



merSETA
MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING
AND RELATED SERVICES SETA

MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All Media

Attention: News Editors / Manufacturing and Engineering Reporters

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Johannesburg, 26 February 2024

The opening of applications for our Discretionary Grants for the 2024/25 Financial Year is a transformative opportunity for stakeholders. We are proud to announce that this initiative is not just about funding; it's a strategic move towards empowering our workforce, enhancing our industries, and uplifting the communities we serve.

This year, the merSETA is poised to catalyse change by supporting a range of initiatives poised to close the skills gap, drive innovation, and promote sustainable development within our sector. From fostering inclusive growth by developing the skills of trade union members and advancing black leadership, to bolstering the capabilities of SMMEs in townships and rural areas, the grants aim to create a ripple effect of positive change throughout the economy.

The merSETA Discretionary Grants are designed as a launch pad for stakeholders to engage in programs that will shape the future of our sector. By aligning with the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERRP), we are committed to addressing the critical needs of our economy while adhering to our core values and strategic objectives.

Key areas of focus include but are not limited to:

- Enhancing professional development and registration of engineering graduates;
- Facilitating work-integrated learning for students in technical and vocational education;
- Nurturing entrepreneurship in the youth demographic to foster self-employment; and
- Advancing green skills programs in line with global sustainability trends.

Our commitment to diversity and inclusion is evident through targeted programs for the development of black industrialists, black leadership, especially females within our industries, and skills development for people with disabilities.

Stakeholders eligible for these grants include levy-paying and non-levy-paying employers, community-based organizations, cooperatives, trade unions, educational institutions, research organizations, and skills development providers. The merSETA is looking for partners who share our vision and have a proven track record in delivering education and training programs.

Applications are now open and will be accepted through the National Skills Development Management System (NSDMS) via the Projects Portal Platform at (<https://nsdms.merseta.org.za>) until 29 February 2024. It is important to note that applications will only be accepted through this platform, and the deadline will not be extended.

We urge all interested parties to ensure compliance with all mandatory documents and be ready to provide supplementary information if requested. Our call center and regional offices stand ready to offer assistance throughout the application process.

We at merSETA are excited to see the innovative projects and impactful programs that will emerge from this grant period. Together, let's build a resilient and skilled workforce that will drive the manufacturing, engineering, and related services sectors to new heights.

For additional information, and to share in this exciting journey, please reach out to Ms. Temana Masekela at TMasekela@merseta.org.za or by phone at 0768926619

Issued by the Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA).

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