



higher education & training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Opening Address by the Minister of Higher Education and Training,
Dr. B.E. Nzimande, MP, at the Human Resource Development
Council (HRDC) Summit,
Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand, 03 March 2014**

The Minister in the Presidency responsible for National Planning,
Minister Manuel

Government Officials present

Academics

Representatives of the Business Community

Representatives of the Civil Society and Trade Unions,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Sanibonani

The HRDC was established in March 2010 and is chaired by the Deputy President, the Honourable Kgalema Motlanthe. It is charged with advising the Deputy President on the country's human resource development needs as well as with the implementation of the Human Resource Development Strategy. It draws its stakeholders from

government, business, organized labour, the academic sector and civil society.

The establishment of the HRDC has created a platform where social partners deliberate on the county's socio-economic issues, including skills development, in order to address bottlenecks in the development of human resources in South Africa.

My Department, the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), is responsible for the HRDC Secretariat. The HRDC is of particular significance to our country as it seeks to contribute towards addressing some of our most stubborn socio-economic problems - poverty, inequality and unemployment.

The development of a skilled and capable work force, through a comprehensive human resources development strategy is key not only to our country's development but in also addressing our socio-economic challenges. The HRDC, under the leadership of the Deputy President, is an important co-ordinating forum and platform in the mobilisation of all key stakeholders and role-players in driving such a strategy.

Since its inception in March 2010 the HRDC has:

- Established a Secretariat charged with the administrative co-ordination of the work of the Council.
- Produced a Human Resource Development Strategy for South Africa, 2010 to 2030, in line with the National Development Plan.

- Adopted a five point plan aimed at ensuring and strengthening access to TVET colleges, foundational learning and worker education; at producing a skilled work force with specific reference to artisans; at producing academics; and at creating stronger industry partnerships.
- Established Provincial HRD Councils in KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape and Eastern Cape. In fact, each province is expected to establish its own Provincial HRD Council, based on the Human Resource Development Council Guidelines of 2012. The Northern Cape will be launching its Council in just three days time, on the 6th of this month.
- Formed partnerships with different stakeholders to enable the Council to pursue human resource development issues vigorously. These include partnerships with the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA), the International Network on Innovative Apprenticeship, the Public Sector Trainers' Forum (PSTF), the National Skills Authority and the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET).
- Established ten Technical Task Teams whose research objective is to identify blockages in specified areas. These Task Teams include, for instance, those on Worker Education, TVET colleges, Entrepreneurship and Artisan Development.

The HRD Plan sets out five strategic goals. These are:

- Universal access to quality foundational learning

- Expanded access to the post-schooling system
- A capable public sector with effective and efficient planning and implementation capabilities
- Production of appropriately skilled people for the economy
- Improved technological innovation and outcomes.

As you are aware, the objectives of this summit are:

- To provide greater understanding of the numerous roles that the Council plays in human resource development in the country.
- To report to all relevant stakeholders about the research conducted by the Technical Task Teams thus far and to identify future research needs related to human resource development.
- To solicit commitments from different stakeholders towards the implementation of recommendations aimed at removing blockages in the human resource development processes in our country.
- To launch the National Integrated Human Resource Development Plan approved by the Council on December 5, 2013.

My request to all the stakeholders present at this summit is: please engage and enhance the work of the HRDC.

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