



merSETA

MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING AND RELATED SERVICES SETA

The merSETA: Press Release

Attention: Business Editors; Education and Training Editors; Labour Editors

Manufacturing SETA (merSETA) to Honour Top Training Companies

For immediate release,

The Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services SETA (merSETA) is to honour top training companies in the Manufacturing and Engineering Sector, the very first of its kind at merSETA. Close to 300 companies are to receive awards, according to the General Manager for Projects Mr Derrick Peo, These awards recognise companies that have a proven track record of successful participation in the Skills Development; these are companies that have helped merSETA to reach two thirds of its service level agreements with the Department of Labour. With NSDS II we have seen a shift of focus on targets and numbers towards a greater emphasis on skills planning and quality. Asked about the criterion that was used in selecting top training companies, Peo said the following was used:

- member companies are up to date with levy payments (where applicable);
- have received Mandatory Grants for last three years
- have an average pass rate of 65% in implementation of Learnerships and apprenticeships;



- have a training committee in place if they have more than 50 employees (where applicable);
- Have a progression or placement average of 50%.

“The awards will go a long way in changing the perception and stereotypical mindset that Skills Development is solely the responsibility of SETA’s, it will reinforce the fact that companies are directly responsible for training their own workforce, and that SETA’s are just facilitators, by providing incentives, and monitoring the quality of training” said Peo.

The merSETA has gone a long way in ensuring that there is adequate support for companies that take ownership of their training. This has been done through establishment of a well resourced Client Liaison Services Division and 6 Regional Offices and also having deployed Client Liaison Officers and Quality Assurors throughout the country to provide direct assistance to companies.

SETA’s are criticized for being too bureaucratic and as a result companies are reluctant to engage in training and developing their workforce, merSETA has a well effective and efficient client interaction centre and key projects like the SME training voucher project which have demonstrated that it is possible to have quick turnaround times.

Asked about the quality of training provided by these top training companies Derrick Peo said the “ we know that the training is of high standard, because of the requirement of 50% employment rate, or placement rate into further learning. All the training in the merSETA primary focus is quality assured by merSETA’s Quality Assurors. The merSETA is committed in keeping these top training companies awards in the future; more categories may be added on.

These awards will be aligned to the ministry of Labour’s annual national awards for best practice in skills development to be hosted in October this year. The merSETA would like to thank all companies that played a pivotal role in ensuring that skills development is key in growing our economy.

The awards will be presented at glittering events, starting on the 03 to 11 September 2008 in all the merSETA Regions.



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