

DHET, SRC leaders prioritise communication

31 March 2016 - Following the recent student protests at various universities around the country, the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) is presenting roadshows to capacitate college student leaders.

The workshops aimed to address the communication breakdown between students and university management on issues such as tuition fees.

“The Department aims to achieve among others: Eradicate miscommunication, encourage collective leadership, listen to student voices on the challenges they face at colleges, improve the college sector for access and quality education,” said Vuyokazi Mafilika, Director for Student Development and Support at the DHET.

The engagement, she said, will assist student representative council (SRC) leaders to report back to their constituencies with factual information which was shared during the countrywide regional workshops.

In response to the delay of issuing certificates by Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges, DHET Chief Director for National Examinations and Assessment, Nadine Pote, says State Information Technology Agency (SITA) which is responsible for this task is prioritising this matter. It should be completed by 30 June.

She said the Department had alerted prospective employers and training institutions to the situation and requested that the NC (V) level 4 graduates not be disadvantaged due to the unavailability of a certificate.

During robust discussions, students requested that DHET enhance communication amongst all stakeholders in the college sector in order to avoid unnecessary protests since these were largely based on lack of information on matters that affected their studies.

The workshop which was held at Elangeni TVET College, in Pinetown, KwaZulu-Natal, was attended by SRC leaders and college principals.