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**PRESS RELEASE: "THENSA WILL MEET STUDENT LEADERS TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL ROLL OUT BESPOKE ONLINE ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME"**

South Africa's national unemployment crisis has left graduates facing a future of great insecurity. With the possibility of securing a job becoming more of a pipedream, institutions must prepare young people for the tough realities following graduation. Entrepreneurship has long been touted as a salve for unemployment.

For this reason, THENSA developed the Online Entrepreneurship Programme, in partnership with Munster University of Technology (MTU) in Cork, Ireland. Funded through a grant from the Irish Embassy in South Africa, this programme equips students with a variety of technical, business managerial and personal skills to assist them in the creation and sustainability of a business. The programme was initially piloted with a selected number of nominated students from the Durban University of Technology (DUT) and was later rolled out as a second pilot to the THENSA member universities. Not only was the content of the programme praised, but students also commended the time sensitivity of the course, for which they were given a maximum of eight weeks to complete.

To ensure that this programme is rolled out to as many students in our member institutions, THENSA will be hosting a workshop with SRC Presidents, Deputy Presidents and Deans of Students from our member institutions on **7 February from 10:00 to 15:00 at The Premier Hotel in Umhlanga, Durban.** At this workshop, THENSA will discuss the logistics of the programme, requirements from student leadership, as well as the number of candidates to be enrolled in the first and subsequent cohorts. We believe the participation of the SRCs, and Deans of Students will ensure that this programme reaches as many students as possible, benefitting those with entrepreneurial aspirations. The THENSA Online Entrepreneurship Programme is offered at no cost to students and is free for only THENSA member institutions.

In South Africa, young people rely on small and medium-sized businesses for employment. If the landscape for small and medium-sized businesses fails to improve, it could exacerbate our youth unemployment rate which stands at a staggering 64.4% for those aged 15 to 24. The THENSA Online Entrepreneurship Programme gives students the real-world knowledge they need to become job creators, making it one of the best entrepreneurship certificate programs available in the country.

Warm regards,



**Dr Anshu Padayachee**

**CEO: Technological Higher Education Network of South African (THENSA)**

