

Minister Pandor's speech at Capricorn TVET college

Polokwane, Limpopo

12 July 2018

1 pm

Thank you for inviting me here.

I'm really pleased to officially open Capricorn's new central office building.

TVET colleges are a high priority for government because they can play a critical role in addressing our current skills gaps.

Stronger TVET colleges will expand the provision of mid-level technical and occupational qualifications that will lead directly into paid work for the growing numbers of young people leaving the schooling system.

In other words government wants more young people to attain skills and competencies that will help them find jobs or create their own enterprises.

Colleges are able to establish links with industry so they can increase employment prospects of students.

I have seen some positive changes in TVET colleges, but colleges need more and better support.

TVET colleges cannot be expected to improve capacity and quality without adequate planning, support, and resourcing.

There is a long-term plan.

By 2030, TVET colleges will be strong differentiated institutions, offering a range of high quality programmes preparing students for the world of work and entrepreneurship.

Colleges will offer qualifications that are responsive to the needs of students, and regional and national skills demand.

An effective enrolment planning system will be in place to determine the necessary programme-qualification mix for the colleges and to guide appropriate resourcing. In particular I'm looking for better enrolment planning that will allow for better decisions about areas of specialisation in colleges. I'm looking for growth over time of new qualifications, without immediately dropping opportunities that are currently in place.

Employer uptake of students and partnerships with TVET colleges will have greatly improved.

Examination and certification will be streamlined and will be more efficient and effective.

There will be more and better qualified lecturers and the lecturer:student ratio will improve.

Governance and management capacity will be greatly improved and colleges will be functioning more effectively.

Retention and throughput, and exit level outcomes as well as pathways to other post-school institutions will be greatly improved.

That's the plan.

Just next to this building, which we are officially opening today, are the offices of UNISA: Polokwane Branch, and their state of the art building is of the same standard as this one.

In this regard I acknowledge the good leadership of the former Principal and CEO, Mr Khorombi Ronald Madzhe.

I know that the road that the college travelled to build this central office was not an easy one.

And I know that it wasn't easy to use a building attached to another institution as a central block.

Ladies and gentlemen, today you bid farewell to Mr Khorombi Ronald Madzhe.

It's a great honour to share this moment with you.

Mr Madzhe has turned a new page in his life, and looks forward to a full life in retirement.

Mr Madzhe is an academic, a leader.

As an academic Mr Madzhe played a major role in his studies and career to influence transformation in education.

As a leader within the Education Sector Mr Madzhe played a great role in Department of Higher Education and Training as a full member and Executive Committee Member of the South African Colleges Principals Organisation (SACPO).

I am told that Mr Madzhe is a man of God, and that he is a pastor.

Spirituality plays a major role in human life.

Im sure that Mr Madzhe will continue to contribute to education and spiritual transformation in his retirement.

I wish him all of the best in his new endeavours.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, I ask all stakeholders here today to support TVET colleges.

They are our priority.

Thank you

Re ya leboga

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