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Title: Academy to boost tourism, hospitality skills

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By Zinkie Sithole

Nelspruit - Villagers along the Blyde River Canyon in Mpumalanga will be able to learn tourism and hospitality skills when a tourism academy opens its doors next year.

The academy, which is situated at the Forever Resorts Blyde Canyon resort and is called "The Hub Of Knowledge", currently trains employees of the Forever Resorts Group only.

But it will now " have the capacity to host more than 200 learners at any given time," said **Bradley Brouwer**, Forever Resorts marketing director.

"It is geared to help our resorts as well as local communities by developing skills," he said.

The campus has 17 buildings, including a full training kitchen and computer facility and will offer custom-made training courses for the tourism and hospitality industry.

Courses will include finance, human resources, resort management, food and beverage management, accommodation and hospitality reception.

"The courses will range from skills development programmes to a national diploma in tourism and hospitality management," said **Brouwer**.

All the courses will be accredited by the Tourism, Hospitality and Sport Education and Training Authority (THETA) and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).

The academy will be officially opened on July 14 when Forever Resorts president Dr Rex Maughan and Mpumalanga economic development and planning MEC William Lubisi unveil a plaque. - BuaNews