

Free State Youth Unemployment Programmes

by Mrs Spa Kabane – Director: Provincial Skills Development,
Office of the Premier – Free State Province
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BACKGROUND

| | |
|--|---|
| Free State Province Population | 2.866 million (2016 community survey stats SA) |
| Number of Districts | Five districts that differ in population distribution and population growth. |
| Unemployed rate | South Africa 26.7% Unemployment rate 32.8% Free State |
| Youth Unemployment rate | Only 51.4% of Free State youth aged 20-24 have not completed matric 67.7% of youth are unemployed |
| Number of Higher Education Institutions | 2 Universities 4 TVETS |
| Rural and Urban | Majority of Free State population reside in small and medium sized towns, which could can be viewed as rural. |
| Matric Results | |
| 2015 – 81.6% | Position 3 in the Country |
| 2016 – 88.2% | Position 1 in the Country |
| 2017 – 86.1% | Position 1 in the Country |



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PROBLEM STATEMENT

- High youth unemployment rate
- Low labour absorption rate
- Collapse of mining and Agricultural Sector
- High number of unemployed graduates
- High number of matriculants without jobs



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YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES:

- Bursaries
- Graduate Internship Programme
- Work Integrated Learning (WIL)
- Apprenticeship
- Skills Programmes
- Career Guidance



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ALLOCATION OF BURSARIES (LOCAL)

| Year Allocated | No of students |
|----------------|----------------|
| 2009 | 133 |
| 2010 | 1871 |
| 2011 | 1425 |
| 2012 | 1996 |
| 2013 | 837 |
| 2014 | 539 |
| 2015 | 935 |
| 2016 | 476 |
| 2017 | 755 |
| 2018 | 500 |
| TOTAL | 9 467 |



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INTERNATIONAL BURSARIES – 2014 TO DATE

| Countries | Number of Students |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Belarus | 36 |
| Bulgaria | 16 |
| China | 281 |
| Cuba | 187 |
| Germany | 15 |
| India | 21 |
| Portugal / Madeira | 205 |
| Russia | 238 |
| Turkey | 171 |
| United States | 1 |
| TOTAL | 1171 |



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SKILLS DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

| Programmes | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | TOTAL |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Graduate Internship | 300 | 760 | 328 | 616 | 2004 |
| Learnership | 400 | 556 | 260 | 869 | 2085 |
| WIL | 700 | 1231 | 1305 | 1384 | 4620 |
| Apprenticeship | 400 | 480 | 15 | 321 | 1216 |
| Skills Programme | 300 | 64 | 60 | 580 | 1004 |
| TOTAL PER YEAR | 2100 | 3091 | 1968 | 3770 | 10 929 |



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CAREER GUIDANCE

- Career Guidance Unit was established in 2012
- 5 Career Guidance Centres one in each District
- 1 Career Guidance Coordinator in each District
- 6 Career Development Officers (CDOs) – Interns working at the DTDCs and the Provincial Office
- Annual Career Exhibitions & Information Session
 - + - 20 000 Grade12 learners annually
 - + - 30 000 Grade 8 – 10 learners annually
 - Unemployed youth



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KEY SUCCESS FACTORS

- Establishment of Skills Development Fora, such as the following:
 - ✓ Provincial Skills Development Forum
 - ✓ Provincial Capacity Building Forum
 - ✓ Provincial Student Placement Task Team
 - ✓ Provincial Technical Bursary Committee
 - ✓ Provincial Career Guidance Task Team
 - ✓ Provincial SETA Cluster
 - ✓ Provincial HRDC



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KEY SUCCESS FACTORS

- Political buy-in driven by Provincial Leadership
- MOUs with stakeholders:
 - Municipalities
 - Private Sector
 - Provincial and National Departments
 - SETAs (Funding)
- Central Data Base
- Higher Education Institution support visits



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CHALLENGES

- International students (Adaption to foreign countries)
- Work place (Quality of learning)
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Curriculum relevance (HEIs and expectation of the Market)
- Lack of funding



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LESSONS LEARNED

- Establish partnership with Professional Bodies and Local Universities before sending students to other countries
- Target more private sector for experiential training
- Make use of retired professionals to assist with monitoring and evaluation
- Establish tracking system for bursary holders (Impact studies)
- Develop impact evaluation tool for bursaries and all other initiatives



CONCLUSION

- “It always seems impossible until its done”.
– Nelson Mandela



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