



SWITCHING SKILLS ON: Facilitating processes to develop artisanal and technical skills will be one focus of the HRDC's summit later this month.

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THE Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) is a national, multi-tiered and multi-stakeholder advisory body under the leadership and stewardship of the office of the Deputy President of South Africa. It is managed by the Ministry of Higher Education and Training.

In the past five years the HRDC has established 11 Technical Task Teams (TTTs) to clear blockages in the human resource development value chain. The Technical Task Teams were established as a result of the needs identified by Council to address issues from foundational learning to workplace learning.

All the TTTs have completed their tasks and work has been handed over to different implementing departments and agencies.

In March 2014 the HRDC hosted its first ever summit under the theme "Unearthing South Africa's potential for Growth and Development". The main objective of the summit was to inform the stakeholders about the work conducted by the TTTs.

A total delegation of 531 attended the summit. This included international delegates from the HRD Ministry in Malaysia, Occupational Information Network experts from North California in the United States, HRD Councils from Botswana, Mauritius and Democratic Republic of Congo as well as South African stakeholders.

The delegates were impressed with the outcomes of the summit and resolved among other things that the HRDC Secretariat should host another HRDC Summit

Calling for skilful action

in two years to monitor the implementation of Summit recommendations. Accordingly, the HRDC Secretariat is hosting the 2nd HRDC Summit on 29 and 30 this month (March).

The theme for this 2nd summit is "Partnerships for skills: A call to Action". The partnerships will cut across the HRD value chain from foundational learning to skills development.

Partnerships should be long-term in nature and must demonstrate agreement reached for mutual benefit in sharing resources to achieve defined common objectives.

The main objective of 2016 HRDC Summit is to provide progress update on implementation of HRDC TTTs recommendations. The other objectives of the summit are to provide greater understanding of the roles that the HRDC plays and to identify and present strategic partnerships in human resource development.

The speakers will include the Honourable Cyril Ramaphosa, Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa and the Chairperson of HRDC, Dr B. Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education and Training, and many national and international speakers.

To deepen discussions and enhance inputs, commissions

will run concurrently during the summit.

Exhibitions will be held parallel to summit proceedings at the same venue.

The target group will be government departments, universities, colleges, civil society, business, and relevant national and international agencies.

The exhibitors will be drawn from entities that have good working relations as well as strategic partnerships in human resource development.

The summit will have commissions in which to discuss progress update on the implementation of HRDC TTTs recommendations. Commissions are allocated for each TTT, because they have the following different mandates:

- Commission 1: Foundational learning: To identify blockages in the school system and propose measures that could be used to support Foundational learning;

- Commission 2: Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges: To recognise the central role of TVET Colleges in addressing skills shortages and advancing economic growth in South Africa;

- Commission 3: Production of intermediate skills (artisan in particular): The Department of Higher

Education and Training to facilitate process on the artisan and technician development system, with the focus on increased capacity, quality and relevance;

- Commission 4: Production of Professionals: To investigate ways of creating greater efficiencies with regards to the production of professionals in South Africa;

- Commission 5: Production of Academics and Stronger Partnerships between Industry and Higher Education regarding Research and Innovation: To investigate ways of increasing academics in the country and to make recommendations to promote partnerships between industry and higher education initiatives in research and innovation;

- Commission 6: Worker Education: To find a clear collective vision on integrated, accredited and non-accredited worker education and training in South Africa;

- Commission 7: Enabling Entrepreneurship: To mobilise resources where appropriate and provide an impetus to particular initiatives to support entrepreneurship; and

- Commission 8: Maritime Sector Skills: To investigate skills development blockages within the maritime sector and propose interventions to address them; and also to identify skills shortages

and critical skills within the maritime sector, as well as key role players – lead agencies to ensure an increase in maritime skills, leading to the growth of the sector in the short, medium and long term.

Considerable progress has been made in the implementation of the recommendations, as some of the recommendations were included in the departmental plans and policies.

For example the Department of Higher Education and Training reported that some of the recommendations form part of its ongoing work through the implementation of the White Paper on Post-School Education and Training. Departments came up with different interventions and plans to address the recommendations: for instance, the Department of Basic Education developed the Draft Sector Plan for Entrepreneurship in Basic Education from Grades R to 12.

The total number of delegates at the 2nd HRDC 2016 Summit will be limited to 500, and will be drawn from the organisations and stakeholders such as universities, TVET Colleges, labour organisations, business representatives, professional bodies and SETAs.

The entire summit proceedings will be made available through a summit report that will be published and disseminated.

The public is welcome to participate in the the summit through the following social media Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/hrcdsa/> Twitter: www.twitter.com/hrcdsa

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