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Driving Youth Inclusion through Demand-Led Skilling: Your TVET Quarterly Update



The **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)** sector in South Africa is undergoing a significant shift to meet the needs of an evolving economy. As the sector shifts towards practical, industry-aligned programmes, the **Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)**, public TVET colleges, industry partners and other stakeholders are working together more closely to strengthen skills development.

This coordinated approach is manifesting in public-private partnerships, specialised trade facilities and targeted skills pipelines. Through sector-wide initiatives like the [National Business Initiative's \(NBI\) Installation, Repair, and Maintenance \(IRM\)](#) and others, the country is building an intentional pipeline that moves young people into sustainable economic participation.

The following TVET college initiatives highlight how this shift is being put into practice across the country.

Spotlight on TVET College Initiatives



Deputy President Paul Mashatile officially launched the **Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Digital Innovation Lab and Centre of Specialisation (CoS) Workshop** at **Gert Sibande TVET College** in **Standerton, Mpumalanga**.

Supported through a partnership with the **National Skills Fund (NSF)** and the **Sasol Foundation**, the initiative aims to address youth unemployment by equipping students with skills in robotics, coding, artificial intelligence and data analytics.

False Bay TVET College achieved two significant milestones with the successful trade testing of its first cohort of 13 rigger apprentices at its specialised Rigging Centre of Specialisation (CoS) at the **Khayelitsha Campus**.

The College also celebrated the graduation of participants from the Township/Student Artisan Techni-Preneur Programme, supporting the transition of local township artisans into sustainable business ownership.



Elangeni TVET College officially opened its Artisan and Skills Development Centre in **Inchanga, KwaZulu-Natal**. Launched under the theme "*Skills Revolution Realised – From Skills to Production, From Training to Transformation*," the event featured a keynote address by **Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Nomusa Dube-Ncube**, who highlighted the role of TVET colleges in advancing green skills development and renewable energy training.

Vuselela TVET College and **North-West University (NWU)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a long-term framework for collaboration.

The partnership will support joint initiatives in technical skills development, entrepreneurship, infrastructure support, research and innovation, with a key focus on expanding access to occupational programmes.



Pathways to Employment through IRM



TVET college capacity continues to be strengthened through the IRM Initiative's industry-aligned short skills programmes:

- At **Tshwane North TVET College's Mamelodi Campus**, a new cohort has begun training as assistant handypersons, with an integrated green skills component to prepare learners for emerging opportunities in the green economy.
- At **Gert Sibande TVET College's Sibanesethu Campus in Mpumalanga**, learners have completed their technical foundation training and are preparing to begin workplace-based learning with the **Department of Public Works in Ermelo**, providing practical experience in public infrastructure maintenance.
- At **Ekurhuleni West TVET College's Kempton Campus**, our second cohort is currently undertaking training in **Appliance Repair and Diagnostics (ARAD)**, developing specialised diagnostic and repair skills for modern appliances.

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are also being supported through acceleration and incubation programmes at **False Bay TVET College, Northlink TVET College, Tshwane North TVET College, Ekurhuleni West TVET College** and **Gert Sibande TVET College**, strengthening their capacity to grow their businesses and create opportunities for young people.

In addition, strategic partnerships with **Momentum** and the **Industrial Development Corporation (IDC)** are being advanced to expand IRM delivery at **Northlink TVET College, South Cape TVET College**, and **Majuba TVET College**.



These interventions highlight how the capacity of TVET colleges is being strengthened through collective action between industry, development partners and the colleges themselves, expanding opportunities for learners and entrepreneurs. As this work continues, it will contribute to a more responsive and inclusive skills development ecosystem.