

NEWSFLASH

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Industry Partnership Driving Demand-Led Technical Skills Through the IRM Initiative



The [National Business Initiative \(NBI\)](#), together with lead industry partner [Defy Appliances](#), are scaling the [Installation, Repair and Maintenance \(IRM\) Initiative](#) through the rollout of a domestic appliance repair skills programme across three Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) college campuses.

The partnership was initiated following the need for stronger curriculum alignment between industry and TVET colleges, with [Defy Appliances](#) leading the way in infrastructure support, equipment provision, lecturer capacity-building and technical expertise to strengthen practical learning environments and industry readiness within participating colleges.

Building on this foundation, [Defy Appliances](#), together with partners [Exxaro Resources](#) and [Standard Bank](#), came together to drive the delivery of training currently being rolled out to learner cohorts at [Ekurhuleni West TVET College](#), [Mnambithi TVET College](#) and [Gert Sibande TVET College](#).

Through this industry-led partnership, we are:

- Unlocking demand for IRM skills across the **formal and township economy**.
- Providing young people with the necessary skills and on-the-job training to support their **transition into employment** with MSMEs and larger businesses, self-employment and further training opportunities.
- Expanding access to TVET for marginalised groups while strengthening alignment between skills programmes and labour market demand.



Collectively, these efforts reflect what meaningful industry partnership can achieve when business, colleges and implementation partners work together to strengthen pathways into economic participation for young people.

The partnership is also strengthening the responsiveness of TVET colleges to evolving industry skills demands.

Interested in learning more or exploring partnership opportunities? Please contact our Senior Project Manager, Zwelidumile Magano, at ZwelidumileM@nbi.org.za to discuss collaboration opportunities and how we can work together to strengthen impact.