

Youth exposed to opportunities

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The township economy is waiting to be explored and the youth are perfectly placed to seize the opportunity.

This was the message received by a group of youths from Motherwell who attended the “Township economy empowerment programme” hosted by NPO Youth Network.

Youth Network, ESM training and the Game Changer Team partnered with other companies in hosting the township economy programme to educate the youth about business opportunities.

Youth Network development officer Naqama-Nandiswa Mpolweni said the programme aimed to expose people aged 18-35 to the issues of socioeconomic development.

She said they were on a recruitment drive for their courses in agriculture, new venture and computer literacy training.

“We organised guest speakers to speak to a limited number of youth [about the opportunities of the township economy],” Mpolweni said.

Black Hat Group MD Olwam Mnwazi, who was one of the guest speakers, said it was important to observe how townships were established as they had both advantages and disadvantages.

“I was one of the people who used to take international students to experience the Port Elizabeth township life.

“Township tourism is important, but safety and security



is also important.

“Invest in the people to attract tourists and the township economy should revolve within itself,” Mnwazi said.

Bongiwe Headbush, president of Bongiwe Headbush Holdings, which operates in Witbank, Mpumalanga, Rustenburg and KwaZulu-Natal in coal, chrome and anthracite mining, said she had travelled from Mpumalanga because she was troubled by the level of poverty among black communities.

“Young people not having

direction made me want to come talk about the opportunities that I am exposed to in the mining sector that can be used in Nelson Mandela Bay.

“There are minerals that can be used, there is granite, we can tap into renewable energy, we have schools that were vandalised, we want public works to give us those schools, we will turn them into colleges,” Headbush said.

Siyasanga Budaza, 29, said after the programme she was motivated to support other township businesses.

SPREADING THE MESSAGE: Taking part in the township economy presentation yesterday are, from left, researcher Zamuxolo Nduno, Naqama-Nandiswa Mpolweni (Youth Network officer), Thanduxolo Doda, from the Game Changer Team, and Olwam Mnwazi, MD of the Black Hat Group
Picture: WERNER HILLS

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