

# Skills centre gets R2.5m boost

The Mitchell's Plain Skills Development Centre received R2.5 million from the Chemical Industries Education and Training Authority (CHIETA), on Saturday November 14.

The Skills Development Centre came about as a result of the Mitchell's Plain Education Summit launched in April this year by Trevor Manuel, Minister in the Presidency, and Marius Fransman, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Co-operation.

Fazel Ernest, spokesperson for CHIETA, said: "The centre now provides skills-based training to 150 pupils and individuals wanting to improve their skills and learn new trades."

Cameron Dugmore, former Western Cape MEC for Educa-



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tion, expressed the gratitude of the MPs at the generous gesture made by the CHIETA.

"We can now double the efforts of this centre and begin to make a meaningful impact on the community of Mitchell's Plain and surrounds," added Mr Dugmore.

Mr Fransman, who was unable to attend the handover ceremony, was acknowledged for his role in persuading the CHIETA to invest in the Mitchell's Plain Skills Centre.

According to Councillor Iqbal Salwary, ANC PR Councillor, the centre started from

humble beginnings with a vision to offer skills upliftment for the youth.

"We need to follow the example of the University of the Western Cape, which started small and has grown into a remarkable institution of learning 50 years later, said Mr Salwary.

Mr Ernest said the funding will go towards new venture creation programmes, IT training and infra-structure development.

"The CHIETA has decided to support the Mitchell's Plain Skills Development Centre because we are committed to making education, training and development our number one priority for social upliftment of the youth in Mitchell's Plain," he said.