



merSETA
MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING
AND RELATED SERVICES SETA



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The merSETA Extends 2026/2027 Discretionary Grant Funding Window and Updates Application Guidelines

To: All Media and merSETA Stakeholders

Attention: Media Houses, News Editors/Journalists/Manufacturing and Engineering Reporters; and all Discretionary Grant Applicants — including Employers, Levy-Paying and Non-Levy-Paying Companies, Training Providers, Public Institutions (TVET Colleges and Universities), Trade Unions, Industry Associations, and other Eligible Stakeholders

JOHANNESBURG, 02 July 2026 – The Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA) has extended the closing date for the current 2026/2027 Discretionary Grant (DG) Funding Window by two weeks to provide stakeholders with additional time to submit applications and align with recently approved amendments to the Discretionary Grant Guidelines.

The funding window, which was originally scheduled to close on **29 June 2026**, will now close on **13 July 2026**. The extension takes effect immediately and applies to all applicable discretionary grant funding windows.

The decision was made after updates were approved to the Discretionary Grant Guidelines and Funding Window Guidelines to align with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) Directive on transitional arrangements.

As part of the approved amendments, the merSETA has adopted a revised policy position on legacy (pre-2009) qualifications. These qualifications may continue to be funded on a controlled transitional basis, provided that funding remains aligned to South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)-approved extension periods and that enrolments and learner achievements are completed within the prescribed timelines.

The revised position ensures continued compliance with national regulatory requirements while providing certainty to employers and training providers participating in skills development initiatives.

To support fair and equitable access, organisations and institutions that have already submitted applications may request that their submissions be reopened to incorporate amendments resulting from the revised guidelines.

Applicants requiring amendments to submitted applications must contact the relevant Management Information Systems (MIS) Support team:

External stakeholders: missupport@merseta.org.za

Internal stakeholders: MISTechnical@merseta.org.za

Each request will be assessed and facilitated on a case-by-case basis. No manual or informal amendments outside the online application system will be permitted. The extension provides employers, training providers, public institutions and other eligible stakeholders with additional time to review the revised guidelines, ensure compliance with the updated requirements and submit quality applications that contribute to skills development priorities within the manufacturing and engineering sectors.

Applicants are encouraged to visit the merSETA website to access the updated Discretionary Grant Funding Window Guidelines and application information before the revised closing date of **13 July 2026**.

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 to facilitate skills development within the manufacturing and engineering sectors. The merSETA supports skills planning, training, artisan development and workforce transformation across the metal and engineering, automotive manufacturing, motor retail, tyre manufacturing, plastics manufacturing and related industries.