



MEDIA STATEMENT

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Department of Higher Education and Training and Services SETA invest R90 million to revive CET Colleges

The Deputy Minister for Higher Education and Training, Dr Mimmy Gondwe, is pleased to announce an allocation of **R90 million** from the Services SETA to support infrastructure upgrades and enhance teaching and learning at all nine Community Education and Training (CET) colleges in the country.

Deputy Minister Gondwe, together with the Services SETA Administrator, Mr Lehlogonolo Masoga, announced the landmark nationwide R90 million investment in CET colleges yesterday at the launch of an infrastructure upgrade project at the Emlandeleni Community Learning Centre (CLC) in Ndwedwe, KwaZulu-Natal.

CET colleges are part of Deputy Minister Gondwe's delegation, and efforts are underway to transform them into strategic key adult education centres offering 'second-chance' learning opportunities for out-of-school youth.

The R90 million will be evenly distributed, with **R10 million** allocated to each of the nine CET colleges, one in each province. Each college has multiple satellite centres across various provinces, which are essential for delivering adult learning qualifications.

"I am truly grateful for Services SETA's support and investment in the Community Education and Training (CET) sector. We know that our country faces a significant challenge with the NEET cohort, that is, young people and adults not in employment, education, or training. We cannot ignore this problem. CET colleges demonstrate that it's never too late to learn, rebuild, and participate in the economy. Addressing youth unemployment and the lack of opportunities is urgent," said Deputy Minister Gondwe.

The Services SETA, which also falls under the delegated responsibilities of Deputy Minister Gondwe, says the investment is part of its efforts to enhance access to learning opportunities across different communities.

"Services SETA has taken a deliberate decision to invest in the public education system as part of its contribution to skills development and inclusive access," said Services SETA Administrator, Mr Lehlogonolo Masoga.



higher education & training

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One of the first beneficiaries of Services SETA's drive is Emlandeleni CLC. During yesterday's infrastructure upgrade project launch, the centre received R5 million for refurbishment and upgrades.

Emlandeleni CLC has over 1,000 students enrolled and offers a range of adult learning qualifications. The upgrades include critical infrastructure such as roofing, refurbishment of ablution and training facilities, painting of classrooms, installation of smart boards, and other urgent needs.

As part of the launch, several stakeholders and SETAs provided the following support to the Emlandeleni CLC:

- The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) donated five laptops to the centre to expand access to digital learning programmes.
- The FP&M SETA donated ten sewing machines to the centre to enhance practical training, broaden learning, and equip learners with skills for economic participation.
- EW SETA pledged support with a borehole drilling truck to train youth and community members, improve water access, and enhance practical skills and local services.
- Old Mutual and the Services SETA donated dignity hygiene packs to all learners at Emlandeleni CLC.

Deputy Minister Gondwe stated that support for Emlandeleni CLC and all CET colleges goes beyond infrastructure upgrades. It is about reaffirming the important role of CET colleges and ensuring they are no longer forgotten in the PSET sector.

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