

DELTA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE MEDIA PRESS RELEASE
Training Environmentalist of the Future
(06 October 2018)



environment, forestry
& fisheries

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

“Making difference in our communities through Education and Awareness”

Amid great concern in environmental circles that not one country could reach even one of the twenty objectives of the [Aichi Biodiversity Targets](#) set out in 2010, at the beginning of the UN’s Decade on Biodiversity, the [Delta Environmental Centre \(DEC\)](#) is making a difference for the future by training the environmentalists of the future.



Mr. Malusi Vatsha, CEO of DEC

“A total of 900 unemployed youths from peri-urban and rural areas in 37 municipalities were trained in the skills development programme run by the DEC on behalf of the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries’ (DEFF) Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programmes. Youths who completed this EETDP-SETA accredited programme, called Environmental Education, Training and

Development Practice, earned 86 credits on level 5,” says **Malusi Vatsha, CEO of DEC.**

The programme was run for the second time after the DEC successfully implemented it the year before (2018 Group), when 856 previously unemployed young people from 46 municipalities, including Nongoma (KZN), Ntabankulu (Eastern Cape), Naledi (North West), Makhado (Limpopo) and Kamiesberg (Northern Cape) benefitted.

The second group (2019) included youths from 37 municipalities, from communities such as Brandvlei (Gauteng), Khayelitsha-Mandela Park (Western Cape), Beaufort West (Western Cape), Bergsig (Northern Cape), Soutpan (Free State), Kwaggafontein (Mpumalanga), Pixley ka Seme (Mpumalanga), Driekop (Limpopo) and Kokstad (Kwa-Zulu Natal).



2019 DMT Gauteng Participants



Participants spent 70% of their time during the programme at their host schools as assistant teachers, while also:

- Doing administration
- Helping schools to embrace greening, such as planting trees, gardening.
- Sorting and managing waste
- Celebrating environmental days with surrounding communities
- Engaging with and mobilising communities
- Giving previously unemployed youth much needed work experience and exposure.



Participants as Assistance Educators and helping with trees planting and gardening – DMT 2019

At the end of the programme all participants received equipment, such as personal protective equipment and gardening tools. Schools that hosted the participants for the practical component of the training, received trees and compost to improve their surroundings.



2018/2019 DMT Participants

“The programme was successfully implemented and concluded as the training outcomes were endorsed by the SETA which led to participants being awarded with Statement of Results and certificates,” says **Malusi Vatsha, CEO of DEC.**



FOR NEWS EDITORS:

Delta Environmental Centre (DEC) is a private, independent non-profit company that aims to enable people to improve the quality of the environment by promoting the management and sustainable use of all resources in line with the South African Constitution through innovative environmental education and training programmes and consultation.

For further information:

Tell	011-8884831
Fax	011 888 4106
Email	delta@deltaenviro.org.za
Website	www.deltaenviro.org.za
Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/deltaenviro.org.za