

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING LEAVES STAKEHOLDERS OPTIMISTIC FOR 2025



IN THIS ISSUE

- 01 Editor's Note
- 02 Annual General Meeting
- 03 EPF Awards
- 04 The new ETQA LMS Module
- 05 National Tourism Careers Expo
- 06 MICT/VUT 4IR Research Chairs
- 07 MICT SETA and Digital Council MoU Renewal
- 08 InterSETA Sports Day
- 09 HIV/Aids Update: Where SA Stands
- 10 WSPs and ATRs Submissions
- 11 Closure Notice



Featured Article

03 The MICT SETA bags the 'Innovative Institution' accolade at the 2024 EPF Tech Awards

The MICT SETA proudly received the prestigious 'Innovative Institution Award' at the 2024 EPF Tech Awards, a recognition of its steadfast commitment to advancing technology in skills development. CEO Matome Madibana accepted the award on behalf of the SETA, celebrating the organisation's dedication to fostering innovation and driving progress in the tech sector.

[Read More](#)

01

Editor's Note

As 2024 draws to a close, we take a moment to reflect on the remarkable milestones we've achieved as the MICT SETA in partnership with our stakeholders. From hosting the groundbreaking 4IR Symposium on Generative AI in collaboration with the Vaal University of Technology to the recent launch of our new web-based Learner Management System, and the wellness-driven INTERSETA Sports Day where we cheered each other on, one thing is certain: collaboration is at the core of what we do.

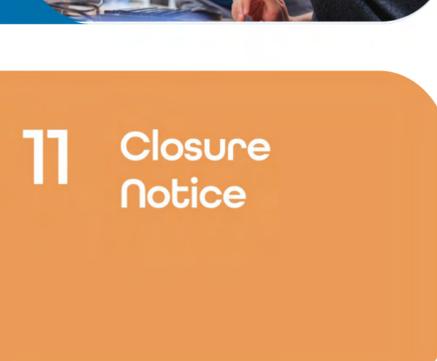
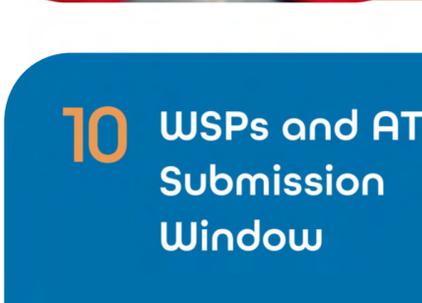
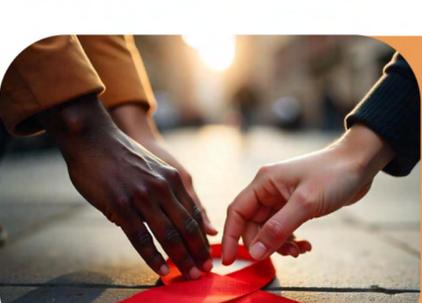
Our partnership with Forge Academy allowed us a chance to put on a spectacular showcase on how technology can help advance tourism at the National Tourism Careers Expo held in the Limpopo Province. We are grateful for the strategic partners who trust and believe in our mandate – and vice versa!

Among our proudest achievements of 2024 is receiving a clean audit for two consecutive years, as confirmed by the Auditor-General of South Africa. This is a testament to the collaborative spirit that drives our team at every level of the organisation. Together, we have achieved what once seemed unimaginable.

Our commitment to skills development and learning was further demonstrated through the ETQA LMS Roadshows, where we engaged with stakeholders to share the latest advancements in our Learner Management System. Being recognised as an 'Innovative Institution' at the 2024 EPF Tech Awards is a significant achievement for the MICT SETA, reflecting its commitment to driving technological advancements and innovation within the sector.



Bellinda Mazunda
Acting Manager: Marketing and Communications





02 MICT SETA celebrates Clean Audit in two consecutive years

The MICT SETA's Annual General Meeting (AGM), convened on 8 November 2024, was a grand gathering of industry leaders and stakeholders where our organisation's achievements in governance, skills development, and strategic growth across advertising, film and electronic media, electronics, information technology, and telecommunications sectors were highlighted.

CFO Mthenjwa Mseleku provided valuable insights into the MICT SETA's financial performance, while the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) confirmed a clean audit outcome for the second consecutive year.

"Achieving a clean audit two years in a row underscores the MICT SETA's commitment to high standards in financial and operational management. Our dedication to accountability and effective governance reinforces stakeholder confidence and strengthens the foundation for impactful skills development," noted Board Chairperson Simphiwe Thobela, emphasising our organisation's dedication to governance and sector advancement.

On the agenda were also MICT SETA's strategic initiatives that are geared towards advancing digital transformation and skills training to meet the ever-growing demands of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). MICT SETA's new web-based Learner Management System (LMS), a digital innovation aimed at streamlining governance, fostering collaboration, and integrating essential

processes like learning programmes, grant disbursements, and quality assurance, was highlighted as a key component in promoting a shared services model.

"Through initiatives like the LMS, we are not only enhancing operational efficiency but also advancing our mission to massively scale digital skills. This commitment ensures that our sector remains competitive and that our workforce is empowered to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving digital economy," said CEO Matome Madibana, also adding: "Our clean audit and focus on innovation are aligned with MICT SETA's vision of equipping South Africa's workforce with cutting-edge skills for the future."

Thobela further remarked on the significance of the MICT SETA's projects in transforming the sector: "As we continue to invest in innovative solutions, we're building a sector that's not only adaptive but also a leader in digital transformation. This AGM is an opportunity to reinforce our collaborative goals and celebrate the progress we've made."

The AGM featured a presentation by Dr Charles Nwaila, Chairperson of the National Skills Authority, emphasising MICT SETA's integral role in fostering growth and skills development in South Africa's digital economy.

We are grateful to all our leaders and stakeholders for their contributions in shaping a future-ready digital economy.



03



The MICT SETA bags the 'Innovative Institution' accolade at the 2024 EPF Tech Awards

The 2024 EPF Tech Awards – hosted under the theme 'Empowering the Next Generation of Change Makers' – once again united the brightest minds in South African technology.

The ceremony, hosted at Montecasino on 5 October 2024, cast a spotlight on innovators and pioneers who are driving positive social change through technology, demonstrating that South African talent can compete on a global scale.

The MICT SETA was recognised with the 'Innovative Institution Award', an accolade that was well-received by our CEO Matome Madibana, also one of the speakers at the awards ceremony. "The MICT SETA is proud to be acknowledged for our commitment to advancing technology in skills development. Together, we are building a future powered by home-grown innovation and collaboration," said Madibana.

Since its inception in 2016, the Empire Partner Foundation (EPF) has been dedicated to promoting the development of youth and entrepreneurial skills in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector – through recognising and supporting local talent and technology in South Africa.

To further advance its mandate, EPF launched its Annual Technology Awards in 2023, a prestigious event aimed at showcasing the talent and innovations of tech-based businesses across South Africa's nine provinces. The awards provide these businesses with an opportunity to gain recognition and exposure for their groundbreaking contributions to the ICT sector.

The EPF Awards serve as a platform that enables all participants, partners, and supporters to collaborate in fostering growth, creating opportunities, and shaping a brighter, tech-driven future. Onwards and upwards to all the 2024 winners!



04

Introducing The new Innovative ETQA LMS Module

The MICT SETA recently hosted a series of hybrid national rollout sessions for the ETQA Learner Management System (LMS) Module. Kicking off in Mpumalanga, the primary goal of the roadshows were to introduce and demonstrate the new ETQA LMS module, while also providing updates on legislative and SETA-related matters.

The LMS is a new, web-based innovation designed to integrate essential processes, including learning programmes, grant disbursements, and quality assurance. This streamlines governance and fosters collaboration between the SETA and its stakeholders. The training was facilitated by the ETQA Division along with the Tshwane University of Technology who as an MICT Research developed the system in collaboration with MICT SETA Systems Developer, Mr Timothy Chuene. To ensure an interactive learning experience, all participants were required to bring their laptops or tablets to access the system.

These roadshows took place across all nine provinces, with two sessions held in Gauteng. Furthermore, the sessions offered a valuable opportunity to ensure that all stakeholders were aligned and fully equipped to effectively implement and benefit from this innovative system. The sessions empowered all MICT SETA Skills Development Providers (SPs) and Education Training and Development Practitioners (ETD Practitioners) on navigating the system. The feedback provided indicated how eager stakeholders were to have a centralised system for MICT related functions, this was furthermore demonstrated by the uptake on the utilisation of the system.





05 MICT SETA showcases how tourism and technology can merge to create new opportunities

Hosted at the New Peter Mokaba Stadium in Limpopo Province, the 2024 National Tourism Careers Expo (NTCE) was aimed at inspiring Grade 9 to 12 learners, TVET and university students, as well as unemployed graduates.

Themed 'Tourism and Peace: 30 years of connecting people to places and cultures', the expo aimed to further inspire and uplift young people to think outside the box and pursue sustainable livelihoods in tourism through innovation, entrepreneurship and government led programmes.

In partnership with Forge Academy, the MICT SETA showcased in the 'Digital and Artificial Intelligence (AI) corner' to inspire young people to explore careers in 4IR-related fields, which can play a significant role in the tourism and hospitality sectors. This was done through experiential learning using robotics and virtual reality to create interest in 4IR.

Furthermore, learners were introduced to exciting career opportunities that are largely driven by technological advancements such as digital tours, and innovative tourism solutions that are enhancing traveler experiences.

Some notable activities at the expo included motivational talks by leading local sector entrepreneurs and personalities, tourism educator seminars, exhibitions by local tourism products and related services – all aimed at sharing information with educators and learners on the diverse careers available in the sector.

The NTCE was a successful collaborative effort between The Department of Tourism (DT), The Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality & Sport Sector Education and Training Authority (CATHSSETA) and the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET), and its marketing agency the Limpopo Tourism Agency (LTA).





06

VUT & MICT SETA Host Groundbreaking 4IR Symposium

The MICT SETA, in partnership with the Vaal University of Technology (VUT), successfully hosted the inaugural Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Research Symposium and Expo from 25 to 26 October 2024. Diving deep into 4IR opportunities and challenges, this event proved to be an important milestone in South Africa's research landscape.

Themed 'Impact of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) on Future Skills,' the symposium focused on how AI could potentially shape the workforce of the future – as well as broadening access to cutting-edge research and accelerating innovations that boost productivity and operational efficiency across various sectors.

The line-up of distinguished speakers included Dr Simphiwe Nelana, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation, Commercialisation and Internationalisation at VUT; Professor Mandlakhe Radebe, Chairperson of VUT Council; Natalie Nelson, Acting CEO of MICT SETA; Simphiwe Thobela, Chairperson of the MICT SETA Board; Professor Owolawi Pius, Research Chair at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT); and other prominent Research Chairs from leading universities.

In his opening speech, Dr Simphiwe Nelana set a collaborative tone for the event by inviting attendees to engage with his office on matters related to research and innovation. Professor Mandlakhe Radebe commended the launch of the 4IR Research Chair and symposium, emphasising its alignment with VUT's 2033+ strategic plan. He noted that AI's rapid integration into daily life is reshaping the global workforce and called for a focus on preparing South Africans for highly skilled occupations that can adapt to change.

Natalie Nelson, Acting CEO of MICT SETA, delved into the origins of the MICT Research Chairs projects, urging attendees to prepare for the complexities of the 4IR era and to capitalise on emerging opportunities.

In his keynote address, Chairperson of the MICT SETA Board Simphiwe Thobela stressed the importance of positioning South Africa as a global competitor in 4IR. He advocated for hackathons and symposiums to cultivate world-class skills and cutting-edge trends, noting that research chairs are pivotal in integrating technology and research into educational experiences.

The second day of the symposium featured presentations on various topics including transformer-based language models, the impact of generative artificial intelligence (AI) on future skills, enablers of digital innovation, and support for technology development and commercialisation.

A big highlight of the symposium was a panel discussion led by Professor Owolawi Pius, joined by Professor Tranos Zuva, VUT Research Chair, Professor Oludayo Olungbara, Durban University of Technology Research Chair, Joseph Ndaba, 4IR Commissioner at the Presidential Commission and Dr Andile Ngcaba, Chairperson of Solcon Capital. The panel explored pressing ethical challenges associated with generative AI, significant advancements positioned to influence the future job market, the coexistence of AI and humans, and strategies for businesses to prepare their workforce for this transformative shift.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony at the end of the MICT SETA-VUT 4IR Research Chair not only marked the official launch of the symposium, but also represented the establishment of new collaborations and a shared commitment to advancing 4IR technologies through innovative research and partnerships.





07

Digital Council Africa and the MICT SETA renew MoU



During the Conext Connect 2024 Conference – a two-day event that delivered impactful, invaluable and insightful insights on the digital sector’s current landscape and what the future holds – Digital Council Africa (DCA) and the MICT SETA renewed their Memorandum of Understanding.



The DCA is committed to skills development and its partnership with the MICT SETA has always been a mutually beneficial one. The two organisations aim to implement 4IR learning and incubation programmes through a discretionary grant approval process. During the signing ceremony, DCA President Dr Andile Ngcaba reiterated the DCA's appreciation and commitment to the MICT SETA, also commending the wonderful work carried out by our team.



Another MICT SETA highlight at the Conext Connect 2024 Conference was when our esteemed Board Member Nomonde Gongxeka-Seopa gave the GSMA update in Africa, reinforcing the transformative potential of connectivity in powering progress across the continent. Mobile technology continues to play a critical role in shaping Africa's socio-economic landscape, supporting development goals, and enhancing opportunities for all.

At MICT SETA, we recognise the significance of thought leadership in shaping a forward-looking skills development agenda. Having leaders like Gongxeka-Seopa ensures we are well-positioned to make impactful decisions that drive growth, innovation, and inclusion in the Media and ICT sectors.



The InterSETA Sports Day

The InterSETA Sports Day, held on 29 November 2024, saw various SETAs in skills development take part in some exciting netball and soccer action. And the MICT SETA was in on the action too.

Our netball team shone brightly, making it to the semi-finals with determination and skill, while our soccer team gave their all, demonstrating true grit and sportsmanship on the field. Beyond the final scores, the team spirit, support and resilience displayed on and off the field by our employees was an excellent showcase of the power of teamwork and community.

This annual gathering aims to promote wellness, camaraderie and work-life balance. Events such as these often remind us that overall wellness, though mostly underrated, is the cornerstone of productivity. In addition, fostering team spirit builds bridges that extend far beyond the workplace.

A big thank you to our Gamechangers for their enthusiasm and to the InterSETA organisers for creating a platform where wellness, collaboration and connections thrive. Together, we're stronger – on and off the field. We certainly hope that this was a lesson that all teams that were present walked away with!



South Africa's entanglement with HIV/AIDS - Finally breaking free!

By Yengiwe Dineka, Research Company Study Coordinator and Professional Nurse

It was in 1983 when virologists at the Institut Pasteur discovered Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), a virus that causes Acquired immunodeficiency virus (AIDS), the most advanced stage of the disease. 40 years later, its prevalence in South Africa is estimated at 12.7 percent, with 8 million people infected.

This makes South Africa the country with the highest number of HIV-infected people. However, since 2004, AIDS-related deaths have decreased by 69 percent while new infections started declining by a whopping 60 percent from 1995.

Testing and Treatment

In 2013, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) established the 90-90-90 rule, meaning 90 percent of people diagnosed, 90 percent of those initiated on Antiretroviral therapy (ART), and at least 90 percent of those should achieve viral suppression. This rule has greatly impacted the stats of people receiving ART, aged 15 and older. However, estimates show that 1 in 4 people living with HIV are not on treatment. This could be due to numerous reasons, such as traditional beliefs, accessibility, stigmatisation and, to a certain extent, lack of family support and proper counselling by clinicians.

Wellness First

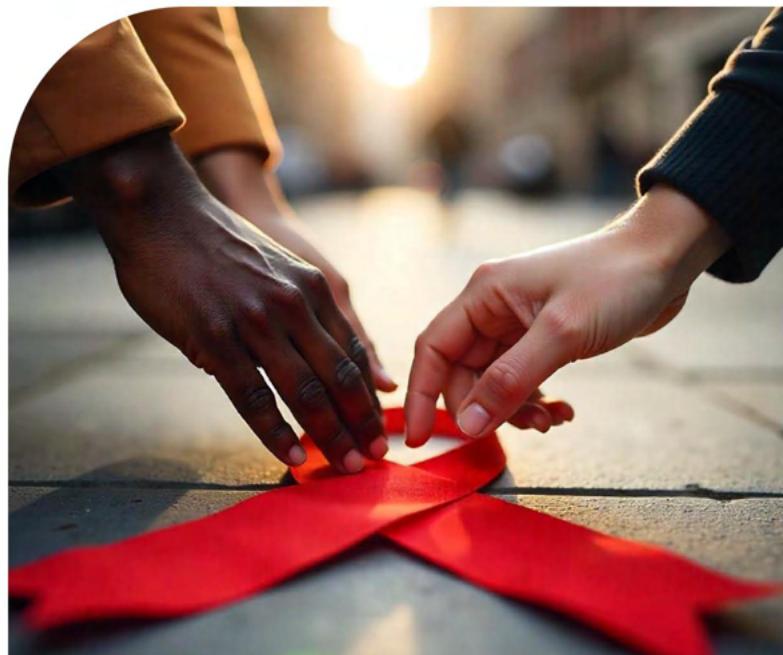
The introduction of a fixed-dose combination (FDC) tablet ensured more convenience and easy compliance with fewer to none untoward reactions, as compared to the previous complex treatment regimen. Lifestyle changes while on HIV treatment are imperative.

This includes establishing a healthy diet, exercising, practising safe sex, as well as regular STI and TB screenings to prevent opportunistic infections. In 2024, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PreP) coverage increased in sexually active individuals.

An estimated 1.3 million people in SA are using PreP. This is only available as a pill in the public sector, with the injectable version soon to be made available.

Keeping The Hope

Support groups, unconditional love from family and friends are integral to the health journeys of people living with HIV/Aids. Experience has shown me that the love and support of family lessens the burden of the diagnosis – and plays a huge role in encouraging patients to live responsibly.



For those who are HIV negative, regular testing, access to PreP and PeP will help maintain your negative status. Moreover, creating non-judgemental, safe environments won't only help us break free from our long-standing entanglement with HIV, but will help us create an HIV-free future for SA.



10



MICTSETA

2025/2026 WSPs and ATRs Submission Window is Now Open

The MICT SETA Learner Management System is officially open for the submission of 2025/2026 Workplace Skills Plans (WSP), Annual Training Reports (ATR), Pivotal Training Plans (PTP), and Pivotal Training Reports (PTR). Stakeholders are encouraged to begin their submissions promptly to meet the deadline.

The Closing Date is on the 30th of April 2025 at 23:59 (Midnight).

Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted. Extension requests must be submitted before the deadline with a detailed motivation and supporting documentation.

For More Information : <https://www.mict.org.za/workplace-skills-plans-and-annual-training-reports-submission-window/>



11

MICT Office Closure Notice

In the spirit of re-emerging stronger in the New Year, please note that all MICT SETA offices will close on 20 December 2024 and will re-open on 6 January 2025.

We would like to take this opportunity to take this opportunity to wish our stakeholders a safe, blessed, restful and joyous festive season! See you in 2025!

GET IN TOUCH!



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