

DEADLINE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM



19 MARCH 2010

Unlocking of SETA funding

The goal of this project is to appoint a Skills Development Facilitator (SDF) to assist a minimum of 20 firms to become registered with the appropriate SETA.

It also aims to assist with unlocking SETA opportunities for further training of employees, and to provide small businesses with information, guidance and advice on skills development. Businesses need to understand the benefits associated with completing and submitting their Workplace Skills Plans (WSP) for the year 2010/11, as well as their Annual Training Report (ATR) for the year 2010/2011.

Access funding through mandatory and discretionary grants for training purposes

The SDF initiative has successfully raised the skills levels within identified businesses within Oil & Gas, Tooling, BPO and ICT sectors in the Western Cape, which ultimately contributed to the overall competitiveness of these sectors. Identified firms are now fully registered with the relevant SETA, which has promoted firms to become fully compliant with

the Skills Development and Skills Levies Acts. Firms who previously struggled to access funding through the relevant SETAs are now able to access funding through mandatory and discretionary grants for training purposes.

The SDF provision has been well received in all selected sectors. Members that have been visited are really struggling to communicate their needs with the SETAs and cannot cope with SETAs' technical requirements. This project ensures that companies follow the right procedure to implement skills development, to set up structures, systems and develop policies and procedures in the organization,

rather than just concentrating on the administrative function of completing the WSP & ATR right at the end.

Companies utilising the SDF are maximising the benefits of the service provider to achieve their strategic objectives or grow their businesses. SETAs are on board and are very co-operative and willing to assist member companies. SETAs have explained their funding models and provided KG with information and application forms for members to complete as the need arises.

25 firms across 4 sectors have been included in this project so far.



Western Cape Tooling Initiative
(Wingfield Campus, FET College)

International TOURIST GUIDES Day

The Department of Economic Development and Tourism: Fair Business Environment, commemorated International Tourist Guides Day on 18 February 2010, under the theme “2010 All Geared Up”.

The much-anticipated event took the form of an excursion on the Metrorail Southern Tourist Route to Fish Hoek. Guides were welcomed on Cape Town Station, where many took the opportunity to learn the Diski Dance. After registration, excited guests boarded the Business Express Train (specially allocated for the trip by Metrorail). They thoroughly enjoyed being served a variety of coffees as they took in the spectacular view of the coastline from Muizenberg to Fish Hoek.

On arrival in Fish Hoek, they took the short walk to the Avenue Hotel to complete formalities. Councilor Demetri Qually, Chairperson: South Peninsula Sub-Council and DA Councilor for Ward 64, acting on behalf of Minister Alan Winde, welcomed guides and provided insight into how International Tourist Guides Day was started in 1990 by the World Federation of Tourist Guides. He also highlighted the crucial role that guides play in the “Tourism Value Chain”.



Tourist Guides on the train

The guest speaker, George Dearnaley, Soccer Business Manager for Media 24 and former Bafana Bafana player, got guides excited about SA hosting the World Cup during his address about “2010 – The Fans”. As a soccer traveller, he has attended many World Cup matches and is positive about the benefits of the tournament for our country.

Another highlight was the awarding of certificates to the winners of, and participants in, the Tourist Guide of the Year competition. Philip Coetzee was the winner in the National Category and Peter Pitout in the Site Guide Category.

During a delicious lunch, many spot prizes were awarded and guests were treated to a surprise performance by the Cape Town group Ghost Town.

At 13h30 all guests were once again waiting on Fish Hoek Station to return to Cape Town. The event allowed guides to rediscover the joys of travelling by train, and the possibility of a new product/tour they can offer. It also afforded them the opportunity to gain more insight into the Three Cities Group, which has taken over the Avenue Hotel and many other leisure products in South Africa.

Career Awareness

Career Planet plants the seeds for hope and purpose in career path

Planning

Career Planet offers a unique career and training discovery service free of charge to communities in the Western Cape. Its mobile, online workshops, visits high schools, community centres and shopping centres providing a much needed free online service to unemployed youth and adults.

The Career Planet team of facilitators are on hand to guide users through the website and to offer career-related information.

School visits include workshops designed to motivate and inspire participants. Activities include interest profiling, career goal-setting, and career-and training-related research on the Career Planet's website.

The website gives participants access to accredited training providers, bursaries, learnerships, self-employment information and much more. An extremely popular feature on the website is the "Ask Lynn" application that allows users to email career and training-related questions to a highly-experienced career counselor. Answers are emailed directly back to the enquirer and are also posted on the Career Planet website for the benefit of others. Learner details are captured on the database, which allows data to be gathered on the training and career aspirations of the participants and enables Career Planet to communicate relevant information such as bursary, learnership or training opportunities to the correct candidates via sms, email or post. Career Planet Community workshops concentrate on helping unemployed people gain access to online information and develop the skills they need to write professional CVs,



Career Planet at work in Villiersdorp Secondary School

and to perform well in job interviews. All participants are entered into the Career Planet database with information regarding employment preferences and the like. This information can be made available to organizations and recruitment agencies that have opportunities for unemployed people.

Career Planet provides workshops and internet access to more than 120 high school learners every day. Community workshops cater for up to 120 participants a day.

Successes

Over the past 3 months, Career Planet has visited schools and communities in areas such as Saldanha Bay, Velddrif, Vredenburg, Hopefield, Diazville, Atlantis, Grabouw, Villiersdorp, Genadendal, Caledon, Hermanus and Stellenbosch.

Career Planet also visited schools in urban areas such as Philippi East, Mitchells Plain, Athlone, Belhar, Table View, and Du Noon. In many cases the learners had had little or no previous exposure to current information on career and training opportunities. Schools indicated that postmatric unemployment levels were high and morale extremely low. Very few learners had access to information and or opportunities to study further. Learners who attended the Career Planet workshops were excited by what they had learned and participated enthusiastically in activities. There is a dire need for access to up-to-date information about training and career opportunities - particularly in the rural areas.

Thought for the day

Quote by Wilfred Peterson:

"Decision is the spark that ignites action. Until a decision is made, nothing happens.

Decision is the courageous facing of issues, knowing that if they are not faced, problems will remain forever unanswered."



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