

MATJHABENG TACKLES YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN ALLANRIDGE

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The ward committee members of Nyakallong in Allanridge have expressed disappointment in the youth of Nyakallong who are blasé about finding jobs and ending the cycle of poverty.

“This year we will be focusing on unemployment in Nyakallong. During the last six months of 2012, we conducted a research on the issue and it was startling to find that many young people are just sitting at home doing nothing. What was even more surprising was the fact that these people did not even know what it meant to actively look for a job,” said Councillor Aaron Mbabo.

He said the committee has invited various departments to address the youth. These include the department of labour and the department of special programmes of Matjhabeng Local Municipality. They have also invited SEDA to teach the youth how to draft winning curriculum vitae.

Some of the participants, who are as old as 30 years old, have never been employed in their whole lives and has given up on finding employment.

Adele Coobi (31), a mother of two, said she has not worked in 13 years. She has applied for employment only seven times during that period.

“I am a single mother of two children; it is not easy for me to go door to door looking for a place to work. I am desperate for a job and will be attending every seminar councillor Mbabo will be hosting in order to create better future for me and my children,” said Coobi.

Councillor, Sam Weyers, from the department of labour registered the youth in the area as work seekers and also gave them a list of skills they can acquire to increase their prospects of getting employed.

“Helpful skills that these youth can acquire are, among others, computer literacy, technical skills and writing and communication skills. These can be acquired at any college and will make a positive addition to a CV,” he added.

An official of the department of special programmes of Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Bongani Mabuza, said the municipality was pleased to be a part of this initiative.

“This initiative seeks to arm the youth of Nyakallong with knowledge and skills to find employment, which we believe will make the youth independent instead of them sitting around waiting for the government to come up with solutions,” said Mabuza.

He said the municipality has set up a skills development programme that will kick off next month for the unemployed youth of Nyakallong. The sessions will be held every Friday from the first Friday of March and will consist of career exhibitions.

“We believe there are employment opportunities in the country. We need unemployed people to be pro-active in creating themselves a brighter future,” said Mbabo.

The next youth development seminar will be on Thursday next week at 10:00 at the Nyakallong hall.

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