

Youth in Construction Week

The youth in construction event in Gauteng, provided an opportunity to show learners what the built environment industry has to offer. Hosted at the Sci-Bono Science Centre in Newtown Johannesburg; the CIDB convened: tertiary institutions, industry representatives and other government entities in the built environment to engage with school going children from around the Gauteng province.

The theme of the week was to focus on the importance of the construction industry as a national asset and its critical link to skills development, infrastructure, job creation and service delivery.

Many role players in the built environment such as the CBE participated in the event by hosting stands at the exhibition and have committed time and effort to this event, where learners can talk to people in the industry to find out what the possibilities are, where to get bursaries and learnerships and generally explore the prospects of taking on a career in the built environment.

The Minister of Public Works, Ms. Thoko Didiza officially launched this event.

The CIDB, Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Rony Khoza said the National Construction week targets youth to get to know more about construction industry and uplift the standard of construction in the next coming years. Furthermore, they also get hands-on experience on how to lay a floor, fix the plumbing gone wrong or install a new system, lay bricks, etc. Hopefully this initiative will contribute towards alleviating the severe scarce skills shortage in South Africa.

The president of the Masters of Builders Association, Mr. Lee Smith, said the construction industry has managed to maintain half of the skills in the industry and South Africa is not alone with the skills shortage and to avoid this we must promote construction industry. He went on to say he was impressed with the interest for knowledge that the youth of today have for built environment industry. He concluded by saying exposure in the industry needs to be increased.

Youth in Construction is an initiative hosted by the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB); FET Colleges in support of the National Construction Week. The Council for the Built Environment (CBE) gave young people in Gauteng the opportunity to experience a wide range of exciting opportunities in the built environment sector.

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