

## Corobrik accredited as trade school for bricklayers

Corobrik has been officially accredited as a skills development provider by the Quality Council for Trades & Occupations (QCTO). The company offers bricklayer training at building schools in Avoca, KwaZulu-Natal; Lawley, Gauteng; and Lansdowne in the Western Cape. The training is accredited by the Construction Education & Training Authority (CETA).



Source: Supplied

These not-for-profit training centres are open to the public, government-appointed students, and members of various organisations.

The building schools offer two types of training: a one-year learnership that includes theory and a practical component, and a nine-week skills programme that cherry picks modules from the learnership. The trainers themselves are employed by Corobrik and qualified both in their trade and as training facilitators.

“We have been offering this training for over a decade to date,” says Karabo Motsepe-Marutla, government development manager at Corobrik, adding that the manufacturer celebrates its 120th anniversary this year.

“The focus is obviously to equip unskilled workers with building and bricklaying skills such as that they can be gainfully employed and gain knowledge of building and the construction industry as a whole.”

Motsepe-Marutla highlights that basic bricklayer and building skills play a vital role in rebuilding flood-ravaged KwaZulu-Natal, particularly in the worse-hit rural areas.



Source: Supplied

## Public-private partnerships

“The long-term goal is that everyone who gets trained is employed. The idea is to bring together as many property value chain partners as possible in the various regions – from contractors to developers and occupiers – with ourselves as the training provider and to pool all our resources along with the government,” highlights Motsepe-Marutla.

“For example, by linking up with the Department of Human Settlements, the Corobrik training initiative is a fine example of a public-private sector partnership that assists in achieving the government’s skills development objectives and provides gainful employment,” she adds.

“We are now a fully accredited trade school for bricklayers,” says

An interesting trend, according to Corobrik talent developer manager Sibongile Dlamini, is an increased uptake of the training by women. Minister of human settlements Mmamoloko Kubayi recently handed out certificates to a group of women from the Western Cape who successfully completed the Corobrik training.

“That is changing the face of the construction industry from the ground up,” notes Dlamini.



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## Support local economic development projects

Another focus for the Corobrik training is to support local economic development projects, whereby bricklaying promotes empowerment and social upliftment and boosts the economy.

“This is a key initiative for us. We do not only want to hand out certificates but want to contribute to viable employment opportunities that fill critical gaps in the construction industry. It is critical, especially as bricklaying has been prioritised by the government as a scarce skill,” concludes Motsepe-Marutla.

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