



**merSETA**

MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING  
AND RELATED SERVICES SETA

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## **SANTAM MOTOR VEHICLE LEARNERSHIPS ADDRESS**

**DR RAYMOND PATEL – merSETA CEO**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**SANTAM Colleagues, Friends, Compatriots**

**Learners**

It is no mean feat appearing at a function to honour a company's programmes dedicated to sustaining a better lifestyle in the face of adversity.

But I'll try my best to live up to expectations.

My input can in no way compare to the billions of rands paid out to millions whose vehicles have been damaged through accidents and theft or who have lost millions in household contents and other possessions.

Apart from restoring to previous levels the lives and possessions of people affected by adversity, the short-term industry must be congratulated for its social responsibility programmes.

Few know that Santam, while it is the largest short-term insurer, is also committed to social transformation and responsibility.

Programme Director...your company rightly states that transformation is a top priority and is essential in securing skilled staff, developing a diverse and representative employee base, conforming to industry codes and securing the trust of stakeholders.

merSETA research indicates that Santam spends 50% more than what is required on skills development for previously disadvantaged individuals. This is clearly way above the 1.5% stipulated by the Financial Sector Charter.

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**merSETA Head Office**

**95 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Corner Rustenburg Road, Melville, Johannesburg, 2109**

**P O Box 61826, Marshalltown 2107**

**Telephone No: 010 219 3000 Website: [www.merseta.org.za](http://www.merseta.org.za)**



Thus, congratulations for your Motor Vehicle Learnership Programme are in order.

By offering this programme, you are squarely in line with the merSETA's vision of closing the skills gap.

To those who have been accepted on this programme today, a learnership is a work-based learning programme that leads to a nationally recognised qualification directly related to an occupation, for example a motor mechanic, panel-beater, tyre-moulder, automotive electrician, fitters, machine tool setters, tool, jig and die makers etc.

A learnership combines a structured learning component with practical work experience acquired while employed in a company, government department or small business. Learners in learnerships have to attend classes at a college or training centre to complete the classroom-based learning, and they also have to complete on-the-job training in a workplace.

*Santam...*this programme undoubtedly fulfils the merSETA strategy.

The merSETA strategic objectives are clear:

They are to:

- Increase the stock of skills;
- Strengthen the flow of skills;
- Enhance workplace learning;
- Grow the base of skills and expertise; and
- Strengthen those mechanisms for better skills planning, implementation and partnerships.

According to the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of SA (Naamsa), new car sales in January were the best in five years due to strong demand from car rental companies.

Aggregate industry sales increased by 3144 units to **48 251** vehicles in January alone compared to about 45 000 units in January last year.



When one views these figures – and the potential growth – it becomes clear that our journey to drive skills development will be long and arduous.

But through programmes such as these...*and thank you Santam...*we can take comfort in facing the challenge as a collective and making a meaningful contribution towards the lives of our people.

Today's initiative shows we can build on what is necessary.

I congratulate Santam in affirming its belief that the customer is king. The customer can only be king when service and maintenance is of the highest standard.

This standard can only be served through extensive skills development and training.

And today's launch proves that point.

I Thank You.

