



**merSETA**

MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING  
AND RELATED SERVICES SETA

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## **The merSETA: Press Release**

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

### **The merSETA's R22.6m boost to Eastern Cape**

#### **For immediate release,**

Artisans in the Eastern Cape received R22.6-million for skills training from the merSETA in a multi-year skills agreement.

The merSETA and the Eastern Cape Provincial Government launched a multi-million rand, three-year project aimed at training thousands of artisans in the Eastern Cape.

The merSETA CEO Dr Raymond Patel said the agreement would uplift people in the rural areas. "Skills development, job creation and poverty alleviation go hand-in-hand. We are confident that this partnership will lead to sustainable job creation for the youth and also address gender equality in the process." He said.

The agreement structures partnerships between FET colleges, Eastern Cape universities, business and the provincial government to ensure a consistent pipeline of skills to the manufacturing and engineering industries in the province. In terms of the agreement, merSETA will disburse R22, 6-million to the Office of the Premier in the next three years to effect the training.

This will see students undergoing experiential training for the completion of the P1 and P2 work-based learning programmes required to graduate from their respective higher learning Institutions and will include assisting 80

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learners who have completed at least a Level 2 qualification through the Eastern Cape Strategic Skills Project to complete their learnerships and undergo trade tests. A further 42 indentured apprentices will complete a three-year programme, while 150 engineering students in need of completing their training through bridging programmes.

Dr Patel emphasised that all the economic sub-sectors, inclusive of agriculture; artisans, technicians and engineers are integral to successful production and economic development. “I’m stating this, because in the province’s Growth and Development Framework, agricultural transformation is also a strategic objective, specifically in relation to food security.”

Eastern Cape Premier Noxolo Kiviet said skills development has proven to be a foundation for successful economies. She said it is an ingredient to achieve sustainable job creation and economic development as the youth, haven been subjected to deep poverty, often need more than subjects to study and a job: they also need to develop the skills to sustain and maintain these jobs.

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