

# PLAYING an active role in YOUTH EMPOWERMENT



Youth unemployment is both a growing social and economic problem. How can we help bridge the gap and create opportunities for the youth of South Africa?

The YES initiative was launched by President Cyril Ramaphosa in 2018 to combat unemployment in South Africa. This initiative is aimed at creating one million new jobs and job opportunities over three years in urban areas, peri-urban areas and rural areas throughout the country.

In last month's issue we talked about building a customer-centric culture – this month, Youth Month, we reflect on our country's youth and highlight some thoughts around youth and the contribution SAICA Enterprise Development has made to reversing the unemployment rate.

According to a 2020 study, 'Youth development re-imagined' by Lucha Lunako, research has shown:

- 58% of youth between the ages of 15 and 25 are unemployed.
- The official unemployment rate is 29%: the highest in the world.
- 64% of the population is under 35 years of age.
- Our current youth population stand at 17,84 million (between 18 and 34 years).

## SAICA ED'S ROLE IN EMPOWERING YOUNG ACCOUNTING GRADUATES

SAICA Enterprise Development, in partnership with Lucha Lunako (a youth development and employment agency, see <https://www.luchalunako.com/>), launched a graduate placement project which involves the placement of accounting graduates with SAICA-accredited small and medium accounting practices in and around Gauteng over the next few months. These graduates obtained qualifications in accounting, auditing and taxation and will get the opportunity to gain work experience for a period of 12 months with various small and medium practices. They will earn a monthly salary as part of the YES initiative, with the possibility of being absorbed after the programme.

'SAICA ED is passionate about contributing towards alleviating the unemployment rate amongst our youth, and collaborating with Lucha Lunako afforded us the opportunity to play an active role in connecting our youth with SAICA-accredited small and medium practices,' said

Jill Johnson, senior executive at SAICA ED.

By bringing these two economies together, the young accounting graduates will gain the necessary work exposure within accounting practices, while at the same time these practices will gain an additional resource in terms of their capacity.

## IN CLOSING

We can all play a part in growing our economy and empowering the youth. Together we can continue to build a better South Africa. In closing, we want to ask you to reflect on the question: how can we play an active role in creating opportunities for the next generation?

If you found this content informative and thought-provoking, drop us a quick review! Next month is all about women as we celebrate the month of August, and in the August issue we will be focusing on women in entrepreneurship.

## SAICA ED WOULD LOVE YOUR REVIEW AND COLLABORATION

Tell us about your TOP TECH TOOL that can benefit small business.

Tell us about your small business that can help our readers as part of the SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT.

Any other feedback?

Email us at [enquiries@saicaed.co.za](mailto:enquiries@saicaed.co.za)

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