

# E-Skills

**CERTIFICATE CEREMONIES FOR  
THE NC/SG E-SKILLS COLAB,  
LAUNCH OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ICT SMME  
CONTAINER & OPEN DAY**



**Vaal University of Technology**

*Your world to a better future*



# Certification ceremonies For The Northern Cape and Southern Gauteng E-Skills-Colab – “Changing

*Lives, One At A Time”*



*E-Skills Certification Ceremony in Upington*

*Kedimetse Mokotsi*

On Monday, 2 and Wednesday, 4 December 2019 the Northern Cape and Southern Gauteng E-Skills-CoLab awarded 200 certificates to learners from the Upington and Pofadder Communities respectively in the areas of Digital Literacy; Goal2Work; Entrepreneurship; Fibre Optics and Cell phone Repair. The VUT NEMISA E-Skills CoLab hosted the two ceremonies at the Upington High School and Boesmanland High School in Pofadder. Training was made possible through the Public Private Partnership supported by partners such as the Vaal University of Technology E-Skills Colab; National Electronic Me-

dia Institute of South Africa (NEMISA - the main sponsor of the programme); Centre for Entrepreneurship and Rapid Incubator; Human Capital Learning Solutions (HCLS); Department of Economic Development and Tourism in the Northern Cape (DEDAT); the National Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services (DTPS) and Abengoa who sponsored some of the Pofadder training interventions.

Ms Antoinette Lombard, Director: NEMISA VUT E-Skills CoLab, thanked all partners and the recipients of certificates for attending the certification cere-

monies in Upington and Pofadder. She mentioned that this is part of the NDP 2030 to empower and develop communities through the E-Skills CoLab, as part of the NEMISA stakeholder network, to make meaningful impact in the lives of the communities through digital training and ensuring that they are ready to participate in the digital and knowledge economy of South Africa and be a meaningful part of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Furthermore, the NEMISA VUT E-Skills CoLab, is actively facilitating training for an additional 100 Cell phone Technicians in Springbok; Keimoes, De Aar, Deben and Uping-



ton through the Transport SETA and the Department of Economic Development and Tourism in the Northern Cape. 'We are looking for more partners to help us drive this dream' she said. She added that the NC/SG Colab is implementing various training programmes such as Digital Literacy; Goal2Work; Entrepreneurship; Mobile skills for SMME and has a very strong focus on ICT SMME Development in support of the National ICT SMME Strategy governed by the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services. These training interventions are done through 11 partner centres throughout the Northern Cape.

The above-mentioned partnerships started in 2015 and has been growing from strength to strength through the passion and commitment of Project Leaders who strive to empower disadvantaged communities' skills and knowledge to build sustainable impact through creation of jobs in the especially the ICT fraternity. This is part

of the DTPS SMME strategy of addressing shortage of jobs through encouraging unemployed members of the communities to skill themselves in participating in SMME driven projects rather than seeking out employment with established companies. Through SMME's, beneficiaries are able to participate in the economic development of their own communities. "As a sponsor, I needed to come and see the results of the sponsorship, what I witnessed here today will assist to open new avenues going forward" said Mr Treveen Rabindhnath, Acting CEO of NEMISA.

Feedback from some of the recipients:



Gabrate Toll



Jacuemyn Minnaar

Jacuemyn Minnaar and Gabrate Toll from Upington: “thank you for the knowledge we received through this training, it will empower us to grow our SMME’s and plough back to our communities” they said.

Ms Camron van Wyk, from Pofadder, a young Entrepreneur who was born in Upington and moved to Pofadder when she was 8 years old. “The train-

ing has helped me to register Mathematics and Physical Science Centre in Pofadder, where I provide extra classes to grade 8-12 learners in both subjects. I always had a dream to tutor Mathematics and Physical Science, but I decided to wait until I finished grade 12 examinations” she said.

This moment was a dream come true for both the young and old

recipients alike, when they finally put on their black gowns and walked across the stage to receive their certificates. “The training has equipped us to be the positive change we want to see in our communities” said one of the recipients. “Changing lives, one at a time”, the CoLab moto, was turned into reality again!



Ms Camron van Wyk, a young Entrepreneur from Pofadder



# Celebrating the launch of a new cellphone repair container for a young entrepreneur



*Official unveiling of the Cellphone repair container*

On 3 December 2019, The VUT E-Skills CoLab, National Electronic Media of South Africa (NEMISA) and related stakeholders, launched the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Small Medium and Micro-Enterprises (SMME) for Cell Phone Repair in Groblershoop Northern Cape. The launch comprised of handing over a fully fitted cell phone repair container to one amazing young ICT entrepreneur.

The Programme was Directed by Ms Kediemetse Mokotsi: Director Marketing and Public Relations, Corporate Affairs.

The programme kicked off with a networking session, where

all stakeholders were priding themselves with how much this year brought forward great moments, and how they plan to continue changing lives.

Ms Antoinette Lombard: Director E-Skills gave the background of the launch and how this dream came about. “We are here today to celebrate the launch our first ICT SMME initiative. This is the fulfillment of a seven-year dream of developing and empowering individuals and communities to realize their limitless potential, and positively impact their own lives and the lives of those around them”, said Ms Lombard.

She also added that, The Na-

tional Electronic Media Institute of South Africa (NEMISA) which is the main sponsor of this Program, is now transforming into a Digital Skills Institute with the main responsibility of changing the country into a 4IR ready nation – from basic digital skills right through to the more advance Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) skills required. In closing, she mentioned that the CoLab is honoured to be part of this exciting journey.

During the background of the programme, partners and sponsors took turns in congratulating Mr Lucky Nkebane, the owner of Nkebane Electronics, in achieving his childhood dream and to live to see the day all



people would be gathered in his name to launch his business.

Mr Wikus van der Merwe: Director Human Capital Learning Solutions (HCLS) and sponsor of the container, went on to explain how Lucky was the best candidate in attaining the container. He mentioned that commitment, drive and passion were the qualities that proved Lucky to deserve this launch.

The 23-year-old Lucky Nkebane is committed to developing himself. With only having grade 11 as his highest grade passed, he never stopped believing in himself and his dream of becoming an entrepreneur someday. He first saw NEMISA's Page on Facebook. He developed interest immediately and started following it. He later went to the VUT TTI (Technology, Transfer & Innovation) campus in Upington, where the E-skills CoLab is hosted, for more information on NEMISA and the programmes it was offering.

He then applied for the Cell-phone Repair and Entrepreneurship short learning programme, because he wanted to exercise his skills and turn his dream into reality. Lucky received this opportunity of owning his own cellphone repair container because of his hard work and dedication. This container was funded by Human Capital Learning

Solutions, in partnership with VUT, NEMISA, Love Life, Centre for Entrepreneurship (CFE) and Rapid Incubator, after they saw that there is more to Lucky than 'just another student'. DE-DAT sponsored the ICT Business training, whereas, CFE is fully responsible for mentoring and coaching of the young entrepreneur for the next twelve months.

"I have quite a lot of mixed emotions but at most, I am very happy and proud of myself because I never thought that 2019 would be the year for me to achieve my ultimate goal that I set for myself when I was still in grade seven", said Lucky.

Cell Phone repairing was almost the only hobby he had as a kid and in the year 2010 he took it seriously and gained the necessary knowledge, skills and experience. But this was not enough, he wanted the official certificate and joined the training. He has already started thinking ahead, as he plans to extend his business. He plans to achieve this by opening a car wash, which will help him save money to contribute to the extension of his business.

"I believe everything starts in the mind. So, I will start by motivating and encouraging our youth and getting their mindset towards their dreams and goals in the right path", he concluded.

During the official handover of the container by the Mayor of IKheis Municipality, Cllr A Diergaardt, there was excitement from everyone involved. This moment even made Lucky's mother a bit teary. "I am very proud of my son; I can't even explain it. He deserves this moment and I know he will continue doing his bit to empower himself and our community", said Lucky's mother.

In closing the ceremony, Mr Treveen Rabinhdnath: Acting CEO of NEMISA said that, "I made it my duty to come here to witness what is happening. To be honest, this is amazing. This is really going to change the landscape of this place. As this is a pilot project, I thank all the partners for making this project successful. We are making history here today and from a national perspective and National Development Plan 2030, this is the real impact. On behalf of all stakeholders, we want Lucky to succeed so that he inspires everyone across the country", he said.

NEMISA VUT CoLab - a project of hope, a project of building dreams, and a project of changing lives; one at a time!

# Nurturing the growth of digital literacy and SMME development



Open Day information session

Selina Rapulane

On the 05 December 2019, the VUT NEMIAS E-Skills CoLab, the Vaal University of Technology Upington Campus, Human Capital Learning Solutions, Goal2Work and JIKA Communication & Training held an Open day for the Community of Upington, in Northern Cape.

This was a reach out programme to the community in bringing information closer to them, so that they could have a platform to weigh their options on which programmes to apply for and be happy with the decisions they will make since there will be experts from different fields guiding them.

This was to encourage the community of Upington about the opportunities that are there for them and how they could be as-

sisted to enroll and further their studies through VUT and NEMISA. From the three stands that showcased possible opportunities in the world of digital technology, the CoLab showcased 3D Printers and prototypes that were printed. A lot of young people were fascinated by the process of seeing ideas being turned into products. Some even had the privilege of being taken through the process of printing.

The community of Upington got a chance to learn about programmes offered by the VUT NEMISA E-skills CoLab such as; Digital Literacy, Entrepreneurship, Goal2Work, 3D Printing and CAD, Mobile Skills for SMME's, IT Technical Support, Web Development Cellphone Repair Technician and Fibre Op-

tics. While the community was being empowered with knowledge and skills through educational programmes, JIKA Communications and training was offering them a five-day entrepreneurship awareness course, with embedded learning ensuring the importance of entrepreneurship and how they can be able to economically grow themselves and their community and create employment for everyone who needs it.

NEMISA's vision is for South Africa to be an e-skilled society by 2030 and through its partnership with the VUT E-Skills CoLab, it can trace back its steps on where to improve and develop more e-skills capacity so that South Africa can participate in a society enriched by digital literacy.



Cell Phone repair group



Newly graduated facilitators



Graduation procession



Showcasing 3D printing machines during Open Day



Mr Treveen Rabindhnath, Acting CEO of NEMISA



Lucky flanked by the mother, Cllr A Diergaardt Mayor of Kheis Municipality and Ms A Lombard, NEMISA, VUT E-Skills, Colab Director



Lucky before the Launch



VIP networking session