

Monthly Review

The latest news, off the press to you

August / September 2007

Working together for a skilled tomorrow

- *In this issue...*

The National Skills Fund Critical Skills project for unemployed graduates has begun with inductions rolling out across the country. We speak to an employee in the sector about his learnership. And more about the Mandatory

grants and how the sector managed in submitting their WSPs and ATRs.

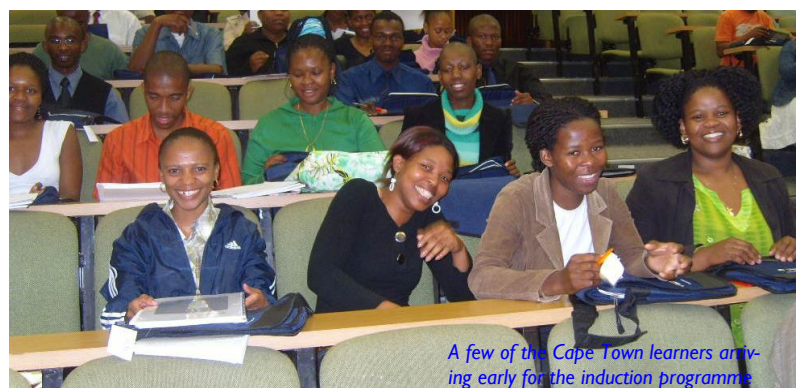
- *National Skills Fund Critical Skills Support Project*

The last two weeks have seen the inductions sessions for unemployed graduates embarking on this Critical Skills Support project, rolling out across the country.

INSETA, with the National Skills Fund, is funding this project for 539 unemployed black graduates. Corporate College International, a subsidiary of AdvTech is the learning provider. This Critical Skills Support project is an initiative by the NSF to address its own strategic targets as laid out by the Department of Labour, along with INSETA to assist the NSF to provide opportunities for unemployed black learners at junior management level. It will promote learnerships within the Insurance Sector, and provide learnership infrastructure to unemployed, black (as defined in the Financial Services Charter) persons who would prefer to be employed in this segment of the national economy. In short, it is a collaborative initiative of industry stakeholders.



A enthusiastic response from Limpopo graduates



A few of the Cape Town learners arriving early for the induction programme

• *National Skills Fund Critical Skills Support Project, cont.*

At the induction sessions, it was wonderful to see the positive response to the presentation by INSETA and CCI. Both Shirley Steenekamp from INSETA and Sandy Mey put the skills and employment needs of the graduates into context in the South African education system and the targets of the NSF, as well as giving perspective on the needs of employers and the industry.

We look forward to reporting back on the progress of this project.



Durban induction sessions—the learners filling out the the paper work

• *Mandatory Grant payments*

We received your WSP/ATR reports on 30 June 2007 as regulated by the Department of Labour. On assessment, most of these were found to be correct and were approved for payment. For those that were not correct but submitted on time, we requested the SDFs to submit supplementary information to us by the end of August 2007, after which we closed the process. The INSETA pays Mandatory Grants

in 4 payment runs on the following dates:

- 31 August 2007
- 30 November 2007
- 28/29 February 2008
- 30 May 2008.

Thank you to all the companies who participated in the submission of these reports. It was more complicated this year with changes to templates to accommodate the OFO codes, but most of you

managed very well. To give you a comparison: in 2006, 49% of companies received their first mandatory grant in August. In 2007, 76% of companies received this payment.

We will again be running workshops nationally from 8-11 October 2007 to assist you in understanding this process of submission of the WSP/ATRs and recommend that you attend as those who did, found it easier to complete their WSP/ATRs.

• *ETQA Circulars to Learning Providers, Assessors and Moderators*

We have sent out 5 circulars from the ETQA division in the two months. Please let the Call Centre know if you haven't received them. Circular 1 and 2 are imperative as there is information that Learning Providers should have submitted to INSETA's ETQA divisions by 17 August. These circulars are also available

on the INSETA website: www.inseta.org.co, under **INSETA Divisions, ETQA**.

INSETA's Call Centre staff are regularly involved in the internal training and briefings that INSETA staff undergo. The feedback we have had tells us that that

this is working and that the Call Centre staff are very able to assist our stakeholders with the required information or processes, a case in point being the recent WSP/ATR submissions.

• *Re-issue of Statements of Credit*

Please note, with immediate effect, INSETA will no longer be issuing statements of credit to learners. Providers may issue their own statements of credit for achievement of unit

standards, subject to INSETA's approval of uploads on to the SMS. INSETA will issue learner certificates for achievement of a full qualification only. Please go to the Home Page on

www.inseta.org.za for the click through to ETQA circular 5/2007 for procedures for accredited providers of INSETA programmes.

• *News from the Western Cape*

I was recently invited by the IBC Southern Cape Chairperson, Piet Gronum, to address the IBC brokers and other insurance stakeholders at their Open Day held on 24 August 2007. This day consisted of exhibitions by Insurers and other related companies.

The speakers addressing the brokers were Justus van Pletzen (IBC National Chairperson) Lieza Blom - INSETA support and funding opportunities, Andre Watson - National Director of Coaching (Rugby)

Some of the issues that we discussed after the presentation focused on succession planning and the demanding requirements for new staff due to the FAIS Act. INSETA also discussed the Internship and Learnership options, which can ca-

pacitate organisations, as well as the bursary fund which can assist employees in acquiring the necessary skills to grow and remain in business in the rapidly changing insurance environment.

Lieza Blom
INSETA Regional
Advisor, Western
Cape

From left: Piet Gronum (IBC Chairperson – Southern Cape Region), Lieza Blom, Justice van Pletzen (IBC National Chairperson) and Andre Watson (Director of Rugby Referees in SA)



• *INSETA verification of learnerships*

If your company has learners not registered on an INSETA-registered learnership but will require ETQA verification from INSETA on the achievement of the qualification, it is important that you inform us. Please contact Bongwiwer on bongwiwer@inseta.org.za with the details of the learner/s.

• *On learnerships...*



Erwin Pillay, who worked at Glenrand MIB on an INSETA learnership and who is now employed there, gives us an idea of what his learnership has meant for him. “My learnership fast-tracked the learning and work-based experience. Teamwork was an integral part of my learnership and the ready acceptance of learners when we first arrived, really boosted morale”.

“The pipeline of new entrants to the sector is a key objective of INSETA’s skills development initiatives”, says Mike Abel. “This is what INSETA strives for and clearly is making a reality in the Insurance industry”.

• *INSETA Staff News*

Nomonde Mandla, our Learnerships Consultant, has had a little boy, Karabo. We wish her every joy with him.

