



**Western Cape
Government**

Report on the Premier's Council on Skills

**Theme: Energy Resilience in the
Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Industry**

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List of Acronyms

DEDAT	Department of Economic Development and Tourism
SETA	Sector Education and Training Authorities
SARETEC	South African Renewable Energy Technology Centre
SAPVIA	South African Solar Photovoltaic Industry Association
WCC	West Coast College
MERSETA	Manufacturing, Engineering and Related SETA
EWSETA	Energy & Water Sector Education Authority
ASEZ	Atlantis Special Economic Zone
HRDC	Human Resource Development Council
PHRDC	Provincial Human Resource Development Council
REIPPPP	Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme
MER	Municipal Energy Resilience
UCT	University of Cape Town
CPUT	Cape Peninsula University of Technology
SMMEs	Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises
NSA	National Skills Fund
QCTO	Quality Council for Trades and Occupations
WES	Workplace Essential Skills
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
CSI	Corporate Social Investment
DHET	Department of Higher Education and Training
PCS	Premier's Council on Skills
WCED	Western Cape Education Department
WCG	Western Cape Government

1 Purpose of the Premier's Council on Skills

The Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDAT) is committed to the overall vision of the Human Resource Development Strategy 2030: "Nation at work for a better life for all", by maximising the potential of all South Africans. We believe this can be achieved through providing and acquiring viable knowledge and skills for citizens, especially the youth, which will allow them to work productively and competitively to improve their quality of life.

There is a need for a deeper and more holistic notion of relationships between training institutions and employers. There is a need for better systems and mechanisms for developing insight into existing labour market demand (in terms of what knowledge, skills, and qualifications are really in demand in the labour market). This requires social dialogue with key partners, including all spheres of government, private sector, and other social partners to engage on key skills topics on a provincial level.

A mechanism in achieving the above is the Premiers Council on Skills (PCS), which is a Provincial engagement platform that drives key issues within the skills landscape. The PCS addresses different themes based on the priority areas of the Western Cape, with the current theme relating to: "*Energy Resilience in the Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Industry.*"

The convening of a PCS allows for a wide range of stakeholder participation to:

- Support the increased alignment between demand and supply and – in some cases, to enable supply to play a catalyst role for demand.
- Ensure that skills planning support and enable major initiatives for economic growth, which have been identified by the Western Cape Government. These include initiatives on major Infrastructure Plans; the Digital Economy; Green Economy; Saldanha Bay; the Special Economic Zones, etc.
- Improve integration and coordination across businesses within sectors, so that the relevant skills are consistently available within communities and that the necessary conditions for economic strategies are both addressed and stimulated.
- Establish a mechanism to address blockages that arises in this process (through engagement of the players as well as specific initiatives collaboratively undertaken where required).

This report summarises the proceedings of the day.

2 Premier's Council on Skills Agenda and Attendance

The hybrid Premier's Council on Skills event took place at the Lagoon Beach Hotel on Friday, 05 August 2022. Invitations had been extended to various organisations, which was made up of government, industry, education, academia, and SETAs. Of these, eighty (80) officials attended the physical session and sixty-nine (69) attended the session via the MS Teams virtual platform.

The below breakdown provides an overview of the stakeholders that attended:

- Solar PV and related Green Economy Industry players.
- Education (HEIs, TVETs, CETs, Other)
- Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs)
- Consulate (Austrian, British, German)
- National Government (Cabinet members, DHET, NSA, HRDC, QCTO)
- Provincial Government
- Municipalities
- State Owned-Entities (SOEs) such as Eskom and Transnet.

Mr. Rashid Toefy, Deputy Director General: Economic Operations, from the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, functioned as the Programme Director on the day. The programme for the PCS is delineated in the table below.

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker/ Facilitator	Discussion Points Addressed
10:00 – 10:05	Welcome and purpose of the Premier's Council on Skills	Mr. Rashid Toefy Deputy Director General Economic Operations Department of Economic Development and Tourism	Delegates are welcomed to the session and given a brief overview of the purpose of the engagement.
10:05 – 10:15	Opening Address	Minister Mireille Wenger Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities: Western Cape	Minister Wenger to speak on the partnership and rollout of the new Solar PV Technician qualification and first (1 st) Solar PV Training centre in the Province. Focus on strengthening of partnerships with public and private partners to drive skills development initiatives that can enable and support job creation, as well as self-employment opportunities in the Solar PV industry.
10:15 – 10:25	Keynote Address	Premier Alan Winde Premier of the Western Cape	Premier Winde to speak on PCS as a platform to develop a concrete plan to encourage collective partnerships to address the current and future skills needs for the Green Economy. Highlight how the partnerships have realised this new Solar PV technician occupational qualification and encourage more such initiatives to address broader energy resilience related sectors that promote economic growth for the Province.
10:25–10:35	National overview of the Solar P.V Industry.	Dr. Rethabile Melamu Chief Executive Officer: South African Solar Photovoltaic Industry Association (SAPVIA)	Overview of the National Solar PV Industry and SAPVIA's strategic direction to capitalise on the local and regional Solar markets to support growth and employment.
10:35 – 10:45	Overview of the strategic direction of the Province towards the Solar P.V Industry.	Mr. Bernhard Teuteberg Deputy Director: Green Economy Department of Economic Development and Tourism	Provide an overview on the Western Cape Government's (WCG) strategic intent towards the Green Economy. Mr. Teuteberg will also address the Municipal Energy Resilience (MER) initiative supported by the WCG in partnership with Municipalities to promote energy resilience in the Province.

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker/ Facilitator	Discussion Points Addressed
10:45 – 11:00	Overview of the National and Provincial Solar PV technician occupational qualification rollout highlighting the launch of the first training centre established.	Mr. Melville Healing Trainer: Mechanical Engineering South African Renewable Energy Technology Centre (SARETEC)	Reflection on the Strategic partnership between Western Cape Government (WCG), merSETA as the main funder and SARETEC on the development and planned rollout of the new three (3)-part Solar PV technician qualification across the Province and the country.
11:00 – 11:15	Implementation of the new Solar P.V. Technician qualification at Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges in the Province.	Mr Gerhard Coetzee Academic Manager West Coast College (WCC), Vredenburg campus.	Introduction of the new three (3)-part Solar PV technician qualification and launch of the first (1st) training centre and pilot project rollout that includes an innovative dual training modality, digital learning, and workplace exposure to address the industry skills needs.
11:15 – 11:30 – Short Break			
11:30 – 12:00	Panel Discussion – Industry perspective on the demand for skills within the Solar PV Industry.	Ms. Ellen Fischat - Facilitator Executive Integrated Eco-System Management: Atlantis Special Economic Zone (ASEZ) Mr. Frikkie 'O Connell – Panellist Consultant for Powerhouse Solar Mr. De Villiers Botha – Panellist Operations Director: Solareff Mr. Andro Engelbrecht - Panellist Chief Operating Officer: SA Locums	As means of introduction to the session, Ms. Fischat will speak to the role of the ASEZ and the opportunities it presents to the Solar P.V Sector. Mr. Frikkie 'O Connell to address support for the implementation of the Solar P.V Technician pilot project from an industry perspective. Industry representatives will: - Share opportunities and challenges faced to capitalise on investment on the local and regional Solar PV markets linked to direct and indirect job creation. - Highlight key entry to high-end skills required to fulfil current and future skills needs to realise these job opportunities within the Solar PV Industry.

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker/ Facilitator	Discussion Points Addressed
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What training modalities are preferred by industry? - What support does industry require from Government and SETA's in realising the talent they require?
12:00 - 12:30	Panel Discussion - Educational Supply responding to the demand for skills within the Solar PV Industry.	<p>Ms. Ellen Fischat - Facilitator Executive Integrated Eco-System Management: Atlantis Special Economic Zone (ASEZ)</p> <p>Dr. Helen Brown - Panellist Senior Manager - Applied Research & Innovation Projects: Manufacturing, Engineering and Related SETA (merSETA)</p> <p>Ms. Mpho Mookapele - Panellist Chief Executive Officer: Energy and Water SETA (EW SETA)</p> <p>Ms. Lauren Basson – Panellist Chief Knowledge Officer: Green Cape</p>	<p>MerSETA and EWSETA will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide their strategic vision, buy-in and support for the Training Centre, as well as other collective skills initiatives been implemented that aims to support the industry skills needs. - They are also to, from a SETA perspective, support employers with workplace approval as well as unpack other key future skills needs and propose the development of a collective action plan to address these skills. - Ms. Lauren Basson will briefly outline GreenCape skills initiatives underway that supports the Solar PV industry and other related sectors in the renewable energy space, in consultation with other key stakeholders, both in the education and industry sector.
12:30 – 12:45	Industry Engagement Q&A Session.	Ms. Ellen Fischat Executive Integrated Eco-System Management: Atlantis Special Economic Zone (ASEZ)	Ms. Fischat to facilitate questions from onsite and online delegates on content delivered by Panellists.
12:45 - 12:55	Summary of key points discussed.	Mr. Velile Dube Head of Department: Department of Economic Development and Tourism	Summary on key actions from the PCS discussion, which will form the basis towards the development of an action plan.

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker/ Facilitator	Discussion Points Addressed
			<p>The aim of the action plan will be to strengthen joint partnerships between private sector, academia, and social partners to support skills initiatives, thus increase opportunities for employment, self-employment and address current and future key industry skills needs for the Green Economy that supports energy resilience.</p> <p>At closure of this session, Mr. Dube to request the completion of a Pledge Form by delegates, whereby they are to indicate support for the pilot Solar PV technician occupational qualification, as well as identify other key industry skills needs to be addressed.</p>
12:55 – 13:00	Closure	Mr. Rashid Toefy Deputy Director General Economic Operations Department of Economic Development and Tourism	Conclusion of the day and reflect on the way forward.
Lunch to be served.			

3 Key outcomes from PCS event

3.1 Welcome and Purpose of the PCS by Mr. Rashid Toefy

Delegates were welcomed to the session and were given a brief overview of the purpose of the engagement and the importance of the PCS event. The purpose of the PCS session can be found at point 1 above.

The Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDAT) is committed to the overall vision of the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC). The Premiers Council on Skills event fulfils the Province's commitment to the hosting of the Provincial Human Resource Development Council (PHRDC). It is the Province's expression to creating an engagement structure between government, educational institutions, and businesses. Thus far, these engagements have led to some amazing successes.

It has been realised that one of the skills required by the economy is people with skills to work in the Photovoltaic industry, and it is exciting knowing that we have a programme that has been developed to address this need. We need to move in a different direction for us to be less dependent on our existing energy structure and this programme address this.

Mr Rashid Toefy concluded by stating that the PCS conversation is about getting the right skills at the right time.

3.2 Keynote Address by Minister Mireille Wenger

Building energy resilience is a key priority for our government, not only because we must mitigate the effect of loadshedding and the resulting economic damage that it causes, but also because of the immense potential that this sector has to attract investments and to grow our regional economy and create jobs.

We need to ensure that we have in place the right skills pipeline so that the renewable energy sector can thrive in our Province. The Western Cape is proudly positioned as Africa's top Green Economy investment destination. The Renewable Energy sector in the western Cape has received the second highest level of inward foreign direct investment by CAPEX to the value of 18 billion rand. More than 80% of the green energy project developers who were successful bidders in the REIPPPP (Renewable Energy IPP Procurement Programme) 5th bid window has chosen Cape Town as their Head Office.

We have a strong Green Economy ecosystem that we have worked hard to cultivate. By prioritizing investment in the Green Economy, we are investing in our future, precisely because the

future is green. Therefore, we are working to enable Municipalities and the private sector to take advantage of new energy regulations through our Municipal Energy Resilience (MER) initiative. The MER initiative is aimed at reducing business cost, building business confidence, and attracting investment by supporting the implementation of renewable energy generation capacity in municipalities across our Province. This is to allow Municipalities, businesses, and households to generate, and sell electrical energy.

The Atlantis Special Economic Zone (ASEZ) for green technology, as our green tech export orientated manufacturing hub, we see enormous potential for manufacturing opportunities, which will further entrench our reputation as Africa's Green Economy capital. This will attract investment that leads to increased exports and the local production of green technologies, which will enable the Green Economy to contribute to our resilience in our Province.

One of our main objectives is to create the right conditions for economic growth, and therefore, job creation. Skills development, especially amongst our youth is a critical factor in making this happen. Any measurement of successes of a transition to the Green Economy must include investing in the right talent pipeline that meets the needs of a cleaner, greener future.

In conclusion, building a green resilient future will not be possible without partnerships, across government and private sector. The launch of the first of its kind qualification as well as the Solar PV training centre, is testament to the power of partnership between the public and private sector.

In summary, three points:

1. The Energy future of the Western Cape is green.
2. We are building the skills to support the future in the interest of our planet and future generations and in the interest of protecting livelihoods.
3. To get this right we need to work together.

3.3 Keynote Address by Premier Alan Winde

The Premier shared that the PCS platform has been around for some time and has allowed for collaborations to develop between government and industry. This type of engagement allows for building better and stronger partnerships in developing the skills required for our economy.

As a collective, we need to address challenges, risks and find a way to make better lives for all our citizens. Partnerships are equal and we all need to bring our part. The PCS platform is a place to talk about all our challenge areas, and skills is an integral part for the future.

Remarkable things have emerged from partnerships. The local community in Bonnivale saw a need for a school in the area and in partnership with the Provincial Western Cape Education

Department (WCED), Jakes Gerwel School of skills in Bonnivale was built along with a curriculum needed for the community. This concept grew to the opening of a second school in the Struisbaai area, driven by the same group of people. Premier Winde requested that officials add to their bucket list a visit to the Jakes Gerwel School of Skills in Bonnivale and the school in Struisbaai. As a collective, we need to look at how we build more technical schools to service the needs of the community and create opportunities.

What stood out was that the learners that were at the Jakes Gerwel School were part of building the containers that became the classroom of the next school. We need to look at ways on how we carry that skills pipeline across our Province, where we look at technical skills and what these learners can deliver into the skills system.

In the University space of skills – DEDAT conducted a study on what is needed should we play a different role in Finance in Africa. The finding was that we needed financial skills in Africa, for Africa, by Africa. Provincial government then partnered with University of Cape Town (UCT) to implement this training degree. This training was more about FinTech skills as it was thinking to the future. The first FinTech degree was then launched in the Southern Hemisphere and today it rates as the 50th top degree in the world.

Energy remains a massive problem in our country, and we should see this as a massive opportunity. Government along with the public sector is doing incredible work in this space. We need to continue improving the skills within the sector.

This platform is important to put skills in place for the Solar PV sector, as there are many business opportunities. We are getting foreign investment for Solar PV, and it makes sense to invest in these skills and qualifications for our future.

What we do today makes a massive difference into the future, in investment, in how we produce a modern future, a green future and a future that can play its part on this planet.

3.4 National overview of the Solar P.V Industry by Dr. Rethabile Melamu

The South African Photovoltaic Industry Association (SAPVIA) is a non-profit industry association that aims to promote, develop, and grow the Photovoltaic industry as part of the wider renewable energy sector in South Africa. The vision of SAPVIA is that Solar PV is the electricity generation technology of choice in South Africa and the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa, in support of socio-economic Development. SAPVIA intends to vigorously mobilise support for the sustainable growth of solar PV in South Africa and the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa through collaboration with stakeholders.

To reach a wider audience, Dr. Melamu asked that government and private industry partner with them, as they would like to upscale assistance to Small, Micro and Medium (SMMEs). There is a need to bring PV professionals into the fold for information sharing and continuity. She further expressed that National Government procured 2.4million solar power gigawatt in response to our energy crises. Solar PV is an electrical trade and Electricians who are qualified and are registered need to be trained in Solar PV to make use of the legacy skills.

For more information, the presentation is attached as Annexure A.

3.5 Overview of the strategic direction of the Province by Mr. Bernhard Teuteberg

As Provincial Government, we need to develop the economy and improve on its services. Government needs to figure out how we support local government and national government through high level planning, lobbying at national level and doing the necessary studies to help and support in the energy space.

The shape of energy generation in South Africa is changing. Most of our power currently comes from the North of the county.

As we look into the future, with all the amazing solar and wind resources in the Western Cape, we foresee a shift in energy resources taking place. The load might remain in the North of the country; however, the shift might be that 50% of the generation will take place in the Southern part of the county. We need to make sure we are ready for this when the time comes.

For more information, the presentation is attached as Annexure B.

3.6 Overview of the National and Provincial Solar PV technician occupational qualification rollout highlighting the launch of the first training centre established by Mr. Melville Healing

The purpose of the Solar Photovoltaic Service Technician Occupational qualification is to prepare the Learner to operate as a Service and Maintenance Technician at a stand-alone installation, which would include domestic roof-top installations.

South African Renewable Energy Technology Centre was the first national Renewable Energy Training Centre established in 2015 at Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) and received funding from the National Skills Fund (NSA). The Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) accredited SARETEC as a skills development partner for Solar Photovoltaic Service Technician in 2019.

This qualification is a three-year qualification made up of compulsory knowledge and practical skills modules. The qualifying learner will be able to assist in the planning, preparation, installation, and maintenance in the renewable energy environments, and will know the functioning and operating requirements of hand tools, power tools and measuring and testing instruments.

SARETEC has implemented a Skills Programme called Workplace Essential Skills (WES), which is aimed at helping adults who are employed or seeking employment and require additional essential skills to succeed. It is also available to employers who are experiencing skilled labor shortages and in need of recruitment support. The training is customized to respond to the specific needs of the work environment.

The Manufacturing, Engineering and Related SETA developed an ICT4APP to deliver the learning to the students who are not able to attend Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges. Provincial Government partnered with SARETEC and merSETA for the development of the Learning Material, to assist with e-learning services. This open and reliable web-based software allows institutions to manage digital learning, educators to create and present online learning materials and assess student learning.

For more information, the presentation is attached as Annexure C.

3.7 Implementation of the new Solar P.V. Technician qualification at Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges in the Province by Mr. Gerhard Coetzee

The West Coast College in collaboration with merSETA as the funder and SARETEC as the project manager has built a training centre at the WCC Vredenburg Campus for the Solar P.V Technician qualification. However, the College would like to make use of the centre for other Renewable Energy training as well. The College uses free standing structures to train students.

It was stated that the students are not just there to receive an education; it is a practical experience for them as well. All equipment is wireless, and each learner is issued with a backpack, toolbox, go-pro and hard hat. All the course information is uploaded up to the cloud to have a paperless Green Economy.

A video of the site can be found in the presentation attached.

For more information, the presentation is attached as Annexure D.

Panel Discussion – Industry perspective on the demand for skills within the Solar PV Industry facilitated by Ms. Ellen Fischat

3.8 Mr. Frikkie 'O Connell from Powerhouse Solar Industry

Industry can contribute to three components when it comes to assisting with the current Eskom crises:

1. Partnership - Industry needs to work in collaboration with other industry players, government, and academia. Industry players need to be cost effective to stay in business and train its workforce.
2. Skills – Train officials and recruit from your own pool that you have trained. Train people to your company ethos, company standards and company quality.
3. Experience - Training officials properly to work cleanly, neatly and with a good standard when they go to another company.

3.9 Mr. De Villiers Botha from Solareff

SAPVIA is now revisiting the Green Card Programme and developing the programme into a more resilient one to fit in with whatever is happening currently.

Government does not need to own and do all the generation; government needs to facilitate the generation. We need to obtain more electrons and work together on programmes to get these electrons to the grid earlier. This can be done by Tariff development. Many jobs can be created through the symphony of energy.

When it comes to skills development and job creation in this sector, we should not be working in silo's any longer, but instead work together as a collective with the PV Green Card, SETA's, TVET's and Government to get this programme successful rolled out.

3.10 Mr. Andro Engelbrecht from SA Locums

Recommends that a national body be created for all the professional bodies (SAPVIA, SARETEC, PV Green Card and WCC) to belong to, where they are registered so that industry can do a better recruitment and selection process.

Advanced technology soon to be released to assist employers and employees to be associated with each other and employers could then easily choose people with the correct skills in the radius where the job site is situated. This will assist with the supply and demand within the Solar PV Industry.

Panel Discussion - Educational Supply responding to the demand for skills within the Solar PV Industry facilitated by Ms. Ellen Fischat

3.11 Dr. Helen Brown from merSETA

MerSETA ensures that programmes they implement competitively produces the type of competence that industry needs to grow.

The ICT4APP – this is an ecosystem in the cloud, everyone that engages with this ecosystem can see all the elements visibly. An apprentice can enter this portal, through engaging in career guidance on the front end and see the opportunities in the different programmes on the platform. Learners have the option to choose where they would like to start. They will need to produce their credentials to enable registration.

The Employers that were approved and registered on the digital application is able to access the learners digital portfolio and has access to their credentials. Learners are given the opportunity to earn rewards and to do additional credentials that will add more rewards.

Technical mentors are trained on how to teach and guide the learners on the app. The technical mentors are watching progress through knowledge modules to guide the learners into the different practical projects that are onsite. Employers can select learners via the app to assist with employment opportunities.

The most important partner in all of this is the employer that will be assisting with hosting these learners.

3.12 Ms. Mpho Mookapele from EWSETA

SETAs only exists to serve the industry. Their role is that they supply the demand, which cannot do without industry. They need to put together qualitative and informed demand for now, and for the future, to ensure uptake of learners by industry.

Partnership is key when it comes to demand determination and qualification development. Industry needs to play a key role when it comes to qualification development, as academia could develop a qualification that is not a relevant fit for industry.

Corporate Social Investment (CSI) – We have seen bursaries and training as a social investment, this is not social, however it is economic investment.

There has been a request from Industry demanding short courses. The EW SETA has responded to industry needs by rolling out more short courses to give people access to meaningful training and

employment. Another focus for EW SETA in the solar space has been the support for SMME's. Allocation of funds have been submitted to these small businesses to address their needs.

EW SETA is currently looking at how they can assist with capacitating people in communities to work on plants built in their communities to address the unemployment rate. Currently, communities are seeing people being employed from outside.

Inclusive economy participation is what EW SETA is driving specifically in the energy sector.

3.13 Ms. Lauren Basson from Green Cape

Green Cape is a non-profit organisation that works with Industry, government, and academia. The organisations' role is to remove barriers to the investment to jobs in the Green Economy space.

One of the key things discovered in the skills space is that one must look at the full value chain and the system as a whole. You need the right skills, the right amount and in the right place.

Green Cape conducted 4-month full skills needs analysis of value chains in the renewable energy space. The focus was on wind, solar, battery storage and transmission and distribution grids. This is a 90-page report, of which a 10-page summary is publicly available.

We foresee the distribution generator market, particularly in the commercial and industrial space being the market that will rapidly grow going forward. There is also a need for us to prepare our grid at a transmission level and a distribution level for growth in the distributor generator space.

A skill that came through strongly was the need for Solar PV Designers. There is a high demand for grid engineers that can do grid integrations – high demand and scarcity at the moment.

We are incredibly well setup in the Western Cape to be able to provide these skills, through the presence of strong TVETs, Universities and the SARETEC, which can enable a skills hub in this space. We are, to a large extent, already key players in the production of skills required in this industry.

There is a need to focus, not just on bringing new people into the space but reskilling people that already exist in the space such as Eskom and Municipalities.

The ecosystem is there, however the links between partners in the ecosystem needs to be strengthened. Green Cape is working on strengthening these partnerships through various workshops in the Western Cape to develop as a collective an Action Plan to address these skills needs.

4 Industry Engagement Q&A Session facilitated by Ms. Ellen Fischat

Question: Mr. Andre Truter - Executive Mayer from Saldanha Municipality

What is the cost of battery power? And what is the possibility of that cost coming down in the next five years as renewables drop?

Answer: Mr. De Villiers Botha from Solareff

Battery usage is becoming cheaper over time, and we foresee the price further dropping.

Question: Mr. Haroon Mahomed from WCED

How quickly can we setup a forum that can allow education to speak to industry and get the conversations going and put tangible projects in place to gear up the schooling system to be responsive to the needs this sector.

Answer: Mr. De Villiers Botha from Solareff

Mr. Botha was keen to engage with Mr. Mahomed and indicated he has practical examples of how the curriculum of technical high schools can become more technical and less academic.

5 Summary of key points discussed by Mr. Velile Dube

With the current energy crisis in South Africa, we are called upon to act in this landscape by finding new sustainable solutions for energy generation and to work together in partnership. The message conveyed by all our gracious speakers today communicates that we have solutions to meet the ever-changing space of energy generation. As new ways and means are developed to increase energy generation capacity in the Solar P.V. Industry, so too must we develop the necessary skills and competencies to ensure that we provide an integrated approach towards building energy resilience in the Country/Province.

It is clear by the work demonstrated by all our partners today, that this is not a role or responsibility for a singular organisation, but that it calls for a collective to take on this challenge. As we have worked together in partnership in the development of the Solar PV Technician Qualification, we ask that you pledge your support to join hands with the Western Cape Government, in designing an Action Plan that will translate in the building of a skills pipeline for the Solar P.V. Industry.

6 Closure by Mr. Rashid Toefy

Special thank-you directed towards:

Presenters and Panelists:

Special thank-you to all the Presenters and Panelists for their valuable contribution in communicating the work being done in the Solar PV industry, their willingness to participate in the PCS commitment by private and public sector partners to drive growth and jobs in this industry with the Western Cape Government.

Panel Facilitator:

A huge thank-you to Ellen Fischat from the ASEZ for doing an amazing job today facilitating the panel engagements. It was also very insightful for the participants to get an update on the amazing work and the strategic drive by the ASEZ to support energy resilience including the Solar PV industry support in the Province.

WGC leadership:

Minister Wenger for the opening and insightful focus on highlighting this initiative and giving us a sense of what our high-level key priorities are to consider with regards to energy resilience and the partnership to realize these opportunities to support economic growth and jobs in the Province.

The Premier for the Keynote address, highlighting key aspects with regards to the support for Energy Resilience and how the Western Cape Government (WCG) is supportive of this event and the importance of driving partnership highlighted today, and drive further support for such partnerships to address the other key skills needs moving forward.

Our Head of Department from DEDAT encouraging the partners to work together and drive an Action Plan that will require the efforts from all our partners, who are encouraged to complete the pledge of support.

Dignitaries from all spheres of government and captains of industry via our hybrid event proceeding (physical and online participants) for their participation and valuable inputs shared during the PCS proceedings. All the inputs will be considered to form the Action Plan resulting from this event.

A huge thank-you to the Premier's Protocol team, IT support team as well as the DEDAT team that ensured the successful rollout of this event; particularly the Skills teams involvement in both co-funding and playing a key role in the development and digitizing of the learning material which has been shaped and finalized our key partners, MerSETA and SARETEC.

We encourage the industry both public and private partners that can open their workplaces and provide their expertise to support to pledge support for the pilot project rollout to host unemployed youth but also to work with the colleges to upskill the current workforce to be able to access relevant skills required.

Highlighting partners support for the new qualification and other skills initiatives being implemented or to be implemented in the Province:

A special mention to the partners that have driven the shaping of this agenda and pledged support to commit and realize the collaborations highlighted today as well as other key skills initiatives underway to support the Solar PV industry and overall Green Economy:

- Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), merSETA, in partnership with SARETEC with the support of WCG drove the development of this qualification, funding the training centres and the pilot project rollouts across the country providing public TVET colleges in our Province to benefit from this opportunity and allow our industry to be able to access these key skills required.
- Our public TVET colleges, West Coast College rolling out the first training centre and the pilot to be followed by False Bay College in the Province. The leading SETA to drive skills development in the energy space and the presence of the CEO today, shows the true commitment and support by the SETA to support the current and many other key skills initiatives either underway or planned to be rolled out in the Province to support the energy sector.
- Government partners driving energy resilience, supported by the presence of municipalities involved in the MER initiative being rolled out. We also acknowledge other key initiatives highlighted by the partners that is being drive by the various spheres of government which we acknowledge and value to help shape our Solar PV Industry.
- Green Cape as well for sharing the strategic intent aligned to a Skills Master Plan, they have developed in consultation with key stakeholders from both the skills demand and supply side that provides a foundation for the skills action plan that WCG will drive with the partners moving forward. They are commended for the splendid work driving a strategic plan to facilitate closer linkages between academia, industry and public sector that will be the recipe for a success to address the current and future skills needs moving forward.

Official Sign-off

It is hereby certified that this report on the Premier's Council on Skills:

- Was developed by the Provincial Skills and Partnership Team under the guidance of the Director: Ms. M Parker.
- Was developed to provide feedback and a way forward, emanating from the Premier's Council on Skills.
- Was developed based on Stakeholder Engagements on the day.

Supported by:

Ms. Elspeth Sheldon

Deputy Director: Provincial Skills and Partnership

Ms. Melissa Parker

Director: Provincial Skills and Partnership

Mr. Nezaam Joseph

Chief Director: Skills Development and Innovation

ANNEXURES

Annexure 1 – Presentation by Dr. Rethabile Melamu from SAPVIA

Annexure 2 – Presentation by Mr. Bernhard Teuteberg from DEDAT

Annexure 3 – Presentation by Mr. Melville Healing from SARETEC

Annexure 4 – Presentation by Mr Gerhard Coetzee from West Coast College

Annexure 5 – Information Sheet on Pilot Project

Contact Persons at Department of Economic Development and Tourism

Ms. Melissa Parker: Director: Skills Development and Innovation

Email: Melissa.Parker@westerncape.gov.za

Ms. Elspeth Sheldon: Deputy Director: Skills development and Innovation

Email: Elspeth.Sheldon@westerncape.gov.za



**Western Cape
Government**