

## MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: All media

Date: 03 July 2021

ATTENTION: News Editors/ Reports

For Immediate use:

### THE MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION STATEMENT CLEARING CONFUSION ON THE SKILLS LEVY HOLIDAY

Following the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande, media briefing on the ongoing work within the science and innovation and plans for the Adjusted level 4 lockdown within the Post School Education and Training Sector held on the 30th of June 2021, there has been unintentional confusion on the part of the statement referring to the Skills Levy Holiday.

Whilst it is a sad reality that employers and employees will continue to suffer economic loss in the wake of alert level 4 lockdown announced by the President of the Republic of South Africa, Honourable Cyril Ramaphosa on 27th June 2021.

The Skills Levy Holiday, was a once off measure as part of tax relief measures, applicable to the financial year ended 31 March 2021.

Any decision regarding skills levy cannot be taken lightly, as it requires, amongst others high level consultation and legislative changes.

The intention of the part of the statement about the Skills Levy Holiday was intended to confirm government's intervention in the financial year ended 31 March 2021, coupled with the increase of the artisan grant, from R165 000 to R206 290, which commenced on 1 April 2021, as part of assisting employers to recover from the initial COVID-19 global health pandemic economic interruptions in the short term.

It must also be noted that there is a long-term government plan as contained in the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERPP) to fully recover the economy and skills training efforts.

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Issued by:

Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation

DST Building (53), CSIR Campus

Meiring Naude Road

Brummeria

Pretoria

Enquiries: Ishmael Mnisi 0660378859