



Learning a Trade in Cape Town

Du Noon Township, Cape Town, South Africa

Thembakazi Sidumo

My name is Thembakazi Sidumo, otherwise known as Thembe. I am coming from Du Noon. After I finished my matric, I had no job and I couldn't go to school. My parents couldn't afford to take me to school, so I had to go find work.

Andile Peter, Chairperson, Community Policy Forum

In Du Noon we have a problem with the lack of skills. In the absence of that, it's not easy for you to find the job. If one works, he must look after 10 people.

Chevron's Cape Town Refinery helps teach welding and other basic trade skills to Du Noon residents.

Thembakazi Sidumo

I am doing welding with Chevron. I'm preparing for my trade test. I am now working with one of the biggest contractors in Chevron.

Steven Parker, General Manager, Chevron Cape Town Refinery

We've already had 240 people through that program, and we have another 130 to come in the next few months. And we've already seen 30 of the people who have gone through the training take up full-time jobs, either by us or other employers in the area.

Marla Gabriel, Training Director, Empro Training Services

They're learning all about safety, and safety works in every environment or every industry. And they're learning hand tools and power tools, which every industry uses as well. So they're not limited only to the oil and gas industry.

Steven Parker

The program is all about connecting the needs of the real business world and the skills we need to do the real jobs and put into the training program so the real skills are there.

Thembakazi Sidumo

Now that I'm given this opportunity and I know that welding pays well, even though I am not there yet, but I have hope that I am going to get there. I am very optimistic about the future, especially now that I know I'm going to be getting that red seal on that certificate. I feel like I can walk into any door and just flash it and flash what I can do as well.

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