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Title: Western Cape learners to get computer skills

By Bathandwa Mbola

Cape Town - Primary school learners in the Western Cape are to receive training in an internationally recognised information technology (IT) programme.

The training, which is a partnership between the International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL) Foundation and Computers 4 Kids, was announced on Tuesday.

The programme, called the e-Learner, equips young learners with a solid foundation for progressing on to the ICDL qualification.

The programme is a certified, modular course of progressive Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills utilising course ware from Computers 4 Kids.

Using a unique and integrated approach, the programme will provide the means to acquire essential ICT skills across a spectrum of seven units.

"Our belief is that by obtaining the e-Learner qualification, these young learners will be accredited with an international certification at primary school level before tackling the ICDL core qualification at high school," said Computers 4 Kids Managing Director Russell Pengelly.

The accredited e-Learner course is made up of units and is available at two different levels, namely Silver and Gold.

The Silver course comprises five units and covers skills within these units on a basic level and the Gold course covers all seven units and skills within this unit are more advanced.

"The endorsement of the ICDL programme in many learning institutions is indicative of the commitment the various Departments of Education have to developing their most valuable resource - its learners," said ICDL South Africa Chief Executive Officer, Jennifer van Niekerk.

Comprising seven modules, including basic concepts of IT; using a computer and managing files; word processing; spreadsheets; database; presentations and information and communications, the ICDL is internationally recognised as the global standard in end-user computer skills.

"Many educators believe the ICDL programme is the only initiative that offers a packaged solution for complete computer literacy in a world where an IT qualification is the defacto standard in business success," said Ms van Niekerk.

The ICDL certification, also known as the European Computer Driving Licence in Europe, is available in 150 countries globally and has been translated into 38 languages.

The ICDL has been adopted by governments, international organisations, the international business community and more recently the Department of Correctional Services and the Department of Education here in South Africa.

Obtaining the ICDL certification requires commitment and dedications. The candidate has to pass four modules to obtain the "Start Certificate" and all seven modules for a "Full Certificate" with a 75 percent pass mark. - BuaNews

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