W&RSETA CELEBRATES 20-YEAR MILESTONE WITH AN UNQUALIFIED AUDIT REPORT FROM AGSA

The Wholesale and Retail SETA (W&RSETA) presented its 2019/20 Annual Report to stakeholders at the 2020 Annual General Meeting on 24 November 2020. Marking 20 years of existence as the skills development authority in the Wholesale and Retail Sector. The W&RSETA announced an unqualified audit report from the Auditor-General South Africa (AGSA) with 67% performance against the Annual Performance Plan.

SOME OF THE W&RSETA’S KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE 20-YEAR PERIOD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

**R9 billion invested in skills development**

**SMME AND INFORMAL TRADERS DEVELOPMENT**
- 2492 informal traders supported
- Over 10000 retrenchedes and business owners capacitated to start new or improve their businesses

**RURAL, WOMEN AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**
- 1525 youths trained to start new or improve existing ventures
- Over 3600 people with disabilities trained for meaningful employment
- Partnership with The Clothing Bank has empowered 1050 vulnerable, unemployed women

**LEARNERSHIPS**
- Over 100 000 learners registered on learnerships

**LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT**
- 399 senior executives on ILDP and 2138 on RMDP

**SECTOR INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**
- KZN Retail Schools of Excellence with DUT and 9 KZN TVET colleges

**RESEARCH INNOVATION IN AFRICA**
- Retail Leadership Chairs established at CPUT and DUT

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**W&RSETA PROGRAMMES TO ASSIST WHOLESALE AND RETAIL COMPANIES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

The W&RSETA is implementing the following support programmes/measures for the Wholesale and Retail Sector through a revised Annual Performance Plan to focus on job retention by reskilling and multiskilling and entrepreneurship:

- **More than R12 million** for Personal Protective Equipment and data grants to support over 12 000 unemployed W&RSETA funded learners.
- **R45 million** Zivikele COVID-19 project is funding the training of 600 TVET and HET graduates in a 12-month workplace programme who will be placed in wholesale and retail companies to assist with COVID-19 management.
- **R21 million** to support 700 bursary holders at public institutions with laptop devices.
- Six-month extension to learning programmes and payment of additional stipends.

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