

## **DG addresses top performing students**

Barely three months after being absorbed into the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) system, Technical and Vocational Education and Training college students are being encouraged to become a capable workforce – ready for the outside world.

The full day robust roundtable discussions were held with the aim to widen and elevate their communication and reading skills which are the lifeblood of the academic village.

In his address to the students in this first dialogue of its type, the Director-General of Higher Education and Training, Mr Gwebinkundla Qonde said that one of the primary objectives of his Department was to ensure access to the post-school education and training sector.

Said the Director-General: “The purpose of this occasion is to ensure that you are part of the discussion and solution on matters that affect you regarding teaching and learning.”

The DHET and its stakeholders, over the years, had deliberations with many experts to understand the reasons behind the continuous disappointing low certification and throughput rates in their colleges, he said.

“We have had many sleepless nights as officials in the Department trying to find solutions to this gap. This forum will grant you the opportunity to deliberate, contribute and come forward with possible solutions on how we can move the academic landscape of the TVET sector to greater heights,” says Qonde.

One of the speakers, Ms Aruna Singh, said to the students: “Employers look for work ethics, client awareness, team work, time management, critical thinking and problem solving, among others.”

She added that reading and writing documents are vital and become part of the international trend of what she calls “aggressive competitiveness in the job market”.

Students also enjoyed opportunities to visit various exhibition stalls from the Sector Education and Training Authority (SETAs), who partnered with DHET for this ground-breaking academic dialogue in Irene outside Pretoria.