



Easter 2019

This issue profiles two events that the Services SETA participated in during April 2019. The next issue will share more information about the ECDi.

YOUTH WALK | Rural Eastern Cape

The Minister of Communications and the Ntabankulu Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape led a Youth Walk on 13 April 2019 to commemorate 25 years of freedom under the banner "Freedom Walk and Economic Opportunities Expo". More than 3,000 participated in the walk that led into an exhibition centre exposing senior secondary school learners, unemployed youth, graduates and young entrepreneurs to a wide selection of academic, career and business opportunities. Entrepreneurship development services included company registrations, domain name registrations, competitions, business banking services and SMME development.

The Services SETA ECD Department was represented by Mr Mabhoko Mahlangu. The honourable Minister of Higher Education and Training Dr Naledi Pandor in her address highlighted learning programmes funded by the Services SETA and other SETAs and emphasised the contribution that entrepreneurship can make in alleviating unemployment. Youth need to cultivate their enterprising spirit and solve problems within and for their communities. Youth were encouraged to "be the legacy" by generating proudly South African innovations.



DISCUSSION PAPER | Business Advisory Services

Dr Tsiliso Tamasane – Services SETA and Mr Div de Villiers – SEED SA, presented the draft Discussion Paper on "Improving the Quality of Business Advisory Services (BAS) in South Africa" at the Annual SEED South Africa Symposium on 03 April 2019. The Discussion Paper was jointly issued by the Department of Small Business Development (DSBD), SEDA, SEED and the Services SETA ECDi.



Before the presentation, Mr Rest Kanju of SEED summarised the process leading up to the draft Discussion Paper. He referred to the working group, formed as an outcome of the previous SEED Symposium, to develop a BDS (Business Development Services) Standard and highlighted progress in this regard. He introduced the SEDA CEO, Ms Mandisa Tshikwatamba. Ms Tshikwatamba reflected on discussions that started as far back as 2011 advocating for the professionalisation of Business Advisory Services. She observed that the proliferation of unregulated business advisors in South Africa presented a moral and business dilemma. In the absence of national standards for the delivery of business advisory services, targeted outcomes remain unclear. Furthermore, any person can

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enter the occupation without the requisite qualifications, skills and experience, exposing client entrepreneurs to risk. She promoted the Professionalisation of Business Advisory Services and strengthening of quality in supply.

During the drafting of the Discussion Paper and following the small group stakeholder engagement hosted by the Services SETA on 25 February 2019, SEDA hosted a follow-up engagement on 20 March 2019. The meeting acknowledged the primary aim of the Discussion Paper as ensuring that stakeholders have access to the same information that provides a balanced perspective and common starting point. The draft Discussion Paper maps stakeholders and sets out the legislative and supply environment. It also differentiates four strategies for improving the quality of BAS and depicts their current status. These include:

1. Professionalisation
2. Regulation versus self-regulation
3. Standards
4. Education and training.

The draft Discussion Paper in its conclusions highlight progress and gaps in Professionalisation of Business Advisory Services and the Industry's preference for self-regulation. Whilst practices are fairly developed, Standards remain outstanding. The draft Discussion Paper further articulates challenges of scope, application and, indemnity and recourse.

Following the presentation of the draft Discussion Paper at the SEED Symposium, a panel discussion deliberated on the strategies and conclusions, and explored recommendations and next steps. Key take outs include:

- Recognition of considerable progress in Professionalisation of Business Advisory Services despite it not being mandatory and there being no 'licence to operate'.
- In support of self-regulation, Business Advisors should be encouraged to join a professional body.
- The need to support and align to the BDS framework issued by DSBD, which recognised BAS as a key component of BDS.
- Consensus on proceeding with the development of a South African National Standard on BAS.

Industry stakeholders are invited to submit written comment in response to the draft Discussion Paper on or before 30 May 2019 by email to tsilisot@serviceseta.org.za and/or bdsstandards@seda.org.za. To Request a copy of the draft Discussion Paper email: ecddivision@serviceseta.org.za or find it on the Services SETA website on or after 02 May 2019.

The core partners have already met to discuss dissemination of the draft Discussion Paper, finalisation of the draft Discussion Paper and continuation of the process to develop the National Standard on BAS.



SEED South Africa Symposium 03 April 2019. Panel Discussion participants from left to right:

- Mr Rest Kanju – SEED SA*
- Mr Joseph M Tshiwilowilo - IBASA*
- Mr Mzoxolo Maki – DSBD*
- Ms Ntokozi Majola – SEDA*
- Mr Div de Villiers – SEED SA*

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