

FUNDING FOR SKILLS

How the TVET Sector Benefits



WELDING SKILLS FUNDING TOGETHER: The National Skills Fund has invested R398-million for more than 7 000 learner beneficiaries trained in programmes that included skills programmes, apprenticeships and learnerships.

Blade Nzimande

SINCE 2011, the National Skills Fund (NSF) has engaged Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges as alternative partners for skills development among communities.

The geographic and spatial positioning of the country's 50 TVET colleges and their more than 258 campuses across the country mean that they are located closest to the majority of our communities in the country, especially the working class and the poor.

It is partly for this reason that the NSF together with SETAs are directed to partner with them in the delivery of skills development in our communities.

Over the last four years the NSF specifically has invested R398-million that saw more than 7 000 learner beneficiaries trained in programmes that included skills programmes, apprenticeships and learnerships.

The NSF has begun further negotiations with TVET colleges countrywide to continue with this initiative.

This year the NSF will enter into further contracts with TVET colleges that will see learners benefiting until 2018, when the new skills landscape for the country is implemented.

Such a landscape will include establishing centres of specialisation in our TVET colleges to take into account region-specific skills.

For example, given the long-term development that is taking place in the Waterberg District, including the work of the Strategic Infrastructure Projects (SIPs), the DHET is considering investing in our TVET colleges (including the ones in this area) to ensure their ongoing contribution to the economy of the region.

Thus, as we open other campuses to come, we are actually preparing for a bigger goal of having our TVET colleges as the preferred sites for skills development of our people.

The NSF has a number of funding projects spread out in a number of TVET colleges in the Limpopo province over the next 12 months.

First, the Capricorn TVET College. The project will include the following learning

programmes: artisan development (i.e. in diesel mechanics; electricians; welders; bricklayers and plasterers; plumbers, etc); learnerships, internships, skills programmes, etc, to benefit more than 1 500

beneficiaries in areas such as Polokwane, Senwabarwana, Seshago and Ramokgoba. The total cost here is more than R79-million.

Second, the Lephale TVET College. This project will include but not be

limited to the following learning programmes: work integrated learning in business studies to enable students to complete their qualifications, learnerships, etc, to benefit more than 1 800 beneficiaries. Total cost:

More than R49-million. **Third**, Letaba TVET College. This project will include the following learning programmes: learnerships (i.e. in civil and building construction, electrical engineering, plumbing, welding, poultry production, etc), apprenticeships (i.e. bricklaying, plumbing, etc) and workplace exposure, to benefit more than 1 500 beneficiaries. The total cost of this project is more than R70-million.

Fourth, Mopani TVET College. This project will include the following learning programmes: artisan development (i.e. diesel mechanics, boilermakers, electricians, carpenters, bricklayers, plumbers, etc), learnerships (i.e. building and civil construction, plumbing, professional cookery, electrical engineering, etc) and internships, etc. to benefit more than 2 500 beneficiaries. This project's total cost is more than R60-million.

Fifth, Sekhukhune TVET College. This project will include the following learning programmes: artisan development (i.e. carpenters, bricklayers, electricians, diesel mechanics, welders, fitters and turners, etc), learnerships (i.e. gardening and horticulture, plant production, animal production, etc), skills programmes, etc, to benefit more than 1 500 beneficiaries. More than R60-million funds this project.

Sixth, Vhembe TVET College. This project will include the following learning programmes: artisan development (i.e. plumbing, electrical engineering, brick and plastering, etc), learnerships (i.e. animal production, poultry production, building and civil construction, etc) to benefit more than 1 400 beneficiaries. Total cost: More than R64-million.

Seventh, Waterberg TVET College. This project will include but not be limited to artisan development (i.e. diesel mechanics, welders, electricians etc), learnerships (i.e. animal production, accounting technicians, occupational chefs, etc), internships and other capacity-building projects to benefit more than 2 500 beneficiaries. Total cost of more than R50-million.

Dr BE Nzimande is the Minister of Higher Education and Training

SETA PROJECTS

SETA Projects lined up for the Waterberg District Municipality are:

Bursaries for 64 beneficiaries at more than R850 000;
Learnerships for 224 beneficiaries at more than R7-million;
Skills Programmes for 380 beneficiaries at more than R3-million;
Artisans for 93 beneficiaries at more than R9-million;

Work Integrated Learning for 49 beneficiaries at more than R 19-million;
Internships for 27 beneficiaries at more than R15-million;
Workplace Based Learning Opportunities for 93 beneficiaries at more than R6.5-million and Recognition of Prior Learning for 142 beneficiaries at more R 900 000.
Total beneficiaries for SETAs only within this district are 1 072 to the total cost of more than R20-million.

TVET colleges are located closest to the majority of our communities in the country, especially the working-class and the poor.