

Press Release

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'Fitting' in to the working world with apprenticeship programme

Voith is proud to announce that the first three learners from its fitter apprenticeship programme, officially launched in September 2012, have successfully completed their trade tests to become fully-qualified fitters.

Ben Baloyi, Maruane Matibidi and Tekano Nkane all qualified for the programme after completing their N3 qualifications in mechanical engineering. They initially underwent an intensive six-month training programme, which entailed theoretical and practical modules.

A minimum competency level of 80 percent was required on the theory modules, and 100 percent on all practical modules. The learners then returned to work in the Voith workshop in May 2013, where their on-the-job training began under the guidance of the company's highly-qualified artisans and team of supervisors.

This practical training continued for 15 months, before the learners were required to attend a three-week practical training session to 'sharpen' their skills required for the trade test, which they all passed first time.

"On behalf of Voith, I would like to wish Ben, Maruane and Tekano everything of the best in their future career. Voith has provided them with a "key" and it's now up to them to open as many "doors" as they can. Their newly acquired skills will certainly assist in some small way in alleviating the critical skills shortage within the engineering sector," says Voith Turbo's Technical Training Officer, Ashan Ramchuran.

About the fitter apprenticeship programme

The MERSETA-accredited programme was initially started in partnership with the Department of Labour to upskill South Africans with technical qualifications, who are currently registered on the unemployment database. This is also part of Voith's skill development strategy to address the

country's technical skills shortage, and to create a pipeline of future artisans both for the company and the market place.

"Voith continues to provide fitter apprenticeship opportunities to those seeking a career in the technical field," Ramchuran concludes.

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Voith Turbo, a Group Division of Voith GmbH, is a specialist for intelligent drive solutions. Customers from highly diverse industries such as oil and gas, energy, mining and metal processing, ship technology, rail and commercial vehicles rely on advanced technologies from Voith Turbo.

Page 2 of 2

Voith sets standards in the markets energy, oil & gas, paper, raw materials and transportation & automotive. Founded in 1867, Voith employs more than 39,000 people, generates € 5.3 billion in sales, operates in about 50 countries around the world and is today one of the largest family-owned companies in Europe.

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