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MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING
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merSETA: PRESS RELEASE

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

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Mercedes Benz SA, merSETA and the Eastern Cape Department of Education have launched a pilot project to upgrade skills in the crucial after-sales maintenance sector. Aimed at boosting the number of qualified mechanics, mechatronics, autotronics and auto electricians, the scheme will see the creation of a specialist training unit at the Buffalo City Further Education and Training College in East London.

“After finishing their college degree in the four fields, the students will be selected to complete another year of intensive training in the training unit,” says Dr Claudia Beck-Reinhardt, programme manager at JIPSA in the Eastern Cape. Dr Beck-Reinhardt coordinated the programme, which will select students from eight FET colleges in the Eastern Cape for the intensive training. She said once the intensive training was completed, students would be linked to various opportunities across the auto sector.

“Daimler AG Germany launched the first such project in India two years ago after identifying after-sales maintenance as a key thrust of its processes. It has been a huge success. The project has now been duplicated here with the Eastern Cape – the hub of South Africa’s motor industry – being selected for the project,” she adds.



merSETA would ensure training standards and quality were maintained in line with vocational certification.

merSETA will further provide bursaries to deserving students in the four disciplines.

“We are excited by this project as it will increase the value-add of students trained in the auto sector,” says merSETA CEO Dr Raymond Patel.

“We congratulate industry captains such as Mercedes Benz SA for putting the training of students in scarce skills at the top of their training agenda,” Dr Patel adds.

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