



higher education & training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA RELEASE

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FIFTEEN (15) TRADES IN DEMAND AS IDENTIFIED IN THE TRACER STUDY CONDUCTED IN COLLABORATION WITH SWISS-SOUTH AFRICAN COOPERATION INITIATIVE.

The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) has identified trades that are in demand for the economy to at the level envisaged in the National Development Plan (NDP) such as diesel mechanics, instrument technicians, riggers, auto electricians and millwrights as a worrying threat to the economy.

The latest list was compiled in collaboration with Swiss-South African Cooperation Initiative, which is also released to raise awareness for young people with regard to available career opportunities in the artisanal sector.

In 2014, the DHET launched its ambitious “**Decade of the Artisan**”, after a successful “**Year of Artisan**” in 2013, campaign aimed at promoting artisanship as a career of choice to South African youths. This artisan advocacy programme forms part of the broader government’s concrete plan towards meeting targets of the National Development Plan and the White Paper on Post School Education and Training to produce 30 000 artisans by 2030.

Production of artisans is a necessity for economic growth and also ensuring that South Africa does not import its much needed skills to successfully implement, amongst others, the country’s strategic infrastructure projects. These include building of roads, bridges, schools, harbours, power stations, and other social and economic infrastructure.

The twenty one (21) Sector Training and Education Authorities (SETAs) and the fifty (50) Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges are considered as key drivers in the promotion of artisanship in the country hence the expectation of them to play a pivotal role in artisan training.

To further stimulate students' appetite for career in artisanship the Department also released earlier this month over 7,030 apprenticeship opportunities offered by various SETAs.

The 15 trades that are in demand includes :

1. Millwrights
2. Toolmakers
3. Boilermakers
4. Fitters and turners
5. Carpenters and joiners
6. Welders
7. Plumbers
8. Motor (petrol) mechanics
9. Diesel mechanics
10. Instrument technicians
11. Metal fabricators/sheet metalworkers
12. Air conditioning and refrigeration technicians
13. Auto electricians
14. Riggers
15. Electricians.

These trades also form part of the list of occupations in demand which is updated in each and every second year, the last one being published by the Minister on the 19th January 2016. These include, among others, a chief information officer, logistics manager, retail manager, geologist, dentist, astronomer, ship's master, enrolled nurse, water inspector, accounts clerk and child care worker.

Other specialist trades in demand according to the list include a pressure welder, mechanised hard-cover bookbinding technician, millwright, radiotrician and mechatronics.

Both lists are available from www.dhet.gov.za under the resources section.

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