

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**Tuesday 20 August 2013**

### **100 Unemployed young men and women to gain construction skills**

In attracting the interest of young men and women in a formerly male dominated construction industry, the North West Human Settlements, Public Safety and Liaison, Human Settlements Branch has placed 100 unemployed young people on a learnership and apprenticeship programmes respectively.

Fifty of young men and women have been contracted for a one-year term for learnership programme on community house building (NQF 2). They will go through a theoretical and practical training in various specialities such as; plastering, plumbing, carpentry and joinery, while the remaining 50 young men and women have been contracted for a three year Building and Civil Construction NQF 3.

MEC, Nono Maloyi said his department has decided to take an aggressive approach in addressing shortage of skills within the construction industry.

“We are currently facing a serious challenge on lack of skills in construction industry hence we then acted according to one of government priorities which is to address the challenge on shortage of skills and reduce the high number of unemployment in the country”.

“With these learnership and apprenticeship programmes we are actually working towards easily achieving our Outcome 8, which focuses on integrated human settlements, aiming for sustainable human settlements and improved quality of household life. We need to have more skilled young men and women in construction who will be able to deliver quality houses towards sustainable human settlements for all our beneficiaries of the province and the country at large,” said Maloyi.

According to the department, these learners will spend at least 70% of practical exposure at construction site in the province and will further receive a monthly stipend for duration of the programme. The 100 contracted learners were recruited from various districts in the province through recruitment processes.

The programmes give an opportunity to work while studying towards a national recognised qualification.

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