



**MINISTRY
HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Private Bag X174, PRETORIA, 0001, Tel: +27 12 312 6339, Fax: +27 12 326 1161, 123 Francis Baard Street, PRETORIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

**MINISTER MANAMELA PRESENTS 2026/27 HIGHER EDUCATION APP TO
PARLIAMENT**

TO ALL MEDIA

30 APRIL 2026

For Immediate Release

The Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Buti Manamela, together with the Deputy Ministers and the Director General, today presented the Department of Higher Education and Training's 2026/27 Annual Performance Plan (APP) and budget priorities to the Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and committed to a system reset in response to the skills revolution mandate.

Minister Manamela Presented Vote 17, which will manage R443 billion over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework across universities, TVET colleges, CET

colleges, SETAs, NSFAS, and Quality Councils. In his presentation, the Minister said the APP represents a decisive shift from fragmented planning and process compliance towards measurable outcomes, accountability, and system-wide integration.

“This APP is the operational expression of the national Skills Revolution mandate articulated by President Cyril Ramaphosa during the 2026 State of the Nation Address, and not an isolated administrative document, said Minister Manamela.

The Minister noted that the APP is grounded in a broader reform trajectory initiated following extensive consultations across the post-school education and training sector after assuming office in July 2025.

The APP prioritises:

- * Expanded access and student success across the PSET system;
- * Strengthening TVET colleges and artisan development pathways;
- * Improved workplace-based learning and employability outcomes;
- * Stabilisation and reform of NSFAS;
- * Stronger SETA accountability and alignment;
- * Outcome-based performance measurement;
- * Integrated planning across the sector.

Minister Manamela acknowledged the findings presented earlier by the Auditor-General of South Africa regarding weaknesses in aspects of the APP and confirmed that corrective measures are already underway.

“We accept the findings of the Auditor-General. Producing reports is not performance! Performance is whether students complete, whether artisans qualify, and whether

graduates find work. We have therefore strengthened outcome-based indicators, improved alignment with national priorities, and tightened systems of accountability and verification,” added the Minister.

The Minister further confirmed that the Department is finalising Service Level Agreements with all SETAs, strengthening infrastructure performance measurement, and standardising data definitions and verification processes across the system.

The APP outlines several major delivery priorities for 2026/27, including:

- * Support for over 1.15 million university students;
- * More than 520,000 TVET college enrolments;
- * Over 700 000 NSFAS-supported students;
- * Expansion of occupational qualifications and artisan pathways;
- * 91 800 workplace-based learning opportunities;
- * 22 000 artisan certifications;
- * Strengthened alignment with the Just Energy Transition, digital economy, and industrial policy priorities.

Minister Manamela said the department remains focused on ensuring that public investment in education and training translates into real economic opportunity.

Additionally, that young people depend on the system are interested only in a system that works and that should be the measurement of the work of the department.

The Director-General of Higher Education and Training, Dr Nkosinathi Sishi, subsequently presented the detailed APP indicators, implementation plans, and technical response to the AGSA findings to the Committee.

Enquiries:

Matshepo Seedat

Spokesperson for the Minister of Higher Education and Training

082 679 9473

@HigherEduSpox

ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING