

Matiisetso trains many workers



The Department of Labour is encouraging organisations to train domestic workers. One such organisation is **Matiisetso Community Services** in the Pretoria area. “Matiisetso” is the Sotho word for “courageous” or “to have courage”.

It takes courage for the learners to come for training. It also took courage for the people who started Matiisetso to start the project.

The organisation has a target: it wants to improve the lives of people in poor communities through training and employment.

Four churches in Pretoria were behind the creation of Matiisetso. They are:

- The Uniting Reformed Church in Mamelodi
- The NG Church in Elardus Park
- The Rietvallei Dutch reformed Church in Rietvallei
- The Hope Community Church in Olievenhoutbosch Informal Settlement.



Matiisetso offers a one-year course called a Learnership Course. It also offers short courses in cooking, cleaning and laundry. The short courses last for 4 to 5 days.

The Learnership Course gives a domestic worker the opportunity to get an accredited qualification in Domestic Services. They go to classes one day in each week. They learn about the following things:

- Numeracy (counting and sums)
- Literacy (reading and writing)
- Cleaning
- Laundry
- Cooking
- Childcare.



In the first year, Matiisetso trained 124 people in the Learnership Course. Another 350 people did short courses. All of them received certificates from the Services Seta. This is a government agency for services training. Now that they have certificates it is easier for them to get jobs as domestics or in hotels and restaurants or the laundry and cleaning industry.

This is not all. Matiisetso has set up training programmes for people who want to work in the Waste Management and Environmental Practice fields.

Matiisetso has a labour brokering centre, which means it look for jobs for domestic workers it has trained.

It has also started a cleaning business and a catering business. Mostly unemployed people who have completed their training work here They are contracted for a short time to work at places such as office blocks where they do cleaning, or they do stock-taking or they do catering for events.

Here they earn some money, they get experience and maybe they meet up with an employer who will offer them a job.

Matiisetso operates in Pretoria now, but it is going to expand to Limpopo Province.

Contact Matiisetso at 012 345 2606 **UM**