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The artisans. Photo: Twitter City of Tshwane

## City training programme produces 80 artisans cohort

Itumeleng Mokoena

Eighty Tshwane leadership and management academy (TLMA) graduate artisans were successfully deployed in the city.

These artisans were trained in a variety of disciplines through the city's artisan skills training programme, and are now applying their skills to improve services and infrastructure in Tshwane.

MMC for corporate and shared services, Kingsley Wakelin said that this is a testament to the city's commitment to skills development and creating a workforce that is well-equipped to meet the needs of the community.

He pointed out that they are being placed through absorption by the expanded public works programme (EPWP) as well as the public employment programme (PEP).

"This intervention by the Tshwane metro is a strategic investment in our departments, which will result in a capacity boost that will enable us to continue providing high-quality services," Wakelin said by training and deploying these artisans, "we are reducing our reliance on external service providers and increasing the technical expertise of our workforce".

"This investment will not only improve service delivery but will also provide an excellent return on

investment," he said.

Through its apprentice development programme, TLMA has trained over 100 artisans over the last few years in various specialised fields and trades.

"Finally, through better interdepartmental collaboration,

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they have created a new pathway to capitalise on our investment," he said.

As custodians, TLMA will oversee this three-year pilot programme. The city has a constitutional mandate to provide services sustainably.

"This can only be achieved by honing the necessary internal skills so that we keep our water and power networks well maintained and respond to outages quickly and effectively. Building institutional memory and capacity is key to transforming the Tshwane metro into a capable city that works for all," Wakelin concluded.