

Youth programmes launched in KwaZulu-Natal

20 April 2016 - The Department of Higher Education and Training has launched youth programmes to reduce the number of unemployment and youth with no work experience.

The unemployment rate of youth in KwaZulu-Natal increased from 30.5% in 2008 to 33.4% in 2015. For the same period, the youth with no work experience escalated to 53.6%.

The launch called for more employers in the public and private sector to open up more workplaces for training.

The programmes aim to place 2,000 young people with matric and tertiary qualifications in the workplace.

The Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande, together with the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Senzo Mchunu launched the integrated Youth Development and Internship Placement Programmes at the Plessislaer TVET College in Pietermaritzburg.

Public and private sector employers, SMMEs, local municipalities, provincial departments, including the Office of the Premier, are participating in the programme.

Learners and graduates from public and private TVET colleges in KwaZulu-Natal from various fields are being targeted. These fields include, but not limited to, business management, marketing, hospitality, financial management, human resources and information technology.

“Thirteen SETAs are involved at the moment. These include the FP&M SETA, SASSETA, INSETA, LGSETA, SERVICES SETA, CATHSSETA, MICT SETA, CETA, W&R SETA, TETA, FOODBEV, EWSETA, and ETDPSSETA. A budget of approximately R42 million has been set aside to fund 1,507 graduates. Already 1,022 have been placed. However, the process of recruitment continues,” said Minister Nzimande.

Minister Nzimande encouraged learners who are beneficiaries of this programme to work very hard to achieve the highest standards possible.

“Learners must strive to be the best at all times. Absorb as much as is humanly possible to enhance your chosen careers. Possibilities are endless for determined young people in the new South Africa, the southern African region, the continent and the global village. So, aim very high and reach beyond the stars, for you are very capable,” he concluded.