



Celebrating a Decade of Empowerment: 10 Years of Community Education and Training Colleges

By Machaka Valentine Sewela

This year marks a remarkable milestone in South Africa's education landscape — the **10th anniversary of the establishment of Community Education and Training (CET) Colleges**. Born from the vision to create inclusive, accessible, and community-driven learning opportunities, CET Colleges have spent the past decade changing lives, uplifting communities, and contributing to the nation's social and economic development.

The Birth of CET Colleges

In 2015, the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) formally established CET Colleges as a new type of institution, dedicated to serving youth and adults who did not complete their schooling or who seek further learning opportunities outside the traditional school and TVET systems. The initiative was rooted in the belief that education is a lifelong journey — and that no one should be left behind.

CET Colleges took over the functions of former Adult Education and Training (AET) centres, expanding their scope to include vocational skills, literacy and numeracy programmes, second-chance matric opportunities, and community-responsive courses.

A Decade of Achievements

Over the last 10 years, CET Colleges have:

- **Expanded Access:** Thousands of learning sites have been established across rural, township, and urban areas, bringing education closer to communities.
- **Promoted Skills Development:** Programmes now include entrepreneurship, computer literacy, agriculture, sewing, carpentry, and other vocational skills aligned to local economic needs.
- **Supported Lifelong Learning:** Adult learners have been given the opportunity to complete their General Education and Training Certificate (GETC) or rewrite their

National Senior Certificate (NSC), opening doors to employment and further education.

- **Strengthened Communities:** By tailoring programmes to local challenges and opportunities, CET Colleges have helped build stronger, more self-reliant communities.

Impact on Learners and Communities

CET Colleges have become safe, welcoming spaces for individuals from all walks of life — from school-leavers seeking a second chance, to adults improving literacy skills, to community members starting small businesses. Graduates have gone on to secure jobs, start enterprises, and even pursue higher education.

The ripple effect has been profound: when individuals are empowered through education, entire families and communities' benefit.

Looking Ahead: The Next Decade

As Limpopo CET College we look to the future, the focus will remain on **quality, relevance, and innovation**. This includes expanding digital learning, forging stronger partnerships with industries, and ensuring that programmes keep pace with South Africa's evolving economic and social needs.

The past ten years have proven that **education truly transforms lives**. The next ten will build on this legacy — ensuring that Limpopo CET College continue to serve as **beacons of hope and opportunity** across the province.

A Salute to the Pioneers

This anniversary is also a celebration of the people behind the vision — the dedicated lecturers, centre managers, support staff, and community partners who have worked tirelessly to bring education to the doorstep of every South African. Their commitment has been the heartbeat of CET's success.

Here's to **ten years of learning, growth, and transformation** — and to many more decades of empowering communities through education.