

By Thabo Nkosi and Jimmy Malebati

Polokwane - Meropa Casino was filled with joy and vibrated with endless ululations as the municipal officials celebrated their achievements for having successfully completed Local Government Accounting certificate NQF level three. The graduation ceremony held on 11 April 2013 was made possible by the partnership between the Limpopo Department of CoGHSTA, Local Government Sector Education Training Authority and Association of Accounting Technicians South African (AAT) SA.

This partnership saw forty-five (45) municipal officials getting Local Government Sector Education Training Authority (LGSETA) accredited certificate. The training was conducted last year and took twelve months period to complete. The programme targeted municipal officials working under Budget and Treasury office.

Harriet Amanda AAT Project Director mentioned that out of 60 who participated in the Programme 75% graduated. Five officials resigned from the municipality while the remaining 12 were not yet competent. In the remaining five provinces 300 is still to graduate. "This qualification aims to produce competent learners. Competent is when you have been able to do each and every task given", she said.

She encouraged graduates to uphold the code of ethics as professionals, to continue professional skill development and must commit to being part of the learning process. She said this will ensure that employees remain relevant to the current work challenges and modern demands.

Margret Marakalala who represented LGSETA congratulated the learners. "We are very proud of you. The programme aims to improve productivity in the workplace and enabling the attainment of clean Audit in municipalities", said Margret Marakalala.

Manager Municipal Capacity Building, Mothomoholo Phetole congratulated the graduates for hard work. "On behalf of CoGHSTA we are here to celebrate a victory, commitment and dedication of graduates. We say well done" said Mothomoholo. He also thanked the facilitators and municipalities for allowing officials to attend the training. He called on AAT and LGSETA to assist them further to produce productive labour force in municipalities.

In an interview with CoGHSTA News, one of the graduates Mokgadi Madula who works as the Chief Secretary to the Chief Financial Officer said: "I had no accounting background, but the facilitators were very patient with us and they made it very easier", she said sporting a radiant smile.

The objectives of these training programmes was to ensure entry level of financial skills within local government sphere and contribution to clean Audit programme; to professionalize the accounting occupations within municipalities and to improve service delivery to local communities through improved financial skills.

The Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) is one of the world's leading membership organisations for accounting professionals with over 120,000 members. AAT has been providing competence-based accounting qualifications in Central Southern Africa for over 20 years.

These are the officials who graduated: Mabula Mokgadi Charlotte, Molapo Mahlagonolo, Malatji Lorraine, Pheeha Thomas, Makhubela Khatisa, Moyaha Matswene Linzah, Maribe Mokgalo, Ramothole Mantwa Margaret, Talane Alucia Mothakgo, Gondola Lioso Elrica, Thantsha Moloko Esther, Kekana Maphefo Mirriam, Mphambo Katekani Veronica, Mogale Mmopi Adolphina, Moganyedi Mamotsene Desia, Chauke Mashudu, Netshiendeulu Eric, Tlou Johanna, Mphalo Lebogang Abigail, Modimane Dimakatso Miernie, Siko Lydia, Muthavini Avhashoni Samuel, Khovani Gezani Benneth, Mamilasigidi Azwihanwisi, Ndou Avhatakali phaniel, Kgonyane Ivy, Mfisa Annah, Sikwane Lerato, Seleka Philippine, Sephokgola Salome, Molomo Malesela Joseph, Stevens Andre, Masenya Margaret Beatrix, Zikhali Ramadimetje, Phasha Thabi Maria, Serage Rocky, Mashiane K B, Masenya Mathapelo, Choenyana Elvis, Phasha Pharane Moipone, Gruywagen Gideon, Nefolovhodwe Eunice, Phasha thabi Maria, Malatji Lorraine and Andre Stevens.