

17 JULY 2022

MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE YOUTH PLACED IN THE PRESIDENTIAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE (PYEI) IN THE BASIC EDUCATION SECTOR

As the Basic Education sector is drawing nearer to the **end of Phase 3 – on 31 August 2022**, the Department continues to provide message support and encouragement to the youth of South Africa.

The Presidential Youth Employment Initiative (PYEI) has given hope to many young South Africans. It has also set them on a path of self-discovery and awareness. Many have spoken about how this has been a life-changing experience for them.

It has given them a sense of appreciation of what it is like to be involved in something whose outcome and impact is far-reaching and long lasting. Many have spoken about how they never imagined themselves working with children or being a teacher. But their involvement in the PYEI has encouraged them to take up teaching as a career.

There are many such examples of young people who have since decided to enroll for a teaching qualification. There are also a few examples who through their experience of working with children in schools, have decided to enroll for a qualification in child psychology. The PYEI has broadened the horizon, changed hearts, attitudes and mindset of many participants.

One of the key objectives of the initiative is to provide exit pathways for the youth, for them to explore various other opportunities, as the PYEI is a short-term intervention; however, many have expressed a view that this should become a permanent feature in our public schools. For those who wish to study towards a teaching qualification, the Department of Basic Education (DBE) offers the Funza Lushaka Bursary. It is a merit-based bursary available to applicants who completed matric with a bachelor pass.

Media Enquiries:

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The bursary is targeted at identified phases and priority subject area specializations. Successful applicant can study in any of the twenty-four (24) public universities in South Africa.

A recruitment drive for Education Assistants (EAs) and General School Assistants (GSAs) employed in public schools through the PYEI-BEEI has commenced. The following documents are prerequisites: certified ID copy, Matric or grade 11 results, proof of admission to university, an academic record for Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) applicants as well as a one-page motivation why you want to become a teacher. To be awarded the bursary, the prospective bursars must first gain admission at a Higher Education Institution (HEI). Online applications for the bursary are mandatory and applications will open from the 01 October 2022. Applications can be completed by visiting www.funzalushaka.doe.gov.za or www.eservices.gov.za.

Who is eligible to apply for the Funza Lushaka bursary?

- Any academically exceptional student who is 30 years old or younger
- An exemption or admission to bachelor's degree.
- At least a level 4 pass at matric level in the subject which leads on to the priority area/subject in which the applicant will specialize to teach.
- For Foundation Phase specialisation, a pass in Mathematics or a level 4 pass in Mathematical Literacy at Grade 12 level is required. In addition, a level 4 pass in the Home Language is required.
- students who wish to specialize in the teaching of Technology subjects, including CAT, and who do not have these subjects at matric level, must have at least a level 4 pass in Mathematics.
- Academic record with two (2) Technical Subjects/modules studied up to second year level showing a full completion of the qualification.

Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator, through the SA Youth Mobi platform, hosts a free national network of partners that links business to a pool of young entry level talent. To access the available opportunities, young people are encouraged to register a profile on <https://sayouth.datafree.co/Home/Index/EN> or by searching for SA Youth Mobi on an internet browser.

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No mobile data is needed. Through SA Youth Mobi, young people can access learning and earning opportunities, which are updated regularly.

The DBE advises youth placed in schools to seize all opportunities offered during their placement, being it information about bursaries, scholarships, employment or funding for entrepreneurship opportunities. For additional information on possible opportunities, the youth are encouraged to join the **Teacher Connect WhatsApp Bot on 060 060 3333**. Young people should also continue to look for opportunities which will allow them to make a positive contribution to society, while at the same time earning a living and being empowered.

There are more opportunities which can be accessed through <https://yes4youth.co.za> and Department of Higher Education and Training that offer international scholarships information accessible at <https://www.internationalscholarships.dhet.gov.za/>

The youth participating in the PYEI have demonstrated great enthusiasm, eagerness, and dedication to their work throughout their short stint as EAs and GSAs. They have also gained valuable skills through their involvement in what continues to be meaningful and impactful work.

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION

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