

Use opportunities, says MEC

Boipelo Mere

boipelo.mere@volksblad.com

A clear call has been made to the unemployed youth in the province not to despair and to use each and every opportunity starting to open up in both government and the private sector to the fullest.

The call was made by Mack Jack, MEC for the Department of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, during a Hospitality Youth Training Programme presented at the Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre on Monday, 26 March.

He urged the youth to assist government in creating opportunities by taking advantage of government programmes that can assist them in creating small and medium enterprises.

Elaborating on the benefits of the Hospitality Youth Training Programme, Jack applauded the fact that it fit very well into former president Nelson Mandela's vision of youth empowerment.

The MEC quoted Mandela: "I admire young people who are concerned with the affairs of their community and nation, perhaps because I also became involved in the struggle



Mack Jack, MEC for the Department of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism.

while I was still at school... To the youth of today, I also have a wish to make: Be the script-writers of your destiny and feature yourselves as stars that show the way towards a brighter future."

According to the MEC, in celebrating the Nelson Mandela Centenary, his department would collaborate with the McGregor Museum for a Mandela Display and Installation.

"Specific youth-focussed events will be hosted during Youth Month in June and Madiba's birthday month (July) in his memory, by involving identified youth in Calvinia for exposure to astronomical

research and tourism products and experiences at the Square Kilometre Array (SKA)," announced Jack.

"There will also be a special route offering, highlighting Mandela's presence in the Northern Cape."

Another opportunity mentioned for the youth to explore was the Coastal and Marine Tourism Strategy, aimed at enhancing policy intervention with regards to Operation Phakisa and the oceans economy processes.

The strategy, according to the MEC, had the potential to diversify the economy on the West Coast from mining to tourism.

"The study has been registered with the Provincial and National Treasury as a public-private partnership (PPP).

"This strategy will be supported by the implementation of the Small Harbours and state-owned Coastal Property Development initiative targeted for the Namakwa District.

"This is an effort of the national Department of Public Works (DPW), which is planning investments in three coastal municipalities, in the Northern Cape, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal."