



# FP&M SETA

## Insider

Maximising skills development for a sustainable future

### NDIMASE TRADING CONTINUES THEIR GOOD WORK ACROSS SOUTH AFRICA

Information supplied by Ms Zanele Dumakude, Managing Director, Ndimase Trading CC



On 17 November 2014 the Honourable Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Mduzuzi Manana and the CEO of the FP&M SETA, Ms. Felling Yende, attended a graduation ceremony in Randfontein, Gauteng, hosted by Ndimase Trading. The purpose of the event was to hand over certificates to a cohort of 468 learners with disabilities who successfully completed learnerships and skills programmes in various disciplines under tuition of Ndimase Trading, an FP&M SETA accredited provider. The graduation ceremony was attended by learners, their proud parents and teachers, officials from the Department of Education and officials from the Department of Higher Education and Training. During 2013/14

Ndimase Trading were allocated discretionary funding to train learners from special needs schools in programmes such as clothing manufacturing, woodworking, upholstery, screen printing and leatherwork. The learners that were trained attended special schools (for

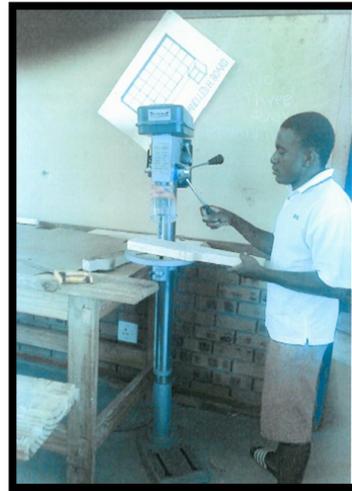


mentally and physically disabled learners) in several provinces viz. Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, Limpopo and North West. The training interventions were recognized and supported by the Department of Education.

### **Skills development activities**

The skills programmes conducted by Ndimase Trading during 2014 included furniture making (woodwork and upholstery), garment making, general goods manufacturing (belts), footwear (sandals) and screen printing.

Zanele approached special schools in the regions listed above and arranged with the schools to present the skills programmes at their premises during designated periods. This made it easier for the learners to attend the classes as additional transport arrangements were not required and the schools were already geared to accommodate the special needs of their learners.



The training was conducted from January to November 2014 as learners with special needs required more time to master the required skills.

The equipment and machinery required for the woodwork, upholstery and sewing skills programmes were already available at some of the schools but in some cases Ndimase Trading had to provide their own equipment. Some schools also had computers available to accommodate the teaching of the graphics design component of the screen printing skills programme but in some areas, facilitators had to provide the computers.

The majority of the learners that participated in the skills programme training were learners enrolled at special schools but in some cases unemployed youth that already left the schools, were given the opportunity to join the programme.



The learners' parents contributed R150 per learner for them to participate in the skills programmes which were conducted at the school premises during school hours.

### **Support from Department of Higher Education and Training**

During the graduation ceremony, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Mduduzi Manana, commended Ndimase Trading for taking the lead in training the most vulnerable people of our country.

He praised Zanele Dumakude and her team for the sacrifices they have made to ensure the continuity of the programme across the country and in some of the more remote rural areas. He stated that more resources should be made available (including skills development levies) to ensure access to education and training specifically for disabled learners who have been marginalised in the past. The Honourable Deputy Minister described Ndimase Trading as a good partner to the community of people with disabilities and recognised them as an organisation that found solutions to train disabled learners.

The Honourable Deputy Minister also congratulated the learners who refused to let their disabilities stand in their way. He also recognised the efforts of the facilitators in providing the training under sometimes difficult circumstances and applauded the parents of the learners for showing faith in the skills development system by not only allowing their children to participate in the training interventions but also supporting and encouraging them to believe that they can do great things.

The Honourable Deputy Minister further indicated that the DHET was eager to support training and placement of people with disabilities and to implement similar training interventions in the TVET Colleges.

He stated that Ndimase Trading was doing good work by easing the pressure on the parents and special schools and enabling the learners through skills development to make a difference. He encouraged the learners to use their newly acquired skills to build a good country as the future was in their hands.

Deputy Minister Manana also congratulated the FP&M SETA for doing amazing things in the FP&M sector and always being willing to assist. He urged the FP&M SETA to interact with employers in an effort to encourage the placement of graduates, and specifically graduates with disabilities, in the workplace in order to give them the necessary work experience to make them employable in the open labour market.

The FP&M SETA has recognised the efforts made by Ndimase Trading and has allocated funding from its 2014/15 discretionary grant budget to ensure the continuation of the excellent programmes provided by Ndimase Trading under the leadership of Zanele Dumakude.

The CEO of the FP&M SETA, Ms. Felling Yende, is confident that partnerships such as this one between the FP&M SETA and Ndimase Trading will contribute positively towards the FP&M SETA's mandate to make skills development accessible to learners with disabilities and those from rural areas.

The FP&M SETA applauds Zanele Dumakude for her efforts because was it not for her vision and conviction, these special needs learners would not have had the opportunity to acquire life changing skills that will open the doors to many future opportunities.

#### **Gauteng**

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