

NEMISA NEWS

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ON-FIELD EXPERIENCE

NEMISA Media Students get on-field experience covering Minister Ndabeni –Abrahams visit.

Practical on-field training compliments theoretical studies by providing learners with essential skills while preparing them for the job market.

This was the case when NEMISA media learners - radio and television - were given a daunting task of taking charge and hosting the 4IR oversight monitoring visit by the Ministry of Communications and Digital Technologies Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams.

The learners were given different tasks during the event that was hosted at NEMISA offices in Parktown on Thursday 23 January 2020. The tasks included preparing and setting up sound, interviewing Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams for a radio podcast and capturing the proceeding on video. One of the students was also chosen as a Master of Ceremonies for the programme.

The visit by the Minister to NEMISA was part of her two-days visit to 4IR Skills Programmes in Gauteng facilities including the Deviare Data Science and Cloud Computing Programme and the University of Johannesburg. The Gauteng 4IR Skills Programmes have over 500 combined student intake. The initiative follows an announcement made by Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams in 2018 of which she said that the department has a vision to train one million young people in data science and related skills by 2030.

As part of media and digital skills training last year Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams launched DigiNews, which serves as a platform where the students publish the department's 4IR news in different formants for internal and external communication.

An excited group of NEMISA students that were involved in the preparations and execution of the Minister's oversight visit programme told of how they were excited to be part of the event. The students echoed similar sentiments saying that it was great that they were provided an opportunity to put their skills to use and feel the pressures of a real working environment.

Radio production student, Palesa Mokoena, who was responsible for interviewing Minister

Ndabeni-Abrahams for a podcast and for being a Master of Ceremonies – said that she was "surprised and super excited" when she was told of her roles.

"I do a lot of MC work but it's normally entertainment and festival, so having to do this type of event was a bit difficult but I was looking forward to the challenge. I was shocked because of time frames but also excited for the experience," she said.

When asked about preparing for the task of directing the event she said that her previous experience and studies assisted during her preparation. "Getting to know the Minister was

a bit easy because we have met her before, I know what type of person she is, thank God she is young and relaxed," Mokoena chuckled.

Another student that was involved in the preparations for the Minister's oversight visit, Joseph Smith said that his responsibility was to set-up sound and record the podcast interview.

"I also assisted with the PA system and the recording the sound during the proceedings. It's exactly six months since we have enrolled, and every moment has been amazing. We learn industry standard skills, how to conduct ourselves in our professional spaces. The lectures, resources, content have all been amazing," he said.

Addressing the event Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams said that technology is here not to replace People but to enhance, compliment and improve the productivity of many sectors such as mining and agriculture.

"People are only looking on the jobs that are being shed not those that are being presented by the changing technologies. We are looking forward to you giving analysis in the different departments. We will deploy you in departments and municipalities to analyse their data. Thank you for heeding the call of building a capable 4IR Army. We want to build an innovate society," Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams said.

Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams was also accompanied by leadership of some of the entities under the Department.

KZN COMMUNITIES BENEFIT FROM NEMISA YA RONA DIGITAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

"We would like to thank NEMISA, DUT and other stakeholders for giving us such a great opportunity to shine."

These were the sentiments of Siphhelele Sithole, a beneficiary of NEMISA Ya Rona Digital Skills programme which was officially launched on 23 January 2020 at Bulwer Community Hall in Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Municipality, KZN.

As part of digital upskilling, 30 individuals were selected for digital training and 6 individuals were also selected as supervisors from the Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Municipality. Subsequent to the training the individuals will be ambassadors for (NEMISA) and will be readily available to assist the community with ICT and digital skilling.

Speaking during the event, which was also attended by NEMISA Acting CEO, Treveen Rabinindhath and Board member Prof. Addendorff – Sithole said that the programme presented a great opportunity for them as supervisors to upskill themselves while training members of the community.

"We are grateful by your presence here. We expect to work with communities at every level and our aim is to create digital capacitated communities. We aim to work at our level best to make this project a success and help as many people as possible. We hope to have a long relationship with you for future endeavours," a visibly excited Sithole said.

NEMISA aims to launch a national programme for scaling up its efforts in a manner that is complementary to existing programmes offered through the NEMISA and its CoLabs across South Africa.

The training is scheduled to start mid- February in NDZ Municipality and will run for 6 months. However, NEMISA's intention is to roll out a similar



programmes in all nine provinces of South Africa.

The training entails Digital Skills development with curriculum topics including; Generic digital citizenship platforms: Web 2.0 yes, Email accounts, Social media, Digital banking, e-Government. Cybersecurity: Online search engines, Informal online educational platforms, Formal online learning platforms. Leadership Skills: Leadership, Report Writing, People Skills. SMME Support: Start Your Business, Promoting Local Business, Social Economic Awareness. ICT skills for employment: LinkedIn, MS Office, Online career mentoring platforms, Online job search engines.

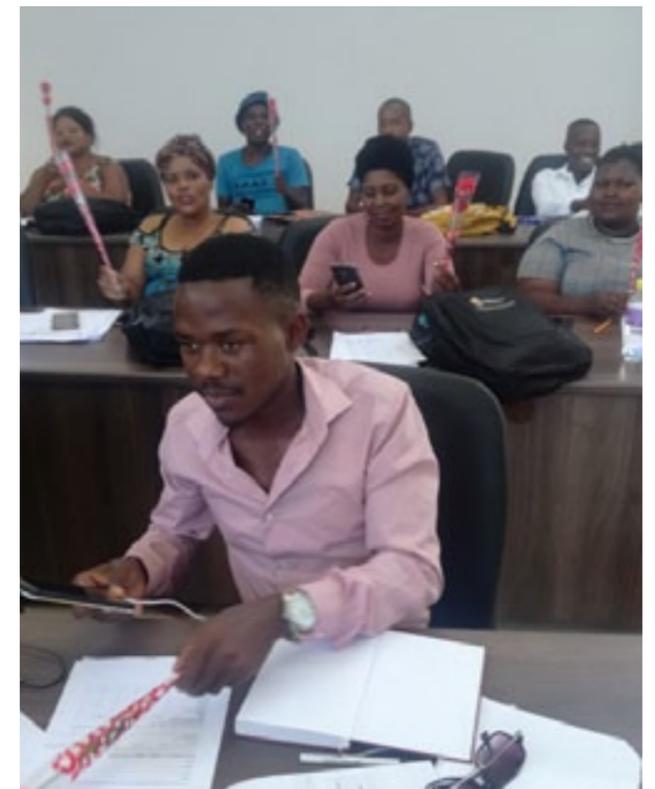
NEMISA Project Manager Mathe Mathealira said that the KZN launch served as part of an awareness campaign about NEMISA, its efforts and commitment on training of digital technology related courses to communities.

"The chosen candidates who will be ambassadors of the programme were also present and they are very excited about the training. The presentation

done by all the above stakeholders enlightened the attendants - about the realities and abilities of new digital technologies as well as what the 4IR represents. The NDZ municipality also supports the

programme as this will bring change to their rural community, by creating employment and empowering community members through knowledge of digital skills," she said.

SIDE BAR: The Ya Rona scaling-up programme is a NEMISA-led multi-stakeholder collaboration aimed at the recruitment, training, empowering, dispatching, supporting and monitoring of digital change makers in their respective communities. This programme is designed to complement the formal education system. The targeted beneficiaries will be from socio-economically excluded societies. The programme is being positioned to reach all nine provinces in South Africa in a staggered approach.





ANNUAL NEMISA DIGITAL SKILLS SUMMIT GATHERS MOMENTUM

Digital technologies practitioners, academics and other stakeholders are set to converge at Birchwood Hotel in March for the annual NEMISA Digital Skills Summit, which - among others - is set to address the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and social inequality through digital skills.

The summit will be hosted at the Birchwood Hotel and OR Tambo Conference Centre in Boksburg, Gauteng from 11 – 13 March. The summit hosted in partnership with UNISA will consist of the Digital Skills Colloquium and Postgraduate Symposium. The Digital Skills Colloquium is structured as a two-day conference where speakers are invited to submit their research or practitioner papers for consideration for inclusion into the programme.

There will also be plenary sessions and guest speakers to provide additional opportunities for practitioners and stakeholders to share insights.

It will then be followed by the Postgraduate Symposium which will be offering a platform for Honours, Masters and Doctoral students to share their research and receive mentoring support. The purpose of the symposium is to give students and their supervisors the opportunity to engage in high-level intellectual discourse on digital skills in South Africa. The summit is part of NEMISA's mandate and role in the 4IR initiatives - that is to develop capacity in South Africa to ensure that South Africans have the necessary digital skills to meaningfully and productively participate in a digital economy that is driven by rapidly advancing technologies.

NEMISA has also called on teams of data wranglers and hackers to register for the 4IR Data Science Innovation Hackathon to be hosted on 13 March 2020 at the Birchwood Hotel as part of the Digital Skills Summit and Research Colloquium.

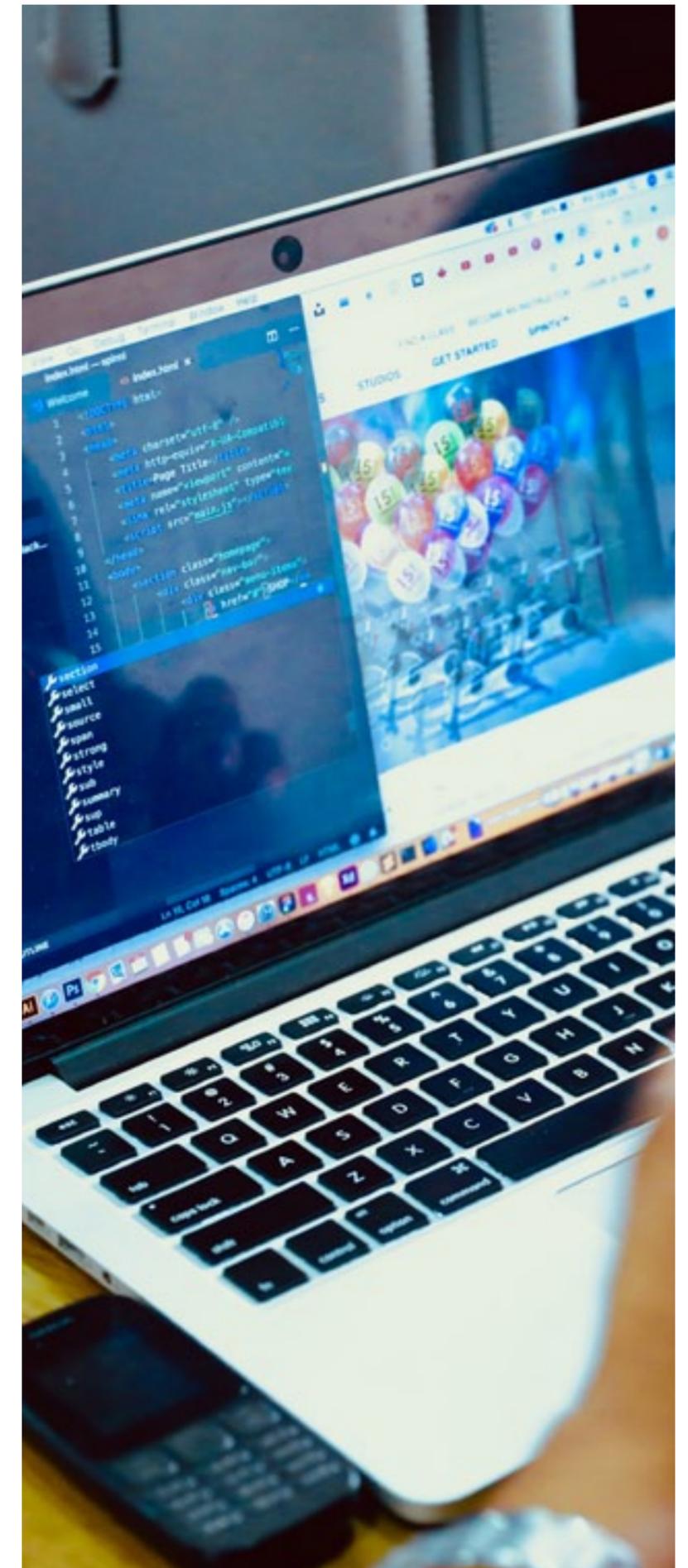
Data science is the art and science of extracting meaning out of data. The teams will sift through data collected in communities across South Africa by the NEMISA Knowledge for Innovation team at Unisa. The data reflects where people, organisations and government are in terms of their digital behaviours and skills.

A Data Science Innovation Hackathon will enable various teams with different interests to mine the data and reveal interesting trends that the data provides. These meanings will provide evidence for national policy recommendations

In January NEMISA made a final call for research papers, case studies, research in progress and practitioner reports for the Digital Skills Summit. This was subsequent to the first call for papers that went out in October 2019.

The Digital Skills Summit and Research Colloquium 2020 aims to grow the innovative practitioner and research network through providing a platform for government, academia, industry, education and civil society to share research, data and trends that will contribute to refining the mandate to develop the necessary digital skills capacity of South Africa.

NEMISA has a mandate to develop capacity in South Africa to ensure that South Africans have the necessary digital skills to meaningfully and productively participate in a digital economy that is driven by rapidly advancing technologies.



NEMISA GRADUATES SING PRAISES FOR THE INSTITUTION

“I have Goosebumps each time I come to NEMISA because this is the institution that has done so much in the transformation of television and film industry.”

These were the sentiments of one of NEMISA alumna Molatelo Bossman during the annual NEMISA former students get together event held at the institution’s offices in Park Town in December. The multi-award-winning film maker who is responsible for the documentary When Babies Do Not Come said that her successes were due to the fact that she is a multi-skilled film maker.

“NEMISA taught me all of these skills. For instance I am in a production and my camera operator does not pitch, I take off my heels and operate the camera. Had it not been of the fact that I am multi-skilled I would have not finished that film. NEMISA had a style of training that a lot of training institutes do not use,” Bossman said.

Among the former students that attended the event was popular YFM Best Drive Disc Jockey Sabby who when he was addressing his peers, said that his life changed subsequent to studying at NEMISA.

“NEMISA really changed my life, I will never forget the call I got from Doc Fick and Mam Mary. That call literally changed everything because if I had never received that call, I have no idea how 2008 was going to play out. I studied radio production and I think God made a plan for me to be the last made it to the radio production course. I am grateful to Doc Fick, to Victoria, you guys are the parents we’ve never had,” he said.

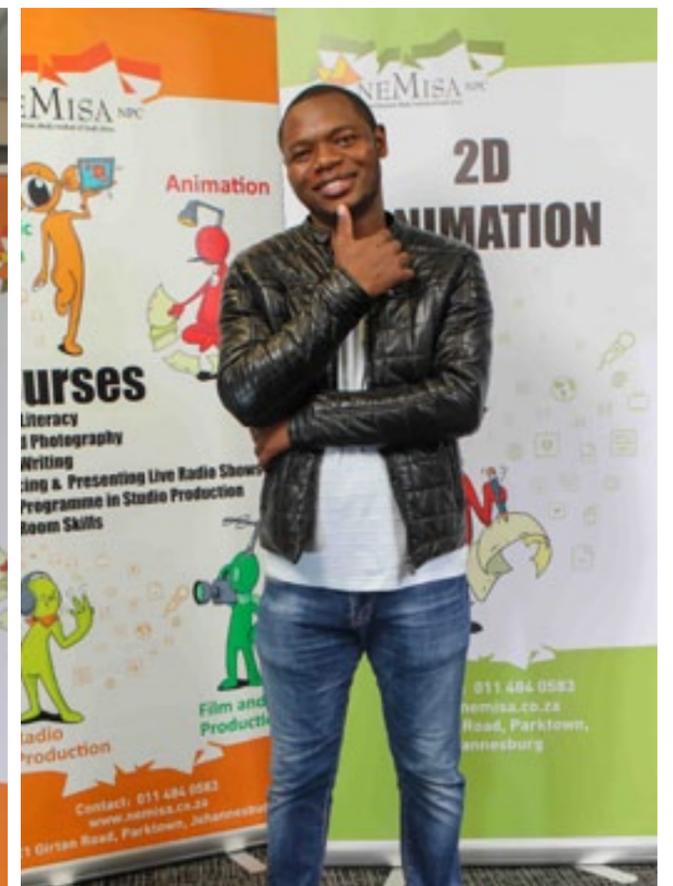
CYZO Creative Director Joel Matladi, who is an NEMISA alumni having studied Animation 2D

and 3D at the institution expressed his unwavering allegiance to the institution saying now he has opened his own company and producing his own content.

“At some point I was with Design Indaba and I was one of the emerging creatives. I was also part of Comic Con, the second Comic Con in the country which is one of the best events. The biggest honour is that I started my own company,” Matladi said.

SABC Sport Programming Assistant Adi Makhado who also after graduating at NEMISA worked for SABC 3 said that his since graduating his journey has been “fantastic”.

“NEMISA really groomed us to be what we are today, they gave us the exposure and industry experience while we were still studying,” he said.





POST-SONA STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN MTHATHA A GREAT SUCCESS

The Minister of the Ministry of Communications and Digital Technologies Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams has emphasized the need for all stakeholders to work together to realize the full benefits of the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR).

Ndabeni-Abrahams was speaking at the department's Post SONA stakeholder engagement in Mthatha on 21 February. The engagement saw stakeholders engaging all things 4IR, also dissecting President Cyril Ramaphosa's SONA of which he among other things announced plans to build a smart city.

Speaking at the event that was also attended by CEOs of SOEs under the department, Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams said: "4IR is an era and we

are preparing people for the future. This is an opportunity to be equal cyber participants".

"OR Tambo District has been identified in the President's District Development Model. It is not for us in national government to change the situation of OR Tambo but the people of OR Tambo working with us. 4IR forces us to work together. How do we work together as government and locals of Mthatha to provide solutions? President delivered the SONA and his foot soldiers we are here to unpack it and to hear from you," Ndabeni-Abrahams said.

NEMISA Acting CEO Traveen Rabinhdhath echoed similar sentiments saying that for the 4IR to be realized fully; there is still a huge need for

"basic digital literacy".

OR Tambo District Municipality Executive Mayor Thokozile Sokhanyile welcomed the stakeholders engagement being held in her district under the KSD Local Municipality. Sokhanyile said that the budget that was announced through the President's District Development Model will assist in their plans to have a smart district.

"We have already taken a decision as OR Tambo, that we want Mthatha to be a Metro because Mthatha is an economic hub of the OR Tambo District," she said.

NEMISA Acting CEO Rabinhdhath announced that later this year the institution will be offering its online content for free.

"In order for us to go to that high level of 4IR, we also need basic digital literacy. For those that are in government and urban areas it might be easy but for those in rural areas it is not. For us to bring this digital literacy at OR Tambo and bring the costs down, we want to use people from the local communities to help us deliver," he said.

The stakeholder engagement was subsequent to a launch of a 5G Training programme that will benefit Walter Sisulu University IT students. Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams also paid a monitoring visit to the Postdam campus where students were being training by global telecommunication giant Huawei.

