

ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION ON THE OCCASION OF CHIETA AND AFRICAN ALABASTER SQUARE COOPERATIVE CERTIFICATION CEREMONY, ULUNDI, KWAZULU-NATAL

Tuesday , 12 October 2021

Programme Director;

Mayor of uPhongolo, Councilor S R Mhlongo;

District Mayor Ulundi, Councilor Mzamo Buthelezi;

CHIETA Accounting Authority (AA) Chairperson, Ms Wezi Khoza and other AA Members present;

Chief Executive Officer of CHIETA, Mr Yershen Pillay;

Representatives from Mthashana TVET College;

Local Municipality representatives;

Construction SETA and other SETA representatives;

Our VIPs, 24 Cooperatives graduating today;

Members of the Community;

SEDA representative;

Representative from the departments of Tourism, Agriculture and Economic Development;

Potential buyers of products that will be manufactured by these Cooperatives;

CHIETA Management;

Officials from my Office and the both my Department of Higher Education and Science and Innovation; Provincial Officials and Municipal Officials;

Distinguished Guests;

Members of the media;

Ladies and gentlemen

Good Morning

Sanibonani

It is my greatest honour to be with you today on this important occasion of marking the Chemical Industries Sector Education and Training Authority (CHIETA) Certification Ceremony and the launch

of the second phase of the Cooperatives Development Project involving 20 Cooperatives in aloe plant processing.

This project involves 20 Cooperatives from here at Ulundi.

We meet in this certification ceremony to highlight and underline the importance of partnerships in skills development as recognised and envisaged in the White Paper for Post School Education and Training, especially between educational institutions and the private sector, mainly those who are employers as well.

## Background

Many of you will recall that on the 17 September 2020, I visited the Zululand District Municipality, as a National District Development Model Champion for the Zululand District.

The purpose of my visit was to discuss, among other, interventions to support district economic development, to intensify the campaign against gender-based violence, and to fight COVID-19 global health pandemic. All this is to be done through a cooperative governance delivery model involving all spheres of government and various key community structures and the private sector.

It was from that meeting of 20th September, having received presentations from various key stakeholders from this District, that I directed both my Departments of Higher Education and Training and Science and Innovation, all my SETAs and the National Skills Fund to consider all presentations made and come up with interventions aligned with the DDM that will be undertaken to support the Zululand District.

Amongst the projects we identified include:

Tourism and heritage (Battlefields, eco-tourism, game reserves etc);

Infrastructure projects (electricity, water reticulation & sanitation);

Telecommunications (ICT Infrastructure, digital and fibre optic);

Transportation (Freight and logistics);

SMME and Cooperatives support;

Early Childhood Development;

Agriculture and Farming; and

Mining (beneficiation).

Here we are today, having kickstarted one of the many projects that we committed to the people of the Zululand District and Ulundi in particular.

The purpose of our meeting today is two-fold, first, to honour the first group or cohort of learners who completed their skills training, and secondly, to launch the training programme for the second group which will commence training from 8 November 2021.

A cherry on top is that, those of us in attendance have first-hand opportunity to test and use the aloe products produced by these learners following their training.

CHIETA -African Alabaster Square Collaboration (partnership)

The CHIETA partne...