victory – it's a watershed victory for the TVET sector.

From Campus Fields to National Headlines

What started as a college team dream has now become the pride of South Africa's football and education circles. The Mswenko Boys didn't just play; they proved that talent, discipline, and TVET values can take you all the way to the top.

Head Coach Pogiso Makhoye, who has nurtured the team over a 15-year journey, couldn't hide his emotions: "From the beginning, I wanted to see this team playing in the big league, that dream started right here, at college level," said Coach Makhoye.

The Orbit Football Club was established in 2009 by the passionate, hard-working, and dedicated Coach Makhoye, who, at the time, was a staff member at ORBIT TVET College. His goal was to develop young students through sport talent, giving them



ORBIT TVET College FC's Head Coach Pogiso Makhoye in a match against Cape Town City FC

a platform to compete in the North West Province inter-college league games (CoSACSA).

Coach Makhoye seized the opportunity to take the team to the next level by registering them in the North West Vodacom League. This move marked a turning point, as he continued to nurture college students into competitive footballers capable of playing in a formal league structure. From a humble college side to a professional team earning promotion to the Premier Soccer League (PSL), Coach Makhoye's vision had come full circle.

Looking ahead, Coach Makhoye remains clear-eyed: "It won't be easy – we know we have to raise our game. This promotion didn't come by chance; we fought hard to earn our place here."

At this pivotal moment, the club is proud to have the full backing of the TVET College sector, the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), and the North West

Provincial Government including the broader communities. Their support will be crucial as Orbit FC steps into the country's most competitive football arena.

"We ask for continued prayers and greater effort from everyone involved, because staying in the PSL is no child's play," added Makhoye.

Education Meets Excellence: College Leadership Reacts

The college principal, beaming with pride, captured the emotion perfectly: "As the principal of ORBIT TVET College, I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to ORBIT College FC and Head Coach Pogiso Makhoye on their historic promotion to the Betway Premier Soccer League! Your unwavering passion, discipline, and relentless pursuit of excellence have brought honour not only to our College, but to the entire North West Province and the TVET college sector.

National Applause: DDG Sam Zungu Weighs In

The Deputy Director-General responsible

for TVET at the Department of Higher Education and Training, Mr Sam Zungu, joined the chorus of praise: "Orbit TVET College's rise is more than a football achievement – it's a statement. It affirms that the TVET sector is bold, dynamic, and transforming lives across this country."

He credited the CoSACSA (College Sport, Arts and Culture South Africa) programme for creating opportunities beyond the classroom: "This is exactly the impact we strive for – education that inspires, uplifts, and wins. Orbit's story is now part of South Africa's winning story."

Final Whistle: A Win for Orbit, A Win for the Nation

Orbit College FC's PSL promotion has captured the imagination of South Africans far beyond the TVET community. It's a sporting milestone, yes – but also a loud and proud declaration that TVET colleges belong on the main stage. From Rustenburg to national radio, newspapers, and TV screens, Orbit is the talk of the town.



ORBIT College FC during the PSL playoffs

GBVF Mitigation Programme Partnership Lunch

Supplied by Madire Mashabela



College students attending the GBVF Mitigation Programme Partnership Lunch event

In a collective effort to combat the scourge of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) within and beyond the Post-School Education and Training sector, the Services SETA, in partnership with the College and the Africa Civic Education Foundation (ACEF), launched a comprehensive GBVF Mitigation Civic Education project.

The launch took place at Bolivia Lodge in Polokwane on 20 March. The event was attended by over 200 College students, all of whom participated actively in this significant

initiative. The aim of the launch was to officially acknowledge the shared commitment to GBVF mitigation, inspire students and staff to act against GBVF, and introduce the programme's objectives and intended impact.

The event was addressed by the MEC of the Department of Social Development, Limpopo, Florence Radzilani. She emphasised, "This project is not just about education, but about empowering individuals to take a stand against GBVF and to be active agents of change in their

communities. As the department, we are glad and fully support this project as it aligns with our mission to eradicate GBVF in our society."

This project aimed to educate and empower College students and staff to become proactive in preventing and addressing GBVF. The significance of this collaborative effort cannot be overstated. By coming together, we were able to pool our resources, expertise and influence, with the goal of creating a society where everyone can live without the fear of violence.

Collaboration To Ignite Skills Development In The Western Cape

Supplied by Dineo Mononyane



Chairperson of the Services SETA Accounting Authority Mr Stephen de Vries delivering the speech

The Services SETA, in partnership with Knysna Municipality and Garden Route District Municipality Mecca launched the Knysna Municipality Skills Development Programme on 25 March.

The event, which took place at the Premier Resort Knysna, brought together key stakeholders, including municipal representatives, learners, and project partners, to celebrate the start of this important initiative.

The Knysna Municipality Skills Development Programme aims to empower the

local youth with skills in electrical, plumbing, fitting, millwrighting, mixed farming systems, and environmental practices.

The launch featured a speech from the Chairperson of the Services SETA Accounting Authority, Mr Stephen de Vries. He highlighted that the students are the core of this project, indicating that without their involvement, the programme would not be possible. He further emphasised the importance of learners submitting all required

documents on time to avoid delays in stipend payments. In conclusion, Mr De Vries asked the learners to maintain a high level of accountability to ensure the smooth running of the programmes.

The launch of this programme represents a significant milestone in empowering the youth of Knysna with vital skills for the future. Through partnership, meaningful opportunities have been created that will benefit the community for years to come.

Empowering Futures: West Coast College, Transnet And Government Join Forces For Community Impact

Supplied by Sipho-Esihle Mfazwe



Deputy Minister in the Presidency Nonceba Mhlauli and Transnet Executive Mr Oscar Borchards handing out the food parcels to students experiencing financial hardship

In a strong display of partnership between government, industry, and the education sector, West Coast College's Vredenburg Campus recently hosted a meaningful Corporate Social Investment (CSI) initiative in collaboration with Transnet. The day focused on empowering young people, promoting social justice, and reinforcing the College's role as a cornerstone of community development.

The event was honoured by the presence of the Deputy Minister in the Presidency, Honourable Nonceba Mhlauli, who addressed students and campus leadership. In her address, she emphasised the power of collaboration in addressing societal challenges. "Today is the initiation of what we hope to be

a long-term relationship between ourselves as government, Transnet as one of the local stakeholders, and the institution," she said, signalling a shared commitment to sustained engagement.

A highlight of the day was the distribution of food parcels to students experiencing financial hardship, an initiative jointly led by the Deputy Minister and Transnet Executive, Mr Oscar Borchards. This thoughtful gesture was warmly received, providing not only practical support but also a sense of solidarity and encouragement.

The visit also aligned with the 10th day of West Coast College's ongoing 100-Day Gender-Based Violence

and Femicide (GBVF) Awareness Campaign. The Deputy Minister took part in the campus' efforts, offering heartfelt words of support and reaffirming the need for collective action against GBVF. Her presence was a powerful reminder that confronting such issues requires unity, compassion, and continuous advocacy.

"We are honoured to have been part of this initiative that has been spearheaded by the Deputy Minister in the Presidency and we look forward to many more engagements and interactions between her department and their stakeholders," mentioned Mr André Muller, Acting Deputy Principal: Innovation and Development.

West Coast College extended its sincere appreciation to all who contributed to the day's success.

The event stands not only as a day of giving, but as the beginning of a deeper, long-term commitment to building

a campus and community rooted in care, dignity, and empowerment.



Deputy Minister in the Presidency Nonceba Mhlauli interacting with West Coast College student during the workshop tour of the Vredenburg Campus

College Hosts Staff Wellness Day In Partnership With GEMS

Supplied by Ivan Swart

In a powerful demonstration of commitment to employee wellbeing, the Malmesbury Campus of a Western Cape TVET College recently hosted a vibrant and impactful Staff Wellness Day; an event that underscores the importance of holistic support within the technical and vocational education sector.

The event, held in partnership with the Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS) and the College's Human Resources (HR) Department, brought together personnel from the

Malmesbury and Atlantis Campuses, along with staff from the Central Office. The initiative aimed to promote physical, mental, and emotional health among employees – a timely move in today's fast-paced and high-demand educational environment.

Staff had access to a wide range of health screenings provided by GEMS, including BMI assessments, waist circumference checks, blood pressure monitoring, and cholesterol and blood sugar level testing. Importantly, HIV counselling and

testing services were also available, contributing to broader health awareness and proactive care.

Recognising the mental and physical strain often experienced in the workplace, the event also offered neck and shoulder massages, giving staff a much-needed moment of relaxation and stress relief. The day was not only about awareness but also about action, encouraging employees to take tangible steps towards improved health.



West Coast College staff member getting her blood pressure tested as part of the health screening

The presence of Assupol, a trusted insurance provider, added further value to the event by guiding interested staff through insurance options and policy applications. This blend of health and financial wellness resources reflects a well-rounded approach to staff care.

Speaking about the event, organisers expressed gratitude to GEMS, Assupol, and the HR team for their

collaborative efforts. "Initiatives like these are a vital part of fostering a healthier, more resilient workplace," one staff member noted, adding that the day had sparked renewed interest in personal wellbeing among attendees.

This wellness event is a shining example of how South Africa's TVET colleges are not only equipping students with critical skills for the future but also setting a benchmark

in employee care and institutional sustainability. As the sector continues to grow in importance and reach, such efforts send a clear message: staff wellness is a strategic priority, not a luxury.

With TVET institutions playing a key role in national development, ensuring the health and resilience of their workforce is not just commendable – it's essential.

Groundbreaking Partnership Agreement Between The Limpopo Government Department And TVET Colleges

Supplied by Godfrey Mabasa and Madire Mashabela

TVET colleges in Limpopo signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI) on 19 May. The signing ceremony was held in Polokwane.

Mr Ernest Rachoene signed a landmark MoU with all seven (7) Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges across the province.

The MoU focuses on Work Integrated Learning (WIL) programmes, aiming

to unlock skills development and empowerment opportunities for Limpopo's youth.

Through the signing of the MoU, the department, which leads government infrastructure provision

and management, intends to open doors at project sites, works offices and facilities to allow students to gain real-world exposure and practical experience they need. This partnership will provide students with structured workplace experience, complementing their academic training and enhancing their employability.

Mr Frans Ramonyatse, representing the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) regional office, emphasised the vital role of WIL in the TVET sector stating, "Work Integrated Learning is a crucial component of TVET education, providing students with hands-on experience and practical skills that enhance their employability and prepare them for the workforce."

Ramonyatse echoed the MEC's sentiments. "There need to be alignment between what the learners do in class and how they apply it outside class, what we want is for them to be successful."

The MEC Rachoene said, "We are opening our doors, project sites and offices to allow TVET students to gain experience, become confident, employable and entrepreneurship experts. The TVET sector is crucial for the country's development, and our students can contribute positively to the economy."

"It is simply not acceptable that a young person who has worked hard to pursue a course in engineering, construction, or civil technology should be prevented from graduating because there are not enough placement opportunities," said MEC Rachoene.

In attendance there was also the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) represented by Mr Moscow Maepa who stated that this initiative aligns well with the programme of the Agency.

"As the NYDA we adopted this year as the year for building an economy centered around Youth, from here

we want targets, we want this programme to happen, we want reports, in order to report to the young people, this programme is a learning programme so there must be exiting opportunities," Mr Maepa concluded.

This collaboration marks a significant step in addressing youth unemployment and fostering a skilled workforce within the province. The programme will be rolled out at construction and maintenance sites including at mechanical workshops managed by the Department.

Thousands of young people currently learning at TVET colleges across the province are set to benefit from a pivotal agreement signed today between the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure led by MEC Ernest Rachoene and TVET principals led by the Regional Manager Mr Frans Ramonyatse.

MEC Ernest Rachoene emphasised the importance of today's initiative.



MEC for the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI) Mr Ernest Rachoene, Limpopo DHET Regional Manager Mr Frans Ramonyatse and seven Limpopo TVET college principals during the signing of the MoU in Polokwane

A Celebration Of Skills And Shared Purpose: Services SETA–TASEZ Launch

Supplied by Duduzile Mwelase



Unlocking the future, stakeholders and students during the handover

On 26 March 2025, a converted underground space in Tshwane was filled with music, movement, and meaning as over 200 guests gathered for the official launch of the Services SETA-TASEZ Skills Development Project – a partnership that is already changing lives.

What started as a practical venue transformation became a stage for inspiration, impact, and powerful human stories. From the first note of the national anthem to the last handshake at the networking lunch, the event radiated the power of what is possible when partnership is matched with purpose.

“This is how real development happens,” said Mr Sibusiso Dhladhla, acting CEO of Services SETA, in a speech that set the tone for the day. “We connect the right partners, invest in the right people, and act with intention.”

The Services SETA-TASEZ Skills Development Project is training over 2 000 learners across multiple growth sectors, including automotive, construction, ICT, digital marketing, furniture manufacturing, clothing production, environmental studies, business administration, and more. The programme includes learnerships, internships, mentorships, and support for SMMEs, with many beneficiaries already in training and gaining real workplace experience.

The Power of Presence

A well-produced project video opened the event, showcasing learners in action, trainers guiding hands-on sessions, and mentors walking alongside them – a moving portrait of what inclusive, practical training looks like in real time. What made the day truly special was the presence of trainers and mentors not just on screen but in the room – cheering on their learners, offering encouragement, and demonstrating the kind of support system every skills development programme should have.

One mentor, John, shared simply: “When they leave here, they can go to any other company because they’ve got the skills.” A shop floor supervisor added: “I’m just grateful to share my knowledge with the learners.” These weren’t just words. You could feel the closeness – the pride – in every interaction.

Voices That Mattered

Learners themselves shared stories of transformation, with one participant saying: “If I dedicate myself to this course, it will change my life. Where I come from, people are very ignorant about the environment. I want to change that.” Whether she knew it or not, she became a voice for her entire community. These were not passive beneficiaries. These were people actively rewriting their futures.

Unlocking Opportunities – Symbolically and Literally

A standout moment was the Symbolic Key Handover Ceremony, where the CEOs of Services SETA and TASEZ, joined by a learner and an employer, took the stage to “unlock” opportunities – a simple but moving gesture reflecting the heart of the programme.

This was more than a photo opportunity. It was a reminder that access to skills, to opportunity, to support is still one of the most powerful gifts we can offer.

Celebration with Substance

The atmosphere throughout the event was celebratory, but never shallow. From the energetic soundtrack to the emotional testimonies, this was a day when you could see and feel the outcomes of true partnership. As the CEO said, “We don’t see you as just numbers. We see individuals, each with their own story, goals, and potential.” That mindset shaped everything.

Conclusion

The Services SETA-TASEZ launch wasn’t just the beginning of a programme. It was proof of concept – proof that when skills meet support, and strategy meets heart, we can build something lasting. With more learners still entering the pipeline and more stories yet to be told, one thing is clear: the work has begun, and the impact is already visible.

Inspiring Youth Leadership Camp With Minister Buti Manamela

Supplied by Boitumelo Seimela



Minister Buti Manamela with student leaders at the Mandela-Sobukwe Leadership Camp

From 13 to 16 June, the vibrant town of Potchefstroom became a hub of youth empowerment and leadership development as the Mandela-Sobukwe Leadership Camp took center stage at the Elgro Hotel. This dynamic event, led by Higher Education and Training Minister Buti Manamela, is a transformative movement aimed at nurturing South Africa's next generation of ethical and conscious leaders. In collaboration with Higher Health, the camp sought to instil vital leadership skills among young people across the country.

The atmosphere at the camp was electric, fuelled by the energy and enthusiasm of young leaders eager to learn and grow. Minister Manamela's arrival marked a pivotal moment, as he engaged directly with participants in a lively, youth-focused manner. To kick off his involvement, he introduced an energising Jenga icebreaker activity, using the game as a powerful metaphor for leadership.

During this exercise, the Minister emphasised key lessons such as the importance of strategy, purposeful building, intentional decision-making, and the significance of timing. He explained that each move in Jenga represents critical choices in leadership, highlighting that thoughtful planning and understanding when to act are essential for success. These lessons set an inspiring tone for the camp, encouraging participants to reflect on their role as future leaders and the impact of their decisions.

The camp was not only a space for learning but also a platform for active participation. Peer Educators and Student Leaders in attendance embraced the opportunity to develop their leadership skills further. Their engagement underscored the camp's youth-centred philosophy, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility among young South Africans committed to positive change.

Adding a national dimension to the event, the young leaders from the camp also took part in the commemoration of National Youth Day at the NWU Rec Farm Stadium within the JB Marks Local Municipality. Joining other prominent figures, including Minister Nobuhle Nkabane, and listening to the keynote address by Deputy President Paul Mashatile, the youth reflected on the state of youth development in South Africa.

The Mandela-Sobukwe Leadership Camp in Potchefstroom exemplifies the nation's commitment to empowering its youth. Through engaging activities, meaningful dialogue, and national reflection, the event has planted seeds for a generation of leaders ready to tackle South Africa's challenges with purpose, integrity, and innovation. With leaders like Mr Buti Manamela and Deputy President Paul Mashatile inspiring the way, the future of South Africa's youth looks promising and full of potential.

The Future Of Skills Development In The Agricultural Sector Will Be Driven By Collaboration And Accountability

Supplied by Dr Innocent Sirovha

South Africa's agricultural sector stands at a crossroads. As we grapple with persistent skills gaps, shifting economic realities, and the urgent demands of the Just Energy Transition, it's clear that the old models of sector training and development are no longer enough. The question is not whether we can afford to change, but how quickly we can adapt – and who will lead the way.

Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) have an important role to play in skills development, and we need to look beyond the stereotypical criticism that they often attract. SETAs have faced scepticism and criticism, that is sometimes warranted, which unfortunately often overshadows the essential work being done to uplift workers and drive sector growth. In recent times, SETAs have also been affected by political dynamics, which adds complexity to their operations. Yet, dismissing SETAs as bureaucratic obstacles, ignores the potential for these bodies to become engines of innovation and collaboration.

Take AgriSETA, for example. In recent years, it has seen that with the right approach, SETAs can embody transparency, accountability, and partnership. Achieving a clean audit is not just a box-ticking exercise; it's a reflection of a deeper commitment to sound governance and public trust. When private and public funds are managed with integrity, the entire sector benefits, from smallholder farmers to large agribusinesses.

But governance alone is not enough. The real transformation happens when SETAs serve as conveners – bringing together universities, TVET colleges, private providers, and industry partners. Through these partnerships, we can address critical skills gaps, modernise curricula, and



AgriSETA's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Innocent Sirovha

create inclusive pathways for young South Africans to enter and thrive in agriculture.

This collaborative model is not just aspirational; it's essential. The challenges we face, climate change, technological disruption and global competition demand solutions that no single institution can deliver alone. By pooling resources and expertise, we can develop training programmes that are both responsive to industry needs and aligned with national priorities like the Just Energy Transition that will also make the agriculture sector globally competitive.

If we are to secure the future of South Africa's agricultural sector, we must move beyond outdated narratives and embrace a new vision for skills development that is rooted in partnership, accountability, and innovation. It's time for all stakeholders – public and private, academic and industry, to step up, break down silos, and invest in the next generation of agricultural talent.

The path forward will not be easy, but the rewards are within reach, sustainable growth, improved livelihoods, and a more resilient sector. The real question is: are we ready to lead?

Ikhala TVET College Hosts CIGan Delegation To Strengthen Online And Blended Learning Initiatives

Supplied by Palesa Beja



CIGan and Ikhala delegates gathered for the SASTEP program fostering collaboration and innovation in education and skills development

Ikhala TVET College proudly hosted a delegation from Colleges and Institutes Canada (CIGan) at its Queenstown Business Campus on 25 February. The visit was part of the South Africa Skills Training Enhancement Program (SASTEP), a four-year initiative funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) in partnership with South Africa's Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET).

The focus of the visit was to explore how online and blended learning can enhance student experiences and broaden access to quality education. Throughout the event, stakeholders engaged in meaningful discussions about the importance of technology-driven education in bridging learning gaps and equipping students with the necessary skills for success in the modern workforce.

Jacqueline Towell of Durham College in Canada emphasised the core goal of SASTEP, stating, "At its

heart, SASTEP is about bringing people together." Mr Luyando Oliphant, Head of Academics at Ikhala TVET College, underscored the significance of embracing digital learning, highlighting that there's a need to seize the opportunity for online training.

Following the presentation by CIGan, Mr Mgcini Ndlovu, a Business Studies lecturer at Ikhala TVET College, expressed his enthusiasm for the program, calling SASTEP "the partnership we've been waiting for".

The Principal of Ikhala TVET College, Mr Tembelihle Ntlangano, found the discussions particularly inspiring, citing UNISA as a successful model for online learning. He expressed confidence that similar advancements could be achieved in the TVET sector.

The visit by CIGan aligns with DHET's objectives to enhance South Africa's Post-School Education and Training system by improving access, success,

and employability. The integration of online and blended learning directly supports DHET's goals, including:

- **Expanding Access to Quality Education:** Online learning provides an opportunity to reach a wider range of students, including those in rural and underserved areas.
- **Enhancing Skills Development:** Digital tools and virtual classrooms equip students with essential 21st-century skills that meet industry demands.
- **Improving Teaching and Learning:** Embracing innovative educational methods ensures that students benefit from modern, high-quality resources.
- **Building Institutional Capacity:** Collaborations with international partners like CIGan help TVET colleges enhance their teaching capabilities and align with global best practices.

The Cican delegation also toured the college's facilities, gaining a deeper understanding of Ikhala TVET College's learning environment. Students shared their experiences, challenges, and aspirations, providing valuable insights into the impact of digital education.

Ikhala TVET College remains committed to advancing innovative teaching and learning strategies that align with DHET's vision for a more inclusive and modern education system. The collaboration with Cican and GAC is a significant step toward strengthening skills development

and improving educational outcomes for South African students. The college extends its heartfelt gratitude to Cican and its partners for this enriching engagement and looks forward to continued collaboration to transform education for a brighter future.

Unisa Explores Collaborative Opportunities Through Cutting-Edge 4IR Lab

Supplied by Prof. Colin Thakur

The West Coast College (WCC), a leading Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) college in the Western Cape, recently hosted Unisa's College of Science, Engineering, and Technology (CSET) for a two-day engagement at its state-of-the-art, Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) laboratory housed at WCC's Atlantis Campus in Cape Town.

The visit, initiated by WCC's Principal and CEO, Lungisa Mbulawa was led by Prof. Bhekile Mamba, Executive Dean of CSET and took place on 17 and 18 February. He was accompanied by two Distinguished Professors – Professors Colin Thakur and Igor Gorlach, who are active in Unisa's 4IR and digitalisation, and automotive catalytic niche areas respectively.

Bridging the gap between TVETs and universities

The higher education sector in South Africa comprises universities, universities of technology and TVET colleges. Despite their shared mission, these institutions often operate in silos, meaning that they fail to harness their respective strengths synergistically. Addressing this gap, Mamba eloquently stated: "Industries demand both theoretical knowledge and practical, hands-on skills. Universities are traditionally seen as the providers of theoretical knowledge, while TVETs focus on practical application. However, a 4IR-

compliant learner must be equipped with both."

A vision for inclusive 4IR education

WCC, through the leadership of its academic manager, Andre Muller, has demonstrated remarkable foresight in conceptualising, funding and commissioning its cutting-edge 4IR laboratory. However, Mbulawa expressed concern over the unintended exclusion of TVET students from broader academic progression. Reflecting on this challenge, he emphasised: "We must collaborate to create articulation pathways that allow TVET students to upskill into university degrees. Likewise, universities can benefit from TVETs' practical expertise by leveraging our 4IR labs to enhance their students' hands-on skills."

Building partnerships for transformative learning

Recognising the potential of the 4IR laboratory as a shared resource, Muller and Thakur worked diligently to bring together key stakeholders for this engagement. Those present included:

- Melissa Parker, Western Cape Office of the Premier;
- Fikile Machimana, Education Training and Development Practices SETA;
- Jomo Jacobs, Department of Higher Education TVET 4IR Curriculum Director; and
- Various senior WCC staff members.

One of the key outcomes of the visit was the proposal to formalise a memorandum of understanding between Unisa and WCC to maximise the impact of the 4IR laboratory.

Future collaborative projects

Several initiatives emerged from the discussions, including:

1. Automotive programmes – led by Unisa's Gorlach;
2. Expansion of Unisa's water research initiatives;
3. Formal and non-formal 4IR Training for TVET lecturers in the Western Cape; and
4. Training of basic education educators in 4IR technologies.

A shared commitment to employment-focused education

Thakur highlighted the significance of the 4IR lab in equipping students with AI, automation, cybersecurity and digital transformation skills, noting: "We cannot just teach for exams; we must teach for employment. Collaborative education initiatives attract government and international funding, unlocking new opportunities for universities and TVETs alike."

Mamba reinforced this vision, committing to driving the development and implementation of a structured operational plan. He closed with a powerful reminder: "TVETs build skills, universities build knowledge – together, we will build the future."



Back Left: Academic Manager: Occupational Programmes André Muller, HR Manager WCC Charlene Serrone-Johnson, Academic Manager: Ministerial Programmes Anathi Zengeta, Partnerships and Linkages Manager WCC Zanele Ntankana, Director: Provincial Skills and Partnerships, DEDAT Melissa Parker, Provincial Manager WC: ETPDSETA Fikile Machimana and Campus Manager: Atlantis Campus Phumzile Nkuzo

Front Left: Distinguished Professor in the Automotive Industry Catalytic Niche Area Prof. Igor Gorlach, CEO and WCC Principal Lungisa Mbulawa, Executive Dean: CSET Prof. Bhiekie Mamba, and Distinguished Professor in the 4IR and Digitalisation Catalytic Niche Area Prof. Colin Thakur

Career Exhibition To Ignite Passion For Civil And Building Construction In High School Learners And Budding Artisans

Supplied by Minette Kilian

The Boland TVET College's Paarl Campus hosted the Department of Human Settlements for a career exhibition aimed at school learners and students pursuing Civil and Building Construction in February.

Under the theme "Exposing Youth to Career and Economic Opportunities in the Sector" the event provided valuable insights into the built environment and its vast career possibilities.

Notable attendees at the event

included Deputy Minister of Human Settlements, Tandi Mahambehla, and Deputy Minister of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities, Steve Letsike. Their presence underscored the government's commitment to empowering youth through education and career development.

The exhibition featured various stakeholders from the built environment sector, showcasing career opportunities and pathways available to young people. In addition to the exhibits, panel discussions explored critical

industry topics, giving attendees a deeper understanding of the future of construction, urban development, and sustainability.

During the panel discussions Rene Phillips, a Level 3 student in Civil and Building Construction, shared her experiences in the field, offering an authentic perspective on studying and working in the industry. Following her, Sandrine Ngombond-Chetty, Programme Manager: IT and Robotics presented on "Smart & Sustainable Cities: How Youth Can Shape the Future."

She explored questions such as:

- What makes a city “smart” and “sustainable”?
- How can students contribute to making their communities greener?
- The role of technology, AI, and the future of urban planning.

Learners from Desmond Tutu High School as well as the College’s Civil

and Building Construction students gained valuable insights from these discussions, leaving with a broader understanding of the career paths available in the built environment.

Desmond Tutu High School’s Principal, Mtshana Tsewu, emphasised the importance of such initiatives, noting that without exposure to critical career information, young people might miss out on life-changing opportunities.

Hosting this event was a great honour for Boland TVET College, reaffirming its commitment to equipping youth with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in the ever-evolving construction and urban development sectors. The day was not just about learning – it was about shaping the future leaders of the built environment.



The Deputy Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disability Steve Letsike, College Council Chairperson Niel Jansen, College SRC President Chantell Vraagom, Deputy Minister of Human Settlements Tandi Mahambehhlala and the College Principal Charles Goodwin during the career exhibition hosted at the Boland TVET College’s Paarl Campus

College Integrates Virtual Reality Technology Into Education

Supplied by Given Sebashe



College staff members in attendance of the virtual reality technology into education programme

Mopani TVET College, in collaboration with EON XR VR and sponsored by MERSETA, has taken a bold step towards advancing education by integrating Virtual Reality (VR) technology into its teaching and learning processes.

This innovative approach aims to transform the classroom experience by offering immersive and interactive learning environments that engage students in new and exciting ways.

The College has recently been granted a license to implement VR technology, placing it among the few institutions leading the charge

in digital transformation within the education sector. To ensure the successful integration of this cutting-edge tool, 206 lecturers from various departments, including Occupational Studies and Centres of Specialisation, participated in a comprehensive training session.

The training sessions were held at the Sir Val Duncan Campus and the Phalaborwa Campus respectively. Facilitated by JR Educations (Jendric), the sessions provided lecturers with in-depth knowledge on how to navigate the VR user interface (UI) and incorporate VR technology into their teaching methodologies.

Educators were shown how to use VR to create engaging, realistic, and interactive learning experiences that enhance understanding and retention of complex subjects.

This new system will benefit both lecturers and students significantly. With the use of 3D virtual spaces, students can interact with digital objects, offering them practical experience before stepping into real-world workshops. This advancement is particularly valuable for technical and vocational programmes, where hands-on experience is essential for mastering skills.

Empowering Future Innovators: Integrating Financial Literacy Into National Certificate In IT Systems Development Through Gamification

Supplied by Zintle Maliwa



Mr Craig Jimu and Mr Twice Seopela during the induction recently held at Vhembe TVET College

In an exciting development for students across South Africa, Tshwane South TVET College has recently unveiled its groundbreaking National Certificate in Information Technology: Systems Development added with Financial Literacy Gamifying.

This initiative, funded by FASSET, aims to empower students with essential financial skills through an engaging and interactive platform. The programme kicked off at the College's Pretoria West Campus, where 50 enthusiastic students eagerly embraced this innovative approach to financial literacy.

Following this successful launch, Vhembe TVET College witnessed the induction of another 50 students into the programme, with Nkangala TVET College quickly following suit, welcoming yet another group of 50 participants. The momentum is building, and growing as Thekwini TVET College is currently recruiting students for this transformative journey.

This initiative is not just a local endeavour, it spans four provinces: Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, and KwaZulu-Natal. By partnering

with AB4IR and three other TVET colleges, Tshwane South TVET College is setting a precedent for collaboration in education. The programme runs over six months and holds an NQF Level 4 accreditation, ensuring that students receive a qualification that is recognised and respected.

In today's fast-paced world, financial literacy is no longer a luxury – it is a necessity. Many young people graduate without a solid understanding of how to manage finances, from budgeting to investing. This gap can lead to poor financial decisions that affect their futures.

The Digital Programme addresses this critical issue by gamifying the learning process, making it not only educational but also enjoyable. Through interactive games and practical scenarios, students will learn vital financial concepts in a way that resonates with their everyday lives. This method not only enhances retention but also fosters a sense of confidence in managing personal finances. Participants will walk away equipped with skills that empower them to make informed financial decisions, paving the way for a brighter future.

The incorporation of gamification into financial education is a game-changer. Imagine students navigating through challenges and simulations that mirror real-world financial situations, earning rewards as they master each concept. This dynamic approach keeps learners engaged and motivated, transforming traditional learning into an adventure.

As this programme unfolds, it promises to cultivate a generation of financially savvy young adults who are not just consumers but informed decision-makers. The impact of such an initiative extends beyond individual students, it has the potential to uplift entire communities, fostering economic stability and encouraging entrepreneurship.

With the support of FASSET and the collaborative efforts of multiple colleges, Tshwane South TVET College in partnership with AB4IR is leading the charge in redefining financial literacy education. As students embark on this six-month journey, they will not only gain knowledge but also develop a network of peers and mentors who will support them in their financial endeavours.

NCUTVET College Achieves Milestone With First Trade Testing For Bricklayers

Supplied by Elisa Mogale



Bricklaying students during the trade test

NCUTVET College reached a significant milestone with the commencement of its inaugural trade testing for bricklayers under the Occupational Bricklayer Trade Certificate programme in the Northern Cape. This momentous occasion marked a major step forward for the country, province, college, and students.

The trade testing, which took place from 3–28 March, was conducted by an external assessor from Vuselela TVET College. Ten apprentices, comprising

five females and five males, underwent rigorous assessment to evaluate their skills, competencies, and knowledge.

“We were extremely proud of our students for reaching this critical juncture in their academic journey. This trade testing demonstrated the college’s commitment to being responsive to NDP Outcome 5, ‘A skilled and capable workforce,’ by bridging the skills gap and providing high-quality technical education and training,” said Mrs Musi, Deputy Principal Academics.

The Occupational Bricklayer Certificate programme is designed to equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in the construction industry. Upon successful completion of the programme, students were awarded a recognised Red Seal Trade Certificate, enhancing their employability prospects.

NCUTVET College is a trade test centre for bricklaying, plumbing as well as carpentry.

Excellence In Training At CTTC Bhubaneswar

Supplied by Zintle Maliwa



Staff members from Tshwane South TVET College

In an inspiring effort to improve technical skills and encourage knowledge transfer, two proactive managers and eight committed facilitators from Tshwane South TVET College recently received valuable training at the Central Tool Room and Training Centre (CTTC) in Bhubaneswar, India. The goal of this training was to give the officials the fundamental knowledge and abilities needed for CNC System Maintenance, Mechanical Engineering Maintenance, Electrical Maintenance, CNC Applications, and Management.

A thorough approach to training was

made possible by this well-timed event, guaranteeing that every employee gained from the information shared. The Deputy Principal Academic, Ms Nomsa Mathye, highlighted the significant impact of training Tshwane South TVET College participants on maintenance.

“The training aimed to build a strong internal maintenance staff, transfer knowledge to end users, drive organisational excellence through execution, improve team and individual effectiveness, enhance communication and cross-functional collaboration, and integrate maintenance with

management development, ensuring all initiatives are coordinated and strategically directed,” she said.

The Tshwane South TVET College’s officials made a substantial investment in their professional development by attending the training at CTTC Bhubaneswar. In addition to improving individual capabilities, the knowledge and abilities gained will promote an excellence-oriented culture within the institution. The College looks forward to improvements and innovations the managers and facilitators will make upon their return to the College.



Tshwane South TVET College’s officials during the training at the Central Tool Room and Training Centre in Bhubaneswar

The Journey Of Reabetswe Mmusa Sechoaro: A Determined Path In Engineering

Supplied by Sabelo Tshabalala



Reabetswe Mmusa Sechoaro after receiving her Millwright Artisan Trade Certificate

Reabetswe Mmusa Sechoaro, a dynamic 27-year-old, has embarked on an inspiring academic and professional journey in the field of engineering. Her story began at the South West Gauteng College (SWGC) at the Roodepoort West Campus in May 2017, where she committed herself to N1-N6 studies in electrical engineering. With determination and dedication, she successfully completed this demanding programme by April 2019.

Following her completion at SWGC, Reabetswe continued to expand her expertise by enrolling in a mechanical engineering programme at the Technisa Campus, further enhancing her skill set and versatility in the engineering domain. In a pivotal step for her career, she secured an internship in Electrical Engineering at Resolution Circle in collaboration with the University of Johannesburg (UJ)

in 2020. This hands-on experience allowed her to apply her theoretical knowledge in a practical setting for a full year, solidifying her foundation in the industry.

Her passion for engineering didn't stop there. Reabetswe then pursued an Electrical Engineering learnership at Netcare, lasting until July 2022. This opportunity enabled her to deepen her practical skills and gain valuable experience. Her journey took a significant turn when she began her apprenticeship as a Millwright at Komatsu Mining, where she demonstrated her commitment and resilience in a demanding field.

Over the course of a year, Reabetswe completed both basic and advanced training at the Colliery Training College in Witbank. This rigorous training was accompanied by 18 months of on-the-job training,

allowing her to hone her skills effectively. By December 2024, her dedication and hard work paid off, and she prepared for her trade qualification.

Reabetswe returned to CTC for her trade preparation, culminating in a significant milestone in her career in January 2025. She proudly qualified as a Millwright Artisan, marking the achievement of a long-term goal on 24 April 2025. Throughout her journey, Reabetswe expressed deep gratitude to God, her parents, her aunt, and her partner for their unwavering support, which she credits as an essential part of her success.

Reabetswe Mmusa Sechoaro's story is a testament to the power of perseverance, education, and support from loved ones in overcoming challenges and achieving dreams in the field of engineering.

College Empowering Artisan Careers Locally And Globally Through Strategic Partnerships And Skills Excellence

Supplied by Roshin Schmidt



Artisans in training at False Bay TVET College's Mechanical Fitting workshop, gaining hands-on experience in a state-of-the-art facility aligned with industry standards

As South Africa seeks innovative ways to combat youth unemployment and build an inclusive, skilled workforce, False Bay TVET College has emerged as a national beacon of progress – delivering on the Department of Higher Education and Training's mission to expand access to technical and vocational education and create pathways to meaningful employment.

With a dual focus on Vocational and Occupational Training qualifications, all fully accredited and nationally recognised, False Bay TVET College is redefining the artisan journey. Learners are supported from their very first application through to their final trade test, hosted at the College's Decentralised Trade and Level Testing Centre – a purpose-built facility that ensures efficient, high-quality assessment for artisan certification.

False Bay TVET College doesn't just offer training – it offers transformation. Its programmes are aligned with South Africa's Occupations in High Demand (OHD) list, ensuring that graduates are equipped with skills that matter, now and in the future. The College holds prestigious Centre of Specialisation (CoS) status in Rigging and Mechanical Fitting and leads emerging sectors through cutting-edge qualifications in Boatbuilding and Solar Photovoltaic Systems – both key contributors to the green and oceans economy.

Deputy Principal Christiana Nel, who leads the College's Partnerships Unit, said: "We are intentional about aligning our qualifications with national priorities and global trends. The green and oceans economy is a space where South Africa can lead, and False Bay TVET College is preparing the skilled workforce

to make that leadership possible. Through strong partnerships and future-focused training, we are creating opportunities that extend well beyond our borders."

At the heart of its success is a holistic teaching and learning model. Lecturing staff are industry-active professionals, continuously updating their expertise to reflect real-world advancements. Students train in real workshops that simulate the conditions and challenges of modern worksites, allowing them to build not just technical ability, but also the soft skills and workplace readiness that employers demand.

This excellence has garnered global recognition. As the host of the German language training and a strategic implementation partner in the Moving North Pilot Project, False Bay TVET College is playing a central role in reshaping international labour

mobility. The project, launched in September 2024 by Germany's Ems-Achse initiative, facilitates the placement of skilled South African artisans into high-demand sectors of the German economy.

The first cohort – comprising 11 artisans, including 5 women and 6 men aged 23 to 44 – includes proud graduates of False Bay TVET College. They hold Red Seal trade certifications and have attained A2-level German proficiency, meeting Germany's stringent visa and employment requirements. Their trades – Mechanical Fitting, Metal Machining, and Fitting and Turning – address urgent gaps in Germany's workforce, with employment contracts that officially began on 1 May 2025.

More than a recruitment pipeline, Moving North is a people-centered, sustainable mobility initiative. Participants benefit from comprehensive support, including cultural orientation, housing, and financial literacy – all funded by German companies and supported by South African partners. The project challenges outdated perceptions of artisan trades, repositioning them as respected, mobile, and economically viable careers.

"This partnership is a blueprint for responsible globalisation. It's not about quick fixes – it's about lasting impact. We are building careers, strengthening industries, and shaping futures," said Ms Cristine Wekenborg, spokesperson for Ems-Achse.

False Bay TVET College's leadership goes beyond programme delivery. It fosters meaningful partnerships with local industry for student placements, apprenticeships, and workplace exposure – while also opening global pathways through strategic collaborations like this one with Germany. Its proven model ensures that every student is prepared for the realities of both local and international employment.

As the preferred TVET partner for projects of this scale, False Bay TVET College invites businesses – in South Africa and abroad – to collaborate on expanding employment pathways, closing skills gaps, and building a resilient, future-ready workforce.



First cohort of South African Artisans depart from Cape Town International Airport to begin skilled employment in Germany through the Moving North Pilot Project

W&RSETA Celebrates Milestone Graduation Of 82 TVET Students In China

Supplied by Desmond Mashao



W&RSETA Cross-Border E-Commerce Programme graduates

The Wholesale and Retail Sector Education and Training Authority's (W&RSETA's) historic international internship culminated in a graduation to celebrate the successful completion of the programme in China on 10 April. About 82 graduates from 11 South African TVET colleges successfully completed the W&RSETA Cross-Border E-Commerce Programme.

The 12-months programme was delivered in partnership with the Chinese Culture and International Education Exchange Centre (CCIEEC), and the graduates were placed with Hangzhou Polytechnic, Wuhan Vocational College of Software and Engineering, Changzhou Vocational Institute of Mechatronic Technology, and Guangdong Polytechnic, to equip them with critical skills in digital trade, cross-border logistics,

international business practices, and e-commerce technologies.

The programme is the W&RSETA's contribution to addressing graduate unemployment through a commitment to creating opportunities that will position the South African Wholesale and Retail Sector as a global competitor while strengthening its footprint in international trade and digital innovation.

Over the past year, the students were trained in both academic and practical learning environments comprising exposure to cutting-edge e-commerce platforms, social media content creation, logistics, marketing, customer relations, and entrepreneurship.

Sipho Shoba, Chief Operations Officer of the W&RSETA, addressed the partners and beneficiaries at the

graduation ceremony in China and indicated that another 50 additional graduates will be placed in the 2025/26 financial year as part of the continuation of the programme.

Shoba further stated that the programme is part of the W&RSETA's priority to increase access to international exposure and create new pathways to employment and entrepreneurship for South African youth. "I wish to express our deep appreciation to the CCIEEC and all partner institutions for the nurturing environment you have created. You have not just delivered a programme, you have impacted lives and planted seeds of potential that will flourish across borders," said Shoba.

Representing the graduates, Kedibone Segone, shared their experience and the skills they acquired during the

programme. Segone also thanked the W&RSETA for this opportunity of a lifetime, which has changed her life as well as the lives of the other graduates.

Deputy Director of Alibaba Group Zhang Lei, whose company provided practical training to the graduates, congratulated them for completing the programme. "This graduation is indicative of the diplomatic

relationship between South Africa and China; and the skills gained will contribute towards South Africa's digital transformation," said Lei.

A significant achievement from the programme is the employment of three graduates by Buffalo International Logistics (Hunan Dayan Information Technology), a China-Africa online trade logistics service provider. This is a major gain for the graduates'

academic and professional journey and is a reward for their outstanding participation in the programme, where they demonstrated dedication, adaptability and a strong work ethic.

Zazi Ndebele (Ekurhuleni West TVET College), Poulance Maloisane (Orbit TVET College) and Matshukudu Marole (Capricorn TVET College), have been permanently employed by Buffalo International Logistics.

Student Innovation Shines At Inter-Campus Allan Gray Makers Entrepreneurship Competition

Supplied by Minette Kilian & Danel Gillespie-Conradie



Participants and judges during the Intercampus Entrepreneurship Competition

Boland TVET College hosted the Allan Gray Makers Inter-College Entrepreneurship Competition on Saturday, 17 May, bringing together some of the most dynamic and driven young entrepreneurs from the College's various campuses. The competition took place at the Head Office and featured student participants who showcased their creativity, business insight, and entrepreneurial passion.

Competitors presented in three categories: "I have an Innovative Business Idea," "I have a General Business" and "I have a Tech Business," pitching their concepts and existing enterprises to a panel of esteemed judges. The event was a vibrant celebration of student innovation, highlighting the potential of TVET learners to contribute meaningfully to the South African economy through entrepreneurship. The success of this event is attributed

to the generous sponsors, MacMillan, Sanlam and ABSA, for their valuable contributions towards the prizes awarded to the winners across all categories. Their continued support plays a vital role in nurturing and rewarding entrepreneurial talent at Boland TVET College.

The distinguished panel of judges who brought expertise from a wide range of industries included:

- Bongumusa Biyela, Western Cape Regional Manager (National Empowerment Fund);
- Mkhululi Manana, Managing Director (Insurance Company);
- Fazelah Allie, Manufacturer (K9 Petfood);
- Anga Bonongo, Director (Bonsolo Trading [Pty] Ltd);
- Shahied Allie (SEDFA); and
- Bulelwa Makeleni Pato (SEDFA).

Their insights and constructive feedback were invaluable to the students and added significant credibility to the competition.

The winners on the day included:

I have an Innovative Business Idea:

1. Lusanda Lucky Nyhivane
2. Naeema Koekman

I have a General Business:

1. Luluthando Nongalo
2. Elmarquin Koopman

I have a Tech Business:

1. Michael Robberts
2. Honjiswa Dutywa

This year marked a historic moment for Boland College and the competition

as a whole – for the first time, a blind student participated in the event, going on to win in the “I have a Tech Business” category. His remarkable achievement is a testament to the inclusive spirit of the competition and the limitless potential of the students.

The College is looking forward to seeing all the winners participate in the regional competition later in the year. The energy, innovation, and drive displayed throughout the day were truly inspiring, reaffirming Boland College’s dedication to fostering a culture of entrepreneurship among the students.

TVET Graduate Transforms Skills Into Entrepreneurial Success

Supplied by Asive Noah



Siyanda Sitelele, founder of T and N Group and Lovedale TVET College graduate, represents South Africa at the BRICS Young Innovator Prize Competition in Russia, showcasing a low-GI tomato jam developed with support from ELIDZ and DSI

Siyanda Sitelele, a graduate of Lovedale TVET College’s King Campus, is proof that vocational education can be a powerful launchpad for innovation and entrepreneurship. Having studied Generic Management, Sitelele credits the course’s strong focus on entrepreneurship for giving him the academic knowledge and practical skills to start and manage his own business.

While still a student, Sitelele began developing a business concept inspired by the college’s Entrepreneurship module. He launched T and N Group, a youth-led agro-processing business that cultivates tomatoes and produces a range of tomato-based products

including jam, chutney, paste, sauce, and juice. His business now operates from the Buffalo City Food Market in Wilsonia and processes products at the East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ) Science and Technology Park (STP) in East London.

Access to infrastructure was one of Sitelele’s biggest challenges. However, with support from the Eastern Cape Agro-Processing Industry Innovation Cluster (ECAIIC), managed by the ELIDZ STP, his company transitioned from concept to commercialisation. The incubation support helped him refine his product line, which now includes an innovative low-GI tomato jam, developed in response to growing

consumer demand for healthier food alternatives.

In November 2024, Sitelele proudly represented South Africa and his business at the 9th BRICS Young Scientist Forum and the 7th BRICS Young Innovator Prize Competition in Russia. His participation was made possible through the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), an entity of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI).

Presenting at this global forum affirmed Siyanda’s role as not just an entrepreneur, but a young innovator helping drive South Africa’s bio-economy forward. Sitelele currently employs three young people in his business and is committed to growing T and N Group into a vehicle for youth empowerment and local economic development.



Tomatoes produced by Siyanda Sitelele’s business

FoodBev SETA-Funded SMMEs Graduate From Wakanda Food Accelerator Programme

Supplied by Melody Molale



Graduates of the Wakanda Food Accelerator Programme

FoodBev Manufacturing SETA (FoodBev SETA) is proud to announce the graduation of 89 small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs) that successfully completed a 12-month intensive practical and theoretical training programme, fully funded by the SETA.

The graduation ceremony took place on 3 March at the City of Johannesburg's Bramm Park Offices, marking a significant milestone in FoodBev SETA's mission to empower

entrepreneurs and strengthen the food and beverage manufacturing sector.

The graduates received a National Certificate in Food and Beverage Packaging Operations, an NQF Level 3 qualification bearing 120 credits and accredited by South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). The programme is designed to equip students with technical expertise, business acumen, and personal mastery.

The programme provided SMMEs with comprehensive technical skills in food legislation compliance, HACCP protocols, packaging, merchandising, and distribution, along with extensive market exposure. By integrating personal mastery and business acumen, the programme empowered participants with insights into business management, effective communication skills, personal development and enabling them to thrive confidently in the competitive food and beverages sector.

Nokuthula Selamolela, CEO of FoodBev SETA, delivered a keynote address, highlighting the importance of such initiatives for the sector. She emphasised the role of FoodBev SETA in empowering SMMEs through skills development and sustainable growth opportunities.

"This programme is a testament to our commitment to building a robust food and beverage manufacturing sector by investing in the potential of SMMEs. We believe that equipping entrepreneurs with the right skills and knowledge is essential for their success, business sustainably and the growth of our industry," said Selamolela.

Rirhandzu Chauke, owner of Conzas Biscuits in Soweto and representative of the graduating cohort, expressed her gratitude to FoodBev SETA, Wakanda Food Accelerator, City of

Joburg and Masana Dieticians for their unwavering support. "We are truly grateful for your investment in us and your belief in the potential of food entrepreneurs. Your efforts are not only shaping the future of our industry but also empowering us to contribute meaningfully to its growth and sustainability. The knowledge and skills we have gained through this programme will undoubtedly have a lasting impact in our businesses and the broader food and beverage sector," remarked Chauke.

Miles Kubheka, CEO of Wakanda Food Accelerator, expressed his pride in the graduates and appreciation for FoodBev SETA's support. "We are beyond proud of the incredible SMMEs who have successfully completed this rigorous 12-month programme and officially graduated! This isn't just a certificate – it's a

game-changer that will elevate their businesses, sharpen their skills, and open new doors of opportunity," said Kubheka.

He also extended gratitude to FoodBev SETA, stating, "A huge heartfelt thank you to FoodBev Manufacturing SETA for their unwavering support and substantial contribution in making this programme a reality. Your commitment to empowering entrepreneurs and strengthening the sector is truly commendable."

The success of this programme underscores FoodBev SETA's strategic focus on developing a skilled workforce and promoting sustainable entrepreneurship within the sector. By investing in the growth of SMMEs, FoodBev SETA continues to play a vital role in fostering innovation, job creation, and economic development in South Africa.

Exciting Partnership Propels Alumni Entrepreneurs Into The Digital Future

Supplied by Roshin Schmidt



College and Abaguqli 4IR officials with budding entrepreneurs

The Centre for Entrepreneurship (CFE) is making waves with a groundbreaking initiative that is set to propel its alumni entrepreneurs into the digital age. The CFE, in collaboration with Abaguquli 4IR, recently hosted a dynamic accelerator programme, funded by MICSETA aimed at equipping students and community-based SMMEs with crucial digital and marketing skills to enhance their business growth.

Led by the visionary CEO, Ms Aasiyah Adams, Abaguquli 4IR, a Level 1 BBBEE women-owned company, brings a wealth of expertise in digital skills training. Through this collaboration, alumni entrepreneurs are not only refining their digital marketing skills but are also actively creating professional business advertisements

to be published across multiple social media platforms. This exciting step is designed to amplify their brand visibility, reach broader audiences, and ultimately drive increased sales.

Abaguquli 4IR's commitment to shaping the future through digital education is evident in its diverse learning models, offering online, onsite, and hybrid options to ensure that entrepreneurs have the flexibility they need to succeed in today's fast-evolving digital landscape. The company's goal is clear: to provide individuals with the tools and knowledge to thrive in the digital economy.

"Our mission is to provide skills that uplift individuals and contribute to a strong economy," says Aasiyah Adams, CEO of Abaguquli 4IR.

The CFE's Programme Manager, Thomas Mvumvu, emphasises the ongoing need for entrepreneurs to adapt and evolve. "Entrepreneurship is about continuous learning, adaptability, and seizing opportunities. This programme is helping our alumni build strong digital footprints, positioning them for greater business success in the digital age," he said.

This powerful partnership between CFE and Abaguquli 4IR is an exciting testament to the value of collaboration in nurturing South Africa's next generation of successful entrepreneurs. Stay tuned as we follow the journeys of these passionate entrepreneurs and celebrate the impact they are making in their industries.

Training The Workforce For South Africa's Green Revolution

Supplied by Kaamini Reddy

As South Africa transitions towards a more sustainable, low-carbon economy, the need for skilled professionals in the energy and water sectors has never been more urgent. These industries are crucial in addressing the country's resource challenges and achieving its environmental and economic goals. The Energy and Water Sector Education and Training Authority (EWSETA) leads this skills transformation, equipping individuals with the competencies needed to meet growing demands and prepares the workforce for a green economy.

Mpho Mookapele, CEO of EWSETA, reinforces the entity's strategic impact objective. "Our commitment to inclusive economic participation ensures that the initiatives we implement have the required impact. The growth we've seen in the energy and water sectors is a testament to the power of collaboration and skills development. By upskilling the current workforce and training the next generation, we are laying the

foundation for a sustainable, resilient economy," she said.

In the energy and water sectors, significant skills shortages exist, particularly in emerging fields such as clean energy, water conservation, and smart water management systems. Reports show that 47% of energy professionals believe the current workforce lacks the necessary expertise in renewable energy technologies, including solar, wind, and hydrogen power.

Similarly, 39% of engineers and technicians in the water sector report gaps in areas such as water conservation, purification technologies, and smart water management systems.

To tackle these challenges, EWSETA has placed a strategic focus on upskilling and reskilling the workforce. Over the past year, more than 984 individuals have been supported through learning programmes centred on renewable

energy, electrical trades, and water process control.

Additionally, through recognition of prior learning (RPL), experienced workers who lack formal qualifications are gaining the credentials they need to advance their careers and contribute meaningfully to these sectors.

Looking beyond current industry demands, EWSETA is focused on anticipating future trends and preparing the workforce to take on leadership roles in the evolving green economy. The organisation is aligning its skills development initiatives with next-generation technologies, including smart grid technology, hydrogen energy, and advanced water purification systems. This ensures that the workforce is ready to meet the rapidly changing demands of the industry.

In support of the Just Energy Transition (JET), training is being offered in fields like hydrogen energy, which holds immense potential for

South Africa's clean energy future. EWSETA's collaboration with both local and international stakeholders is developing the technical expertise needed to capitalise on hydrogen as an emerging clean energy resource. Furthermore, training in smart grid management is helping to future-proof South Africa's energy infrastructure, preparing workers to manage more efficient and sustainable energy systems.

One of the most impactful initiatives led by EWSETA is its Wind Industry Internship Programme (WIIP), a collaboration with the South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA). First launched in 2021, this programme aims to address skills shortages in the wind energy sector by providing recent graduates and students with practical work experience aligned with their studies in renewable energy.

In 2023, the WIIP doubled its placements, hosting 35 interns across 30 renewable energy companies. The programme also introduced a 10-day work readiness training, equipping participants with essential soft skills such as communication and teamwork. This partnership is playing a pivotal role in ensuring that young professionals are absorbed by the wind energy sector, gaining the mentorship and experience they need to thrive. By supporting the expansion of talent in this sector, the WIIP is not only addressing immediate skills needs but also laying the groundwork for long-term growth in South Africa's renewable energy industry.

An excellent example of EWSETA's future-forward thinking is the PoVE Water Management initiative, run in partnership with Stellenbosch University and various international stakeholders.

This programme integrates vocational excellence in the water sector, equipping the workforce with advanced skills and competencies in water management. These skills are vital for addressing challenges such as water scarcity and climate change. By training individuals in fields such as water resource management, smart water systems, and sustainable conservation practices, EWSETA is helping South Africa become a leader in water sustainability.

EWSETA's inclusivity strategy places a strong focus on empowering women and youth. Historically underrepresented in these sectors, women now make up 57% of all enrolments in EWSETA's programmes. Initiatives such as the Women Leading in the Energy Sector bursary programme, run in partnership with Duke Corporate Education, are helping more women gain the skills necessary to lead South Africa's energy transition.

Youth participation is also a priority, with 71% of beneficiaries under the age of 35. A standout success is the partnership with ACWA Power, which provided youth from rural areas with international training on thermal solar technologies in Dubai. This hands-on experience is invaluable in preparing South Africa's youth to take on key roles in the clean energy sector.

EWSETA's influence extends well beyond South Africa. The organisation is an active participant in global forums, advocating for collaborative approaches to skills development in the green economy. At the BRICS 2023 Summit, EWSETA played a key role in shaping discussions on clean energy and hydrogen, positioning itself as a thought leader in global energy transitions.

Participation in the Russia Africa Forum and the BRICS Youth in Energy Summit further highlights EWSETA's commitment to driving international collaboration in skills development. Significant growth in co-funding and strategic partnerships has been achieved through collaborations with higher education institutions and industry leaders. Partnerships with institutions such as Stellenbosch University and the Central University of Technology (CUT) focus on developing industry-aligned qualifications and research projects that address critical skills shortages.

Collaborations with industry leaders also provide students with practical experience, ensuring they are equipped with the skills needed to contribute immediately to the workforce. This connection between academia and industry is vital in closing skills gaps and driving innovation across both sectors.

As South Africa moves towards a sustainable future, addressing the skills gap in the energy and water sectors is a responsibility shared by government, industry, and educational institutions. While the progress made by EWSETA and its partners is commendable, more needs to be done to bridge the gap between training and employment.

We encourage businesses, industry leaders, and government stakeholders to take action and create employment opportunities for these newly skilled individuals. By offering placements, internships, and jobs to graduates, you can ensure that investments in skills development translate into tangible economic growth and innovation. Together, we can build a resilient, inclusive workforce capable of overcoming South Africa's greatest challenges and leading the way in the global green economy.

Deputy Minister Of Higher Education And Training Visits West Coast College For State Of Readiness Assessment

Supplied by Nasiphi Pasiya



The Deputy Minister visiting the solar farm used for SPVT training at West Coast College Vredenburg Campus, together with Saldanha Bay Municipality Executive Mayor, Councillor André Truter

West Coast TVET College's Vredenburg Campus welcomed the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training (DHET), Dr Mimmy Gondwe, for a state of readiness visit. The Deputy Minister was accompanied by the delegates from DHET and the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) in February.

The purpose of the visit was to assess the College's readiness for the new academic year 2025.

This visit demonstrates DHET's commitment to ensuring that the TVET colleges are equipped to provide relevant skills and quality education and training to the students. Upon this visit the Deputy Minister was welcomed by the West Coast College Principal and CEO Mr Lungisa Mbulawa, Vredenburg Campus Manager Mr Themba Ndaba, Executive Mayor of Saldanha Bay Municipality Councillor André Truter and other valuable stakeholders.

The Deputy Minister visited various workshops on the campus, including Pipe Fitting, Welding, Fabrication, Electrical, Solar Photovoltaic Technician Centre and the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Rapid Incubator (CfERI), lecturer rooms and the administration block and engaged with the prospective students and facilitators. West Coast College aims to provide its students with the skills and knowledge required to succeed in their chosen careers by strengthening partnerships with DHET and NSFAS.

Mobile Health Clinic Launched At Ekurhuleni East TVET College

Supplied by Novangile Tabete

In a move towards improving student health and wellness, the Mobile Health Clinic Foundation, in partnership with BAYER and Higher Health, recently launched a Mobile Health Clinic for Ekurhuleni East TVET College students. The launch event took place at the College's Springs Campus, marking a significant milestone in accessible healthcare for young people.

This mobile clinic initiative aims to provide students with free health services, health education, and wellness advice. It is designed to expand access to healthcare for

students, particularly focusing on sexual health, including information and support related to sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV awareness. Additional services will include eye testing, nutritional consultations, and other basic health screenings.

During her speech at the launch, Ms Bennita Sisi Deputy Principal Registrar at Ekurhuleni East TVET College highlighted the importance of the clinic, stating that it will be a much-needed solution to daily health challenges faced by students, ultimately contributing to improved

student well-being and academic success.

Dr Rosie Ndhlovu CEO Mobile Health Clinic emphasised the critical role of awareness in managing personal health. She encouraged students to know their HIV status and to become more health conscious, reinforcing the message that taking charge of one's health is essential for a brighter future.

With this initiative, Ekurhuleni East TVET College takes a progressive step in ensuring that its students not only excel academically but are also empowered to lead healthier lives.

College Launches Research Unit To Advance Research In The TVET Sector

Supplied by Given Sebashe

Mopani TVET College successfully launched its Research Unit at Phalaborwa Campus's Main Hall, on 17 March, a programme aimed at advancing research in the TVET sector.

Being the first College in the history of the TVET sector to launch, the research unit will amongst others enable the College to conduct its own research around key issues affecting the society.

The Research Unit Launch featured key leaders in various fields from universities, SETAs, and multiple stakeholders such as South African National Parks, Foskor, PMC, Mopani District Municipality, Air Force Base Hoedspruit, ABSA just to name a few.

According to the College's Principal, Dr Levy Baloyi, the research unit was established to respond to the call of the government of national unity's actions that must advance at least three strategic priorities: poverty, unemployment and inequality.



College's Principal Dr Levy Baloyi speaking during the research unit launch

"This unit will not only focus on the TVET sector but will also assist Mopani District Municipality including other

institutions in areas of great concern for research," said Dr Baloyi.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr Clarence Tshireke, asserted that through research and education, we empower the nation's people to claim their democratic freedom and build a more prosperous and just society. "The primary consideration for Mopani TVET College and others is to undertake research in critical

areas in which their current value propositions in their courses or programmes can be improved," said Dr Tshireke.

Tshireke further highlighted a need for the research unit to try to tackle underlying issues that may be faced by the current curriculum provided

by TVET colleges. "It is important that we change attitudes, that we change mindsets and encourage enrolment in TVET colleges as they are institutions that offer relevant training programmes for different careers for our youth," he said. Stakeholders in attendance shared best practices and supportive messages.



Mopani TVET College's staff members responsible for the research unit

GBVF Workshop To Raise Awareness

Supplied by Ivan Swart

The Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) representatives of the five West Coast College campuses and the central office attended a GBVF workshop as part of the 100-Day GBVF Awareness Campaign in May.

Presenting at this global forum affirmed Siyanda's role as not just an entrepreneur, but a young innovator helping drive South Africa's bio-economy forward. Sitelele currently employs three young people in his business and is committed to growing

T and N Group into a vehicle for youth empowerment and local economic development.

The representatives included members of the College from various departments such as Human Resources, Student Support Services, Academics, the Student Representative Council and support staff, as well as residence staff.

This workshop was hosted to shed more light on what is expected from the representatives and equip them

with the needed information and skills to take the message of action against GBVF to the rest of the staff and students on campus and office level.

The workshop included various presentations from the GBVF Campaign coaches as well as other discussions that shed more light on the way forward with the College GBVF campaigns.

"We will continue to support and share information with our campus

and central office representatives that will allow them to assist any student and staff member who might have had experience with gender-based violence and femicide throughout this campaign,” says Ntombekhaya Nduna, Student Support Manager and champion for this campaign.

The 100-Day campaign has already passed the 1-month mark, and the College will continue to share the message of support and awareness with its stakeholders, staff and students till the end of the 100 days.

“We look forward to seeing what the campuses and the central office

will do to take the message to the staff and students and put what they have been equipped with into action,” adds Nduna.

The 100-Day campaign is part of a greater strategy from the Department of Higher Education and will continue to be one of the key campaigns in 2025.



West Coast College Malmesbury Campus Manager Mr Christopher Gum and GBVF Coach addressing the representatives at the recent GBVF 100-Day Challenge Workshop

Workshop On GBV And Bullying Empowers Teachers

Supplied by Dineo Mononyane

Teachers and staff in Mthatha, Eastern Cape, took part in an important workshop that focused on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and bullying on 11 April. The purpose of the session was to build their capacity to respond to these serious issues in schools.

The workshop offered training on recognising signs of GBV, responding appropriately, and supporting victims of GBV and bullying. Teachers were also encouraged to listen attentively, communicate without judging, and refer learners to professional support services.

It was highlighted that some teachers go the extra mile to support their learners. One such teacher is Nobuhle Ndzabe from Mpindweni Senior Secondary School, who quietly makes it her duty to notice changes in her learners' appearance and behaviour. By doing this, she tries to see if something might be troubling them. She also takes time to talk to her learners about their background, which helps build a strong and trusting relationship. This makes it easier for learners to speak up when they are facing challenges.

The principal at Ngqwala Senior Secondary School, Abonga Mdze,

shared what he has learnt from this workshop: “When we talk about GBV, and things that are happening to children in the rural areas, as teachers, there is a role that we must play to make sure that we fight GBV. When it comes to bullying at school, we always take it lightly as something that is not important, but today we understood the negative impact that GBV has on these children,” he said.

Teachers were awarded certificates of attendance and for their efforts in taking a step forward to help identify and fight against GBV and bullying.



School teachers who attended the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Bullying Workshop

Empowering Dreams And Healing Hearts

Supplied by Ntalo Manganyi



Acting Executive Manager of the Services SETA Ms Duduzile Mwelase during the career guidance presentation with the learners

The Services SETA hosted an impactful Career Expo and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Awareness Campaign in Mthatha, Eastern Cape in April. This initiative was in partnership with the Live Cares Foundation and the King Sabata

Dalindyebo Local Municipality. Held on the grounds of Mditshwa Technical School, the event attracted over a thousand Grade 10 to 12 learners from the host school, as well as from Nqaqwala and Mpindweni Senior Secondary Schools. The event

served a dual purpose: to equip learners with important information about career opportunities and the significance of standing against gender-based violence in schools and communities.

To kick off the programme, Chief Ntswina warmly welcomed the learners, stakeholders, and community members, emphasising the importance of community collaboration in shaping the future of the youth.

Following the Chief's address, Ms Duduzile Mwelase, Acting Executive Manager of the Services SETA, spoke passionately about the power of education as a tool for personal and professional growth.

"This is the first step you take. Know yourself, because it doesn't help to go and do a career that doesn't align with your personality," she told the learners. She encouraged the learners to engage in deep self-reflection, highlighting the importance of choosing a career path that resonates with their strengths,

interests, and long-term goals. "Check yourself, ask yourself what you want to do," she added, urging the learners to make intentional decisions that would lead to a fulfilling and successful future.

"It was an amazing experience – we were given a document that guides us on how to apply, what careers we can pursue, and thanks to them, we now understand things we didn't before," said Ikhona Ngewu one of the learners attending the exhibition.

The second part of the programme featured a roundtable discussion on gender-based violence. Warrant Officer Kobeni from the SAPS Social Crime Prevention Unit in Mthatha highlighted that many people are

unaware that victims of gender-based violence are not only women and children but also men. She noted that men often feel too embarrassed to report their cases. Another panellist, Nombulelo Madikane from the Thuthuzela Care Centre, educated learners about the various forms of rape and encouraged victims to come forward and seek help.

The event concluded with a healing session, where learners and their parents were comforted through a powerful stage-play performance. This initiative reflects the Services SETA's ongoing commitment to youth development, community upliftment, and the advancement of social justice through education and awareness.



Learners during the candlelight healing session

Northern & Western Cape Hosts First-Ever Regional Examination Indaba To Improve College Exam Administration

Supplied by Maropeng Ramokgobathi



DDG for TVET, Mr Sam Zungu and Ms Thembisa Futshane during the Northern and Western Cape Regional Examination Indaba

In April, the Northern and Western Cape Regional Office hosted the first-ever Regional Examination Indaba aimed at improving examination administration in both TVET and CET colleges. The indaba was held at the Northlink TVET College's Tygerberg Campus, under the theme "exploring attainable and sustainable ideas for effective management and implementation of examination practices in colleges".

The event honoured by the presence of the Deputy Director-Generals (DDGs) from TVET and CET branches, college principals and managers, Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) staff, representatives from the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO), South African Technical Vocational Education

and Training Student Association (SATVETSA), Labour Unions, and the sponsors.

According to the Northern and Western Cape Acting Regional Manager, Mr Brian Madalane, the Examination Indaba was prompted by the recent engagements between the DHET executives and Umalusi.

"I always get the opportunity to attend the Umalusi's standardisation meetings, and I have noticed how our DDGs are put under pressure due to shortcomings on our part. I listen to how they navigate giving the responses, and I have realised it is time for the region and key stakeholders to come up with corrective measures to address the challenges faced by the colleges in

the entire examination value chain."

Mr Madalane added that the Indaba is a relevant platform for stakeholders to deliberate on exam matters and it should from now on become an annual event in the region. "It is important to host this indaba annually, as its outcomes will significantly help to protect the credibility of our certificates. We are also planning to launch the Annual Regional Teaching and Learning Indaba soon," he said.

Supporting this initiative was the DDG for TVET, Mr Sam Zungu, who said that the annual Examination Indaba in the region will ensure that colleges administer credible and transparent examinations (exams) that uphold the integrity of the education system.

"It is obvious that we will have challenges in the entire exam value chain, and it starts at item development stage. This refers to the development of exam paper that does not meet the required standards or contains errors. These irregularities would only be discovered in the exam centres when students are about to write," said Mr Zungu.

In her opening remarks, the DDG for CET, Ms Thembisa Futshane,

cited the serious challenge of non-resulting as another irregularity that needed to be addressed. She said "If there is one thing I am hoping this Indaba will ultimately help address, it is the elimination of non-resulting for our students. This ongoing issue not only disadvantages students but also damages the credibility of the colleges."

DDG Futshane applauded the collaboration between the CET and

TVET colleges. "I am happy that this region has already taken off the cap to say I am TVET or CET. We are both colleges in the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) sector and tasked with servicing the communities. So, the discussions today should put the students first and working together will help us achieve this," she said.

The Sacred Revolution: Healing Men, Healing Nations

Supplied by Mandy Rutgers



Dr Innocent Sirovha - AgriSETA's CEO delivering his keynote address at the Men's Mental Health Day

Under the bold and visionary leadership of Dr Innocent Sirovha, AgriSETA hosted a history-shaping Men's Mental Health Day, a sacred assembly that shattered the silence around men's emotional battles.

With the profound declaration that "Guarding opportunity isn't gatekeeping; it's honouring the responsibility to uplift others," Dr Sirovha ignited a movement urging men to rise not alone, but with others to lift as they rise and unlock a new narrative of leadership, accountability, and emotional truth.

This was not just a programme it was a revolution of healing, purpose, and masculine renewal.

The gathering brought together influential voices like that of Simphiwe Masiza, CEO of EmpowaWorx, and Sechaba Motsieloa, Co-Founder of EmpowaMEN, with anchoring the day's rhythm with insight and grace. In a powerful keynote themed "It Is Not Impossible: Forging Ahead with Resilience and Purpose," men were reminded that healing is not surrender, it is strategy. Whether from rural fields or urban boardrooms, the

call was clear: men must rise, rebuild, and reimagine themselves with courage, depth, and spiritual integrity.

At AgriSETA Men's Mental Health Day 2025, a sacred blueprint for manhood was reignited. As Prophets, men are called to speak life, vision, and identity into their homes. As Priests, they must stand in spiritual authority – lifting their families in prayer and purpose. As Kings, they are entrusted to lead with wisdom, protect with honour, and govern with integrity. This was not a call to perform masculinity – it was a call to embody purpose.



In attendance at AgriSETA's Men's Mental Health Day were CEO of EmpowaWorx Mr Mpho Masiza, Executive Manager: Learning Programmes and Projects Mr Fanny Phetla, AgriSETA's CEO Dr Innocent Sirovha and Marketing and Communications Director for MacDonalds South Africa Mr Sechaba Motsieloa

In this sacred space, vulnerability became valor. Men were challenged to shed the armour of ego and embrace the power of emotional intelligence, spiritual depth, and authentic leadership. A new generation of men is rising not to dominate, but to heal, mentor, and transform. The measure of strength is no longer silence, it is

the courage to feel, to serve, and to lead with love.

AgriSETA Men's Mental Health Day 2025 will echo through generations as a turning point of masculinity, and its divine restoration. This was the day men traded silence for strength, ego for empathy, and isolation for impact.

As Dr Sirovha declared with prophetic clarity: "The Sacred Revolution: Healing Men. Healing Nations." This revolution is no longer approaching, it has arrived. It begins in the heart, it echoes through generations, and it rises through men who choose purpose over pride, healing over hiding, and legacy over ego.

Pioneering Gender Transformation In Leadership: FASSET's Executive Leadership Programme Uplifts 1 889 Women

Supplied by Thandekile Nduli

In a bold and strategic move to address gender disparities within the Financial and Accounting Services (FAS) sector, the Finance and Accounting Services Sector Education and Training Authority (FASSET) launched the Women's Legacy Programme, a pioneering leadership development initiative.

Developed in partnership with Wits Business School, the International Women's Forum of South Africa (IWFSa), Duke Corporate Education, and the African Women Chartered

Accountants (AWCA), this initiative stands as a transformative blueprint for building inclusive, future-focused leadership across the sector.

The Women's Legacy Programme comprises two focused streams: the Executive Development Programme (EDP) and the Middle-Management Development Programme (MMDP). These are tailored interventions aimed at capacitating black women with the strategic tools and executive presence required to break through long-standing leadership barriers

and thrive in influential positions.

Launched in the 2021/2022 financial year, the programme has to date empowered 1 889 women. These participants span emerging and mid-level professionals across the FAS sector and beyond, namely:

- IWFSa and Duke Corporate Education: 960 learners completed
- Wits Business School: 899 learners (with 194 expected to graduate in September 2025)

- AWCA: 30 learners completed (joined the programme in September 2023)

The curriculum is designed to develop technical, theoretical, and strategic competencies, including modules on decision-making, strategic thinking, and professional networking. The IWFS/Duke CE stream featured a Global Immersion component which included visits to parts of the United Kingdom, North America, Asia and Africa, exposing participants to international best practices and expanding their global leadership perspectives.

The programme's impact extends beyond the classroom, producing a growing list of high-achieving alumni. Notably:

- Dr Mampho Modise, now Deputy Governor of the South African Reserve Bank
- Ms Galie Makhathini, appointed Director of Metier Capital Growth Fund III Manager Proprietary Limited

Many graduates report promotions, board appointments, and expanded responsibilities within a year of completion, validating the programme as a catalyst for accelerated leadership growth.

What makes this initiative unique is its strong emphasis on collaborative empowerment. The programme intentionally fosters peer mentorship, professional bonding, and long-term

networks that extend well beyond formal training.

As the final Wits cohort approaches graduation in September 2025, FASSET remains resolute in its mission to close the leadership gender gap. Transformation cannot be an afterthought, it must be strategic, collaborative, and deliberate. Ending the silo approach and aligning public and private sector efforts is essential to ensuring sustained impact.

Effective implementation of gender equality legislation, combined with programmes like this, is critical to changing the leadership narrative across South Africa and the continent.

W&RSETA Introduces A Game-Changing Career Guidance Platform

Supplied by Desmond Mashao

In another groundbreaking move to enhance skills development, the W&RSETA launched its much-anticipated Online Career Guidance Platform and celebrated the achievements of Historically Disadvantaged Individual (HDI) Skills Development Providers in Johannesburg on 24 March.

The event brought together key stakeholders across government, education, industry, and was graced by Higher Education and Training Deputy Minister Buti Manamela. Other stakeholders included representatives from the Department of Basic Education, TVET and CET colleges, universities, sector employers, and learners from local schools.

The innovative Online Career Guidance Platform is designed to help young people explore and access the diverse opportunities within the Wholesale and Retail Sector. It is a culmination of a four-year development project comprising extensive consultation and engagement with stakeholders to offer comprehensive career support to attract and retain talent in the sector.

As part of the strategy, 17 employees of the W&RSETA qualified as professional career guidance practitioners who will play a key role in guiding youth through career paths in the wholesale and retail sector.

Launching the platform, W&RSETA Chief Executive Officer, Tom Mkwanazi emphasised the platform's value proposition to empower individuals to make informed career choices and position wholesale and retail as an attractive industry. Mkwanazi added that the game-changing tool will create interest in careers in retail particularly for young people.

Higher Education and Training Deputy Minister Buti Manamela delivered the event's keynote message lauding the career guidance tool as a transformational moment and empowerment. Manamela addressed and challenged the sector to advance the development of black women and entrepreneurs to benefit from the opportunities presented by retail as one of the biggest employers in South Africa in support of government's bold

objectives on job creation.

"We are launching a movement – it is bigger than the W&R Sector," said Deputy Minister Manamela.

The sector has hailed the platform a "game changer" for career guidance in the country which will benefit learners, jobseekers, career counsellors, and employers seeking talent within the Wholesale and Retail Sector. To explore the platform and learn more, visit www.wrseta.org.za.

Another milestone celebrated was the recognition of 41 HDI Skills Development Providers who successfully completed a three-year capacity building programme, funded with a R10-million investment and implemented in collaboration with the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations. These providers have now been accredited to offer W&RSETA programmes, contributing to transformation and increased participation in skills delivery.



Higher Education and Training Deputy Minister Buti Manamela delivering a keynote address during the Online Career Guidance Platform launch

Boland College Makes History With First-Ever Radio Station Takeover In Western Cape TVET Sector

Supplied by Minette Kilian

In a bold and innovative move to bring education directly to the community, Boland College has officially made history as the first TVET college in the Western Cape to host a full-day studio takeover of a local radio station. On Thursday, 22 May 2025, Boland College took to the airwaves of Paarl FM, a popular community radio station, broadcasting live from 06:00 to 18:00 with a dynamic programme tailored to inform, entertain and connect with the broader public.

This pioneering initiative represents a powerful collaboration between

a public TVET college and a local media house, demonstrating how educational institutions can creatively bridge the gap between the classroom and the community. The partnership with Paarl FM was not only strategic but deeply rooted in shared values: accessibility, empowerment, and community upliftment.

“Radio has the unique ability to reach people where they are. We wanted to use this platform to create awareness about the TVET sector, our academic offerings, demystify the application process, and showcase the talent and heart of our students and staff

– all while bringing a little fun to the airwaves,” said Mr Charles Goodwin, Principal of Boland College.

Throughout the day, the College ran a full schedule of shows hosted by College staff, featuring interviews with students, Student Representative Council members, lecturers and leadership. The music playlists were carefully curated by each campus, with staff and students contributing their favourite tracks for a truly collaborative experience. Listeners were encouraged to send messages live via WhatsApp, creating a two-way engagement that reflected

the strong relationship between the College and its community.

In addition to the radio broadcast, Boland College set up a live application station at Rembrandt Mall, giving prospective students direct access to information, support and assistance with the application process. This on-the-ground activation complemented the radio programming perfectly, reinforcing the college's commitment to inclusivity and accessibility.

Lynden Jafta, Station Manager of

Paarl FM, expressed his appreciation for Boland College choosing Paarl FM as the platform for such an inspiring and innovative project. "I was so impressed with the professionalism and energy of the College staff and students involved in the takeover. It was truly a pleasure working with them, and I'm more than happy to have the Paarl FM brand associated with an institution like Boland College," he said.

Through this initiative, the College wanted to highlight that TVET colleges

are not only academic institutions but drivers of social and economic growth within their communities. At its heart, the project reflects a growing recognition that education must meet people where they are- whether in malls, on air, or online.

As the sun set on this groundbreaking day, one message was clear: Boland College is not just teaching students – it's reaching communities. And in doing so, it is redefining what it means to be a truly community-driven TVET institution.



Mrs Danel Gillespie-Conradie (Boland College: Marketing team), Mr Lynden Jafta (Station Manager: Paarl FM), Mr Charles Goodwin (Boland College: Principal), Mr David Benadie (Boland College: Marketing team) and Ms Minette Kilian (Boland College: Assistant Director: Marketing and Corporate Communications)

CET College Launches A Recruitment Drive To Boost The 2025 Student Enrolment

Supplied by KwaZulu-Natal CET College Marketing and Communications Department



Regional office and the CET officials talking to prospective students during the KZN CET recruitment drive in Pietermaritzburg

KwaZulu-Natal Community Education and Training (KZN CET) College has embarked on an ambitious and proactive recruitment drive across the province during the first quarter of 2025.

This campaign was strategically rolled out from January to April, with the primary aim of raising awareness around the College's diverse learning opportunities, which include both Occupational and Adult Education and Training (AET) programmes. The initiative was driven by the urgent need to address low enrolment rates and to work toward achieving the institution's annual enrolment target of 43 470 for the 2025 academic year.

With this goal in mind, the recruitment drive focused particularly on districts that have historically experienced low

enrolment namely; uMgungundlovu, uMkhanyakude, uMzinyathi, uThukela, and Zululand.

The campaign was designed not only to promote the programmes of the college, but also to raise community consciousness about the value of education and skills development through CET. The college adopted a collaborative and inclusive approach by engaging various stakeholders in the education and skills training ecosystem.

KZN CET College worked in close partnership with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) Regional Office, CET lecturers and district coordinators, TVET colleges' Marketing Teams from uMfolozi, Majuba, Mthashana, and Mnambithi colleges, and Sector

Education and Training Authorities (SETAs), including MICTSETA, FASSET, WESETA, and the FP&M SETA.

These collaborations were instrumental in creating an impactful campaign. The SETAs, welcomed the opportunity to engage directly with prospective students and communities, showcasing their services and offerings, which align with national skills development priorities.

Bold and visible marketing tools were deployed throughout the campaign to ensure maximum visibility and engagement. This included the use of branded gazebos, flag banners, flyers, brochures, and pamphlets, all of which helped create a vibrant and informative presence at the various CET centres and community gathering points.

College Hosts Fetakgomo Tubatse Municipality And Eskom On A Special Economic Zone Programme

Supplied by Given Sebashe

As one of the leading institutions in skills development and training, Mopani TVET College hosted Fetakgomo Tubatse Municipality and Eskom Tubatse Pump Storage Scheme for a benchmarking visit on Thursday, 15 May, to assist in the development of the skills plans for their identified projects.

The College has been identified as an important role player in the training of artisans in key areas that align with the skills required to support both Fetakgomo Tubatse Municipality Special Economic Zone (FTSEZ) and Eskom Tubatse Pump Storage Scheme (TPSS).

The FTSEZ forms part of the government's Special Economic Zone programme which aims at enhancing the country's manufacturing and export capabilities and attract foreign direct investment.

The Department of Higher Education

and Training's Limpopo Regional Manager, Mr Frans Ramonyatse, reiterated the department's support towards the FTSEZ and TPSS.

FTSEZ's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Solly Kgopong, reaffirmed the Zone's vision for skills development. "FTSEZ is committed to developing future training opportunities that will support key sectors such as mining input manufacturing, the automotive cluster, and mineral processing. These efforts will ensure that local skills are aligned with the needs of the growing industrial economy," said Kgopong.

The visit featured tour and demonstration at the following accredited workshops at Sir Val Duncan Campus: Plumber, Bricklaying, Pipe Fitter, Diesel Mechanic, Boiler Maker, Electrician and Carpenter. Other stakeholders in attendance to support the visit included Limpopo Office of the Premier, LEDET, Foskop and PMC just

to name a few.

Palabora Mining Company's Training Development and Contractor Onboarding Manager, Ms Mabore Macheru, emphasised the company's impact and commitment to training artisans in the Ba-Phalaborwa community. "At PMC, we endeavor to train learners from our local communities and prepare them for inclusion in the organisation's talent pool. We don't just train artisans and learners from other fields – we invest in their future. A significant number of those we train are absorbed into our operations because we believe in building from within our organisation," said Macheru.

The Special Economic Zone programme is positioned to be a game changer in shaping and adding momentum to the industrialisation growth path as espoused in the socio-economic recovery plan on Limpopo Province.



Stakeholders visiting Sir Val Duncan Campus' workshops during benchmarking visit

Waterberg TVET College Hosts LO Educator Workshop To Promote Vocational Training

Supplied by Adelaide Moshatana



Bonginkosi Dladlama, Director of Institutional Advancements at the University of Limpopo, facilitating the workshop

Waterberg TVET College recently held a Life Orientation (LO) Educator Workshop at its cutting-edge Engineering and Skills Training Centre. This initiative aimed to equip educators with valuable insights into emerging career opportunities while reinforcing the essential role of vocational education and practical skills development.

The workshop gathered LO educators from various schools, serving as a platform to bridge the knowledge gap regarding the changing job market and the strategic significance of TVET colleges in shaping future industry professionals. Discussions emphasised how technical and vocational education provides students with both theoretical knowledge and hands-on skills, ensuring they are prepared for the workforce upon graduation.

Mr Bonginkosi Dladlama, Director of

Institutional Advancements at the University of Limpopo, facilitated the workshop, delivering a compelling presentation on the importance of vocational education in addressing youth unemployment and fostering economic transformation. He highlighted the urgent need to rethink career guidance approaches, advocating for TVET colleges to be seen as the preferred choice over traditional universities. His presentation underscored the growing demand for specialised technical skills and the necessity of aligning educational pathways with industry requirements to secure sustainable employment opportunities for graduates.

The workshop also included engaging discussions led by representatives from Waterberg TVET College, focusing on various vocational disciplines such as Engineering, Robotics, Electrical Engineering, and artisanal trades. Educators were introduced to groundbreaking advancements in these fields

and learned how TVET institutions continuously adapt their curricula to meet industry demands and technological advancements.

A primary goal of the session was to motivate educators to actively guide their students toward skills-based career paths that align with South Africa's priority economic growth sectors. Hands-on demonstrations and interactive discussions showcased the critical role of vocational training in enhancing employability and entrepreneurial opportunities.

The workshop concluded with a tour of the Engineering and Skills Training Centre, where educators explored state-of-the-art training facilities. This first-hand experience reinforced the importance of integrating vocational training discussions into Life Orientation curricula, ensuring that learners make well-informed career choices.



Life Orientation educators taken on campus tour during the Workshop

Shaping The Future Through TVET Policy

Supplied by Asive Noah



Delegates and stakeholders engage in robust discussions during the 2025 Lovedale Policy Conference, hosted by Lovedale TVET College to strengthen TVET policy frameworks through multi-sectoral collaboration

As part of its 200-year celebrations, Lovedale TVET College successfully hosted a groundbreaking Policy Conference that brought together leaders from across the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) landscape. Held in the Eastern Cape, the event welcomed policymakers, principals, private sector representatives, and education stakeholders to reflect, deliberate, and align on critical frameworks that will shape the future of TVET in South Africa.

The Conference's opening remarks were delivered by Mahlubandile Qwase, Deputy Director-General from the Office of the Premier, who emphasised the urgent need for policy coherence and inclusive planning across sectors. "We must create enabling policy environments that

promote innovation, resilience, and responsiveness to the socio-economic realities of our country," he noted.

The conference focused on evaluating and strengthening the TVET policy environment to support economic growth, reduce unemployment, and drive transformation. It provided a platform for public-private dialogue, knowledge sharing, and the co-creation of strategies to better align college programmes with the labour market.

The private sector offered valuable insights on job creation, inclusive growth, and the urgent need to develop ethical leadership within education systems. A key highlight was the discussion on unlocking the Eastern Cape's competitive advantage through relevant skills

development, sector-specific training, and entrepreneurship promotion.

In addition to robust panel discussions and technical presentations, the conference included networking sessions where delegates exchanged best practices, implementation models, and ideas to advance institutional leadership and governance.

The event also created space for youth voices, with students engaging in breakout sessions focused on ethical leadership, digital inclusion, and career preparedness. As Lovedale TVET College continues its bicentennial celebrations, the Policy Conference stands as a defining moment in affirming its commitment to policy-led transformation and inclusive education.

Empowering Lecturers: Mopani TVET College Hosts Inspiring Academic Summit

Supplied by Given Sebashe

Mopani TVET College hosted a three-day Academic Summit from 26-28 March at Karibu Leisure Resort in Tzaneen, aimed at enhancing teaching and learning practices at the College.

In his welcome address, Principal Dr Levy Baloyi emphasised the collective responsibility of staff in shaping student success. "Our students depend on us to deliver quality education. This summit is our opportunity to learn, share, and find practical solutions," said Dr Baloyi.

Mr Nakampe Selowa shared the 2024 academic report, showing that the College has made good progress. He encouraged staff to keep improving by using new and innovative ways to support student success. The summit also showcased research from four lecturers at the Sir Val Duncan Campus, their presentations focused on addressing systemic challenges in the TVET sector. Their work encouraged meaningful dialogue on innovation in vocational education.



Mr Nakampe Selowa presenting the 2024 academic report during the Mopani TVET College's Academic Summit

Guest speakers advocated for hybrid teaching to bridge skills gaps, ICT competencies and financial literacy amongst others.

The summit concluded with lecturers sharing solutions to improve college performance as well as leading a healthy life.

Dr Baloyi closed the summit with a call to remain committed. "Education requires perseverance. Let's continue pushing for excellence," he said.

The summit successfully empowered staff with tools, insights, and renewed motivation to elevate the academic standard at Mopani TVET College.



Academic staff members engaging in wellness activities during the summit

Boland College Welcomes Newly Appointed College Council

Supplied by Minette Kilian



Boland TVET College's newly appointed College Council

Boland College recently welcomed the appointment of new College Council members, who will play a vital role in maintaining the College's high standards of institutional governance.

The newly appointed members bring a wealth of governance experience and expertise from various sectors, including academia, business, audit, ICT, finance, human resources, legal, and community development across the private and public sectors. Their collective knowledge and experience will support the College in achieving its strategic objectives whilst ensuring legal compliance and institutional performance.

Mr Charles Goodwin, Principal of Boland College, commends the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Nobuhle Nkabane, on the Council appointments.

"The College is delighted to have high calibre College Council members with strong expertise in governance and reflective of diversity, gender

and disability. We are excited to welcome our new College Council members. Their guidance and expertise will be instrumental in promoting the institution's mission to deliver accessible quality education and training across the Boland region, focusing on each student's growth and potential, and equipping them with skills for success," said Mr Goodwin.

The newly appointed Council members are:

- Mr Neil Jansen (College Council Chairperson and Chairperson of the Human Resources Committee);
- Mr Sanele Zondi (College Council Vice-chairperson and member of the Finance and Planning and Resources Committees);
- Mr Tom Blok (Audit and Risk Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Finance Committee);
- Mr Oupa Galane (Chairperson of the Finance Committee and member of Audit & Risk Committee);
- Mrs Danita Welgemoed (Chairperson

of the Planning and Resources Committee and member of the Academic Board);

- Mrs Aneeka Jacobs (Vice-chairperson of the Human Resources Committee and member of the Academic Board);
- Mr Mncedisi Nobala (Vice-chairperson of the Planning and Resources Committee);
- Prof. Gideon Wolfaardt (Donor representative and member of the Academic Board);
- Advocate Mandla Mdludlu (Member of the Finance and Audit and Risk Committees);
- Dr Mariaan Bester (Member of the Academic Board and Human Resources Committee);
- Mr Charles Goodwin (Principal and Chairperson of the Academic Board);
- Mrs Nomalizo Mpati (Deputy Principal: Academic Services and Academic Board representative);
- Mr Wickus van der Westhuizen (Lecturing staff representative);
- Mr Chaundre Seaman (Support staff representative);
- Mrs Chantelle Vraagom (SRC President); and
- Ms Isa Sangoni (SRC Vice-president).

Additionally, the College Council welcomes Ms June Williams to the Audit and Risk Committee as the Independent External Member. Ms Williams brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the Audit and Risk Committee, as being a retired Senior Manager in the Office

of the Auditor-General Western Cape.

The new Council members collectively hold a commanding range of academic and professional qualifications, including doctoral degrees in various fields and membership in professional bodies such as the

Institute of Directors SA and the Institute of Internal Auditors SA.

The College looks forward to working closely with the new Council to shape a future-focused educational environment that empowers students and strengthens industry partnerships.

False Bay TVET College Breaks Barriers By Advancing To UCT Internal Soccer Leagues After Qualification Rounds

Supplied by Roshin Schmidt



False Bay TVET College's technical team and players

In a historic achievement that is set to challenge perceptions of TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) colleges, False Bay TVET College has completed the qualification rounds and earned a spot in the prestigious UCT Internal Soccer Leagues. This marks the first time a TVET institution has advanced to this level of competition in Cape Town, where universities and private higher education institutions have traditionally held alleged dominance, both academically and athletically.

The Soccer Leagues, known for their rigorous and highly competitive sports events, have been the exclusive domain of larger universities. TVET colleges, often perceived as the "lesser" option for post-secondary education, have traditionally been seen as focusing primarily on technical training rather than providing the same academic and athletic opportunities. However, False Bay TVET College is proving that this long-standing notion is outdated, showing that TVET education can provide students with well-rounded opportunities to succeed in both the

classroom and on the sports field.

The College's team, after months of preparation and hard work, successfully navigated through the qualification rounds, which involved a series of intense matches against some of the most established institutions in the region. Their success has already begun to shift the narrative surrounding TVET education in South Africa, placing the spotlight on the potential of these institutions to offer world-class athletic and academic experiences.

"We are incredibly proud of our students and coaches for their hard work and dedication. This achievement is not only a triumph for our college but also a statement that TVET institutions have a lot to offer. Our students have continuously shown that they can compete at the highest levels, both academically and athletically," said Ms Charlene Matthews, Acting Principal of False Bay TVET College.

The qualification rounds, which took place over several weeks, saw False Bay TVET College go up against some of the most competitive teams in Cape Town. The team's resilience and determination were evident as they surpassed expectations and earned their place in the UCT Internal Soccer Leagues, setting a new benchmark for TVET colleges across the country.

For students like Ayabonga Freddy, a standout player on the college's

soccer team, the journey to the Soccer Leagues is a dream come true. "I've always believed that TVET colleges can compete with anyone, and now we have the chance to prove it. It's not just about the sport; it's about showing that TVET education equips us with the skills and mindset to succeed in all areas of life," Ayabonga said.

This historic milestone comes at a time when TVET colleges are striving to shift public perception and demonstrate their ability to provide both vocational training and opportunities for personal and professional growth. With their success in the UCT Internal Soccer Leagues, False Bay TVET College is leading the charge in closing the gap between TVET institutions and their university counterparts.

"The success of False Bay TVET College is a testament to the

dedication and commitment of our athletes, coaches, and staff," said the soccer coach, Geyrodien Alexander. "We've always believed that our students can achieve great things, and this is just the beginning. We hope that our success will encourage other TVET colleges to follow suit and prove that TVET education is an invaluable option for students looking to succeed in both academics and athletics."

False Bay TVET College's triumph in the qualification rounds of the Soccer Leagues is a game-changer for the TVET sector, challenging outdated views and paving the way for more TVET students to pursue excellence in all areas of life. As the College now prepares to compete in the Soccer Leagues, its success represents a bright future for TVET institutions and a powerful message that they are closing the gap with universities and private colleges.

Chasing Dreams: How One Young Man Is Balancing Soccer And Success In The Classroom

Supplied by Madire Mashabela

Meet Kamogelo Maisha Bopape, a 19-year-old powerhouse from Vlakfontein in Ga Matlala, outside Polokwane. Kamogelo is not just another aspiring soccer player, he is a determined student and a dream chaser, refusing to settle for less. This young man is rewriting the rules of success by balancing his studies at Capricorn TVET College with his passion for soccer. And he is doing it with unwavering focus, discipline and a heart full of ambition.

He is currently pursuing his N4 in Public Management at Polokwane Campus, a decision that reflects his forward-thinking mindset. Public Management, he believes, offers career stability and provides invaluable skills that will benefit him in both his soccer career and future

life. "This field is always in demand, and it gives me the security to build my future," he says with confidence. And he is already reaping the benefits of his education.

But what sets him apart from the crowd is not just his academic ambitions – it is his unshakable passion for soccer. Like many young players, he first fell in love with the game as a child, and after countless visits to the soccer field he decided he wanted to be part of something bigger. His journey has been fueled by support from his coaches and teammates, helping him stay motivated even through the toughest times. He played for Vlaksporting FC, where he starred as a midfielder and occasionally as a goalkeeper.

So, how does he manage the delicate

balance between the classroom and the soccer field? Kamogelo swears by one thing: discipline. "Discipline is everything. If you cannot plan and manage your time well, nothing will work out," he insists. His secret weapon? A rock-solid routine, precise planning, and the willpower to stick to it, no matter how tough it gets.

In May 2024, his hard work paid off when he was selected for the DDC Motsepe programme, earning him a spot on the Magesi FC under-23 squad. That moment marked a turning point in his life – giving him the chance to not only play at a higher level but also to improve his family's situation. "It's made life easier. I can afford better housing as a student, which makes my studies much more manageable," he shares gratefully.

His dreams do not end with his current achievements. He aspires to become a role player in the sports industry, whether as a professional soccer player or in another meaningful capacity. But his message to other young people is clear: "Never put

all your eggs in one basket. School should always be your backup plan, as it will secure your future."

Kamogelo Maisha Bopape is proof that with determination, hard work, and a clear focus, anything is possible.

Whether on the soccer field or in the classroom, Kamogelo's journey is a testament to the power of pursuing your dreams relentlessly. Chase your dreams with purpose – because success is not given, it is earned.



Kamogelo Maisha Bopape during a training session at Magezi FC in Polokwane

Encouraging Decrease In Unemployment Rate In South Africa

Opinion piece supplied by Jomo Jacobs

The views expressed here belong solely to the writer and do not reflect the views of the publication or the Department.

The latest Labour Force Index has revealed an encouraging decrease in the unemployment rate for the fourth quarter of 2024. Although the reduction is a mere 1%, it is a significant achievement, as more than 130 000 individuals have found meaningful employment. South Africa is among the countries with the highest unemployment rates globally, and to reduce this rate further, we must learn from well-performing nations. These countries have leveraged their strengths and diversified the sectors driving economic growth.

For an extended period, the South African economy relied heavily on the mining sector. However, the decline of this sector and the automation of processes have resulted in significant job losses. With 8 million people currently unemployed, diversification is more urgent than ever. Occupational and vocational education are pivotal in reversing this trend. There have been numerous attempts to introduce these types of education to much of the population, who are Africans. Unfortunately, these attempts have been met with some resistance, and understandably so.

In the mid-1970s, African schools successfully resisted the imposition of Afrikaans as the medium of instruction. Towards the end of that decade, the apartheid government attempted to introduce occupational and vocational education in African schools in the late 1980s. This move was perceived as an attempt to offload unemployed white artisans into African schools to teach trades such as bricklaying, electrical work, plumbing, and carpentry. I was in high school in 1990, taking bricklaying and technical drawing

as subjects in the vocational stream, which were part of comprehensive high schools.

The Azanian Student Movement (AZASM) led a protest to remove all white teachers from African schools. This led to all high schools in Bloemfontein not writing final examinations in 1990, and we all had to repeat a grade in 1991. As a result, occupational and vocational education developed a stigma among many people in South Africa. For the country to prosper, the majority must enrol in these programmes en masse. This is also against the backdrop of apartheid-era laws that barred Africans from becoming artisans. One needed to be classified as White, Indian, or Coloured to qualify as an artisan.

The most recent attempt that needs support from all societal leaders and parents is the introduction of a three-stream system by the Department of Basic Education. These streams are Academic, Occupational, and Vocational. Learners who choose the academic stream in Grade 10 should be those who wish to pursue further studies at traditional universities. Most learners should be in occupational and vocational education.

It is important that the Department of Basic Education continues with the three-stream system. The expansion of the TVET sector depends on a bigger pool of learners coming from schools into the college system. The Department of Higher Education and Training has introduced some exciting interventions to strengthen the TVET system.

- With the introduction of the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO), the National

Qualification Framework (NQF) has been amended to allow for Trades and Occupations qualifications to go as high as NQF Level 8. This is equivalent to an Honours Degree at traditional universities.

- The phasing out of a National Technical Diploma (NATED) or Report 191 programmes that are outdated is also underway. These programmes were introduced in 1935 to integrate white military veterans into society after the Second World War. This year will see the last examinations of N1 to N3, with the rest phased out later.
- The introduction of Occupational Programmes that are offered in a dual system method is another significant development. The dual system means that a TVET college should register a learner after completing a contract with a company that will employ the learner for practical training. Learners will work and study at a college concurrently instead of doing practical training at the end of their theoretical studies.
- There are more than 34 centres nationwide where South Africans can qualify as artisans. These centres are based at TVET colleges across the country. During the apartheid era, there was only one centre for all South Africans to qualify as artisans, located in Olifantsfontein in Gauteng, thus marginalising many in accessing this centre. Qualifying as an artisan is similar to writing board exams in accounting.

The schooling system ends with Grade 12 or NQF Level 4. For seamless articulation with the occupational and vocational stream to NQF Level 5

at TVET colleges, schools should increase the number of institutions offering Occupational and Vocational education. This will lay a proper base for the country to meet its National Development Plan (NDP) target of 2.5 million students in the TVET sector.

TVET colleges should leverage lessons learned during COVID-19 about distance education. A hybrid system of contact and distance learning at colleges will allow them to produce more graduates than the current cohorts. Technology provides us with the necessary advantage to mitigate the shortcomings of limited infrastructure at our 50 TVET colleges.

The recent matric results of 2025 clearly indicate that the university system cannot accommodate all learners with NQF Level 4. The TVET system is best placed to provide a viable alternative for many young people in our country.

Despite societal resistance and stigma, it is crucial for South Africa to meet its NDP target of 2.5 million students in TVET colleges. This

target is essential for developing TVETpreneurs, strengthening SMMEs, and supporting industrialisation with the necessary vocational skills. Our tourism sector also needs occupational skills to grow and diversify our economy after the decline of the mining sector.

Why should parents encourage learners to become artisans?

1. High Demand: Artisans are in high demand across various industries, including construction, manufacturing, and automotive sectors. This demand can lead to stable and well-paying job opportunities.

2. Valuable Skills: The training process equips learners with valuable, hands-on skills that are applicable in many practical fields. This includes both theoretical knowledge and practical experience.

3. Career Advancement: With experience, artisans can advance to supervisory or managerial roles or even start their own businesses.

4. Economic Contribution: Artisans play a crucial role in the economy by contributing to infrastructure development and maintenance.

5. National Recognition: Completing the necessary training and passing the trade test provides learners with a nationally recognised qualification, enhancing their credibility and employability.

The myth that occupational and vocational education is only for learners struggling with the academic stream needs to be dispelled. These streams also require proficiency in subjects like mathematics and physical sciences. By addressing this, the country will continue to see a steady decline in the unemployment rate.

The expansion and support of TVET colleges are vital for South Africa's economic growth and reduction of unemployment. By encouraging more students to enrol in these programmes, we can build a skilled workforce that meets the demands of various industries and contributes to the country's prosperity.



Jomo Jacobs



higher education & training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PUBLIC TVET COLLEGE OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS

Keep this page as a reference and visit www.tvetcolleges.co.za for further information.

College Name	Principal	Telephone	Websites for contact
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