



Newly invigorated ESETA partners with Nkomazi to launch important Sanitation New Venture Creation Learnership programme

In a significant demonstration of its commitment to community-based education and training, the **Energy SETA** together with the **Nkomazi District Municipality** is set to launch the all-important **Water & Sanitation New Venture Creation Learnership Programme**.

Taking place on **November 12th** at the **Mzinti Community Hall**, the programme will see 40 learners from eight tribal authorities in the municipality enter a programme that has been specifically created to provide the skills necessary for the learners to enter a job market that exists in the Nkomazi Local Municipality. The initiative has been named the Youth and Women in Water & Sanitation Project Entrepreneurship Development programme – and, as its name suggests, the emphasis is on educating and training youth and female residents of the Nkomazi Local Municipality.

The launch comes just days after the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Blade Nzimande, announced the reconfiguration of the Sector Education and Training Authorities system that was established in South Africa in terms of the Skills Development Act of 1998.

Minister Nzimande has now given the full water portfolio to the Energy SETA (ESETA), whereas prior to this announcement, ESETA was responsible for only some of the water programmes initiated since 2005.

Says ESETA Acting CEO, Phakama Nkosi, “We have always believed that water belongs within the scope of the Energy SETA and are very pleased that the Minister has now endorsed this by including water in full in our area of responsibility.”

Mr Nkosi added it was “exceptional timing” that the long-planned launch of the **Water & Sanitation New Venture Creation Learnership Programme** happened so soon after Mr Nzimande’s announcement.

“The training of the 40 learners through this programme will not only have a direct impact on the Nkomazi District Municipality region in terms of employment and the maintenance of its local water and sanitation as well as the partnerships that it has formed in the region. It will also provide the ESETA with an opportunity to road test a programme that includes both water and sanitation - for use in many other areas of the country, especially rural ones.”

For more than a decade the ESETA has been charged with ***providing skilled technicians for the energy sector.***

In spite of the challenges SETA's have faced, Minister Nzimande's addition of the full range of water programmes to ESETA's portfolio is an endorsement of the work it is doing through programmes like the Water & Sanitation New Venture Creation Learnership Programme.

In creating the programme, ESETA worked closely with the Nkomazi Local Municipality to ensure that it covered not only the skills needed for employment in the areas of sanitation and water but additionally the entrepreneurial skills required of those learners who wish to set-up SMMEs. The Nkomazi Local Municipality's geographic position – sharing borders with Mozambique and Swaziland - means it is poised to deliver skilled workers (in Water Services Management, Water Quality {Blue and Green Drop Certificates} Health and Hygiene Education, and Occupational Health and Safety) into existing opportunities within the municipality itself as well as those that have arisen from the Minister of Water Affairs and her counterpart in Swaziland as encompassed in the Water Supply Cross Board Agreement.

The 40 learners are drawn from the Mlambo Tribal Authority, the Hhoyi Tribal Authority, the Siboshwa Tribal Authority, the Kwa-Lugedlane Tribal Authority, the Mawewe Tribal Authority, the Matsamo Tribal Authority, the Mhlaba Tribal Authority, and the Lomshiyo Tribal Authority. All are situated in the Mpumalanga province.

The Executive Mayor, Cllr. MJ Mavuso will host the event which will also include several key dignitaries, including representatives of the Department of Human Settlements as well as ESETA Acting CEO, Mr Nkosi.

Note to editor:

- The launch of the New Venture Creation {NVC} is part of Nkomazi District Municipality's innovative approach to create job opportunities for youth and women.
- The investment in infrastructure and acceleration of Municipal Services is in line the Millennium Developmental Goals (MDG).
- Key Nkomazi LM personnel involved in championing the NVC learnership in the Nkomazi LM include Ms Nomthandazo Mkhonto (Skills Development Facilitator), MMC for Corporate Services, Honourable Councillor Vilakazi and the Office of the Speaker.
- The National Certificate in New Venture Creation (NC) NVC) will help students develop their managerial qualities and marketing experience.
- Partnerships to cooperate in the implementation of this initiative include: Nkomazi Local Municipality, Ehlanzeni DM, Mpumalanga Provincial Departments, Department of Water Affairs, National Department of Human Settlement (National Sanitation Programme Unit), Department of Public Works, the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), and other departments.
- New Venture Creation in Water and Environment Programmes will become an increasingly important and resourced development activity within the Nkomazi District Municipality.
- The Water Plant Process Operations in the municipality are part of the Nkomazi Local Municipality's strategy to comply with South African National Standards (SANS 241), the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) Drinking Water Quality programme as championed by DWA Technical Regulation.

Limited media accreditation for travel from Johannesburg to attend the launch on Friday 13 November 2010 is available on request.

For media accreditation, interview requests and pics please contact Rami/Vanessa on (011) 788 7631/2.

For information on the ESETA and learnerships available please contact the ESETA on 011 689 5300 or visit – www.eseta.org.za <<http://www.eseta.org.za>> or through info@eseta.org.za.

Issued on behalf of the Energy SETA