

# NEWSLETTER

## Breaking Barriers: Careers without limit

The 3rd Annual Jobs and Careers Expo 2026 came through with real impact bringing together high school learners, tertiary students, youth, job seekers, industry leaders, and institutions for two powerful days of opportunity, insight, and connection.

From the first registration to the final session, the energy stayed high and the mission stayed clear: connect young people to real career pathways and opportunities.



### Day 1 Highlight

Day 1 unfolded with energy and curiosity as attendees engaged with institutions, and industry professionals. But beyond the surface, the conversations were deeper. The panel discussion challenged the current education system, highlighting how creativity is often not fully encouraged or enforced in schools. The call was simple: education needs to evolve to produce thinkers, not just job seekers.

A key contribution came from Mr Meso from DHET, who shared government's direction toward integrating soft skills into the curriculum, including industries such as beauty and nail technology. This approach aims to expand career choices and position entrepreneurship as a real, viable path.

During the keynote address by Mr. Mandla Hika, learners were challenged to view education as something that extends beyond the classroom. The day continued with a powerful entrepreneurship workshop led by Ms. Lulama Jakavula, who emphasized entrepreneurship not as a fallback, but as a deliberate career choice.

Learners were encouraged to think beyond employment and consider how they can create opportunities for themselves. He introduced the concept of "antidemodates," emphasizing the importance of self-education and taking ownership of personal growth.

Additionally, Mr. Ayazi Gxaba from MTN shared information about MTN's internship program. He explained that they are currently in their 4th intake, targeting students in tertiary institutions who are in need of work-integrated learning programs. The internships can last up to 18 months.

### Day 2 Highlight

Day 2, led by SAICA, continued to build on this momentum with a more structured and focused programme. A total of 165 accounting students attended, participating in a Business Game Session to apply their practical decision-making skills.

At the same time, 37 educators attended a workshop facilitated by a Prof Msizi Mkhize, focusing on strengthening teaching approaches. A Financial Literacy session facilitated by Ms Kuhle Mabhida brought together 28 participants, including learners, educators, and job seekers. Across all sessions, engagement remained high, with participants actively involved in discussions and activities.

Ultimately, the event was more than just a jobs & careers expo. It was a space for young people to rethink their future, explore diverse opportunities, and understand the value of skills, creativity, and entrepreneurship.

As the Expo continues to grow, it is becoming a platform that not only informs, but prepares young people to navigate and shape the future with confidence.

## Celebrating Our Our Valued Partners and Exhibitors

We sincerely thank all our corporate partners, including SAICA, Armscor, Netcampus, Nelson Mandela Museum, and ABSA, whose unwavering support was vital to the success of our event. Their collaboration helped foster meaningful engagement and created valuable opportunities for all attendees. We also extend our appreciation to our delivery partner, Entrepreneurs Unlimited Incubator, for their dedication in ensuring the smooth execution of the programme.

Our gratitude also goes to our media partner, MpumaKapa TV, for their coverage and promotion that amplified our reach. Additionally, we thank our exhibitors—Armscor, Tech Innovators, SAICE, SAICA, MICTSETA, the Department of Employment and Labour, MpumaKapa Academy, NYDA, Ikhala TVET and SA Youth—whose active participation provided valuable resources and opportunities, making the event a truly impactful experience.

