



**merSETA**

MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING AND RELATED SERVICES SETA

## The merSETA: Press Release

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

**Manufacturing SETA (merSETA) is investing R8,4 million to train unemployed learners as part of Jipsa**

### For immediate release,

The first phase of the merSETA/Automotive Industry Development Corporation (AIDC)-Employment and Skills Development Lead Employer (ESDLE) project recently came to an end on a high note. 300 learners will be awarded National Certificates in Manufacturing, Engineering and related Activities (NQF 1) at a graduation ceremony to be addressed by the Minister of Labour Membathisi Mdladlana at Johannesburg City Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2006.

The project, which was initiated by the Department of Labour in May 2004, and funded by the Manufacturing and Engineering SETA to the tune of 8,9 million rands has achieved a 90% success rate. "The relevance and impact of the learnership is highlighted by the fact that 20% of the learners have secured employment in the industry" says S'thabiso Madondo, Managing Director of AIDC ESDLE.

As part of its commitment to the joint initiative on priority skills acquisition (Jipsa), merSETA is re-investing a further 8,4 million rands in the project. The further investment has been informed by the scarce and critical skills identified in the manufacturing and engineering sector. Six national qualifications,

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focusing on skills needed in the sector, have been identified to further train the learners who have completed their level one training. These are:

- National Certificate in Automotive Component Manufacturing;
- National Certificate in Fabrication;
- National Certificate in Vehicle Maintenance and repairs;
- National Certificate in Mechatronics;
- National Certificate in Autotronics;
- National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering Fitting;

The learnership project was run in conjunction with six FET colleges and 42 host employers most of whom are SMME and BEE companies in need of skills development support.

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**ENDS**