



merSETA
MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING
AND RELATED SERVICES SETA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Extension of Call for Applications: The merSETA Special Funding Window for 2025/26 Discretionary Grants

To: All Media

Attention: News Editors / Journalists / Manufacturing and Engineering Reporters

26 August 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA) announces an extension of the Special Funding Window for Discretionary Grants for the 2025/26 financial year. The new closing date for applications is now **5 September 2025**.

Only applications for training initiatives that are to be implemented within the 2025/26 financial year (for the remainder of this financial period from the date of the grant award) will be considered.

This special funding window aims to support training initiatives that address critical national and sectoral skills development needs, in accordance with the merSETA's mandate to promote inclusive growth, enhance skills capacity, and strengthen industry competitiveness. Through this grant, the merSETA invites eligible stakeholders to participate in shaping the next generation of skilled professionals and leaders. Funding will focus on initiatives that:

- Expand opportunities for rural TVET colleges and Higher Education students through Work Integrated Learning programmes.
- Support Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) in merSETA-related sectors.
- Engage accredited Skills Development Providers for rural development projects.
- Involve government departments implementing District Development Model (DDM) strategic projects.

Who Should Apply?

The merSETA encourages applications from diverse stakeholders, including:

- TVET colleges (with rural campuses)
- Accredited skills development providers
- mer-Sector related organisations
- Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs)

Mandatory Submission Documents

All applications must include:

- Proof of company registration
- Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (unexpired)
- Valid B-BBEE Certificate or sworn B-BBEE affidavit (where applicable)
- Signed MoU between SMME and rural TVET College (for SMME applicants)
- Signed MoU between rural TVET College and company (for rural TVET College applicants)

Note: Failure to submit any of the above documents will result in disqualification.

Application Process

- **TVET Growth and Occupational Programmes:** Submit applications via the National Skills Development Management System (NSDMS) Projects Portal at <https://nsdms.merseta.org.za>. Please allow at least 48 hours for a new organisation and Skills Development Facilitator (SDF) registration. Email submissions will not be accepted for this category.
- **Rural Development Projects:** Submit proposals via email to rdp@merseta.org.za.
- **District Development Model (DDM) Strategic Projects:** Submit proposals via email to ddm@merseta.org.za.

Please note that merSETA may request additional information. Applicants will have seven (7) working days to respond; failure to do so will result in disqualification. No extensions will be granted, and late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Applications will close on 5 September 2025.

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

About the merSETA

The Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA) is one of the 21 Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) established in terms of the Skills Development Act of 1998 (as amended) to promote skills development within its sectors.