

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**DATE: Wednesday, 31 July 2019**

**TO: All media**

**ATTENTION: News Editors/ Reports**

**For Immediate use:**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **MINISTER NZIMANDE REFERS REVISED HIGHER EDUCATION LANGUAGE POLICY TO THE COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (CHE)**

The Minister of Higher Education and Training, Science and Technology, Dr Blade Nzimande, referred the revised Language Policy for Higher Education to the Council on Higher Education (CHE) for advice before finalisation.

“The purpose of the policy is, amongst others, to provide a framework for the development and strengthening of all eleven official languages, with a particular focus on the development of African languages as languages of scholarships, teaching, learning and communication at universities,” said Minister Nzimande.

Minister Nzimande further said that this policy will contribute to transformation in the Post School Education and Training sector as a whole by enhancing the status and roles of previously marginalised languages. The policy will also foster institutional inclusivity and social cohesion.

In terms of the Higher Education Act, 101 of 1997, upon approval by the Minister, the final version of the Language Policy will be published in the Government Gazette for implementation by all universities.

Minister Nzimande also welcomes the various initiatives already being undertaken by a number of our universities in the promotion, development and use of African languages as mediums of instruction, science and communications. This policy will also assist in supporting and

strengthening these initiatives, as well creating a better environment for the holistic development of all our languages in the post-school education and training sector.

“Where it is reasonably practicable, the language of teaching and learning at Post School Education and Training institutions will be received in the official language or languages of persons receiving the education,” emphasised the Minister.

Minister Nzimande further called on all universities to join into the effort of the development of African languages in particular.

Minister Nzimande elucidated that government will ensure that institutions of higher learning perform their role to promote and create conditions for the development of all South Africa languages, including the Khoi, Nama, San Languages as well as Sign Language.

Minister Nzimande said that Post School Education and Training institutions have the role to prepare sufficient language teachers, interpreters, translators and other language practitioners to serve the needs of South African’s multilingual society.

-End-

Issued by:  
Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology  
DST Building (53), CSIR Campus  
Meiring Naude Road  
Brummeria  
Pretoria

Enquiries  
Ishmael Mnisi 0663078859