

# RAPID INCUBATOR LAUNCHED AT ORBIT TVET COLLEGE, MANKWE CAMPUS



*Minister of Small Business Development, Honourable Lindiwe Zulu (left) after unveiling the plaque. She is pictured with Ms M Marais, Principal of ORBIT TVET College and Mr G Qonde, Director General at the Department of Higher Education and Training.*

The Centre for Entrepreneurship at ORBIT TVET College and the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA), have entered into an exciting partnership, which saw a Rapid Incubator being launched at Mankwe Campus, Mogwase on 24 March 2017. The Incubator was the fourth to be launched country-wide since the Rapid Incubation Programme came into being in 2013.

Minister of Small Business Development (SBD), Honourable Lindiwe Zulu, officially opened the Centre, which will provide students and graduates with an entrepreneurial platform to commercialise their vocational skills and will see them move from being “job seekers to job creators”.

CEO of SEDA, Ms M Tshikwatamba said the programme is aimed at bringing another dimension to institutions of learning. “With this new model, we are bringing an element of conceptualisation. Rapid Incubators should serve as solution providers, which will encourage and promote an entrepreneurship culture while providing the student incubates with the necessary tools and techniques to create their own Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs), thus contributing to economic growth and job creation in economically depressed areas, Ms Tshikwatamba said.

The Rapid Incubator at Mankwe Campus will focus on the Automotive Industry. Through the ongoing relationship between the College and Ford SA, the Incubator is expected to create opportunities for young people while also assisting with job creation in the country. Twenty Mechanical Engineering students at Mankwe Campus will take part in the programme. Upon graduation, they will be given mobile repair panel vans which will give them a head-start in launching their own businesses.

Department of Higher Education and Training Director General (DG), Mr GF Qonde, said partnerships between government departments and institutions of higher learning and training enable government to serve its citizens better. "Through this programme, the College will be able to equip students with the necessary skills that will prepare them in becoming skilled employees. Therefore we are appealing to students to focus and work hard," Mr Qonde said. The DG commended ORBIT College for its continued work in creating opportunities for the youth. He also expressed his gratitude towards Ford SA for its financial contribution as well as employment opportunities it continues to give to the College students

One of the Incubates, Karabo Moloisane, said being part of the Rapid Incubation Programme will give his business and those of other aspiring young entrepreneurs the much-needed exposure to promote their businesses. "We are truly grateful for the exposure this platform has afforded us. This means people will finally get to see our products and experience our art."

The Rapid Incubation Programme is the first incubation programme in South Africa to offer seed-funding to the incubates through structured pitching sessions which the incubates can apply for. SEDA plans to open Rapid Incubators in all nine provinces.



*Picture from left to right: Ms M Tshikwatamba (CEO-SEDA), Ms M Marais (Principal- ORBIT TVET College), Ms L Mayisa (Programme Director), Honourable Lindiwe Zulu (Minister- Small Business Development), Mr A Scawu (Deputy Director: Employment Creation Department of Trade and Industry), Mr C Kemp (Technical Training Manager- Ford SA), Mr G Qonde (Director General- DHET) and Mr S Taele (Centre for Entrepreneurship Manager- ORBIT College)*



*Minister of Small Business Development, Honourable Lindiwe Zulu testing the readiness of the computers during a tour of the Rapid Incubator at Mankwe Campus.*



*Automotive Lecturer, Mr Trust Makanuko, takes the Minister of SBD, Honourable Lindiwe Zulu, through the ins and outs of how to disassemble and assemble an engine during a tour of the automotive workshop. Also in the picture is Mr G Qonde, (DG at the DHET), Ms M Tshikwatamba (CEO at SEDA) and Mr S Taele (ORBIT College- Centre for Entrepreneurship Manager)*



*Some of the entrepreneurial incubatees, Mr Karabo Molaisane, Ms Carla Mosidi and Mr Baitshapi Maimane, exhibited their handmade products at the launch. Products on display, included: duffle bags, wallets, purses, unisex beach t-shirts and shorts, and caps all made by the incubatees.*