

## **2015/16 marks numerous milestones for post-school education, training**

On 12 October 2016, the Department presented its sixth annual report to the post-school education and training parliamentary portfolio committee in Cape Town, highlighting several milestones across the post-school education and training (PSET) system.

In introducing the annual report, Minister Blade Nzimande explained that the Department had continued with expanding the PSET system as articulated in the White Paper for Post-School Education and Training.

Nzimande: TVET, CETs welcomed

He said during the year, the department had welcomed the technical and vocational (TVET), and community education and training (CET) sectors to the department. These had previously been a provincial government responsibility.

“2015/16 was a challenging year for the PSET system, especially regarding the funding of the university sector,” explained Minister Nzimande, and “the concerns of stakeholders are noted”.

He acknowledged the work of Presidential Commission which was established to look in university funding.

He also pointed to the growth in enrolments at the new universities, Sol Plaatje University and the University of Mpumalanga.

Other milestones mentioned included:

- A capacity building programme for academics which had been launched;
- A draft programme for the infrastructure and efficiency funds for universities had been compiled and attention was being given to deferred maintenance; and
- The second higher education transformation summit was held and a range of transformation imperatives identified are now being incorporated into the department’s work along with the national PSET plan.

### **Manana on career awareness, Decade of the Artisan**

In the same report, Deputy Minister Mduduzi Manana, custodian of a range of PSET programmes including career awareness, explained that the department has continued to expand PSET opportunities for citizens and the South African youth.

This is borne out by the continued provision of efficient career advice to matric learners and other youth through events such as the Decade of Artisan Development, the Apply Now campaigns and career guidance exhibitions.

The 2015 Career Development Festival, which took place in KwaZulu-Natal, was attended by 4,942 learners, 4,473 students and youth not in employment or engaged in education or training.

He explained the visibility and credibility of the department has grown significantly as a result of career development activities at secondary schools and TVET colleges.

### **ARPL policy promoting full artisan qualification**

“In the areas of artisan development, the artisan recognition of prior learning (ARPL) policy, criteria and guidelines were published to promote and implement ARPL as an active pathway to a full artisan trade occupational qualification.

It sets the national criteria and guidelines for ARPL so that non-contracted learners can undertake a national trade test.

He also mentioned the research colloquium on workplace-based learning which took place in partnership with Sector Education and Training Authorities.

During the year, the first national programme on HIV prevention in TVET colleges, the Higher Education AIDS (HEAIDS) programme, was rolled out.

### **DG G Qonde talks about task teams**

Director-General Gwebinkundla Qonde added that the department had commenced with the development of an integrated plan for the rollout of the PSET White Paper which directs further improvements within the PSET system.

Three task teams, one each for university education, TVETs and CETs, were established. A draft plan will be available during the 2016/17 financial year.

The department focused on developing additional policies to improve access within the system, such as a Framework for the Realisation of Social Inclusion and a draft Strategic Disability Policy Framework. A policy standard, which stipulates processes to be followed by researchers at public TVET and CET colleges, was also developed.

Policy decisions were also taken on the development and implementation of management information systems and sub-systems that support the overall vision of the Higher Education and Training Management Information System (HEMIS).

He also noted that the National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences had been appointed as the permanent home of the South African BRICS Think Tank.

The Higher Education Act (Act 101 of 1997) was amended and submitted as part of the parliamentary legislative programme to enable better differentiation of the higher education sector and its integration into the PSET system.

### **List of occupations in high demand revised amongst others**

The department published an updated National List of Occupations in High Demand to support planning within the PSET system, and in particular, enrolment planning, resource allocations, career advice and qualifications development.

A decision was also taken that a report on skills supply and demand be published annually, to allow for changes in the economy on a macro level.

The proposal for the New National Skills Development Strategy, and Sector Education and Training Authorities landscape within the context of an integrated and differentiated PSET system was published for public comment.

View the full report at [goo.gl/FGNAFe](http://goo.gl/FGNAFe)