

Minister Pandor's speech at the North West CET college

Good Shepherd Community Learning Centre

Madidi

14 August 2018

Chairperson of Council, Mme Yvonne Pelle

Members of Council of the North West CET College

Archbishop of Pretoria: His grace William Slattery

Sister Lydicia: From our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd

Ward Councillor, Mr Malatse

CET College Principals

Management and Centre Managers of the North West CET
College

Staff of Good Shepherd Community Learning Centre

I'm pleased to be here this morning.

I'm pleased to see so many young people taking charge of
changing their lives.

Community education and training is alive and well in the North
West.

You are defying the saying "Thutela bogolo e a roba".

You are fighting the poverty, inequality and exclusion that
comes as a result of being illiterate.

By coming to this centre you are taking a step towards
accessing the benefits and the opportunities of our democracy.

Your youngest student is 16 years old and the oldest is 85
years of age. This means that we are on course to realizing the

unique vision of community education and training.

At the core of our mandate is community access and involvement.

In this way we are not self-serving.

We are in tune and in touch with the needs of communities.

Community colleges make a positive impact in peoples' lives.

It's important to note that this sector has the potential to bring tangible transformation to disadvantaged communities.

Looking at the students here today, most of you are where you are in life because of what your parents were not given the opportunities that you have been given.

We know this.

One of the principles of community education and training programme is social justice or social redress.

Community education and training is about giving hope and restoring human dignity so that the disadvantages of the past no longer define your future prospects.

The community education and training programme offers opportunities to those who have never been to school.

The community education and training programme offers opportunities to those who could not finish basic schooling.

The community education and training programme offers opportunities by offering skills and community driven programmes.

I know that the idea of community education and training is new.

I know that our colleges need to be better resourced.

But I urge principals - and I am glad all 9 are present - to change your approach in leading these institutions, particularly with regard to resources that can come from donors and partnerships.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of partnerships and stakeholder relations.

Partnerships for programme diversification, innovation or infrastructure utilization are useful.

But it takes a principal with a vision and a supportive council to make it a reality for the college.

On that note let me offer my thanks to the partners and donors that keep the fires burning in this centre.

I also appreciate the involvement of other departments and organ of state.

To the Department of Social Development and South African Police Services (SAPS) for offering your services to students in the centre.

To the Knights of Da Gama for ensuring that the students and community at large is fed and clothed.

To the Councilor, for taking time to serve the community and the motivational talks you give to the youth are appreciated.

All these efforts together contribute immensely to the development and sustenance of the humanity fibre in all of us.

I noted that the invitation stated the need for work opportunities beyond skills training. This again calls for relevant programmes and strategic partnership with employers and work organizations.

We must be sensitive to the fact that adults who come to our centres are not passing time but they come with their needs pre-determined.

The sector must shift and think beyond community education and training provision.

The platform for state's development agenda must find expression in these programmes.

I have tasked the Community Education and Training Branch in the DHET to come up with a plan to articulate how we realize the mandate of the community education and training programme in the spirit of the White Paper for Post School Education and Training and also how to reach the targets articulated in the National Development Plan.

I await the plan as it is going to be a game changer for the sector.

In closing let me commend the Centre for being a sanctuary for the community.

I am touched by the fact that you open doors to women who are the victims of domestic violence.

You took it a step further by having partnerships that are responsive in such instances.

In this Women's Month, I say no to abuse in whatever form. Human life must be respected. We must use our institutions to teach young people Ubuntu values and advance the agenda of moral regeneration.

To the church thank you for responding to the call to care and nurture.

Thank you.