



Message from the Deputy Minister

Over the past year, through the work of my office, I have visited all nine provinces across the country, where I had the opportunity to engage with students, institutions, and other stakeholders within the Post-School Education and Training sector.



Every community I visited, every student I interacted with, and every institution I toured reaffirmed to me that South Africa’s future depends on the success of its young people. Therefore, as Deputy Minister, my duty is to help shape a Higher Education and Training system that offers our youth hope, dignity, and real pathways to employment.

In addition to my national responsibilities, I was privileged to connect with education and thought leaders on African and global platforms, focusing on future skills and opportunity-driven TVET colleges. These included Africa Skills Week at the African Union in Ethiopia, the Eleventh Pan-Commonwealth Forum (PCF11 2025) in Botswana, and two engagements in the United Kingdom (UK).

My visit to the UK unlocked new opportunities for collaboration in skills training aligned with economic needs. We identified particularly promising areas in the maritime and aviation sectors, which remain largely unexplored within the TVET system. Efforts are already in progress to turn these potential partnerships into reality, so stay tuned!

Driving public-private partnerships

Back home, I have been inspired by the impact of our public-private partnership with leading private sector entities. In recent months, we signed several impactful Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with Old Mutual, Takealot, and Microsoft South Africa. These MOUs are designed to align our curriculum with industry and provide our students with access to workplace learning opportunities. Takealot will “adopt” three TVET colleges near its distribution centres in Kempton Park, Cape Town, and Durban to provide training in logistics, technology, and e-commerce. Microsoft South Africa will deliver AI and digital skills training, while Old Mutual is implementing financial literacy and career support at remote TVET colleges.



Matric Support Programme

As part of my vision to expand access to higher education and bring it closer to communities, my office launched the Matric Support Programme. It is designed to help matric learners access clear information about higher-education pathways, including study opportunities, funding options, and what to expect when entering the PSET sector.

The programme covered two provinces and a total of five schools. In the Eastern Cape, we targeted rural areas often overlooked and lacking access to information, specifically Lusikisiki and Cofimvaba. In

Strengthening CET colleges

For the first time, our Department's National Women's Day celebration was held at a Community College in Mageme Community Learning Centre, in Limpopo, while the Mandela Month Department commemoration event also took place for the first time at a Community College in Phakamile Community Learning Centre, in Kariega, in the Eastern Cape.



The events left a strong impression; hearing young people describe CETs as their "second chance" reminded me that adult education provides essential opportunities for skills development and ultimately helps young adults, especially women, enter the workforce.

Supporting fundraising efforts of TVET colleges

As part of my work this year, I have also assisted TVET colleges with their fundraising efforts to secure resources for infrastructure upgrades and skills development programmes. Recently, Elangeni TVET College raised over R1 million during its 3rd Annual Fundraising Gala Dinner, where I delivered the keynote address. Earlier in the year, I also assisted Goldfields TVET College in the Free State province in raising nearly R300 000.

Clamping down on bogus colleges

In collaboration with law enforcement and government departments, including the South African Police Service, the Department of Home Affairs, and the Department of Employment and Labour, as well as other stakeholders, we successfully ran an impactful campaign to raise awareness about bogus colleges, safeguarding the educational integrity of our sector.

This academic year alone, the campaign has reached three provinces with large student populations: KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, and the Eastern Cape.

Youth Skills and Business Imbizo

In collaboration with most of the Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs), local municipalities, and business partners, my office organised a successful Skills and Business Imbizo.

The event aimed to connect students and the NEET cohort – that is, young people not in employment, education, or training, with opportunities for training and jobs by directly linking them to industry and relevant skills development institutions.



Helpdesk going digital

Since its inception in August 2024, the Helpdesk has successfully handled a total of **44,906** queries, achieving a commendable resolution rate of 91%.

The DM's Helpdesk primarily provides quick, personalised support to students and stakeholders by addressing enquiries and concerns, particularly regarding the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, as well as issues like delays in issuing results, diplomas, and certificates.

With the increasing volume of queries, we are now transitioning to a digital helpdesk. A faster, smarter, more accessible solution. Watch this space!

2026 Academic Year

Looking ahead to the upcoming academic year, I am pleased to note that Minister Buti Manamela has announced plans for a War Room to ensure a successful 2026 academic year. This War Room will convene relevant stakeholders for a swift and effective response to the challenges of the new academic year.

PHOTO GALLERY





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