

FROM THE DESK OF
THE CEO

Mpho Mookapele



Mandela Month 2022

Dear Colleagues

It is that time of the year where we reflect on our purpose and mission. We look not only to self but each of us to the interest of others in service. We have come far as a nation and we remain positive about our future. The journey has not been easy, but as collective we have journeyed this far.

Whilst preparing this message to commemorate Mandela Month 2022, I came across the following (www.mandeladay.com):

*This year we encourage you to do what you can,
with what you have, where you are.*

'Don't look away – make every day Mandela Day'

Be it your time, financial support, or rallying your family, friends and community to take action where it is needed, we all have within us the ability to make a difference in some way – no matter how small.

As an organisation that is responsible for driving skills development in the energy and water sectors, we are in the business of doing our best to change lives for the better and in the execution of our mandate we are able to pay tribute to this great man.

Sadly, as a country, we find ourselves dealing with a number of challenges, the most pressing of which though are electricity, and also access to water and safe sanitation.

We can never underestimate the important role that skills development plays in addressing these challenges, building our nation and creating opportunities for young people to bring innovative solutions to the challenges we face.

As Madiba once said "The power of education extends beyond the development of skills we need for economic success. It can contribute to nation-building and reconciliation" I invite each one of us to celebrate the life of a man who devoted his life to the service of humanity. For it is in serving that we can lead! As partners in skills development, let us lead South Africa out of the electricity and water challenges through selfless service and commitment to building a capable and ethical workforce for the sector. Let us each do our best in our allocated spaces.

On this note, the scourge of Gender Based Violence in our society, and particularly within the PSET sector, has become a matter that needs the determined might of all parties to turn the tide on GBV and to ensure that our young people and specifically, our women, remain protected in order to become the bright future stars they are destined to be to drive our country forward. This was a message that came across strongly by amongst others the Honourable Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training Mr Buti Manamela, at the recently held TVET Colleges and Partnership Summit 2022.

As we close out on Mandela Month, I would like to remind us all that the ability to celebrate and honour Madiba's life is within everyone's reach, not just during Mandela month, but every day.

Yours in service

Mpho Mookapele

