

## **YES programme aims to create one million jobs**

Signa Group held a joint session with Mantis Networks and over 110 delegates, including corporate B-BBEE officers, verification agencies and consultants. The session was held in Midrand on Wednesday 9 May 2018, to workshop the proposed new B-BBEE amendments and the introduction of the Youth Employment Service (YES) incentives into B-BBEE regulation.

### **Youth Employment Service**

Tashmia Ismail-Saville, CEO of YES, opened the session to introduce the Youth Employment Service programme. YES is a national movement to ignite the potential of South Africa's youth. Twenty-eight percent of South Africa's population is between the ages of 18 and 35. The unemployment rate in this age bracket is estimated at 36%. Finding solutions to youth unemployment is a national priority.

YES is a business-led collaboration with government and labour that will address this major concern. Its intention is to stimulate demand-side job creation through company investment and leverage existing Employment Tax Incentive and B-BBEE recognition.

The initiative focuses on three areas where employment creation efforts are likely to have the greatest benefits:

- 1) Creating job opportunities in existing firms intended specifically for youth.
- 2) Promoting the capacity of Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) with paid for youth labour.
- 3) Forming new cohorts of SMMEs, through value chain initiatives and knowledge spill-over in collaboration with industry champions.

Ismail-Saville stressed that large enterprises cannot do this alone, and that it is going to require buy-in from businesses of all sizes to meet these objectives.

The YES target is to create one million jobs for young people in the next three years.