

WORLD SKILLS SOUTH AFRICA HEADS FOR BRAZIL

The Department of Higher Education and Training, (DHER), and the merSETA, are proud to announce that a team of twenty-one young South African artisans will be representing their country at the WorldSkills International competition in Sao Paulo, Brazil in August 2015.

This global event will see Team South Africa competing in nineteen categories and against over seventy other countries. WorldSkills International takes place every two years and hosts tens of thousands of skilled young people from around the world, accompanied by their teachers, coaches and mentors who gather to compete before the public in the skills of their various trades and to test themselves against demanding international standards.

All participants must be between the ages of 18 – 22 and the South African team is made up of the winners of the recently held WorldSkills South Africa Competition that took place in November 2014.

WorldSkills South Africa aims to emphasise the key role that artisans play in the South African economy and to validate the artisanal sector. The competition is a reminder that a proper mastery of skills requires focus, training and dedication over time.

WSSA Chair, Raymond Patel explains further;

We have a considerable talent pool of young artisans in South Africa, and the WorldSkills International competition is about celebrating that talent. The fact is, as a nation we simply do not have enough artisans. There are more jobs in the artisanal sector than there are

candidates – and in a nation that is challenged by unemployment, it's clear that we need to address this disconnect.

The international competition is therefore a powerful opportunity to benchmark South African skills to the highest standards and to showcase excellence in vocational training and education. The team traveling to Brazil will not only compete, but also take part in skills exchange and be able to experience the latest technological innovations and best practice in their respective fields.

The Department of Higher Education and Training, who formally established WorldSkills South Africa in April 2013, also sees the WorldSkills International Competition as a critically important initiative. Deputy Minister of Higher Education Mduzuzi Manana elaborates;

“The DHER has declared 2014 – 2024 The Decade of the Artisan and have made it our business to ensure that there is a dramatic turnaround in youth involvement in this sector, and initiatives like WSSA and WorldSkills International are key in meeting that objective.”

Team South Africa will travel to Brazil to participate in the games taking place from August 11th to 16th. To find out more about the team traveling and to follow them throughout the competition please visit www.worldskillsa.org and www.facebook.com/WorldSkillsZA

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