



Wednesday, 10 November 2021

Media Release

Saldanha Bay Industrial Development Zone signs MOU with CHIETA

Today [Wednesday, 10 November], the Saldanha Bay Industrial Development Zone (SBIDZ) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chemical Industries Education and Training Authority (CHIETA).

CHIETA, established under the terms of the Skills Development Act, aims to ensure that the skills and expertise required in the chemical and manufacturing industries are identified and addressed through training initiatives and skills development.

SBIDZ CEO Kaashifah Beukes welcomed the agreement and congratulated Patrick Lakabane, Executive: Development Programmes, and CEO, CHIETA Yershen Pillay for forging this partnership.

"This MOU is an outcome from the stakeholder engagements held with CHIETA earlier this year; once we realised our shared values and interests we got to work on crafting an agreement that would bring our combined synergies to bear. It will provide considerable scope and functionality to our skills development offering, which has seen over 2000 people on programmes we have facilitated since we started in 2014. We recognised that to establish a competitive maritime, energy, logistics and engineering sector we shall need people who are equipped with the skills and expertise to function productively in tomorrow's economy – which will be grounded in disruptive technologies" said Beukes. "All across the globe industries are rapidly digitising. This collaboration with CHIETA is a significant step towards preparing our people for gainful employment in the future."

Yershen Pillay said, "This MOU fits with our vision to address the need for increased collaboration and our nation-wide stakeholder engagement programme with the captains of industry to establish SETAs as partners in value creation. We look forward to working with Kaashifah and her executive team and helping to fulfil the shared vision of the SBIDZ and CHIETA."

The MOU outlines the scope of the collaboration, the logistics of the training programmes and the estimated timeline for implementation. The Smart Skills Centre will offer a demand-led digital literacy and fluency skills solutions in the areas of robotics, internet of things, 3D printing, augmented and virtual reality, and artificial intelligence through blended learning.

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The Saldanha Bay IDZ Licencing Company SOC Ltd (SBIDZ-LC) is a joint initiative of the Department Trade & Industry (the dti), the Western Cape Government's Department of Economic Development & Tourism (DEDAT), and the Saldanha Bay Municipality (SBM).

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*Board Chairperson