

Cape Town approves funding to upskill EPW programme participants



The City of Cape Town council has approved R13.78 million to upskill participants in its Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), with 170 set to receive SA Qualifications Authority-accredited training and skills development in the first project.

The council said the training had been tailor-made for school leavers or unemployed individuals, with the minimum requirement being a Grade 11 or a Grade 12 certificate or the individual having been unemployed for more than two years. Mayoral committee member for urban management Grant Twigg said: “This training intervention is a huge opportunity for individuals to upskill themselves to enable them to tackle opportunities in the digital space. What stands out for me is the fact that all 170 individuals are guaranteed to be placed in a permanent call centre job at the end of the training.”

The bulk of the money will be used to specifically address the critical technology skills shortage associated with the fourth industrial revolution. This will see 345 unemployed youth aged between 18 and 34 being trained over a 12-month period, with 80% getting placements in learnerships or internships.