



# Finance

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### Media Statement

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#### **‘This is a stepping stone towards a better future,’ says Mabe**

North West MEC for Finance says the R5.4million funding from the North West Government towards studies of 100 North West University BCom graduates shows that training and skills development in our country is in the process of responding to requirements of the economy.

Mabe together with Office of the Premier convened a meeting yesterday (Monday, October 31) at the Mahikeng Campus with the first group of beneficiaries of the Thuthuka North West Project to launch an internship programme.

Mabe said the Provincial Government’s partnership with the University and the South African Institute for Chartered Accountants (SAICA) will see that these graduates get first hand on-the-job experience with government through a 1 year mandatory internship programme scheduled to start next year. This internship will also assist graduates attain accreditation as Chartered Accountants after completion.

The partnership started in 2007 after the North West University approached government to create enabling environment where economic growth would support and transform the skills profile of the South African population in addressing critical skills shortage in the finance sector.

“I am already impatient and eagerly awaiting your arrival at various municipalities and institutions of government to gain the necessary experience. We need your learned knowledge, dedication and commitment to assist government to improve services to our people,” expressed Mabe.

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Mabe explained that the Auditor General is also in the process of developing a short course to induct graduates into government auditing as soon as they start with their internship as part of this program.

She further said government will monitor each graduates' performance during the internship with the intent of absorbing outstanding performing individuals into permanent employment.

"You therefore need to humble ourselves, have the right attitude towards our work and communities and be willing to learn. Determination is the best building block towards success. Be committed to your studies, choose to excel and do not run after having fun at the expense of your future because this is a rare opportunity which you need to take advantage of. Know that some young unemployed graduates yearn to acquire the experience that you will be exposed to during the internship program. This is a rare opportunity, go for it," said Mabe.

**-Ends-**

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