



NARYSEC EASTERN CAPE HOLDS AN EXIT OPPORTUNITIES WORKSHOP

By Kamohelo Lesenyeho

The Eastern Cape NARYSEC office recently held a two-day Opportunities Workshop on 14 and 15 March 2019. A total of 70 participants that have exited the programme but awaiting certificates attended the workshop. These participants studied Occupational Directed Educational Training Programme (ODETP), Business Administration, and Occupational Health and Safety. The workshop was held in Queenstown as it is the centre of all the districts where participants are coming from. One of the mandates of the programme is to support and develop youth enterprises through mentorship, business development support and training, hence the conducting of exit workshops.

Several stakeholders were invited to confer multiple opportunities that are available in the private and public sector, and entrepreneurship. The stakeholders that graced the workshop were from the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA), the Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA), the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), Walter Sisulu University (WSU), Special Programme Unit (SPU) from Alfred Nzo municipality, the Department of Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities (DWCPD), ABSA Bank and Lulaway.

Dr Masha A.K. (Ph.D) from Walter Sisulu University, when doing a presentation on how entrepreneurship can lead to sustainable economic growth and productive employment for the youth, urged the youth to work hard and to never limit themselves by not grabbing the opportunities that are given by the state. He said that a lot of young people prefer to be employed than to start their own businesses which results in a large number of unproductive and unemployed youth.

Youth Representative from Alfred Nzo SPU reiterated to the youth that, every quarter, the mayor of the Alfred Nzo District sits with the Youth Council to discuss all the issues that affect youth unemployment and identify the opportunities that are available in his municipality in order to curb unemployment. He informed the youth that there are bursaries that they can access that are facilitated by the municipality if they want to study further.

Mr Mandai Rala, the NARYSEC Programme Director in the Eastern Cape welcomed the youth and reiterated that the programme is working very hard to ensure that the youths are empowered and equipped to have a better future by getting jobs and starting their own enterprises. He mentioned that his office is committed to making sure that the youth leave the programme being changed agents and that his door is always open to assist the youth anytime.

Ms Nomaxabiso Peter from Grahamstown, who joined the programme in 2016 and studied Occupational Health and Safety, said that joining the programme was the best decision she has ever made in her life. She indicated that she and other four members formed a poultry corporative that started with only 50 chicks and received funding from Rural Enterprise and Industry Development (REID) to build a structure that is now accommodating over 1000 chicks. She said the business is very profitable and she is happy that while she was in the programme, she was exposed to think out of the box and thought of starting a business with her peers.

The REID Programme of the Department of Rural Development (DRDLR) strives to facilitate development of rural enterprises and industries.

On the last day of the workshop, the participants were taken through work readiness training by Ms Charlene Mpemvana from Lulaway, a recruitment agency that mainly focuses on youth job opportunities.

Participants expressed gratitude for the role that the programme has played in equipping them, not only with the skills they received from college but more for still equipping them past the completion of their 2 years in the programme.



Participants listening attentively at the presentations.



Dr Masha A.K , from Walter Sisulu University presenting on how entrepreneurship can lead to sustainable economic growth and productive employment for the youth.