

## **Gauteng Foundry Training Centre one of a kind!**

The Gauteng Foundry Training Centre is the only one of its kind in South Africa where Smelters, Moulders and Patternmakers can be trained.

It was established on the Kwa-Thema Campus of Ekurhuleni East TVET College to support artisan and skills training in the foundry industry.

The project is supported by the Gauteng Department of Economic Development, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, National Foundry Technology Network and the SA Institute of Foundry-men.

Foundry Manager Mr Errol Beling, brings with him years of experience and expertise in the Patternmaking industry, having started his career as an apprentice Patternmaker in 1986.

He was latterly a Training Officer in Patternmaking before accepting the post to head the Gauteng Foundry Training Centre at Ekurhuleni East TVET College.

The manufacturing of any iron parts in industry that have to be cast, for example car manifolds, axel shafts, bearing brackets or drag lines, is the work of smelters, moulders and patternmakers.

Wooden models are initially made from a drawing before being sent to the Foundry. In the Foundry, a sand mould is made from the impression of the wooden one prepared by the moulders before the smelters pour molten metal from the furnace into the cavity.

It is hoped that the establishment of the Gauteng Foundry Training Centre will make a meaningful contribution to addressing skills shortages.

This is in line with the implementation objectives of the Decade of the Artisan campaign.

The campaign was launched by the Minister of Higher Education and Training in 2014 and promotes the notion that it is "cool to be a 21st century artisan".