0f commitment to the market around us extend beyond the bottom line to include the people we employ and serve. As we pursue our mission to serve the communities we support and on whom our business is built, we believe that we must be the best in the world in which we operate," says Reseboe Maema, corporate communications manager of ArcelorMittal SA. "As the steel industry, where our development activities intersect, is a major instrument of development, we are committed to fostering a more stable political, social, economic and environmental context, which is also good for business.

ArcelorMittal SA’s core business relies heavily on its ability to equip people with necessary skills in the scientific, engineering, and technological fields. Improved maths and science performances at schools in the communities around the company’s areas of operation provides a sustainable resource for ArcelorMittal SA.

Improved maths and science performances already increase the likelihood of obtaining national skills crisis.

"The skills crisis continues to present our company with a serious challenge," says Maema. As a result, targeted skills development programmes, career development initiatives and leadership training form essential parts of the company’s strategy, ensuring that we foster talent from within and our communities.

"World-class employee training and development are crucial to the company’s success."

"Training needs are determined through strategic stakeholder engagement, and this information is then incorporated into a workplace skills plan."

"ArcelorMittal SA’s participation in the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry’s Basic Skills Development initiative is a key factor in the company’s efforts to meet the skills needs of the communities in which we operate."

"In line with its commitment to empower the communities of the Vaal Triangle region, ArcelorMittal SA and the Vaal Triangle Community College have been working closely with skilled and qualified professionals to develop a distinctive curriculum that combines theoretical and practical learning.

"The Vaal Triangle Sustainability Accelerator Training Programme was launched amid great excitement.

"It was developed collaboratively by the company’s key stakeholders and local government, with support from several non-governmental organisations."

"The programme is the first of its kind in South Africa.

"As a six-month training programme, participants will receive interactive and practical training that will enable them to manage their businesses, acquire and develop new skills and contribute to community development projects, attract and retain large corporate funders and manage impact-driven projects."

"A cash injection of R200,000 by ArcelorMittal SA will secure the training from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and the Vaal Triangle Development on the Vaal Triangle Campus."

"Apart from the set curriculum, each participant will be assigned a professional mentor to manage their businesses, acquire and develop new skills and contribute to the community development projects."

"The Vaal Triangle Sustainability Accelerator Training Programme, which will interact with other education and training colleges to advance as industry-specific agenda, was launched amid great excitement.

"Students at a Vaal University are advised that advice on the contents of the curriculum for this area, including training and related sciences," she adds.