



correctional services

Department:
Correctional Services
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

23 June 2026

DCS and Partners Empower Youth Parolees and Probationers Through Skills Development

The National Commissioner of the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), Mr Makgothi Samuel Thobakgale, today, 23 June 2026, handed over starter tool kits to 180 youth parolees and probationers who successfully completed accredited skills development programmes at EastC Technocentric Varsity in Kempton Park, Ekurhuleni.

The initiative, implemented in partnership with EastC Technocentric Varsity, the University of Venda (UNIVEN), and the Safety and Security Sector Education and Training Authority (SASSETA), aims to equip beneficiaries with practical resources to pursue employment, entrepreneurship, and sustainable livelihoods. The recipients completed training in Bricklaying Assistance, Plumbing Hand, Hot Water System Installation, and Renewable Energy Workshop Assistance.

Addressing the beneficiaries, National Commissioner Thobakgale emphasised the importance of partnerships in supporting rehabilitation and successful social reintegration. "As we commemorate Youth Month, we encourage these young men and women to draw inspiration from the courage and determination of the youth of 1976. Use these tools to create opportunities for yourselves, support your families, and contribute positively to your communities," he said.

EastC Technocentric Varsity Group Chairperson, Mr Molalo Thabela, congratulated the beneficiaries for their commitment and perseverance throughout the training programme and encouraged them to remain focused on building better futures for themselves.

The University of Venda's Head of Business Development, Mr Morokolo Mamadi, highlighted the importance of skills development and entrepreneurship in addressing youth unemployment and urged beneficiaries to use the tool kits to improve their livelihoods and those of their communities.

The handover forms part of the Department's broader rehabilitation and reintegration programme aimed at enhancing employability, promoting self-reliance, and reducing the risk of reoffending through sustainable economic participation.

ENDS

Enquiries: Singabakho Nxumalo – 079 523 5794

Singabakho.Nxumalo@dcs.gov.za

YouTube Channel: @DCS_ZA//dcstvsouthafrica4374

Call Centre: 0860 000 327 // enquiry.complaints@dcs.gov.za