

Skills Revolution campaign aimed at turning young people into nation builders: Duma hails the signing of an MoU as part of Youth Month activities

Media and Public Statement by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma

05 June 2025

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: As the Department of Transport, we are determined to end the vicious cycle of graduates who are unemployable.

Our view is that with the right skills steeped in mentorship and practical experience, young people will be the nation builders with the capacity to create a prosperous province for future generations.

In this regard, I wish to inform the people of KwaZulu-Natal that we have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Coastal KZN TVET College.

Having turned KZN into a construction site, the MoU is focusing on the following:

1. Artisan training to enable young people to be involved in construction.
2. Placing young people in the department to acquire practical experience.
3. Sharpening the skills of our employees, especially the youth, on how to take charge and lead the rollout of road networks and other infrastructure projects.
4. Paying stipends for young people involved in this training and acquisition of practical experience in the Department.

The Head of the Department, Siboniso Mbhele and the entire senior management are prioritizing the skills revolution as a practical response to chronic poverty, which affects young people.

It is for this reason that we have recruited around 300 graduates and set aside R30,1 million to pay their salaries.

We are responding to the latest statistics, which show that youth unemployment has surged to 62.4% in the first quarter of 2025.

This means that nearly two-thirds of young South Africans aged 15-24 cannot find work.

Unfortunately, for the cohort of 25–34-year-olds, the unemployment rate is around 41.7%.

With this training and practical experience, we want to match the skill of a young person with the right job that should be executed to strengthen service delivery, drive rural and township economies, and ultimately grow the economy of the province.

Ends

Enquiries

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