

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**DATE: Tuesday, 5 October 2021**

**TO: All media**

**ATTENTION: News Editors/ Reporters**

**For Immediate use:**

### **MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION STATEMENT WELCOMING NEW DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO THE DHET**

The Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande, welcomes the appointment of Dr Nkosinathi Sishi as the new Director-General of the Department of Higher Education and Training.

Dr Sishi's previous work in the Post School Education and Training sector speaks for itself.

He is a seasoned leader in the education space having previously worked in the Department as the Deputy Director-General for Planning, Policy and Strategy in 2016/17. He was also the HoD of Education in the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government from 2011-2016.

"Dr Sishi has 35 years' experience in the different spheres of Government and at State-Owned Enterprises, including the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa, in which he acted as its Chief Executive Officer. He is currently the Head of the Driving Licence Card Account Trading Entity of the Department of Transport," said Minister Nzimande.

Minister Nzimande said Dr Sishi will resume work in the Post-School Education and Training system at a crucial time, as the department is entered the new landscape in which the Departments of Higher Education and Training and the Department of Science and Innovation are under one Ministry.

"Dr Sishi joins the department as we grapple with the negative impact of Covid 19, whilst remaining committed to fund deserving students and learners in the post-school education and training sector through a combination of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme and through

the skills levies, despite the fiscal pressures we currently face,” said the Minister.

Minister Nzimande assures Director-General Sishi that he has his full support and backing, and calls upon the entire Post-School Education and Training system and all its stakeholders to give Dr Sishi all the support and co-operation he may need.

Director-General Sishi will officially assume his new responsibilities on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 for a period of 5 years. “Let us all remain focused on the tasks at hand”, added Minister Nzimande.

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