

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF HIGHER
EDUCATION AND TRAINING, MR MDUDUZI MANANA**

2014 - 2024 DECADE OF THE ARTISAN

ORBIT TVET COLLEGE, MAKWENG CAMPUS

PROGRAMME THEME: “IT’S COOL TO BE A 21ST CENTURY

ARTISAN”

Programme Director

The Principal of ORBIT TVET College, Ms Maryna Marais

Chief Director of INDLELA, Mr David Mabusela

Mining Qualification Authority Executive: Stakeholder Relations, Ms Carol Maila

Distinguished Guests, in particular our future leaders, social partner representatives from industry, media, officials from DHET, MQA and ORBIT TVET College

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning,

Programme Director, it gives me a great pleasure to address our future leaders on the 8th leg of the Decade of the Artisan here at Orbit TVET College. There has been less emphasis, particularly at a school level, on career and vocational guidance for our youth. The result is that young people in particular may opt for a programme because it is marketed or there is financial aid. There is lack of guidance to direct young people to programmes for which they have an aptitude, and which will provide training in areas needed by the economy. At the end of elementary school, learners must know what options are available to them and what the purpose is of each institution

Our entire skills development system must dedicate the necessary resources to support career and vocational guidance, as this has proved to be a critical component in successful skills development initiatives.

To our future leaders, our country is faced with a shortage of technical skills, which are critical in our quest to address the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. 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.

Do you know what an artisan is and how to become one? An artisan is a person who has been certified as competent to perform a listed trade in accordance with the Skills Development Act. The Decade of the Artisan programme came into existence as a result of lack of qualified artisans in the country to sustain industries and economic growth, which prompted us as the ministry of DHET to identify it as priority skills for development.

Furthermore, the profession is ageing and we took a conscious decision to interact with you as the future of the country is in your hands. Unfortunately the enrolments in critical subjects such as mathematics and science in school are very low.

When we say it is cool to be an artisan in the 21st Century, we would like to encourage you to take artisan as a career of your choice to curb skills shortage that bedevils our country's economy. In addition, we want to inculcate the culture of artisanship in you as our future leaders. Artisan is cool because it is accompanied by modern technology. We are spending money, time and energy in the Decade of the Artisan programme because we know it will yield results to produce qualified artisans

Our economy is not performing well, I'm quite sure that you have heard about global economic recession. For the past 5-6 years we have been trying hard to make economy stable as government. In Germany, the country has been trying to halve the number of youth unemployment rate. Germany's economy is thriving because it was built on technical skills. As for our country, we are battling because we are experiencing shortage of artisans to sustain the economy and industries. We can draw lesson from the Germans. The growth of the economy rest on the TVET system. As government we have turned TVET institutions to become preferred institutions for vocational education and training

Don't look down to TVET colleges, because the skills courses they are offering, like artisanal, technicians and other trades are what our economy needs. Furthermore they provide formal education component of qualifications for artisans in major industries in the country including: mining, construction, telecommunications and electric power

TVET College provide you with theoretical aspect, while workplace will give you exposure of what they are doing. If we don't produce more artisans, our economy is going to stagnate.

As government we are worried when we see an influx of students opting for university education while neglecting TVET Colleges. The advantage of enrolling at a TVET College is that they offer vocational skills development for artisans and other occupations at similar level in areas such as engineering, construction and hospitality. We are unfortunate to produce enough of them because of the stigma attached to the TVET College.

When you leave here tell your parents it is not necessary to go to university and obtain a degree and sit at home. It pains us when you come back with a degree and not being employed. We have interacted with captains of industry like Eskom, Toyota, and Transnet etcetera, who told us they cannot employ you if you don't consider artisanship as a career of choice. Furthermore they have indicated we need artisans to grow industry. Artisans are developed by employers and not TVET College. Part of the reason for bringing the seta to college, was to align partnership between TVET College and employers. The skills revolution require more hands on deck for South Africa to reach the level of prosperity

We have instructed our DHET officials, to have more Life Orientation Teachers on board, so that they plant the seed of artisanship at your school. As we are sitting here, they are being provided with training to assist you to make a good career path. We don't want to see you trapped with unemployment. We want you, to venture into vocational studies because there are prospects of employment.

We have 134 artisanal trades from the chart, of importance there are those that are in high demand. To name a few: bricklayer, carpenter, electrician, millwright, boilermaker, plumber, painter, plasterer, welder, and pipe fitter. You are very fortunate because your parents never had an opportunity to be address by the Deputy Minister as part of career guidance. This caring government brings information to you. Make use of this opportunity provided by the government to fight poverty, inequality and unemployment. The former State President, Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was on point when he said" education is a powerful weapon that can change life". Make correct choice, listen to the advice I'm giving you. Don't let your poor background determine your destiny. There are people whom have made it from industry from poor background. You are also destined for greater things to come

Advantage of becoming an artisan: high income potential as an employee or entrepreneur, guaranteed employment opportunities. If for instance you are a plumber, you don't have to suffer by employment. You can provide service to your household or fix plumbing work to

your community. I know vast majority of you think the field of artisans is only confined to men; women too can become boilermakers of this world.

We have about 1000 artisans imported from Thailand, rendering service at Medupi power stations in Limpopo province. It pains us as government because most of our young people are unemployed and don't want to grab this opportunities. We cannot continue to say, we have to work with what we have whereas our young people are unemployed. In 2010 we have imported skills from offshore countries to erect the construction of stadium, whereas we could have employed the service of the youth. But due to shortage of skills in the country, we were left with no choice, but to utilized skilled professionals in those constructions. Let me conclude by giving you the requirements of becoming an artisan:

- Minimum of 40% in Mathematics(excluding mathematical literacy) at Grade 09 level or National Certificate (Vocational) Level 02; and in case civil, mechanical and electrical categories of trades a minimum of 40% in the relevant N02 trade theory or the relevant vocational subjects of the National Certificate (vocational) Level 02

The entire 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, you must pass the trade test.

For career guidance on artisanship programmes on offer in South Africa, you can contact the following:

The Department of Higher Education, through KHETHA career programme on
086 999 0123

SMS or send a please call me on 072 204 5056

Website: www.careerhelp.org.za

Walk-in Centre: 123 Francis Baard Street, Pretoria

INDLELA Tel 011 206 1000

National Artisan Development Support Centre (NADSC) 011 206 1000

E-mail nadscinfo@dhet.gov.za

Website www.nadsc.dhet.gov.za

I thank you