

## **LEARNERSHIP EXPOSES PARTICIPANTS TO OPPORTUNITIES**

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A total of 300 students have participated in a computing learnership programme that could open the door for them both in the public and private sectors.

Sponsored by the premier's office, MICT Seta and Motheo FET College, in conjunction with Nashua Mobile, the group have graduated and are proud of their achievements.

The students participated in the one year End User Computing course which had them receiving a stipend of R1200 a month for the period of the learnership.

According to Tshepang Marumo, the training began in March 2011 and ended May this year. They received their certificates during a recent graduation ceremony.

Some of the classes were held in Bloemfontein, Leshome FET satellite in Botshabelo, and Manpower Centre in Thaba Nchu.

Marumo said they did Microsoft Word, Excel and internet among others during their year of study. "This is a NQF Level 3 course and we had to apply. We were selected from a group of entries," he said. According to him, people without matric were also accommodated to be part of the programme.

Marumo said the computer course would give him a fresh start in life and since he did not have sufficient funds to further his studies at tertiary level as he wished, the opportunity would enable him to live his dreams.

"With this course, I will be able to open my own internet café or work for Nashua Mobile, the company that gave us this opportunity," he said.

According to him, being the first to graduate in his family had been a life changing experience. "My plan is to make my mother proud and work towards building her a house," said Marumo.

His elder sister, Manana Letlala, said she was proud of her brother but had known he would do well.

"Opportunities like these take young people away from a life of crime and drugs and we are really happy for him," he said.

MEC for social development Sisi Ntombela, motivated the students to move beyond what they had achieved. "There are many opportunities for you here. The province gives out bursaries, internships and learnerships galore," she said.

[Source: [www.thenewage.co.za](http://www.thenewage.co.za)]