



Media Statement

The 15TH Human Resource Development Council of South Africa meeting

Germiston, Gauteng, 06 November 2015 – Today, the Deputy President, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC), convened a successful meeting.

The meeting which was hosted by the Ekurhuleni West TVET College (EWC) in their newly built state of the art Campus in Germiston. It was preceded by a visit on the Automotive Repair and Maintenance, as well as the Fitting and Machinery Workshops of the College, where Council members were exposed to how practical skills are developed and transferred to students. The College invested in this necessary training to develop the necessary skills required to address the skills demand in the market. This was as a result of the partnerships the College has with private sector.

The Deputy President in his opening remarks said: “We meet in the wake of protests at universities across our country at proposed fee increases. Underlying these protests is a desire to access education and to do so in an environment conducive for learning and teaching. It arises from an expectation among the youth of this country that education should be made available to all. The force and urgency of the protests arise from the lived experience of students, particularly those from poor backgrounds. It reflects their day-to-day struggles, not only to receive a quality education, but to be able to afford the basic necessities of life”.

“As the HRDC, we are uniquely placed to make a contribution to the call for an affordable and better resourced higher education sector. We are called upon to deepen and enhance our work as a Council. We are called up to re-focus our efforts

and to align our programme with the needs of the country. Thus, we should proceed with deliberation and urgency”, said the Deputy President.

In the sitting, the HRD Council adopted a Vision, Mission, goals and programmes that reflect HRD needs of the economy as outlined in the revised HRD Strategy towards 2030. The vision is, *Partnering to innovatively develop human potential*.

Adopt-A-TVET College

A presentation was made which focused on the Adopt-A-TVET College, which was initiated in November 2014 through a pledge that was signed at Flavius Mareka College at a Council meeting. Various stakeholders from government, civil society, TVET Colleges, Business, Organised Labour and HRDC signed the pledge and committed to participate in the initiative.

The problem statement of the initiative is that the TVET college sector, has unevenness in producing quality skills that are responsive to industry needs and the development agenda of the country. Some are capable of managing the challenges whilst others are having less resources.

Four levels of immediate challenges have been identified in the TVET sector: poor delivery of teaching and learning; poor management and administration; limited access to workplace training opportunities; and limited employment of TVET graduates.

The Aim of the Adopt-A-TVET initiative is to create working partnerships between TVET colleges and stakeholders, mainly commerce and industry; to build colleges of excellence and to enable the supply of relevant, high quality skills that are responsive to the social and economic needs of the country.

Way Forward

The HRD Strategy has been accepted by the Council, and will be presented to the Economic Ministerial Cluster and afterwards tabled to Cabinet for approval.

The HRD Council accepted the Adopt-A-TVET College initiative. The model that was presented will be improved as it is implemented.

Ends

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About HRDC

The Human Resource Development Council is a multi-stakeholder body that creates an enabling, coordinated and integrated environment to focus on improving the human resources development base and skills of the South African people.

The HRD strategy remains the long-term strategy for South Africa to ensure a pipeline approach to meeting the country's current and future skills needs. Now in its second five year term leading up to 2030, the HRD strategy considers the entire HRD system, particularly blockages that impede human resource development.

The HRD strategy is aligned to the National Development Plan (NDP) which is the overarching plan for the country up to 2030. The revision of the HRD strategy takes into account the implementation challenges and successes of the first five years of implementation. Integration of plan and strategy: Introduces five programmes leading up to 2030.

Vision

Partnering to innovatively develop human potential.

Mission

The HRDC seeks to:

- Advise the government on the HRD Strategy and its priorities;
- Identify blockages and unblock them;
- Coordinate the efforts of government departments and social partners in the implementation of the HRD strategy;
- Monitor and report on the implementation of the HRD strategy; and
- Evaluate the impact of the HRD strategy against agreed indicators.

HRD Strategy goals

There are five strategic goals that the HRD Council seeks to achieve by 2030:

1. Strengthen basic education and foundation programmes in Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Languages.
2. Expand access to quality Post-School Education and Training (PSET).
3. Production of appropriately skilled people for the economy.
4. A developmental / capable state with effective and efficient planning and implementation capabilities.
5. Improved research and technological innovation outcomes.

Programmes

The work of the HRD Council is organised into five programmes for the achievement of the strategic goals. For each programme there are strategic objectives. The following are the five programmes:

1. Programme 1: Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Languages.
2. Programme 2: TVET and the rest of the college system.
3. Programme 3: Higher Education and Training, Research and Innovation.
4. Programme 4: Skills for the transformed society and the economy.
5. Programme 5: Developmental / Capable state.

Strategic Objectives of the HRD Strategy

The strategic objectives have been reduced in number from 103 in the HRD Strategy 2010-2030 to 21 in the revised HRD Strategy towards 2030, so as to allow the HRD Council to focus on the deliverables.