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**merSETA**  
MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING  
AND RELATED SERVICES SETA



higher education & training  
Department  
Higher Education and Training  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**The merSETA Embarks on a Vigorous Journey of Skills Development**



**Mrs Disa Mpande**  
merSETA Acting CEO

The Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services SETA (merSETA) has launched a vigorous journey of skills development throughout the country, in particular focusing on training more than 7 000 learners in solar photo-voltaic skills.

This comes as the country faces a huge demand for solar alternatives in the face of the severe energy crisis affecting both production and households.

The start of the new financial year ushered in partnerships between the merSETA and various institutions, in a robust journey to tackle skills shortages in the country.

Several Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) were signed, resulting in partnerships between the merSETA and these organisations, forging what promises to be longstanding, fruitful relationships.



**merSETA Chairperson, Mrs Disa Mpande**

In the Northern Cape, the merSETA entered a partnership with the provincial government to fund a three-year skills development project. The funding for this project is for the value of R210 135 000.00 and will be spread across the different government departments in the province.

- The Department of Social Development will receive funding for seven Youth Service Centres for electrical, welding and computer equipment, 50 bursaries per year for three years, skills programmes for 420 learners in either electrical or welding skills.
- The Department of Education will receive funding for 10 technical schools for equipment over a period of two years, while Road and Public Works will receive funding for learnerships (renewable energy, level 3) for 500 learners over a period of three years, skills programmes for 450 learners in either solar installation, welding or hand tools, ARPL for 150 learners for merSETA trades.
- The Department of Health will receive funding for Clinical Engineering Training for 10 learners, Artisan training for 10 learners, while the Northern Cape Economic Development Agency (NCEDA) will receive funding for skills programmes for 500 learners in either solar installation, welding or hand tools, learnerships for 200 learners and ARPL for 150 electricians. The Office of the Premier will receive funding for bursaries for 50 learners per year over three years.



**Left to right: merSETA Acting CEO Mrs Disa Mpande and Free State Premier, Mphahlele Mphahlele**

In the Free state, the partnership aims to develop a project that will skill and reskill the unemployed youth of the five districts within the province to meet the urgent need of reducing the high unemployment rate in the province.

Through this project, 5 000 unemployed youth will be placed in skills development programmes that will focus on learnerships, awareness training, information technologies operations and drone piloting.

In Gauteng, the merSETA partnered with the provincial government to support two very significant projects in the province. The first is for the training of 6000 learners in the Solar PV Microgrid & Business Skills and Entrepreneurial Training through the Gauteng City Region Academy (GCRA), to the value of R172 million.

The second project is the funding of tools and equipment for 11 technical schools through the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE), to the value of R55 million.

With the constant financial struggles faced by students classified as "missing middle", leading to their inability to afford higher education, the merSETA entered a partnership with the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), to offer support to these students, through the provision of funding to the value of R141.75 million.

Through this partnership, 300 students from the "missing middle" will be supported to pursue higher education studies. The focus of the studies will be on mer-sector specific programmes, at 26 public universities in the country, over a three-year period, from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2025.

"The merSETA is excited to have entered these partnerships and aims to forge more of this nature and magnitude in future. It is through these projects, coupled with the invaluable, continuous support from the Department of Higher Education and Training, that we are indeed, leaders in closing the skills gap," says the merSETA Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Disa Mpande.

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