

VOCATIONAL SKILLS PROGRAMME

There are five main sections under the Vocational Skills Training Program namely; Industries; Building and Maintenance; Farming, Bakery Unit and Salon Unit which offenders are put through as part of their rehabilitation. In 2014, the department introduced a Community Skills Capacity Building programme opening doors for members of the public to receive the same vocational training in our different centres.

The training is conducted by correctional officers with qualifications in the relevant fields. The Industries and Building & Maintenance training programmes take 2yrs. In the second year trainees are placed in different companies for industrial attachments. This gives them the opportunity to gain experience by putting into practice the skills they acquired in a workplace environment. Upon completion of the 2 year course, the learners are sent to the Directorate of Industrial and Vocational Training (DIVT) for grade testing and those who make it are awarded certificates.

INDUSTRIES SECTION

The Industries section's objective is to impart skills to both offenders and community members through vocational training and entrepreneurship. The national entry requirement for the programmes is grade 7. The section has workshops at Matsapha, Pigg's Peak, Mawelawela, Bhalekane and Big Bend Correctional Centres.

Trades/Programmes Offered

- Carpentry (cabinet making)
- Upholstery
- Motor mechanic
- Panel beating and spray painting
- Welding and fabrication
- Tailoring
- Handicraft
- Wood carving
- Printing and lithography
- Small engines repair
- Leather craft
- Pottery
- Weaving and tapestry

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE SECTION

This section deals with the management, construction and maintenance of the department's properties through the minor improvement fund. It also provides efficient and cost effective property management services. The section also plays a huge role in the rehabilitation of offenders through the vocational skills training program - a service which has also been extended to community members. This program has been designed to equip the aforementioned class with skills to enable them to find employment or be entrepreneurs.

Trades/Programmes Offered

- Block Laying and Plastering
- Carpentry
- Electrical engineering
- Fencing
- Painting/Glazing
- Plumbing
- Refrigeration and Air-conditioning
- Welding

CROP PRODUCTION SECTION

The Crop Production section is responsible for vegetable and crop husbandry in all Correctional centres. The section focuses on 3 production activities namely field crop production, horticultural crop production as well as inmate support services like soil and water management and machinery operating. The section is also part of the rehabilitation and reintegration programme whereby vocational farming business skills are imparted to inmates and community members other than augmenting the inmates' food budget.

LIVESTOCK SECTION

The core mandate of the livestock section is food production and rehabilitation of offenders to become law-abiding citizens. The department also plays an important role in the fight against poverty, unemployment and crime by training community students on livestock management skills. This training benefits both offenders and members of the community as they are encouraged to engage themselves in agricultural practices to generate income to support themselves and their families.

Livestock farming is currently practiced at Matsapha, Bhalekane, Big Bend, Nhlanguano, Pigg's Peak, Vulamasango and Mankayane Correctional Centres. Enterprises undertaken include Broiler production, Dairy production, Beef production, Goat production, Pig

production, Indigenous Poultry production, Beekeeping, Fish farming as well as Rabbit production.

BAKERY UNIT

Established in 2013, the Bakery Unit produces bread and related confectionery products for the community of offenders. The unit also teaches offenders confectionery skills.

SALON UNIT

Established in 2011, the Salon unit is currently available at Mawelawela Women's Correctional Centre. It is open to inmates, officers and their families. The aim of the Salon is to equip offenders with the necessary salon skills which they can use to generate some income. There are two (2) qualified officers who conduct the salon course over a period of six (6) months. Objectives of the Salon unit are to empower inmates with skills in hair management and to capacitate them with income-generating skills through costs and returns understanding.