

STEERING THROUGH DEEP WATERS: The Maritime Sector Skills commission indicated at the summit that the HRDC needs to continue monitoring this work and intervene as necessary.

PHOTOGRAPH: GRAEME WILLIAMS



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THE Human Resources Development Council (HRDC), formed in 2010, held its second summit at the Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand on 29 and 30 March, under the theme 'Partnerships for Skills — a Call to Action'.

Some 500 delegates, including international delegates, attended the summit, which featured an exhibition with 18 exhibitors, including HRDC Botswana.

The presentations reflected the work achieved by the eight Technical Task Teams (TTTs) to unblock blockages in the human resource development pipeline.

They also showcased current successful partnership models between the HRDC and key stakeholders from both business and government.

The main objective of 2nd HRDC 2016 Summit was to provide progress updates on the implementation of the HRDC Technical Task Teams' recommendations.

Other primary objectives of the summit were:

- To provide greater understanding of the roles that the HRDC plays; and,
- To identify and present strategic partnerships in human resource development.

The summit was opened by the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande, and was addressed by Deputy President Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, who is also the Chairperson of the HRD Council.

The Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Mduzuzi Manana, addressed delegates at the cocktail function.

During the plenary sessions key issues were discussed. These included topics ranging from the Revised HRD Strategy Framework, which provided the context of the summit.

Progress on the implementation of Education Collaboration

SKILLING THE COUNTRY — a call for action on partnerships



AIMING HIGH: The summit deliberated on a report based on the one specific goal of a South Africa where 90% of learners pass mathematics, science and languages with at least 50% by 2030.

Framework, which highlighted work being done by the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) was also presented.

The aim of this report was based on achieving one specific goal of a South Africa where 90% of learners pass mathematics, science and languages with at least 50% by 2030.

Other issues included Public-Private partnerships between Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges in KwaZulu Natal, the private sector and SETAs.

On the second day, issues discussed included multi-stakeholder collaboration in support of local production of pharmaceuticals (LPP) and National Student Financial Aid Schemes (NSFAS) public-private partnerships.

The summit had eight commissions covering a range of issues within the human resource development value chain, from early childhood development to the world of work.

These commissions then presented their conclusions to the

plenary session, which enabled both the audience and the presenters to unpack the updates in more detail and engage in a question and answer session.

Here are the broad outcomes of the summit presented in some of the commission reports:

- The TVET colleges commission covered many areas and, among other points, the commission agreed that there is a need for a policy guide for strategic partnerships and research to inform gaps in partnerships and to confirm that colleges are still responding to

the societal needs;

- The Production of Academics and Strengthening Partnerships between Industry and Higher Education commission agreed that the current steering mechanisms are not sufficient without real transformation in the higher education sector, and that the collaboration and partnerships between industry, academia and government are not only desirable, but also necessary;

- On the other hand the Production of Professionals commission concluded that increasing the production of professionals requires the active participation by implementing agencies such as the DHET, the Department of Basic Education, Post School Education Institutions, all SETAs, the Department of Labour and the National Student Financial Aid Scheme for mobilisation of the collaborative partnerships through a regulatory framework; and,
- Lastly, the Maritime Sector Skills commission indicated that the HRD Council needs to continue monitoring the work and intervene as necessary; a formalised reporting to the Secretariat needs to be developed; and there is a need to formalise institutional arrangements to govern the implementation of the Maritime Sector Skills Technical Task Team Report.

The 3rd HRDC Summit is already being planned for 2018 to provide even more evidence and reports of the successes of implementation of outcomes of the 2016 summit and provide progress on how far South Africa is in ensuring an adequate human resource development base for inclusive growth.

The 2016 summit was a massive success and this was evident in the comments of the Minister of Higher Education and Training in his statement released to the media.

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