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South Africa : Privately run prison opts for rehabilitation

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Johannesburg (AND) The first South African privately-run maximum security prison, Mangaung Correctional Centre, focuses on rehabilitating the inmates by providing them with skills.

Rehabilitation skills are critical for reintegrating prisoners into society and reducing the number of repeat offenders, said Sandra Burmeister, the chief executive of Landelahni recruitment group. Landelahni recruitment is the company that is responsible for competency-based assessments that determine the skills that are needed for managing the prison as a best practice facility.

Burmeister said in a statement that competency-based assessment helps to identify the core skills needed to run rehabilitative facilities and also pinpoint the development and training that supervisors and managers should undergo to acquire and sharpen these competencies.

The Correctional Centre is funded, built and managed on behalf of the South African government by Global Solutions SA.

According to Frikkie Venter, the managing director of Global Solutions, the Landelhani assessment system is helping the Mangaung management to adapt to the challenging and dynamic business environment that is created by a public-private partnership in correctional services.

Global Solutions SA was included in 2004, "100 Best Companies to work for" Deloitte's survey, because of its commitment to developing its staff.

Mangaung Correctional Centre was opened in July 2001, and it has the capacity for 3 000 inmates.

Johannesburg Bureau