



higher education
& training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**SPEECH BY THE MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING, DR BE
NZIMANDE AT THE PUBLIC LECTURE HONOURRING PRESIDENT JACOB
ZUMA, UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND, 8 APRIL 2014**

Honourable President of the Republic of South Africa, Dr Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma

University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ntombi'fikile Mazibuko

Academics

Students

Ladies and Gentlemen

Ngiyanibingelela

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am not going to be long as Honourable President Zuma will deliver the main address. As the Department of Higher Education and Training we are honoured to be invited to this important event. In my presentation today, I will survey the critical areas of the DHET since its formation in 2009:

- The DHET is now responsible for 25 public Higher Education Institutions and 50 public Technical and Vocational Education and Training Colleges and 21 SETAs.
- The Department is also responsible for regulatory bodies charged with qualifications and quality assurance, namely the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), the Council on Higher Education (CHE), the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) and Umalusi.

The following policies should be noted:

- The White Paper for Post-School Education published in January 2014 and articulates a vision characterised by expanded access, improved quality and diversity.
- The Minimum Requirements for Teacher Education Qualifications published on April 11, 2012, paving the way for the improvement of teacher education programmes and qualifications for school teachers.
- The Provision of Distance Education in Universities is about to be gazetted.
- Student Housing at Public Universities and Minimum Norms and Standards was published for comment in April 2013.
- The Implementation of Recognition of Prior Learning published by the South African Qualifications Authority in March 2013.

The following committees should be noted:

- Ministerial Committee for the Review of the provision of student Housing at South African Universities was released in February 2012.
- Ministerial Committee on the Review of the Funding of Universities was gazetted and released in February 2014.
- The Role and Contribution of Professional Bodies to the Development of Graduates, especially females and Africans, was tabled before Cabinet for approval.
- An Oversight Committee on Transformation in South African Universities, chaired by Professor Malegapuru Makgoba was established in January 2013 to monitor progress on transformation in public universities.
- The Ministerial Committee on Articulation was established following joint engagements between quality councils, SAQA and the DHET on August 16, 2013.

The Committee produced and presented an Articulation Report to the Minister of Higher Education and Training in January 2014.

- A Task Team on Community Education and Training Centres to review adult basic education and training.

Financial Support towards Increasing Access and Success

- NSFAS assisted 1.4 million students since 1991. Funding at TVET colleges has increased from R318 million in 2010, benefitting 61 703 students to R1.988 billion in 2013 targeting 222 817 students. In addition the DHET is building 12 TVET colleges in different parts of the country. Funding at universities has increased from R2.2 billion in 2010 benefitting 148 387 students to R3.693 billion in 2013 targeting 210 000 students.
- R1.652 billion has been earmarked for student housing from 2012/13 to 2014/15 with R1.413 billion ring-fenced for HDIs.
- A total of R404 million is earmarked for the expansion of the MBChB programme and Veterinary Sciences at the University of Pretoria. R213 million has been committed to increase universities' capacity to provide on-the-job training to students in order to qualify in engineering.
- R301 million is earmarked for bursaries via the NRF to increase the number of postgraduate students.

Increasing Access and Capacity Building

- Student headcount enrolments at universities increased by 12% from 837 779 in 2010 to 953 375 in 2012. Two new universities were established in 2013, the Sol Plaatje University in Kimberly and the University of Mpumalanga.

- The Department is finalising the separation of Medunsa from the University of Limpopo, paving the way for a new comprehensive health sciences university. The building of a new Medical School of the University of Limpopo is linked to the Presidential Project of building an academic hospital in Limpopo.
- To increase throughput rates, Foundation Provisioning Programmes have been established and supported by the Department for first-time and disadvantaged students.
- Teaching Development Grants are also provided to universities to develop the teaching expertise of lecturers. The Teaching Development Grant for 2014/2015 is R609, 500,000. The Research Development Grants is earmarked for universities for research capacity building, providing support to Masters and Doctoral students particularly the academic staff. The Department is working on plans around alignment between the research funding strategies of the Department, DST and NRF. There were proposed improvements to the Policy and Procedures for Measurement of Research Output of Public Higher Education Institutions. This been finalized and gazetted.
- The DHET has introduced the Next Generation of Academics Project. Submission of final draft of the framework document to the Minister is set for July 31, 2014.
- Agricultural Colleges are set to come under the DHET.

Collaboration and Partnerships

- The current and previous work of the Health Science Review Committee will be considered by the Joint Health Science Education Committee (JHSEC) charged with co-ordinating, aligning strategy, policy and financing of health sciences education with co-responsibility between the DHET and the National Department of Health.

- A structure similar to the JHSEC is being established by the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries and the DHET prompted by shortages in the production of animal health specialists, food hygienists and veterinarians.

Skills Development

- The National Skills Development Strategy III was adopted in 2011. The new SETA Grant Regulations, which came into effect on April 1, 2013, provides guidance on levy spending with a focused priority on scarce and critical skills.
- A policy for a single national artisan learner funding and administration system which came into effect on June 4, 2013 will put to rest the misunderstanding around SETA or sector based funding. This policy will incentivise employers to open up more artisan learner workspaces on the basis of a guaranteed and sustainable grant funding policy.
- SETAs have been directed to sign partnership agreements with TVET colleges and Universities of Technology. These agreements include placement of graduates, curriculum development and planning.
- PSETA is being repositioned to play a more meaningful role in skills training through the provision of internships and Work Integrated Learning opportunities.
- Cabinet approved that government departments should pay 30% (of the 1% of their) training budget towards PSETA. The Department is working on proposals for the amendment of the Skills Development Act and Skills Development Levy Act to enforce compliance.
- The intake of interns into the public service and State Owned Enterprises resulted in 19 278 placement in 2010/11. Since January 2013, the Department has received commitments for placement of 7 800 TVET college and Universities of Technology students in the public service.

- The Services SETA has signed MOUs with 12 TVET colleges for the placement of 1 200 graduates. This SETA is in the process of placing 5000 graduates with the national Department of Public Works. The Local Government SETA has committed to placing Free State TVET graduates with the local government. ESKOM is making good progress in contributing to the placement of at least 12 000 TVET college students over the next 12 months. Employment and youth development is set to create about 54 970 job opportunities.
- A proposed Skills Plan for the Presidential Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPS) has been developed following extensive consultation with government departments and entities, professional bodies and the private sector.
- The Department, in partnership with the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, is working on the establishment of the South African Renewable Energy Training Centre and invested R78 million towards the building of a centre for skills training. In the Eastern Cape, a project will be rolled-out with specific focus on developing green skills and has the potential to create 300 000 jobs by 2020.

Ladies and gentlemen, I hope that this outline helps to give you an idea of the depth and scope of the work facing the DHET.

Ngiyabonga