

**Smile 90.4 fm, 15 March 2019**

**TRAINING THE FUTURE LEADERS IN THE HOSPITALITY SECTOR**

The City of Cape Town and the Federated Hospitality Association of Southern Africa Cape, are hosting a capacity-building workshop for 38 interns that aims to equip them with the full spectrum of vocational and life skills for future employment within the hospitality sector.

This skills development programme builds on a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed between the City and FEDHASA in 2016 for a pilot project that saw 20 young people being placed with FEDHASA members to gain practical work experience for a period of 18 months.

38 candidates are participating in phase two of the agreement this year, taking the total to 58 candidates who are benefiting from the training.

Through this intervention, participating youths go through a rigorous and well-structured training programme designed to give them a foot in the door for job opportunities in the sector.

The City's Mayoral Committee Member for Urban Management Grant Twigg the the importance of these partnerships are vital to young people.

"Too many youth are unemployed, sitting idle and unsure of which career path to follow. Tertiary institutions are not the only places of higher learning that are available to them. Such training programmes prepare them for the world of work and this is something they should strongly consider as their future endeavour. All that's needed for this particular training programme is a matric certificate."

In terms of the MOA, FEDHASA will set and follow its own training criteria and framework. The objective is to enhance the individuals' chances of securing permanent employment. The City will pay them a stipend from the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

In addition, the skills programme has a built-in wellness programme which focusses on personal development, personal branding and communication, among a host of other areas to ensure the interns are well-rounded individuals upon completion of the programme.