



**NBI Newsflash, 25 October 2019**

### **New pathway into the Plumbing Industry for South African Youth**

For the past year, the National Business Initiative (NBI) has been working with the Institute of Plumbing (IOPSA), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator to design a solution to grow employment for large number of young people in the plumbing industry. The industry currently employs around 122,000 people, the large majority of which do not have a formal plumbing qualification.<sup>[1]</sup> The collaboration between NBI, IOPSA and GIZ seeks to enable young people in the plumbing industry to upgrade their skills and achieve formal recognition while simultaneously creating pathways for new entrants into plumbing. This will be achieved through:

- unlocking opportunities for employment and career progression across small and medium-sized plumbing enterprises; and
- ensuring the necessary learning programmes are in place and public institutions are equipped to deliver on these programmes.

This Initiative is co-funded by the Nedbank Eyethu Community Trust and the Confederation of Danish Industries.

In October 2019, the first cohort of 40 young people embarked on a learning programme that will enable them to be recognized as “Technical Plumbing Assistants”. This is a newly created designation, recognized by the Plumbing Industry Registration Board (PIRB). These young people will be trained at the Ekurhuleni East TVET College with the necessary trade-related skills that have been identified by industry and will undergo six months of workplace learning in a plumbing company.

The Technical Plumbing Assistant designation will for the first time allow large numbers of young people the opportunity to enter into the plumbing industry and progress towards a full plumbing trade. It will also offer the large number of underqualified workers in the plumbing industry the chance to gain industry recognition and career progression.

The first group of candidates and employers will provide a working model that can be replicated and rolled out at scale across four provinces, with a minimum of 1,630 Technical Plumbing Assistants being employed or self-employed by 2021.

Please contact [Anthony Gewer](#) for further information on this Initiative.

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[1] *Statistics SA, Labour Market Dynamics 2008-2017*

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The National Business Initiative (NBI) is an independent and voluntary coalition of South African and multinational businesses launched in 1995 by the then President, Nelson Mandela

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