

Assisting the youth of Metsimaholo



With June being Youth Month Sasol, in partnership with the Free State Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, is proud to embark on the fourth Youth Development Programme in the Fezile Dabi District this month. The first three programmes were done with the Metsimaholo Local Municipality, while the 2021 programme will benefit young people from the Ngwathe Local Municipality.

According to Thuli Mbuli, Head Community Affairs for Sasol’s Sasolburg and Ekandustria Operations, Sasol embarked on the Youth Development Programme in 2018 when a pilot was conducted in Sasolburg to improve labour market prospects for youth. In 2019 the programme ran in Oranjeville and in Deneysville during 2020.

The programme has 3 focus areas namely:

- Personal Development Curriculum designed from an empowering “inside out perspective” with the goal to create personal awareness on different levels, develop inter-personal relationship skills as well as Emotional, Mental, Physical and Leadership Intelligence development.
- Career focused development of the candidate including

career guidance, project management, basic computer skills as well as institutional and practical skills development to embed learning into work experiences.

- Solving a community need by means of doing physical work in the community eg cleaning identified areas, environmental education and infrastructure maintenance of public facilities (fencing, painting, fixing windows).

According to Mbuli the Youth Development Programme empowers participants to gain experience and skills that will enable them to pursue a career, further their studies or even become an entrepreneur. “Sasol is proud of the various investments into our fenceline communities that increase the pool and quality of relevant skills to increase the employability and portable skills for our youth, that also include a number of artisan training projects,” said Mbuli.

Apart from promoting skills development among the youth, Sasol continues to invest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education as well as early childhood education, improves access to healthcare facilities and supports water and sanitation infrastructure upgrades in Metsimaholo.



Sasol started the Youth Development Programme as a pilot project in Sasolburg in 2018 in partnership with the Free State Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. Building on the success of the project, the fourth programme is being rolled out this month in Ngwathe Local Municipality.



Five ladies are currently gaining practical experience at Sasol in Sasolburg as riggers. Learners are placed in Work Integrated Learning positions at industries and companies in the Vaal Triangle through the Sasol supported artisans training programme from which some have already qualified as fully-fledged artisans.



The Boitjhorisong Welding Training Centre in Sasolburg opened its doors in 2020, training metal arc welders. Since the beginning of 2021 it expanded its curriculum to also offer Argon welding. The Centre is a partnership between Sasol, Aurex Constructors and AfroX.



At the Boitjhorisong Welding Training Centre learners acquire competencies in shielded metal arc welding during the first module.