



## **NSF PROJECTS**

Some projects of the NSF include the following:

- Learnership projects implemented in collaboration with SETAs
- Skills Programmes in support of Social Development initiatives including the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) implemented through the Department of Labour's provincial offices
- Learnership projects implemented with Employment and Skills Development Lead Employers (ESDLEs)
- Bursaries for undergraduate and post graduate students in scarce and critical skills implemented through the NSFAS and the NRF
- ABET projects implemented with Department of Education and other providers
- Strategic projects supporting scarce skills in sector and/or national priorities
- A Social Plan Technical Support programme implemented with the National Productivity Institute.
- Internships.

## **PROJECT FUNDED**

The National Skills Fund uses 20% of its levies share to fund primarily projects for skills development as indicated in the National Skills Development Strategy. For ease of management, funding is apportioned to funding windows, with each funding window representing a mandate(s) emanating from the NSDS. For example, the NSDS (2005-2010) mandates the NSF to improve literacy for unemployed people.

Pursuant to this mandate, the ABET Funding Window was established. For the period 2005-2010 the following funding windows have been approved:

1. Social Development Initiatives including the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).
2. Adult Basic Education and Training.
3. Critical Skills Support.
4. Provisioning Support.
5. Industry Support.
6. Informal Sector Support.
7. Constituency Capacity Building and Advocacy.
8. Special Projects • Promotion of the NSDS • Research • Supplementary support for disability • Promotion of excellence.
9. Discretionary and Innovation Projects.

## **SUCCESS STORIES**

### **COLLEGE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

#### **BUILDING BLOCKS FOR FUTURE TRAINING:**

A R2.5 billion infrastructure project for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges is underway, and will result in 12 new TVET campuses in rural areas in four provinces.

This investment also includes the refurbishment of four campuses.

The project is in line with the government's National Skills Development Strategy to promote a college system responsive to sector, regional and national skills needs and priorities.

The new campuses are almost all in rural or semi-rural areas spread across the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and Mpumalanga and are linked to existing TVET colleges that will take over the new campuses when built.

The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) is responsible for managing the project, which started at the beginning of 2014.

The infrastructure development is financed through a R1.5 billion contribution from the NSF. At present, there are three active project sites -- at Thabazimbi, Nkandla A and Bhambanana -- where construction is planned for 10 months and where some phases were up to 90% complete by mid 2015. and R1 billion contribution from the SETAs.

Apart from the DHET as overall project manager, assisted by professional consultants, and the NSF as the funding coordinator, the principal agent, Masetlaoka Scott Wilson (MSW) Consortium, supervises the various construction contractors working at the sites.

At a well-attended Imbizo in Thabazimbi in July 2015, where a R138 million campus is being built, the community expressed their pleasure at having such good infrastructure being built for their area.



### **MAJOR INVESTMENT TO ASSIST DEAF LEARNERS:**

The National Skills Fund's recent R79.018 million investment is the latest in a series of moves by the government to ramp up its initiatives to assist the deaf.

The investment will go towards assisting over 500 learners' formal training, student accommodation and learning materials, amongst others.

The project also expects to conduct aptitude tests at schools for the deaf throughout South Africa, enrol 24 artisan learners as well as 60 occupational training learners, have 60 students complete a bridging programme, establish training units, refine an open resource tool and provide theological vocational training to eight students.

The NSF estimates that the impact of the investment will reach a further 2 000 beneficiaries.

The recent funding follows an earlier investment in 2012 of R76 million which saw 226 students trained in eight occupations and more than 60% of these have been successfully placed in jobs.

This is good news for the more than 80% of deaf learners who leave school before grade 9 and are unable to access occupational or skills development because grade 9 is part of the entry criteria. Unemployment within the deaf community in excess of 90%.

The long term plans also include transforming the only private technical and vocational education college, the 134-year old National Institute for the Deaf (NID) based in Worcester in the Western Cape into a public community college.

The NID comes with a formidable pedigree, having provided quality, accessible skills, distance training and job placement services. Other partners have also contributed to education within the deaf community. A further R2.2 million investment was made by the hospitality group Compass Group, plant and equipment company Ruwaccon and various technical and vocational education and training colleges, and private colleges.

According to the NSF, these initiatives are likely to help the government make inroads into its goal of achieving its 2% disability employment target and assist deaf school leavers improve their access to education and ultimately, better work prospects.

The NSF is confident that its latest investment will contribute significantly to improving the pool of tertiary qualified disabled candidates for employment in mid to high-level jobs.

The Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr BE Nzimande, also has high expectations for the initiative and says that the NID may want to share its expertise in this area with the rest of the continent.

The current investment term ends on 31 December 2016.



## **TACKLING TALENT SHORTAGES:**

The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) has taken responsibility to ensure that engineering students are well equipped with workplace experience in order to grow the country`s economy.

More than R500 million was set aside by the National Skills Fund with a view to producing employable graduates, in line with the National Development Plan (NDP) to produce 30 000 artisans by 2030.

According to news articles on scarce skills published in the Engineering News (14 November 2014), the country has a shortfall of 40 000 qualified artisans against the annual production rate of 13 000 qualified artisans.

Furthermore, student engineers who are deeply needed by the labour market are currently undergoing intensive Engineering Development and Innovation Programmes at the University of Johannesburg (UJ), in partnership with DHET.

The main focus of these ambitious Work Integrated Learning sessions, which were implemented on 1 September 2012, is to assist students with various technical skills and include a Mechanical Workshop for basic training, an Electrical Workshop for hands on training, general writing techniques and practices and a Theoretical Classroom to provide training in the Occupational, Health and Safety Act.

UJ training encourages partnerships with a range of stakeholders in order to facilitate better workplace readiness for students completing their studies in the field of engineering.

