

DPW helps train future entrepreneurs in business

SIVENATHI GOSA

The department of public works held a entrepreneurship and business management training workshop recently to assist students who had passed the accelerated professional and trade competency development programme.

APTCoD learner and carpenter Sivuyile Kala said the training was beneficial as some of the students already had businesses.

"I have my own company and have now learnt about various organisations such as

the department of trade and industry (DTI), as well as the Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda) that help entrepreneurs with funding and drawing up business plans," Kala said.

He said the training helped him understand his strengths, weaknesses and how to best deal with competition when running a business.

Community-based businesses also helped fight crime by employing youth and reducing poverty, Kala said.

Expanded public works programme (EPWP) deputy



UPSKILLED: APTCoD students engaged in entrepreneurship and business management training Picture: SUPPLIED

director Nontembiso Masela said students benefitted from gaining a broader knowledge of business operations and the processes of starting a business.

"The new venture creations

training aims to equip APTCoD students with information that will assist them to better understand the dynamics of starting a business and we also want to promote

entrepreneurship among students," she said.

Masela said the decision to run the workshop came about after she noticed that when students left the programme, they had nothing to fall back on.

"After completing the programme, we noticed that students were still faced with the sad reality of unemployment.

"We identified entrepreneurship that would serve as an intervention to assist them financially," she said.

She said once a student started a business, they could create employment

opportunities for others as well. Amandla Consultancy Services facilitator Akholelwe Hanabe said they assisted students with relevant information needed before venturing into the business world and educated them about the roles different organisations played in helping entrepreneurs.

He said they had faced the challenge of some students being on the cellphones and not switching them off after they were told to do so.

He said dividing the students into two groups would make managing them easier in future.