

UNEMPLOYED YOUTH RECEIVE SKILLS TRAINING FROM SUN INTERNATIONAL

Unemployed youth in Pretoria get a helping hand from Sun International

Sun International is continuing its commitment to create employment opportunities through its new Time Square Casino in Pretoria, by introducing hospitality skills training for 75 unemployed youth.

The training will take place at the Pretoria Campus of the International Hotel School (IHS), and participants come from Mamelodi, Hammanskraal, Winterveld and other areas across Pretoria.

Brett Hoppe, Time Square GM said: *“The community recently met with management of Time Square and Sun International to highlight the need for training and development of youth in surrounding areas, and we are delighted to be able to assist. After an initial orientation, the youngsters began their first day of training today”*.

The new recruits form part of the first phase of a structured six-week Food & Beverage and Hospitality training programme known as the Morula International Gaming and Hospitality Studies (MIGHS). The total programme will extend over 24-weeks, during which time an anticipated 500 unemployed youth will have received skills training.

The learners will board at the International Hotel School campus in Pretoria, where they will be taken through an overview of the hospitality industry and economic literacy training and assessment. Thereafter they will focus on skills training in order to prepare for specialised career paths.

A recent PWC hotel outlook report for 2016-2020 focusing on trends of international visitors to South Africa, estimates that by 2020, South Africa’s tourism numbers will grow to 17.8-million. Overall room revenue is expected to grow by 7.8% annually, giving impetus to the training.

Government statistics for 2015 highlight the importance of training in this sector. One in 22 employed South Africans (4.5%) is employed in the tourism industry, surpassing even mining as an employer.

Hoppe said: *“Given the growing importance of tourism as an economic driver and the demand for skilled workers, we believed that it was important to create an academic training programme that also incorporates the practical skills that the industry needs”*.

The training will offer a Cathsseta certified qualification. Training will focus on three educational pillars: functional skills, professional skills and management and leadership skills. After an initial introduction to theory, participants will be evaluated according to their aptitude for different hospitality aspects. Thereafter they will be placed in four streams – reception, housekeeping, kitchen or bar and waitering – and will receive the practical aspect of their training.