

MBAWC offers health and safety training in building sector

The latest statistics from the Federated Employers Mutual Assurance Company reveal that there have been 5,716 accidents on construction sites across the country in 2016, with 51 being fatal and 468 resulting in permanent disabilities.

Recognising that health and safety is crucial to the building sector, the Master Builders Association of the Western Cape (MBAWC) has, for the first time ever, provided a course enabling participants to acquire a South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) approved Certificate in Construction Health and Safety.



Ten people were accepted into the two-year long programme. They have completed their introduction to the building industry including all trades, excavation and electrical as well as two months of theoretical training at a technical institution. Now they have been placed with MBAWC members to implement their practical training.

Tony Keal, group skills facilitator at the MBAWC, says: “On completion of the programme, the learners will be equipped to work in the construction industry with a broad understanding and knowledge of occupational health and safety, as well as environmental legislation and controls.”

Able to perform essential functions

He adds that learners accredited with this qualification will be able to responsibly, independently and effectively identify and evaluate occupational safety, hygiene and environmental factors in occupational environments which may have a detrimental effect on the health and safety of people. They will also be able to perform essential functions that promote a culture of health and safety on construction sites.

Course participant Sarah Malgraaf from Kuils River shares: “I feel very humbled and privileged to have been nominated to do this course. I have particularly enjoyed learning about the legislation and how I can apply this on site.”

Fellow course member Sharwaan Railoun, who hails from Woodlands, is excited about completing the initial component of the course and being placed. He says that it has been a life-changing opportunity as he previously worked in retail, but always wanted to work in the building industry. “There is a lot of potential to grow in this field,” he notes.

Xolani Makalima from Samora Machel adds: “It is a great feeling being at this stage of the programme. I have learnt so much about health and safety.”

After their first year with MBAWC member companies, the students will return to the technical institution for another two months of theory and then go back to their employers. In their last four weeks they will submit projects and undergo assessments.

Once they have completed the programme, the learners will receive an NQF Level III qualification, recognised by the South African Council for Project and Construction Management Professions (SACPCMP) - a substantial component of applying for their professional status.

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