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MEDIA STATEMENT**For Immediate Release****Date: 04 August 2021****SUBJECT: GRADUATES WORK READINESS PROGRAMME**

Currently, at least 50 young unemployed graduates from local municipalities across the O.R. Tambo District Municipality are being trained on Skills Development with the intentions of ensuring that they acquire skills and workplace experience. The training is set to take a period of three months. During training, learners will receive a stipend. Accredited certificates will be awarded on completion of the programme. Thereafter, all learners will be placed in different government institutions, private sector and organised civil society to gain work experience for a maximum period of four months. Learners are trained on communication skills, leadership skills and management skills.

This Skills Development Project is an initiative of Ntinga O.R. Tambo Development Agency and is implemented by ANDA Consulting which was appointed in 2019 to form part of a panel of fundraisers to support skills development and training in O.R. Tambo District. The project is funded by Transport Education Training Authority (TETA).

“As Ntinga O.R. Tambo Development Agency, it is part of our mandate to create opportunities for the people of O.R. Tambo District. We understand many in our community study under extremely challenging circumstances, all the graduates in the Eastern Cape Province and South Africa at large deserve to be given a chance for a better quality of life by being employed or exposure to entrepreneurship. We want to contribute in eradicating and addressing the challenges of unemployment, poverty, and inequality through skills development programmes. We urge all potential funders across the country to join us in this fight in addressing the prevailing socio-economic challenges. We also request all government institutions, private sector and organised civil society to open their doors for our trainees to do their practical's on completion of this great programme ” said Loyiso Mbiko Acting Chief Executive Officer.

Lack of job opportunities in the O.R. Tambo District is one of the notable prevailing socio-economic challenges, thus government is working closely with different respective stakeholders to support skills development and training with special focus on youth.

Ntinga O.R. Tambo Development Agency SOC Ltd: A Municipal Entity of the O.R. Tambo District Municipality (Reg. 2016/272582/30)

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Year after year, thousands of determined young people all over the country study at institutions of higher learning with the hope that on completion of their studies they will be able to get themselves and their families out of poverty.

“At least the identified 50 young people will be able to support themselves and their families during this training and hopefully beyond it. We need to join forces and establish mechanisms for the betterment of our communities” said Mbiko.

For more information contact Communications and PR Officer: Siphosethu Tikana at 064 900 8392 or email siphosethut@ntinga.org.za

Issued by Ntinga O.R. Tambo Development Agency SOC Ltd, Office of the CEO.