

3 JULY 2022

BASIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CALLS UPON ALL YOUTH IN THE PRESIDENTIAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE TO SEIZE ALL AVAILABLE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The Third Phase of the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative (PYEI) implemented as the Basic Education Employment Initiative (BEEI) is making good progress.

As of 01 July 2022, the Phase III is left with two months before it ends on 31 August 2022. To date the PYEI in the Basic Education sector has created more 830 000 employment opportunities, thus making a meaningful contribution to addressing the challenges of youth unemployment and poverty. About 63% of the employment opportunities were occupied by women. This is a significant achievement in that it helps in addressing the triple challenge of inequality among the genders, unemployment and poverty.

Among the key objectives of the PYEI-BEEI is to provide meaningful work experiences and learning opportunities to the beneficiaries. This is critical in improving the employability of those who are employed as assistants in public schools across the country. It is even more important as employers more and more are looking for skills that can get the job done. One of the main impediments to young people gaining access to employment is “lack of relevant work experience”.

The youth appointed in our schools have gained invaluable experience, soft skills and competences by being part of a professional work environment. Among these are team work, communication, leadership, self-confidence, resilience, collaboration, creativity, work ethic and time management. These soft skills will be quite valuable in the automated workplace, where machines are less likely to excel. The youth have also been provided with training to improve their skills.

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Key among the training received was Online Safety, offered by Digify Africa, Artificial Intelligence in the Fourth Industrial Revolution (AI in the 4IR) offered by the University of Johannesburg, and Digital Literacy, offered by NEMISA.

The skills, knowledge and competences gained through these training is invaluable in the twenty-first century. These are also the kind of skills that are portable across a wide range of jobs. The skills are also usable in daily life, especially in an era where most services are being digitized. Further to that, the future of work is in digitization. For the department of education and provinces to achieve on youth upskilling, there is a great deal of emphasis on change of mindset by young people, who need to take the opportunity, register and complete the course.

These opportunities are meant to keep the young person relevant in the future world of work.

| # | Name of Partner | Course | Duration | Training platform | Training Modalities |
|----|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | Digify Africa | Online Safety | Three days | KITSO WhatsApp BOT | Online, Self-paced |
| 2. | University of Johannesburg | Artificial Intelligence in the 4IR | Ten (10) weeks | UJ Portal | Online, self-paced, webinars |
| 3. | NEMISA | Digital Literacy | Five (5) weeks | NEMISA Portal | Online, self-paced, webinars |

Youth who enroll for the Digital Literacy Training offered by NEMISA will complete modules on Introduction to Digital Literacy, Introduction to Microsoft Office, Introduction to Cybersecurity and Introduction to Digital Technologies. The training can be completed over a five (5) week period and is self-paced, after which the candidate will receive an accredited certificate.

This training is compulsory for all the youth employed as Education Assistants and General School Assistants. The training offered by Digify Africa is also self-paced and can be completed over three (3) days. The course content includes Digital Literacy, Online Privacy, Misinformation and Disinformation, Fact Checking, Access to Information and Online Communities, Digital Tools and Advocacy and Making Change. This is critical knowledge to gain, at a time where social media and online transactions have become a norm. The training provided through the above-mentioned partners comes at **NO** cost to the youth, the schools or Provincial Education Departments or the Department of Basic Education. The Tables with numbers of youth trained are provided. It is worth noting that some of these training, can be accessed on zero rated platforms, provided by the training partners.

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Provision has also been made for the youth to be given access to internet in their schools, and in some instance, a top-up to the monthly stipends has been provided to purchase mobile data.

The Ministry of Basic Education calls upon all youth placed in the schools to take up the training opportunities offered as these are meant to provide skills, knowledge and competencies for the young person to remain relevant in the world of work.

The Ministry further requests youth placed in schools to seize all opportunities offered during their placement, being it information about bursaries, scholarships, employment or funding for entrepreneurship opportunities. Some of the opportunities may even come from the work the young person is doing in the school, for example one young person collected books from various people and started a trolley library in the community, another young person started Mathematics Support Buddy to learners in the community at a small fee. Another young person that was trained on infrastructure maintenance (tiling, painting, bricklaying, etc), started assisting people in the community at a fee. For additional information on possible opportunities, the youth are requested to join **Teacher Connect WhatsApp on 060 060 3333**

NUMBER OF YOUTH TRAINED PER PROVINCE

Table 1: Number of youth trained per category

| Province | CYCW | Handymen | Reading Champions | Sports & Enrichment Assistant | eCadres | Curriculum | Total |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Eastern Cape | 100 | 1 100 | 5 330 | 1 637 | 4 216 | 7 351 | 19 734 |
| Free State | 442 | 456 | 1 078 | 883 | 1 012 | 3 474 | 7 345 |
| Gauteng | 0 | 0 | 2 753 | 3 874 | 1 345 | 2 040 | 10 012 |
| Kwa-Zulu Natal | 158 | 5 819 | 3 958 | 313 | Not provided | 19 147 | 29 395 |
| Limpopo | 1 696 | 3 827 | 3 646 | 350 | 3 004 | 12 131 | 24 654 |
| Mpumalanga | 0 | 1 595 | 2 643 | 1 602 | 2 000 | 11 833 | 19 673 |
| Northern Cape | 304 | 284 | 602 | 341 | 389 | 3 085 | 5 005 |
| North West | 0 | 1 601 | 440 | 396 | 1 371 | 5 407 | 9 215 |
| Western Cape | 108 | 3 736 | 321 | 666 | 10 242 | 10 786 | 25 859 |
| National Total | 2 808 | 18 418 | 20 771 | 10 062 | 23 579 | 75 254 | 150 892 |

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Table 2: Number of youth trained on online safety by DIGIFY AFRICA

| Provinces | Registered | Completed |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Eastern Cape | 14 534 | 8 569 |
| Free State | 7 624 | 4 656 |
| Gauteng | 6 848 | 4 210 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 2 713 | 1 670 |
| Limpopo | 14 997 | 9 785 |
| Mpumalanga | 1 434 | 826 |
| North West | 3 445 | 2 121 |
| Northern Cape | 815 | 462 |
| Western Cape | 10 051 | 8 788 |
| National Total | 62461 | 41087 |

Table 3: Number of youth trained on Digital Literacy by NEMISA (Accredited Course)

| Provinces | Registered | Completed |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Eastern Cape | 10 935 | 871 |
| Free State | 12 563 | 426 |
| Gauteng | 19 812 | 2 976 |
| KwaZulu Natal | 5 515 | 340 |
| Limpopo | 29 239 | 5 011 |
| Mpumalanga | 4 565 | 415 |
| North West | 4 005 | 239 |
| Northern Cape | 2 840 | 35 |
| Western Cape | 20 209 | 385 |
| National Total | 109 683 | 10 698 |

Table 4: Number of Youth trained on Artificial Intelligence AI in 4IR offered by University of Johannesburg (Accredited course) as at end June 2022

| Province | Total | Completed | In Progress | Not Started | % Completed |
|--------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Eastern Cape | 1463 | 69 | 268 | 1126 | 5% |
| Free State | 244 | 60 | 69 | 115 | 25% |
| Gauteng | 427 | 43 | 119 | 265 | 10% |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Limpopo | 2750 | 272 | 544 | 1934 | 10% |
| Mpumalanga | 1157 | 30 | 81 | 1046 | 3% |
| North West | 78 | 11 | 21 | 46 | 14% |
| Northern Cape | 174 | 10 | 22 | 142 | 6% |
| Western Cape | 475 | 24 | 75 | 376 | 5% |
| Grand Total | 6768 | 519 | 1199 | 5050 | 8% |

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION

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