



FP&M SETA

Insider

Maximising skills development for  
a sustainable future

## **WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES EXCEL IN GARMENT MAKING LEARNERSHIP**

*Information supplied by Mr Thami Nkosi, Provincial Manager*

Disabled People South Africa (DPSA) is a non-profit advocacy organization committed to empowerment and development for persons with disabilities. Their vision is "A South Africa Accessible to All" and their mission is "to be effective and efficient democratic national assembly of all disabled people, which mobilises us to advocate for our rights, for the attainment of equal opportunity in an intergrated social, political and economic enviroment".

In 2013/14 DPSA (KwaZulu-Natal) received funding from the FP&M SETA to provide learnership training in terms of the National Certificate: Clothing, Textile, Footwear and Leather Manufacturing Processes, (Machinist / Garment Constructor) at NQFL level 2 to 10 unemployed women with disabilities.

The learnership training commenced in April 2014 and is expected to conclude by the end of January 2015. The training sessions are conducted at Clermont Community Hall by Ubucubu Home Industries, a training provider accredited by the FP&M SETA. The partnership between DPSA and Ubucubu Home Industries was brought about to ensure that professional and quality training is delivered that will meet the DPSA, the FP&M SETA and the learners' expectations

The objective of the learnership programme is to empower women with disabilities by training them the skill of garment making. The learner recruitment and selection were done using an assessment diagnostic tool. The institutional training including simulations was conducted at Clermont Community Hall. All learners are working hard to ensure that they complete their portfolios of evidence as they are progressing through the programme modules.

The theory part of the training has been conducted successfully. The workplace practicals is underway and is being monitored by Ubucubu and DPSA on a regular basis to ensure that learning objectives in the workplace are achieved.

During the year, one of the learners sadly passed away. The remaining 9 learners are on track with their training and are expected to complete the programme at the end of January 2015 at which time they will be awarded with a nationally recognised certificate for having achieved a full qualification.

The learners are responding positively to the training which makes for a positive environment which is conducive to the learning process. The way they coped with the programme requirements and their enthusiasm proved to be an asset and all participants benefitted as it helped them to achieve positive results. Learner attendance was measured at 98% which is remarkable.

The learnership has imparted sewing skills (basic, intermediate and advance) in variety of manufacturing techniques, an array of material and textiles, including soft linen as well as upholstery fabrics. The programme was relevant to the needs of the learners and was facilitated by an experienced service provider, accredited by FP&M SETA. The learning is a combination of theoretical and experiential learning. Five months of theoretical learning was in class setting and the other three months was spent doing experiential learning.

Learners were given material for future reference. The learnership was assessed by different assessors and moderators and learners were found competent throughout the programme.

Quality assurance checks are being carried out by the DPSA Project Manager together with a qualified moderator. It is important to ensure that the assessment of outcomes of qualifications and unit standards are consistently applied by the assessors when assessing competence against the relevant unit standards. This will ensure that the industry has confidence in the training and assessment outcomes in education and training system.

Moderation also provides the opportunity for professional development of assessors and the improvement of assessment products and services. Ubucubu Home Industries have followed the moderation processes as per the agreed policy to ensure quality delivery of all training.

Ubucubu Home Industries will organized an opportunity for the learners to showcase their products at an exhibition.

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