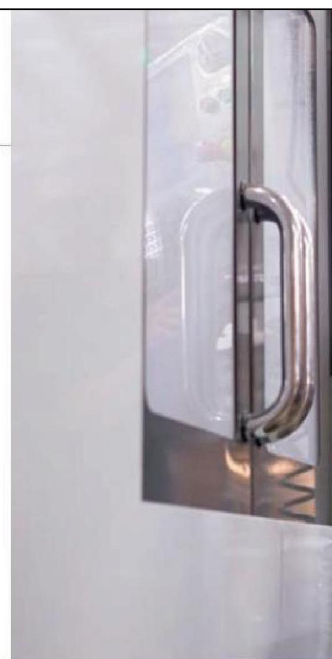


# Plastics|SA training division upskills retrenched workers



*Enhancing retrenched workers' employability and career prospects with learnerships and skills programmes*

THE Training Division of Plastics|SA is one of the Associations within the manufacturing, engineering and related services sector to be awarded a discretionary grant by merSETA to train and upskill retrenched workers from the plastics industry.

"Recent events this past year such as the Covid-19 pandemic, riots and the economic downturn had a devastating impact on companies around the country. Unfortunately, the plastics manufacturing industry was not spared. Many factories were forced to close their doors or scale

down their operations, which left many staff members unemployed and without an income. Our focus with the Retrenchment Assistance Programme (RAP) is to make these workers more employable and attractive to future employers by enrolling them in learnerships and skills programmes," says Kirtida Bhana, training executive at Plastics|SA.

According to a Memorandum of Agreement signed between Plastics SA and merSETA, 156 learners will be funded to enrol for learnerships and 84 learners to enrol for skills programmes that will be

offered at Plastics|SA's regional training offices in Midrand (Gauteng), Maitland (Western Cape) and Pinetown (KwaZulu-Natal). Learners will be equipped with in-demand technical manufacturing skills while they earn stipends for the duration of their training.

"We have already enrolled our first group of learners and the feedback received from them has been fantastic. Most of them have years of workplace experience, but were lacking the academic qualification and certification they needed to advance their careers,"