



INSIDE TVET



TVET COUNCIL'S Senior Technical Officer Debra Hope (right) explaining the process to becoming an approved NVQ Assessment Centre to representatives of training institutions and business organisations interested in offering NVQs. (GP)

THE TVET COUNCIL (TVETC) recently hosted an approval information seminar for training institutions and employer organisations interested in applying to become approved National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) assessment centres.

The seminar was aimed at promoting the uptake of the NVQ in Providing Security Services Level 2 and the NVQ in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Level 1.

During the seminar senior technical officer Debra Hope and technical officer with responsibility for the security services and ICT sectors, Arleen Murrell-Crichlow, guided the prospective applicants through what is involved in both centre and qualification approval, discussed examples of quality assurance systems which met TVETC's criteria, the approval visit and the next steps once approval had been given.

Hope said: "I want to highlight the expected benefits of standards-based training, assessment and certification to employers, workers and the economy. Possession of the NVQ means that a worker has demonstrated their competence by demonstrating job skills, knowledge and understanding to the level of the occupational standards."

Professional Security Training College's (PSTC) Oral Reid explained why that training institution was interested in becoming an approved NVQ Assessment Centre and offering the NVQ in Providing Security Services: "Being an approved centre could further establish PSTC as the security training provider of choice. It provides us the opportunity to support TVETC in the establishment of standards for security practice in Barbados and possibly the wider Caribbean."

He added: "Together with steps we have already taken in pursuit of accreditation with the Barbados Accreditation Council, this approval could authenticate the quality of our training programmes."

Reid noted that the NVQ in Providing Security Services could be the stimulus needed to create the environment for change and the professional development of security officers nationally. "A security practitioner that is trained and earns a

TVET Council courts prospective assessment centres

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professional qualification could reflect on his or her value and redefine their whole role within the context of their organisation's mission and vision."

He pointed out that the organisation employing the officer as well as the client being served could gain tremendous benefits with the most likely impact being felt in the areas of customer service, professional courtesy and respect for procedural guidelines when dealing with challenging situations.

Human resources manager with G4S Security Services Ltd, Diana Douglas, explained that company's interest in

using the NVQ in Providing Security Services: "G4S is aware of the capabilities of its staff and to have a recognised assessment tool enabling staff to achieve these qualifications is empowering for them. Many of our staff are security professionals, and to have industry-based assessment and certification created with the occupational standards developed by industry experts would also act as a motivational tool for our staff."

She noted that G4S' staff went through initial and recurrent training annually which resulted in internal certification. "However the NVQs and CVQs (Caribbean Vocational Qualifications, the regional equivalent of NVQs) allow staff the opportunity to achieve national and Caribbean recognition and certification while improving their skills.

The TVET Council is a statutory organisation set up to improve the competitive position of Barbados through workforce development. TVETC is mandated to plan, coordinate and establish standards and qualifications for technical and vocational education and training (TVET).

The Council also manages the Employment and Training Fund which provides training grants to applicants who comprise employers, registered training institutions and employer/employee associations that have met specified criteria. Key criteria include up-to-date National Insurance contributions and training that is conducted according to a competence-based format utilising occupational standards.