

Youths will learn vital technical skills

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A TOTAL of 100 unemployed youths from across Metsimaholo local municipality have been placed under the skills development programme, by the public works and infrastructure department, in partnership with Sasol.

The department spokesperson, Mlungisi Maqubela, said the ongoing programme was aimed at equipping young people with technical skills.

He said the participants gathered at Boiketlong hall in Sasolburg last week for an official induction and clarity on the programme and signing of contracts.

“The young people participating in the programme come from different backgrounds and hold different levels of qualifications,” Maqubela said.

“The qualifications are not necessarily considered as the programme is structured in such a manner that it will develop the skills of the participants.”

He said the programme was undertaken through the expanded public works programme, as a government programme aimed at alleviating poverty and providing income relief through temporary work.

“The programme began on Thursday and

will end in November and participants will be granted a stipend on a monthly basis,” Maqubela said.

He said the government had specific interventions for the uplifting of youth in the province to reduce unemployment.

Metsimaholo mayor Lindiwe Tshongwe called on young people to grab this opportunity with both hands.

“This is an opportunity to transform your lives for the better and determine your future, many would have loved to have had this opportunity, but you were the fortunate ones,” she said while talking to the youth.

She said the first part of the programme would be based on self-discovery where young participants learned more about themselves before they could be placed in a workplace environment they were suitable for.

One of the young people, Palesa Boniswa, was so happy and excited to be part of the programme.

“I was just sitting at home doing nothing before I joined the programme,” she said.

“I was hopeless without any source of income but now I’m relieved as this programme will put food on my table and also enhance my skills.”

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