



**ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
MR M. NYHONTSO, MP**

**GAUTENG GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR NARYSEC 108
PARTICIPANTS**

**South West Gauteng TVET College, George Tabor Campus,
1440 Mncube Drive, Soweto**

12 September 2024

Honourable Ministers

Honourable Deputy Minister

Honourable Executive Mayor

Director-General and Deputy Directors-General

Principals of the Colleges

Honourable Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

most importantly, the guests of honour who brought us all here today, our NARYSEC Young People.

Programme Director, it is a great pleasure to address you and officiate the graduation ceremony for the 108 out of the 125 NARYSEC participants who commenced their programme in July 2022.

We are proud that the 108-youth persevered and remained committed to complete the accredited training on 30 January 2024. Today they will be receiving well-deserved certification.

The NARYSEC programme established by the department is geared at addressing challenges of inequality, poverty and unemployment facing young people living in villages and rural areas in South Africa. According to StatsSA (2024), youth unemployment rate for ages 15-34 years remains alarmingly high at 45.5% in the first quarter of 2024.

To address this persistent challenge of youth unemployment, government in all the three spheres continues to launch various youth development and empowerment initiatives. These programmes encompass formal education and training, learnerships, internships, and support for youth entrepreneurship, aiming to integrate more young people into the economy.

Notable initiatives include the National Rural Youth Services Corps (NARYSEC); Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention (PYEI). These programmes strive to empower young people and equip them to be active in the market and upscale their participation in the economy.

The 108 young people that we are celebrating today were recruited through the District Development Model. The department partnered with various District municipalities in Gauteng, i.e. West Rand District, Sedibeng District, and Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality as well as with the Amandebele Lebelo Traditional Council in Sokhulumi, the Majaneng Traditional Council in Hammanskraal, and the City of Johannesburg (Soweto Orphanage).

Partnership between government and traditional leadership in addressing societal challenges is of critical importance for integration, development and sustainability.

These NARYSEC participants went through a 12-week Youth Leadership Development Programme by the department in partnership with the National Defence Force and the National School of Government.

They then proceeded to the TVET colleges to further tailored training necessary for the economy. These include:

- **Film Making and Production Learnership Level 4 – Capricorn TVET College:** Coupled with Business Development Support to foster creative industry skills.
- **Poultry Training Level 2 – Letaba TVET College:** Paired with business development to equip them with essential entrepreneurial skills.
- **IT System Development Level 4 South West Gauteng TVET College:** aimed at preparing them for formal employment in the growing tech sector.

- **Accommodation Services Learnership Level 2 – South West Gauteng College.** The aim of training youth in accommodation services was to equip them with skills for employment in the hospitality industry and to foster entrepreneurial abilities for starting their own businesses in this sector.
- **Security Management Learnership Level 3 programme** through Bidvest Gijima Academy with the intention of absorbing them into permanent jobs.

Today, we are proud today to witness a demonstration of completion of the NARYSEC incubation programme which will allow them to proceed to exit opportunities (jobs or business enterprise) or carry on with further studies if they so desire.

Programme Director, in addition to leadership and skills acquired through the programme, young people are required to actively participate in the upliftment of their communities, fostering a sense of responsibility and civic engagement. They have to plough back in their villages and homestead and share what they have learned throughout the programme.

With regards to exit opportunities, which is the last phase of the NARYSEC incubation programme, some of the graduates will go into direct job opportunities while others will commence the journey of running their own business and being creators of jobs. The Department of Small Business Development is our key partner in supporting and guiding the SMMEs further to enable them to grow into industries.

Security Officers: Twenty-five participants were enrolled in the Security Learnership Programme Level 3. Eighteen (18) of these participants have been formally employed by Bidvest Protea Coin as Security Officers, with employment effective from the 14th of November 2023. The remaining seven (7) participants resigned from the programme.

- **Film and Television Production Operations** : Twenty-three (23) participants have been assisted in registering businesses and further supported with business development training by SEDA, an entity of the Department of Small Business Development. They received start up toolkits of Canon professional cameras to launch their enterprises.
- Two (2) participants were contracted to coordinate professional photographic services through one of our partners, Modern Centric Organisation
- One (1) participant who was under Modern Centric organisation further received grant funding after exiting the programme in January 2024 from NYDA to purchase equipment for his business.
- While another ten (10) participants were selected for upskilling through Wholesale & Retail (W&R) funding for business enterprise establishment.
- **The remaining eleven (10)** participants continue with their businesses. e.g. shooting short stories in their townships and one (1) created a website for his company called "***we snap-ville Pty LTD*** and its available on google.
- **Accommodation Services:** Twenty-four (24) participants completed their accredited training through **South West TVET College**.
- Five (5) were offered job opportunities through various lodges around Gauteng.
- Ten (10) were selected for upskilling through Wholesale & Retail SETA funding for establishment business enterprises. In addition, they will be awarded a R5,000 voucher to kick-start their enterprises during the graduation ceremony to be coordinated by SETA in October 2024. **Nine (9) participants** remain unemployed, although they have been assisted in registering

with Harambee and the LulaLab Foundation's youth programmes, which coordinate job opportunities for youth through various stakeholders.

- **IT Systems Development with Sekhukhune TVET College**, twenty-five (25) participants were provided with laptops and registered with Harambee Youth Service and the LulaLab database for employment opportunities.
- Two (2) IT participants secured employment through Modern Centric Organisation.
- One (1) IT participants given the opportunity to be upskilled in IT Systems Development at NQF Level 5 through South West Gauteng College.
- Four (4) IT participants were selected for upskilling through Wholesale & Retail (W&R) funding, with the intention of starting businesses.
- Eighteen (18) Youth are unemployed and GP NARYSEC office has approached MICT SETA to request grant funding to upskill the participants for IT System Development NQF 5.
- **Poultry Training**: Eighteen (18) participants completed the programme and were assisted in registering businesses in poultry farming and received R2 000 vouchers for chicks and feed with further training provided by SEDA.
- Ten (10) participants were selected for upskilling through Wholesale & Retail (W&R) funding, with the intention of starting businesses.
- In addition, Programme Director, all **108** graduates, through the department successfully completed their with Code 8, 10, and Code 14 driver's licenses which enhancing their employability, mobility and opportunities for economic participation.

This remarkable achievement would not have been possible without the dedication, resilience, and unwavering support of the public and private sector partners who have joined hands with the department.

The quality of lives of these young people, their household and communities have been improved. They are not fully equipped as change agents within their communities. They are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to contribute meaningfully to our society.

As we celebrate their success today, let us also reaffirm our commitment to continue providing opportunities for our youth in rural areas through NARYSEC and other catalytic projects aimed at improving quality of lives of rural communities in South Africa.

Thank you