

## **Driving Excellence In People Through Skills Development**

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Skills development remains acknowledged as a key driver of economic growth in South Africa. Without it, the workforce cannot move forward. Graduation is a word that is filled with hope, a promise for a more specialised future, and a symbol of commitment to personal and professional development.

The Institute of People Development (IPD) recently celebrated the culmination of hard work and dedication; it held its Graduation Ceremony. The festivities were kicked-off with testimonials from graduates, giving honest insight into the emotional, physical and mental peaks and valleys that learning and development can entail.

Bernadine Alexander, who received a Level 4 Certificate confirmed that; “Coming back into the world of study after very many years entailed amazing character tests. While my own journey was by no means easy, I appreciate every single day. Since starting I have had so much exposure, opportunities to facilitate, present, assess, etc.”

Recognition of Prior Learning Alumni, Takatso Ntsime, shared that; “Learning is a lifelong journey of self-discovery, personal and professional development. Completing my RPL made me realise that I have just begun the journey of learning and continuous personal development, and as a result I will be studying towards a Generic Management qualification in 2017. I now truly believe that passion is the driving force behind success and my purpose in life has been affirmed.”

The ceremony was officially opened by Mark Orpen, Chief Executive Officer at IPD. He encouraged graduates to celebrate the development journey, and to lift the education and training bar to the next level in Africa. “Imagine raising standards in teaching, facilitating, assessing, learning design and development. Imagine implementing world class standards in managing learning, human and other organisational resources and validating professional management practices. Well, these graduates here today have done exactly that and I am exceedingly proud of you!”

Orpen also advised students to embrace lifelong learning; “However, your journey is certainly not over - you have reached a milestone - but the destination remains ahead and ‘continuous professional development’ is your next mode of transport. We encourage you to join the appropriate Professional Body, register and pursue the requisite designation. There are many

obstacles that will cross your path. From economic turmoil to political tension and changing environmental factors; life simply isn't easy; but when you equip yourself with the tools that you need to succeed - and add the necessary skills to overcome these obstacles - you have placed yourself ahead of those that don't."

Orpen concluded that; "This journey of life is meant to be lived and enjoyed to the full, and that includes accomplishing personal success in the workplace. So well done to all you graduates for equipping yourselves with the tools to accomplish your goals! Now step into your role as IPD alumni with pride, confidence and a passion for learning more on your path to greatness."

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*Boilerplate:*

Founded in 1999, Workplace Skills Solutions t/a The Institute of People Development (IPD) strives to equip, prepare and certify practitioners to serve South Africa's skills development strategy and facilitate the transformation of education and training. Over the years, IPD has become the preferred people development partner to most state owned and private enterprises in Southern Africa. IPD has assisted over 500 public and private training providers across most sectors of the economy to achieve or maintain accreditation through consulting, training and providing published guidelines. For more information, please contact IPD at [trainingenquiries@peopledev.co.za](mailto:trainingenquiries@peopledev.co.za) on (011) 315 2913 or visit [www.peopledevelopment.co.za](http://www.peopledevelopment.co.za).

Mark Orpen is the Chief Executive Officer of The Institute of People Development (IPD). With an undying entrepreneurial drive, Orpen founded IPD in 1999. He holds National Diplomas in Marketing and Sales, Learning and Development and a National Higher Certificate in Occupationally-Directed Education, Training and Development Practices. Orpen is represented on the board of more than ten companies and has the skills necessary to execute his duties as CEO of IPD. With a keen desire for the acquisition of knowledge, he has also completed many training courses in Human Resource Development, Marketing, Corporate Governance, Maritime Studies and Commercial Property Investments. Orpen can be contacted at [mark.orpen@peopledev.co.za](mailto:mark.orpen@peopledev.co.za).