



merSETA

MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING AND RELATED SERVICES SETA

The merSETA: Press Release

Attention: Business Editors; Education and Training Editors; Labour Editors

Manufacturing SETA (merSETA) SME Launch held on the 08 February 2008

For immediate release,

The SME Training voucher for the Manufacturing and related Services SETA (merSETA) was officially launched at Birchwood in Johannesburg. The main objective of the project is to educate the SME so that they can not only have the technical skills but they will also poses business skills so that they can be able to do their own book keeping. 19 000 SME's in the MER Sector are exempted and currently merSETA is reaching about 6000 SME's. 90 million rand is been put in this project for a period of three years. The voucher will also help the SME's in dealing with legislative requirements.

One of the challenges that the SME's were concern about is the bureaucracy, merSETA's Project Manager Ms Linda Nxumalo was quick to point out that there's no bureaucracy at all "the training voucher is speedily approved, the turn around time is 24 hrs" she said. In order for a company to participate in the project it must be registered with merSETA, the company must have less than 50 employees.

The project is open to the levy paying and the levy non paying companies. Companies can apply for vouchers worth up to R5 200 per person and not exceed R26 000 per SME company. The courses offering is wide and ranges from ABET to technical / industry specific courses. MerSETA's CEO Dr

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Raymond Patel said “ the concept of scarce and critical skills, while useful, are not definitive in the SME context the strategy provides for a phased set of flexible and diverse service offerings and SME’s require different support, which is needs based, and brings about quick returns, and immediate skills acquisition (Short courses)” The project also got a nod from the Department of Labour, Dr Florius Prinsloo congratulated merSETA and made a commitment that DoL will continue supporting merSETA in it’s quest for closing the skills gap in the country through projects such as the SME Training Voucher, he further said it is critical for merSETA to market the project extensively and ensure that small business benefits.

Employers should not be reluctant to send their employees on varies courses for training, especially now that merSETA has a strategy in place, it is important for employees to develop and better themselves, stagnation should be discouraged at all cost, merSETA’s Executive Committee Chairperson Mr Xolani Tshayana said in closing the ceremony that was described as one of the jewels within merSETA by Dr Raymond Patel.

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