



## THE RIGHT TO A DIGNIFIED WORKING LIFE

The celebration of International Workers' Day on May 1st proved to be a bittersweet one for South Africans. Despite our illustrious labour history and a constitution which guarantees the right to a dignified life for all, the majority of citizens in our country find themselves employed or underemployed, with few promising work prospects. Every year, we are confronted with frightening statistics around unemployment amongst young South Africans and South Africans, so much so that it feels as though we have grown accustomed to it. In addition, the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic, civil unrest and natural disasters can worsen the circumstances of already vulnerable communities as seen in the recent flooding crisis in KwaZulu-Natal. This begs the question of what we are all doing, collectively as South Africans, to combat the scourge of poverty, unemployment and inequality. While we are all battling to make ends meet with the rise of inflation and petrol prices, we should reflect on the small things that we can do to improve the lives of the less fortunate.

At THENSA, our Online Entrepreneurship Programme, Graduate Employability App, Unemployment Insurance Fund Programme, as well as our Staff PhD Capacity Enhancement Programme have been designed to capacitate young people, students, graduates and lecturers with the skills to empower themselves and their communities. This approach to our programmes has not only provided those enrolled with the agency to dictate their own futures, but it has also given them a sense of hope over their role in improving the fortunes of our country. As we prepare to embark on our Tourism Visit to Ireland with our delegation, we are reminded of the responsibility we have to our fellow South Africans. These initiatives have implications that will go beyond us, hopefully contributing to the recovery of vital economies and industries which will enable a dignified life for all.



## UPDATES FROM THENSA

- THENSA is happy to announce that our tourism delegation will be embarking on a study visit to Atlantic Technological University (ATU) in Galway, Ireland from 29th May to 3rd June. Given the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are excited to be able to meet with our Irish partners and discuss some of the ways that we can resuscitate this vital sector in South Africa. In addition, we are also looking forward to discussing our tourism research clusters, as well as the implementation of the Tourism Gateway Platform, a one-stop shop for graduates looking to upskill and reskill their qualifications in fields of tourism and hospitality.
- We have taken the decision to postpone our upcoming visit to Barcelona as part of the HERE-SA study visits. Updates on revised dates of travel will be provided in due time.

*"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today" - Malcolm X*

## UPDATES FROM MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

- The Cape Peninsula University of Technology (DUT) has **prioritised** food security for its students by providing food vouchers and parcels through the Division of Student Affairs (DSA). The initiative, which was approved by Executive Management at the university, is intended to continue in the future subject to the provision of funds.
- Two academics from the University of Venda's (Univen) Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture have **received** nominations for the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) awards this year. Dr Lawrence Diko-Makia and Dr Eric Maluta received four nominations between themselves, three of which belong to Dr Diko-Makia while the other to Dr Maluta. Best of luck to both gentlemen!
- As part of their efforts to spotlight artistic excellence in Umlazi, Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT) **held** an exhibition where artists from the township could showcase their work. The event was initiated with the hope that it would provide a space where art could be appreciated and sold in Umlazi.
- The Vaal University Technology (VUT) **demonstrated** the value of being the only university to offer such a course in Niche Tourism in South Africa as three of their senior lecturers published a special edition on the subject in the African Journal of Hospitality Tourism and Leisure. Dr Venter, Dr Elizna Burger and Dr Veronique Labuschagne produced this section for the journal in the hopes that it would "bolster and centralize academic research articles which focus on niche tourism in Africa", Venter told VUT's Nontobeko Moimane.