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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOINING FORCES FOR BRIGHTER FUTURE FET College students to benefit from Private Public Partnership

Over 300 students from Further Education and Training Colleges around the country who are studying for a qualification in Travel, Tourism and Hospitality will this year get an opportunity to work in a real hotel environment to attain the much needed workplace experience.

CATHSSETA, the tourism SETA, has entered into a partnership with the Razidor Hotel Group, who are the owners of the Radisson Blu Hotels to provide learners currently enrolled at FET colleges with the much required work experience in order to enable the learners to get vocational training which may stand them in good stead to secure permanent employment in the Radisson Blu Hotels.

The CEO of CATHSSETA Mr. Mike Tsotetsi says that “following the UJ incident it became apparent that SETAs have a task of ensuring that there are as many such partnerships formed in each of our sectors to give learners the opportunity to know about the available qualifications and opportunities that exist outside the university spectrum.”

The two partners had worked on a pilot during 2011 and following its great success. Nine students from the Russel Road FET College in Port Elizabeth underwent a four month Learnership programme, which resulted in the permanent employment of 28 year old Bonga Galada who now works a demichef at the Waterfront Radisson Blu Hotel in Cape Town. Bonga is fast becoming a superstar in this field having appeared in several big event competitions and media platforms such Espresso on SABC 3.

The director of people development at the Radisor Hotel Group Mr. Jan Spooren says that “the hotel group has a staff developmental plan which focuses on ensuring that the Radisson Blu does not just employ people but creates a conducive environment for its human resources to be placed in the department to which they are most suited.

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In 1995 the group introduced the “ Yes I can” campaign to motivate its staff to come to work not only with an intention to serve but to self improve thus participating in the much needed skills development and service excellence in the Tourism Sector.

CATHSSETA and Radisson Blu are having an official launch of this partnership on 26 January 2012 at the Radisson Blu Hotel Gautrain and are challenging other groups to follow suit and create the much needed employment opportunities for the just out of school youth.

ENDS

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