



FP&M SETA

Insider

Maximising skills development for a sustainable future

LAUNCH OF THE DECADE OF THE ARTISAN 8 AUGUST 2014 NELSPRUIT, MPUMALANGA "IT'S COOL TO BE A 21ST CENTURY ARTISAN"

Background

National government (specifically the Department of Higher Education and Training - DHET) has identified an increased need for qualified artisans in all disciplines to sustain industries and support economic growth within South Africa.

At present the country is producing on average 13,000 qualified artisans per year which is less than half of the 30,000 artisans that the country should produce per year by 2030.

In order to achieve such substantial growth require financial investment and sustained commitment by all artisan development role players in South Africa as well as high profile political leadership. This leadership has been realized through the personal commitment to this cause of the Minister of Higher Education and Training, the honourable Dr Blade Nzimande, and the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, the honourable Mr Mduduzi Manana.

In 2013, the Department launched the "Year of the Artisan Programme" and the FP&M SETA was privileged to partner with Transport SETA (TETA) and the Umgungundlovu TVET College in organising the KZN event that was held at Umgungundlovu TVET College on 9 October 2013. This event was officiated by the Deputy Minister, Mr Manana. However, the "Year of the Artisan" events only began to raise the profile of artisans and it was decided to continue with a long term advocacy programme that would be known as "2014 – 2024 Decade of the Artisan". The purpose of the advocacy campaign would be to -

- Promote artisanry as a career of choice among the upcoming youth;
- Further professionalize artisanry by skilling our already existing artisans; and
- Give cognizance to the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for artisans.

The chosen theme for the 2014 to 2024 Decade of the Artisan Programme would be "Its cool to be a 21st Century Artisan".



Launch of the "Decade of the Artisan" in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga

The first "Decade of the Artisan" event which took place on 3 Feb 2014 was hosted by Ekurhuleni East TVET College, Kwa Thema Campus in Gauteng and was sponsored by Construction SETA (CETA).

The second "Decade of the Artisan" event took place in Mpumalanga on 8 August 2014 and was sponsored by the FP&M SETA. The event was hosted by Ehlanzeni TVET College in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga.

A Joint Implementation Project for Decade of Artisan (JIPDA) Committee comprising representatives of the DHET, Department of Basic Education, Ehlanzeni TVET College, the FP&M SETA, the Kruger Lowveld Chamber of Business and local government, held regular meetings in Nelspruit to finalise the arrangements for the event.

The Programme

The "Decade of the Artisan" event was divided into two sessions. The morning session was held at Union Motors in Nelspruit and took the form of an imbizo between the Deputy Minister, the College and local employers (represented by the Kruger Lowveld Chamber of Business). A presentation on the 7 Steps of becoming an artisan was done by Dr Florus Prinsloo from NAMB and the Deputy Principal of Ehlanzeni TVET College made a presentation on the college offerings and facilities. The Deputy Minister, Mr Mduduzi Manana, responded to inputs by the private sector representative, Ms Janita Pieterse. He encouraged employers to work with the college towards implementing relevant artisan trade programmes and to enter into partnerships to facilitate the placement of learners in workplaces.

After the morning session, the delegation departed to the Nelspruit Campus of the Ehlanzeni TVET College where the Deputy Minister met some of the delegates including the CEO Designate of Printing SA, Mr Stephens Thobela and Ms Tania Rhode, the National Training Manager of Printing SA.

The Deputy Minister, accompanied by the VIP visitors, then visited some of the artisan workshops at the college and engaged with the apprentices currently undergoing their apprenticeship studies and their instructors. The apprentices demonstrated the practical skills that they have acquired. It was interesting to note that there were a large number of female apprentices enrolled in the electricians programme.



The afternoon programme took place at the Nelspruit Rugby Club and involved an interactive session with approximately 950 learners from local schools.

The learners received goodie bags sponsored by the FP&M SETA and Ehlanzeni TVET College which contained promotional items and information on the FP&M SETA.

The event was officially opened by the Chairperson of Ehlanzeni TVET College, Mr Mbuyane, after which Mr Stephens Thobela welcomed the delegates and the learners to the event on behalf of the FP&M SETA. Mr Thobela stressed the importance of artisan training in the FP&M sector and conveyed the FP&M SETA Board and management's commitment towards the promotion of artisan training in the FP&M sector.

Dr Aaron Nkosi from the Department of Basic Education addressed the learners and stressed the importance of performing well at school in order to be able to access post school opportunities.



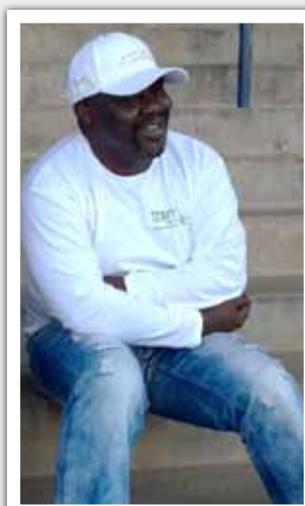
The Honourable Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training then addressed the learners and informed them about the benefits of being an Artisan.

The collaboration between DHET and Ehlanzeni TVET is proof that collaboration between SETAs and TVET colleges can contribute to the provision of meaningful skills development to school leavers and unemployed youth. The FP&M SETA is will pursue future collaboration with Ehlanzeni TVET College and other TVET colleges to "maximise skills development for a sustainable future".

FP&M SETA Staff that attended the event were:

- Elmine Baumann (Marketing & Communications Manager)
- PK Naicker (Chief Operations Officer)
- Linda Mngadi (Projects Manager)
- Lindy Mkhize (Marketing & Communications Specialist)
- Zwelakhe Mbatha (Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist)
- Tshegofatso Chuma and Devon Arendze (Marketing & Communications Interns)
- SSAs would be able to assist small companies with both processes during one visit.

For more information, kindly contact your nearest regional office.



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