

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

To: All Media Houses

11 December 2025

For Immediate Release

### **FDC ROLL-OUT NEW SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ACROSS THE PROVINCE**

The FDC is moving with full steam ahead to ensure the roll-out of the new skill-development programme in the province that will be starting in the beginning of 2026 in different municipalities, in the Free State. This is a bold and deliberate initiative to train and equip **6, 500** unemployed and young people across the province.

This programme, with its targeted training in Plumbing, Construction Roadworks, Environmental Practices, Renewable Energy, Water and Waste Reticulation, New Venture Creation, Systems Development and Quality Management Systems, is our direct response to what the labour market demands to broaden opportunities for participants. The programme will run over a period of six months and participants will do theoretical and practical work which upon completion, will receive accredited certificates from Accredited Service Providers.

Plans are afoot to syndicate this initiative with other existing business programmes opportunities by the entities such as SEDFA, Office of the Premier, Municipalities and other relevant key stakeholders including the DESTEA.

For the past years, since the establishment of the Strategic Business Unit that deals with skills-development programme, the FDC has reaffirmed its commitment to bridging the skills gap and empowering the unemployed beneficiaries and youth through various practical skills-development initiatives.

A total of **5,500 beneficiaries** has already benefited from the programmes with a reach of all **80 towns** across the Free State. About **2,021** unemployed **women**

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Duly constituted in terms of Free State Development Corporation Act 6 of 1995  
**DIRECTORS:**

Mr. N.H. Masithela (Chairperson); Ms. T.V. Tobias (Deputy Chairperson); Ms. V.F. Ramela; Ms. B.F. Nakedi;

Ms. M.J Ntshingila; Mr. S. Mndawe; Dr. J.M. Laubscher; Dr. M.G. Nokwequ (Acting Chief Executive Officer);

Mr. RJ Montshioa (Company Secretary)

beneficiaries received training aimed at improving their economic participation and enhancing job readiness. Additionally, **4,025** unemployed **youth** were equipped with various skills to support their entry into the labour market and entrepreneurial opportunities. The FDC will embark on a drive to issue out accredited certificates to the beneficiaries of the Phase 2 Skills programme in the near future.

The Labour Activation Programme (LAP) is a flagship initiative by the UIF aimed at tackling unemployment. beneficiaries and unemployed youth with an opportunity to be integrated into the labour market or start their own businesses. The training projects are being undertaken through a partnership agreement between the FDC and UIF, an entity of the Department of Labour.

This initiative forms part of the FDC's commitment to socio-economic development and capacity building in communities across the province.

**Issued by:**

**Free State Development Corporation (FDC)**

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