



#EMPOWERMzansi

ARTISAN DEVELOPMENT

It's cool to be an artisan



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Youth driving SA back to rail	2
TVET colleges must be part of skills development	8
TVET colleges: Get the skills to make your own future	12
Government committed to helping the youth	15
Businesses urged to secure partnerships to implement artisans' training	18



1

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YOUTH DRIVING SA BACK TO RAIL

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Local youth are at the forefront of assembling, testing, commissioning and delivering new and modern commuter trains for South Africa.

They are employed at the first of a kind R1 billion train manufacturing facility in Dunnottar in Ekurhuleni, about 50km east of Johannesburg.

It is at this new 72 hectares plant where they are employed by Gibela to build Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa's (PRASA) rolling stock of modern commuter trains.

Gibela – a partnership between Alstom, a multi-national world leader in integrated transport systems and South Africa's uBumbano Rail and New Africa Rail – was launched in 2014 to deliver on two major contracts for PRASA. These are to manufacture 580 state-of-the-art X'Trapolis Mega commuter trains over 10 years to replace the current aged fleet for Metrorail, and the supply of technical services and spares for the trains over their first 19 years in service.

The cutting-edge train production facility, which was unveiled on 25 October 2018 by President Cyril Ramaphosa, is a critical hub of providing onsite maintenance and engineering services, a training facility for railway-specific artisan skills and an engineering centre of excellence.

The construction of the factory commenced in January 2016 with manufacturing activities starting in 2017.

Over 400 people employed

According to Gibela, currently more than 400 people are directly employed and it anticipates that the number will rise to more than 1 500 once the factory is in full production.

Of these, more than 200 are engineers and technicians – including 80 women who have been trained and deployed as full-time Gibela employees; 50 skilled and semi-skilled artisans and technicians have been recruited, and 65 apprentices selected to begin their apprenticeships at the new training centre since last year.

Youth such as Mapula Tsebela (25), a semi-skilled mechanical fitter at the factory, is one of the previously unemployed youths who have benefited from the project.

Responsible for the internal installations like door trimmings, roof arks and seats, Tsebela – from neighbouring Tsakane Township – told **SAnews** that the project had changed her life by giving her an opportunity to be employed full time.

She found out about the project through a website, applied and got employed in April 2018.

“The six months working here has changed me. It has been a great experience since I am fresh from college after graduating in mechanical engineering at Ekurhuleni East College. This plant has created a great experience for me and many other youth in this area,” she said.

Another youth employed by the project is Sibusiso Simelane, an electrical fitter who started working in November 2017 after hearing about the project from the Department of Labour.

Simelane said he had to undergo further skills training offered by the company. “This project has changed my life because I’m now part of history. This is a big project for South Africa and I’m part of making history and even generations which will follow will know about this project. It has changed my life.”

The youth who spoke to **SAnews** at the factory said the plant was helping to address the most important challenge in South Africa today – unemployment, especially among the youth.

The overall employment equity constitutes 49% female and 51% male, with 635 full-time employees, 90% of whom are black, according to Gibela.

To meet the demanding local content requirement of at least 65%, Gibela has taken on board 54 South African suppliers to supply materials, parts and services. This has created more than 4 700 jobs which the company is supporting through its activities.

Looking ahead over the next 10 years, the training centre is expected to skill over 6 700 artisans, about 2 000 engineering technicians and nearly 600 professional engineers across South Africa's rail sector.

In addition to this, the factory has awarded bursaries to 250 South African students to study in rail-related fields at South African tertiary institutions.

Factory a milestone for rail in South Africa



Speaking at the unveiling of the factory to the public, President Ramaphosa said the factory was a great moment for the development of passenger rail in South Africa, including the economy, industrialisation and manufacturing.

The President welcomed the investment commitment, saying this project demonstrated the value of the partnership between government, its agencies and the private sector, ensuring that public investment in infrastructure was effectively leveraged to promote industrialisation, localisation and job creation.

“When we talk about the expansion of our economy, it is a place like this and people like you that we are talking about.”

After decades of under-investment in new trains for passenger rail transport, the President said this investment signified a new era in the modernisation of the commuter rail network.

Restoring manufacturing and creating jobs

This factory will have a profound impact not only in the sphere of public transport but also in developing the country’s manufacturing capacity, President Ramaphosa said.

“For instead of simply importing new train sets, we have used this opportunity to invest in local industry, capabilities and skills.”

This gives concrete expression to government’s determination – as articulated in the framework agreement adopted at the Jobs Summit – which identified the growth of South Africa’s manufacturing base as a key priority.

After years of decline, President Ramaphosa said government was determined to restore manufacturing as a growing sector of the economy, largely because it has great potential to create jobs, support secondary industries and increase the export capacity.



“This factory will demonstrate that South Africa has advanced manufacturing capabilities that will only gain in value over time.”

Transforming the rail sector



Turning to the rail sector, the President was of the view that the factory would serve as a catalyst for the transformation of passenger rail services and public transport more broadly.

“It demonstrates our determination to develop passenger rail as a critical enabler of economic growth and social development. Our railways must become the arteries of a growing economy that brings meaningful improvement in people’s lives,” he said.

Vandalism of trains

Meanwhile, Transport Minister Blade Nzimande said he was concerned about vandalism of the trains and rail infrastructure.

“Mr President, we hope that you will help in stopping the vandalism that we encounter. On Saturday, I will be convening an Imbizo in the Western Cape which will look into this.”

He added that the plant spoke to a number of key government objectives such as industrial policy plan, modernisation, investment and Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment. – **SAnews.gov.za**



2

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**TVET COLLEGES MUST BE PART OF SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT**

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Higher Education and Training Minister Naledi Pandor has challenged Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges to become part of the critical drive for skills development in South Africa.

“I want to see increasingly the TVET sector becoming a confident, able and very visible part of the skills institutions in South Africa. I want you to stop being shy cousins and to be very visible leaders in skills development in South Africa,” Minister Pandor said.

The Minister made the remarks at the launch of the Gandhi Mandela Centre of Specialisation for Artisans Skills at Tshwane South TVET College in Pretoria West on 8 October 2018.



Minister Pandor and India's High Commissioner to South Africa, Ms Ruchira Kamboj, launched the Gandhi Mandela Centre, where training will be imparted in four identified areas, including electrician, boilermaker, mechanical fitter and millwright.

The launch of the centre follows a Memorandum of Understanding signed by South Africa and India in July 2018 on the margins of the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa Summit held in Sandton to provide for cooperation in setting up the centre.

The agreement was in recognition of South Africa's desire to promote quality vocational education and training for young people, as well as the need for artisan skills in the country.

Quality vocational training

The centre will promote quality vocational training in the identified sectors to meet the requirements of youth in South Africa, both unskilled and semi-skilled.

Speaking at the launch, Minister Pandor said that she was extremely excited about the progress made to date, noting that through the centre, real opportunities were going to be opened up for young people in South Africa, and real benefits promised to the Indian and other companies in South Africa which would partner with the college.

“This is an extremely exciting birthday gift for these two great leaders. I’m also excited that we’ve linked this programme to the widest centres of specialisation initiative. The centres of specialisation programme promises to pioneer the way forward in the transformation of the TVET college system, making colleges ever more responsive to industry needs while at the same time lifting their capacity to deliver real high level, quality occupational programmes,” Minister Pandor said.

She emphasised that government’s intention was to produce young people with high-level marketable and relevant skills.

“Added to that is the intention that we must produce, as South Africa, through these institutions more and more creative and innovative entrepreneurs because this is what our country needs. If we produce skilled young persons, we will be responding to the full challenge that confronts our nation and economy,” the Minister said.

She assured the Government of India that the programme would be sustainable in the long term.

Over 100 scholarships paid to South Africans

Ms Kamboj said that India and South Africa share a connection like no other. India offers over 100 fully paid scholarships to South Africans per year.

“We have 150 Indian companies based in South Africa employing approximately 20 000 locals. The companies have robust programmes of skilling South African youth in India, particularly in the IT sector, plugging them upon their return as more employable in the job markets in South Africa,” Ms Kamboj said.



Manager at the Tshwane West Campus, LE Etchells, said the opening of the centre would mean so much for the future of children and incoming staff members that would serve the learners.

The South African Government has provided infrastructure for the centre, through the Training Institute at Tshwane South Campus and will provide all logistical support for the import of the necessary equipment, material and suppliers for the project into the country.

South African authorities will issue National Qualification Framework certificates to candidates enrolled at the centre upon completion of a course. After the completion and handing over of the project, its administration, running and maintenance will be taken over by the South African Government.

– ***SAnews.gov.za***



3

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**TVET COLLEGES:
GET THE SKILLS TO MAKE YOUR OWN FUTURE**

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Government wants more young people to attain skills and competencies that will help them find jobs or create their own enterprises.

Higher Education and Training Deputy Minister Buti Manamela said there was an incorrect perception in society that one would only consider a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) college if one did not get into a university. He said this did not correlate with the reality that the country faces.

TVET colleges are a high priority for government because they can play a critical role in addressing the current skills gaps in the country.

“The data and analysis tells us that we need more technical skills, we need more artisans and we need more people with practical technical experience. Stronger TVET colleges will expand the provision of mid-level technical and occupational qualifications that will lead directly into paid work for the growing numbers of young people leaving the schooling system. It is for this reason that government is investing intensely in TVET colleges,” Deputy Minister Manamela said.

The Deputy Minister was speaking at a graduation ceremony at Coastal College in KwaZulu-Natal.

Additional funds for travel, accommodation

He announced that an additional R2.5 billion would be made available for TVET colleges' student fees, travel and accommodation allowances.

Deputy Minister Manamela said the additional funding would assist with taking the programme funding level of TVET colleges from the current 54% to 69% in 2018/19 with the target of 80% being reached in approximately four years.

“For 2018/19, an additional R2.5 billion will be made available for student fees, including travel and accommodation allowances. This additional funding will ensure that qualifying TVET students will be fully subsidised for student fees and travel or accommodation where relevant,” he said.

This follows government's announcement in December 2017 on fully subsidised, fee-free higher education and training for the poor and working classes.

National Treasury has increased the bursary allocation for TVET colleges from R2.437 billion in 2017 to R5.164 billion in 2018. This represents a 112% increase in the allocation.

As government significantly invests in the TVET sector, Deputy Minister Manamela said it was also working towards better quality TVET programmes and strengthening college performance.

"We want to see more stable, functional and better governed TVET colleges that offer high-quality programmes," he said.

Working towards effective enrolment

The department is working towards improving the qualifications offerings and a more effective enrolment planning system.

"We will grow new qualifications over time and streamline examinations and certification. We are improving college governance and management.

"We are further developing our lecturers and ensuring that there is a better lecturer to student ratio and we are realising higher retention, throughput and exit level outcomes.

"So, TVET colleges are our future," the Deputy Minister said. – **SAnews.gov.za**



4

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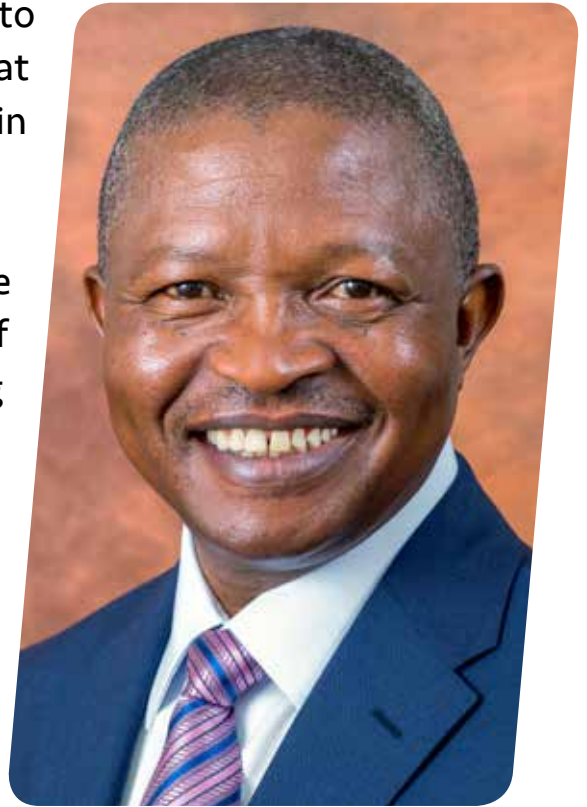
**GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO HELPING
THE YOUTH**

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Government has reaffirmed its commitment to helping young people access opportunities that will enable them to participate meaningfully in the economy.

“As government, we are here to put in the infrastructure that will increase your chances of success in a world that is increasingly shifting and unpredictable,” Deputy President David Mabuza said.

He was addressing young people during the Youth Walk into Economic Opportunities Expo in Ermelo, Mpumalanga on 23 June 2018. He encouraged the youth to make sacrifices that would enable all South Africans to participate meaningfully in an inclusive economy.



“We must again find new industrialists, product developers, software engineers, artisans and entrepreneurs. It is in your hands to triumph over your obstacles. We believe in you. It is your moment to dream, innovate and to lift our nation out of the pit hole of poverty, unemployment and inequality,” the Deputy President said.

He said government was aware of the frustrations jobseekers and small businesses face when they apply for work, register businesses and run online businesses.

“As government, we remain committed to reducing the cost of data which is a huge hindrance to small, medium and micro-sized enterprises’ development and a cause of frustration to people applying for education or employment opportunities,” he said.

He called on the youth to skill themselves adequately so they could lead the country to shared prosperity.

The Deputy President said government was placing greater emphasis on science and mathematics so as to position South Africans to acquire the necessary skills suitable for the knowledge economy.

“We are already seeing the rise of Artificial Intelligence with the emergence of robotics and driverless cars coming into the market, thereby replacing the human factor in the equation.

“In responding to these emerging global trends, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) is currently investing in the technological building blocks of this change commonly referred to as the Fourth Industrial Revolution,” Deputy President Mabuza said.

The DST will develop a public-funded science, technology and innovation plan of action over the next 12-18 months for socio-economic impact in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

“It was the realisation of this potential of our young people that we introduced a model for economic empowerment in the agricultural sector known as Fortune 40.

“Through this model, we opened opportunities for economic participation in the Government Nutrition Model that empowers farmers to supply fresh agricultural produce to schools, hospitals and social development centres,” he said.

The Deputy President also called on the regional business community and the private sector to do more to create jobs as well as training and economic opportunities for the youth of the country. – **SAnews.gov.za**



5

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**BUSINESSES URGED TO SECURE PARTNERSHIPS
TO IMPLEMENT ARTISANS' TRAINING**

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Higher Education and Training Minister Naledi Pandor has urged leaders of big business to secure partnerships with the department to implement programmes for training artisans and entrepreneurs in a range of sectors.

“National employer associations have a key role to play in modernising Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges’ system for the production of intermediate-level skills... are you ready to rise to the challenges,” Minister Pandor said.

The Minister made the call during a meeting in March 2018 with captains of industry to introduce the department’s major training initiative to boost youth employment in South Africa referred to as the Centres of Specialisation. The programme aims to secure partnerships between the industry and 26 TVET colleges countrywide, for the training of top artisans in 13 priority trade areas.

These areas include bricklayers, electricians, boilmakers, plumbers, automotive and diesel mechanics, carpenters and joiners, welders, fitters and turners, and riggers.

According to the most recent employment statistics, one in two young people aged 15-34 are unemployed.

Minister Pandor said that the department had been working on a programme to ensure South Africa has the skills for its national infrastructure plan, as well as for the Oceans Economy and War on Leaks.

“It is our intention to provide the skills through the partnership we will strengthen today. We have been liaising with the TVET colleges sector and key industry players to formulate a well-designed industry-government skills development plan,” Minister Pandor said.

She also reported that the department had secured 780 grants commitments for sector education and training authorities (SETAs), meaning “there is a grant for every contracted apprenticeship in the programme.”



“The National Skills Fund has set aside R150 million to support the colleges to ensure they are up-to-date and ready. The department will be presenting the plans to SETAs in the first week of April to secure their support. We will also meet with potential partners.”

Business representatives welcomed the meeting with the Minister, noting that they are the primary lead players in the system and it is imperative that they work together with government.

Nazarene Mannie from Business Leadership South Africa was keen to engage with the Minister and welcomed the opportunity for the day’s meeting.

“We are very committed to skills development, particularly artisan and apprenticeship development. We think South Africa needs strong technical skills to grow our economy. We also want to combine it with entrepreneur development,” said Mannie. – **SAnews.gov.za**