



higher education
& training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

KEYNOTE ADDRESS FOR LEARNERS

DEPUTY MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2014 – 2024 DECADE OF THE ARTISAN EVENT

FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2014

BUFFALO CITY TVET COLLEGE, EAST LONDON.

PROGRAMME THEME: “IT’S COOL TO BE A 21st CENTURY ARTISAN”

Programme Director

Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Mr Enver Surty

The Deputy Mayor of Buffalo City, Mr Themba Tinta

The Principal of the Buffalo City TVET College Mr D. Singh

The CEO of Merseta, Dr Raymond Patel

Distinguished Guests, in particular the social partner representatives from Industry,

Community and Municipalities

Ladies and Gentlemen

And especially all the Learners present from our local schools

Good afternoon to everybody

This is a wonderful day as I have the opportunity and privilege to talk to the future leaders of our country and to continue the conversation we started all over the country last in 2013 as we implemented the 2013 Year of the Artisan programme. The need for the development of qualified artisans to support the economy remains a high priority, especially when you consider the fact that a large number of qualified and competent artisans are required for the government’s strategic infrastructure projects like building roads, schools, ports, universities, power stations and all the other projects announced by our President in January 2012. Many of those projects and new ones that no doubt will be developed as we implement the National Development Plan 2030, made us realize that we need a much longer programme to create awareness and share information with our young people about

artisan development. Therefore we decided to launch a programme called the Decade of the Artisan 2014 – 2024, that was launched at Ekurhuleni East TVET College on 3 February 2014 and is being rolled out every quarter until 2024. The Decade of the Artisan advocacy programme aims to encourage young people and prove to them that it is indeed cool to be a 21st Century Artisan. We are here today celebrating the last day of the annual TVET Open Week that was launched at the Decade of the Artisan event in Ekurhuleni East TVET College this year. All public colleges in the country have opened up their doors for all learners to go and see what they are offering, and also to encourage you to choose artisan related careers as your careers of choice. We saw it fit to make use of this opportunity to combine the Decade of the Artisan event in Mpumalanga, together with the Open Week for TVET Colleges.

Being an artisan is a career that requires one to have a natural talent of creating things with your own hands. Let us look at some of the important reasons of choosing a career in artisanship. If you believe that you have a natural talent of creating and inventing things with your hands, If you find too much theory without practical application boring, If want to own a manufacturing company one day, If you want to fast-track your route to employment, If you want to acquire hands-on skills, then you are at the right place.

Being an artisan gives you the opportunity to express your talent through creation of products and goods with your own hands. It is the nature of the Artisan to express himself through the invention, creation, manufacture, repair and manipulation of things. These can be artistic masterpieces, technological crafts, or mechanical devices. The car you drive, the bus you ride in as you came here to the stadium, the house you live in, the television you watch, the cell phone you talk on, the clothes you wear, the furniture appliances in your home and the decorations also, the computer I am writing with! These are the things that Artisans have invented, designed, drawn plans for, and built.

Artisans are impelled to make things; they get restless if they do not create something tangible. It is in their nature to produce physical objects. They generate an idea, and from within themselves they spew it out onto material reality. They take the raw material in their hands and fashion things of beauty or function.

Artisans are multi-skilled; they are interested in how things work. As children, they often take things apart to see what's inside, what makes it tick, then they put it back together again. But Artisans are so multi-faceted that they can't be boxed into a single field of expertise. They can be excellent artists, inventors, musicians, actors, writers, surgeons, architects, interior decorators, landscapers, or essentially any occupation that generates something new, different, and unique. They also excel at occupations that involve fixing or manipulating things that already exist, such as draftsmen, machinists, assemblers, mechanics, home-builders, construction workers, painters, auto-makers, manufacturers, repairmen, technicians, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, cabinet makers, and so on. Artisans love tools, and are likely to have a lot of them around, they always carry a tool box with them wherever they go, and they are good in using these tools. Did you know that a chef is an artisan? She/he uses tools to do her/his job properly; s/he needs things like knives, cutting boards, bowls, cooking ingredients, cooking utensils, crockery and cutlery to prepare a delicious meal that is well presentable and good to look at.

Do you enjoy cooking? Do you enjoy serving people with your latest creative dish?

Do you want to be like the world famous Jamie Oliver? Do you want to be a Master Chef?

This is one of the coolest jobs ever. You too can become South Africa next Top Master Chef if you put your mind to it and do the Chef course. There is no limit to creativity when you are doing this course or after you have graduated, look at Vusi Kunene who was a car guard but now runs his own sushi franchise called Blackanese.

There are endless opportunities in the tourism and hotel sector for you to exploit. This is definitely a career path to consider. Once you enrol on this course you will discover that planning and preparing food is an art and a way of life which touches the souls of those eating your food. Make a decision today to explore this exciting career path. Other chefs are well-known for their brilliance at coming up with mind-blowing recipes from unlikely combinations of food.

Plumbers work any place that has pipes ranging from houses, alleys, huge buildings, pipes in the open space to pipes crossing beneath roads. It is an exciting job as you never know where the next assignment is as it can be anywhere. This is pure adventure and if you want

to make lots of money whilst solving people's problems then start today and explore what plumbing is all about.

Did you know that your hairdresser is also an artisan? She also needs tools to use to do your hair and make you look beautiful. She uses things like a hair clipper, tongs, scissors, a hairdryer, a comb, etc. These people are Artisans, as long as they come to you with a tool box, that person is an Artisan! You too can be an Artisan; you can have your own business and make fortune with your own hands, only if you follow your passion and your talent, going to work would feel like going to play, there won't be a day when you will have to work, because you are following your passion. The Seven Steps to becoming an Artisan will take you through a successful path of becoming a qualified artisan.

Now, for you to become properly qualified artisans, you need to have proper career guidance on how to become artisans. Grade 9 is a pivotal year in determining your career as this is the time you make subject choices. To choose a good career, you must know what career path you want to take. For proper career guidance on artisanship programmes on offer in South Africa, you can contact the following:

- Guidance and counselling (Life Orientation) educator
- Technical Vocational Education and Training Colleges
- Community Development Workers
- The Department of Labour Centres
- The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA)
- The Department of Higher Education website or offices
- Training officers from the public and private sectors
- Knowledgeable community leaders
- The SAQA Career Development Services website or call centre
- Vocational psychologists

These are the people that can help you make the right choice in choosing a career that is just right for you. And will help you make studying at a TVET college, a career of choice. An important consideration to take is to choose careers that are in the scarce and critical list, since they are the ones in short supply and highly needed or sort after by industry. To name but a few, the following skills are needed and in high demand: bricklayer, carpenter,

electrician, millwright, boilermaker, carpenter and joiner, plumber, painter, plasterer, welder and pipe fitter amongst others.

I am sure you are now dying to know what the entry requirements of becoming an artisan are! There are two different ways or routes to become an Artisan

- A minimum of 50% in Mathematics (excluding mathematical literacy) at Grade 9 level or a National Certificate (Vocational) Level 2; and in the case civil mechanical and electrical categories of trades a minimum of 50% in the relevant N2 trade theory or the relevant vocational subjects of the National Certificate (vocational) Level 2.

OR

- You can accumulate knowledge and experience over a minimum period of time while doing the work of an artisan that allows you to apply for recognition of prior learning (RPL)

All the pathways end with a trade test at a national trade test centre that is accredited by the Quality Council of Trades and Occupations (QCTO). In order to call yourself a qualified artisan and to perform functions that are carried out by qualified artisans, you have to pass the trade test

In conclusion, can I stress that the Department and ALL public FET Colleges are your supporters and partners in artisan development. We have already started to integrate the national artisan development system into the public FET college system and progressively during the Decade of the Artisan all public FET colleges will develop their own artisan development strategy for their college footprint areas.

Thank you