



higher education
& training

Ministry:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Deputy Minister Manana made a clarion call to parents to engage their children to go back and write exams for the 2016 academic year

9 October 2016 – Today, the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Mduzuzi Manana, MP, launched his first Education Sunday Career Guidance campaign that is aimed at promoting post-school opportunities to youth in organised sectors, targeting high school learners and those young people categorized as not in employment, education nor training (NEET) by attending a worship service with the congregation of the Rock of Ages International Church.

He was accompanied by the University of Mpumalanga, Ehlanzeni TVET College, Gert Sibande TVET College, Nkangala TVET College, Fibre and Processing SETA, Mining Qualifications Authority, National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) and the departments Ketha Career Development Services.

Over a thousand youth from the host church and other churches from nearby communities form part of this gathering, including parents, guardians and grandparents.

Deputy Minister Manana gave a background on #feesmustfall phenomenon that started in 2015. 'After the students led a noble course of fighting for an increment in 2016 fees. The Government listened and announced a zero percent fee increment across the board. This was a zero percent increase to students but that money amounting R2.5 billion had to be sourced elsewhere by Government. However, this arrangement cannot be sustained looking at the current fiscas and the fact that South Africa is a capitalist system, said Deputy Minister Manana.

Government has made a pronouncement that in addition to the NSFAS beneficiaries covering for the poor and needy, it will further subsidise the lower middle class and missing middle students for a fee increase of up to 8 percent. This will assist for the first time about 70 percent of undergraduate students with families with an annual income of up to R600 000. Deputy Minister Manana called on parents and guardians to talk to their children, 'we need students to go back and write 2016 academic year as failure to do this will have a ripple effect for years to come'.

The department has introduced an additional layer in the form of Community Colleges. 'Community Colleges seek to address those learners that cannot be accommodated by both the university and TVET College system due to them not meeting the academic entry requirement. There are many of these learners out there, we all have them in our families. Government does not have a dustbin to throw such learners hence the establishment of the Community Colleges. These colleges will offer courses such as baking, bricklaying and many more.

The Deputy Minister further promoted the “100 Occupations in high demand” list that was released by the Minister of Higher Education and Training, in 2014. The chat will assist learners to make informed career choices to avoid a situation where they too join a cohort of unemployed and unemployable graduates which is a phenomenon as a result of a mismatch between skills supply and demand.

A chat with a list of Occupations in High Demand was presented to the church to assist youth when they need to choose subjects in lower grades while in high schools as well as those learners that will further their studies in post-school system. 'Mfundisi, lingahlali eofisini lakho leli chart, please put it in an accessible area so that your congregation and the community at large can have easy access, said Mr Manana.

' We are in the second year of promoting the Decade of the Artisan advocacy campaign, which will run until 2024. I am encouraging you to consider Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges as an alternative to university education because the skills needs of the country necessitate a massive production of artisans within the college system'. However this is not in anyway suggesting that University education is less important. We need more of you to be channelled to Colleges than Universities. The days of undermining TVET colleges are over, we have now rebranded these colleges to be institutions of choice. Mpumalanga province is endowed with big projects like Kusile Power Station, these employers need artisans that are produced by TVET Colleges. 92 percent of students in our public TVET Colleges are studying for free, said Mr Manana.

The Deputy Minister informed the congregants that there are currently 21 Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) which are responsible for learnerships and other training opportunities for learners who cannot pursue the traditional post-school system. About 4 million youth are unemployable. Deputy Minister Manana urged those who are unemployed to go to the SETAs exhibition to get more information on opportunities available.

Deputy Minister Manana informed learners about the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) which is aimed at assisting poor and academically deserving students to further their studies within the post-school sector. NSFAS has to date assisted more than 1.5 million beneficiaries who have since joined the middle class league. 'Matriculants please apply online and submit relevant supporting documents from 1 August directly to NSFAS for the 2017 academic year', said the Deputy Minister.

The Department of Higher Education and Training currently runs a Career Development Services Centre to assist learners with career advice. The Deputy Minister advised learners to use their cell phones to get in touch with the Centre. The Apply Now Campaign / Khetha Career Guidance campaign runs annually from March to September across the country to assist learners to make informed choices. It also seeks to inform learners about things to look out for when choosing their institutions of higher learning and to avert being conned by unregistered and bogus colleges who offer them unaccredited qualifications.

Career Development Services contact details:

SMS or “Please Call Me”: [072 204 5056](tel:0722045056)

Telephone: [086 999 0123](tel:0869990123)

E-Mail: careerhelp@dhet.gov.za

Facebook: www.facebook.com/careerhelp

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/rsacareerhelp>

Website: www.careerhelp.org.za

National Career Advice Portal: <http://ncap.careerhelp.org.za>

Walk-in Center: [123 Francis Baard Street](#), Pretoria

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Issued by the Ministry of Higher Education and Training.

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