



Press Release – Tsogo Sun – 14/03/2018

### **Ready for the world of work**

Joining the working world for the first time is daunting for most people, particularly for youngsters from disadvantaged communities where they would have had little or no exposure to business environments. Work readiness training has the potential to make the difference, increasing confidence, improving skills, and boosting opportunities for entry-level employment.

Tsogo Sun's focus on education in its CSI programmes is aimed at contributing to youth employment opportunities. The programme runs through from Grade 9 to Grade 12, covering various stages of career guidance and culminating in Grade 12 with insight into the working world.

The group's three entertainment destinations in [Gauteng](https://www.tsogosun.com/destinations/south-africa/johannesburg-surrounds) (<https://www.tsogosun.com/destinations/south-africa/johannesburg-surrounds>), Montecasino, Silverstar, and Gold Reef City are sponsors – with funding and staff volunteerism – of the career guidance and development programme in high schools in their communities.

Work Readiness Workshops were recently hosted for Grade 12 learners who were not pursuing tertiary education and who would be searching for entry-level employment or entrepreneurial opportunities.

Montecasino sponsored two workshops for 69 learners in Itirele-Zenzele Comprehensive School in Diepsloot, which were well received by the youngsters and their educators.

Absa Bank's ReadyToWork programme, an employability initiative that helps to train and equip young people for the world of *work*, hosted a session that covered topics such as, The world of work – how to get in and stay; Creating a CV you can be proud of; Identifying, pursuing, and getting what you want; and Interviewing. The session also incorporated an assessment test and certificates of completion. [Montecasino](https://www.tsogosun.com/montecasino) (<https://www.tsogosun.com/montecasino>) employees hosted an interactive and practical session on preparing for employment. The Education Agency, which manages the career guidance and development programme for Tsogo Sun, ran a session that gave details on scarce and critical skills in South Africa, what is entrepreneurship and why it is so important, looking for a job and applying online, and work ethic and culture soft skills. Harambee, which connects employers with high-potential disadvantaged youth who lack finance and networks, introduced learners to the offering and trained them on how to register on their database.

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Mike Page, GM of Montecasino, says, “In our years of engaging with young people in Diepsloot, we have heard from them that while they are passionate about being gainfully employed and contributing to the economy and their communities, there is often confusion as to how to achieve this, and what the expectations of them would be. Work readiness is important for them and it is a valuable part of our overall career guidance and development programme. The interactive workshops for the Grade 12 learners were designed to give them real insight into employment and what would be expected of them in a business environment, while also giving some basic advice on finding work.”

Shanda Paine, Tsogo Sun’s Group CSI Manager, adds, “Our career guidance and development programme will continue to grow and evolve as we interact with the learners in our communities and with their educators and parents. Our aim is to be results-driven, making a difference and contributing to the young people’s journey to a productive and bright future.”

Tsogo Sun has a portfolio of over 100 hotels and 13 casino and entertainment destinations throughout South Africa, Africa and the Seychelles. For more details, visit <https://www.tsogosun.com>, follow on Twitter [@TsogoSun](https://twitter.com/TsogoSun) or like on Facebook [/TsogoSun](https://facebook.com/TsogoSun).

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