

MEDIA STATEMENT

Saturday 24 August 2024

Reshaping township economy: Backing up emerging contractors and small-scale developers in Gauteng to participate in the construction economy

Braamfontein— As South Africa's major economic hub, Gauteng is confronted with high economic migration resulting in notable housing challenges. Small-scale rentals have arisen in townships as a promising solution that provides economic and social advantages. Emerging contractors and small-scale developers are reshaping living conditions in townships but not without barriers to enter into the construction economy.

To address these challenges, Planact in partnership with the Development Action Group (DAG) and the Built Environment Clinic (BEC), are offering a comprehensive training course for small scale contractors in Gauteng. The sponsored 5-day training course will take place from Monday 26 – Friday 30 August 2024 for 50 pre-selected emerging contractors. The course covers essential topics such as Business Administration Management, Financial Management, Interpretation of Drawings, Pricing and Quoting, Tendering and Procurement Processes, Occupational Health and Safety, and Construction Project Management.

“The issue with emerging contractors is that they do not comply. This training will emphasise on improving documentation practices. Many contractors lack formal management training and frequently prioritise profit and winning tenders over compliance and organised business development,” says Planact’s Senior Programme Coordinator, Mike Makwela.

The course aims to enhance the backyard rental market by addressing regulatory hurdles and ensuring financial accessibility. This will help emerging contractors to contribute towards well managed rental options that offer affordable and dignified housing solutions in townships. Contractors have the potential to greatly enhance the construction economy. This sector creates job opportunities for local craftsmen and contributes significantly to addressing unemployment. However, without the essential skills, their progress and lasting success are jeopardised.

On 30 August 2024, your media house is, therefore, invited to cover this first of its kind training, where industry professionals and institutions will provide hands-on training to empower emerging contractors in Gauteng.

ENDS... //

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About Planact:

Planact is a non-profit organisation, established in 1985 based in Johannesburg. We work on eliminating the exclusion of vulnerable communities in local government processes. Planact advocates for accountability of municipalities to their respective communities and promotes the inclusion of vulnerable communities in local government policy, processes and practice.

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