



merSETA

MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING
AND RELATED SERVICES SETA

The merSETA: Press Release

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

Wispeco opens doors for the youth

For immediate release,

Twenty-nine young men and women acquire key skills in the aluminium fabrication and distribution sector. Nine deaf learners were over the moon when they were presented with certificates for successfully completing the Metal and Engineering NQF Level 2 Programme at a glittering graduation ceremony hosted by Wispeco Aluminium at Alrode, Gauteng, recently.

A further 20 learners were similarly recognised for successfully completing a NQF Level 3 Supervision Learnership.

The Metal and Engineering Manufacturing Processes Programme is aimed at empowering deaf learners to acquire technical skills in fabrication, while the Supervision Learnership is intended to uplift employees in the industry who had demonstrated exceptional leadership abilities.

Wispeco Aluminium, one of the country's leading aluminium suppliers, is no stranger to the skills development space. The company has trained more than 200 learners in formal aluminium fabrication, supervision and new venture creation over the past few years.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, Wispeco Training Manager Ms Melissa Botha said six of the nine deaf learners, who received their qualifications at the end of 2013, were employed in the aluminium fabrication and distribution sector.



“Every effort is made to teach these learners life skills and workplace discipline as the main aim is for them to be successful contributors to the productivity of the aluminium fabrication and distribution sector,” Ms Botha said.

She said many of the learners were from previously disadvantaged communities and added that special focus was placed on empowering young black women with disabilities.

Ms Botha also pointed out some of the challenges facing the deaf “It remains a challenge to find employment for deaf learners. Wispeco, however, regularly conducts deaf awareness and deaf sensitisation workshops for government departments and client companies interested in employing the deaf,” she said.

Ms Ansa Liebenberg, the merSETA’s Programme Manager, applauded Wispeco for the role it was playing in the training of learners, saying the company had set the bar very high.

“The merSETA and Wispeco have a longstanding relationship and we are proud of the work being done by Wispeco. We want to also take this opportunity and wish all the learners who graduated today well in their future careers,” Ms Liebenberg concluded.

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