



higher education
& training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF HIGHER

EDUCATION AND TRAINING, MR MDUDUZI MANANA

2014 – 2024 DECADE OF THE ARTISAN

SOUTH CAPE TVET COLLEGE, MOSSEL BAY CAMPUS

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

ARTISAN”

Programme Director

MEC for Education, Ms

The District Mayor, Cllr.

The Principal of South Cape TVET College, Ms E Potgieter

The CATHSSETA Administrator, Mr Phumzile Kedama

Distinguished Guests, in particular the social partner representatives from Industry,
Community and Municipalities

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning,

It is a profound honour to address you on the 6th leg of the Decade of the Artisan. It is almost twenty one years, since South Africa discarded the apartheid regime and replaced it with a democratically elected government. Much has been achieved since then, but much remains to be done to rid our country of the injustices of its colonial and apartheid past. In areas of work such as artisan trades, apprenticeships system has been allowed to deteriorate since 1980s, resulting in shortage of mid-level skills in the engineering and construction fields.

Since the dawn of democracy our government have developed policies which are aimed at democratising the education system, overcoming unfair discrimination, expanding access to education and training opportunities and improving the quality of education. Re-establishing a good artisans training system is an urgent priority.

Programme Director, it would be insincere, if I cannot commend the sterling work done by our struggle heroines who fought tooth and nail, to minimize the impact of the legacy of apartheid during the month of August in 1956 when they marched to the Union Buildings. The likes of Ray Alexander, Francis Baard and Lillian Ngoyi, who stood side by side, in defiance of the pass laws. We would forever be indebted to the contribution they made. As we commemorate their month (August) we need to dispel this myth of saying the woman's place is in the kitchen. They made significant strides in developing our country. **“You strike a woman, you strike a rock”**

Programme Director, as government in particular, the Ministry of Education our mandate is to establish a post-school education and training system that is responsive to needs of individual citizens and of employers in public and private sectors, as well as broader societal and developmental objectives. Of paramount importance both schools and post-school system need to ensure that young people in the latter years of schooling (and those in the early years of post-school education) receive appropriate and adequate career guidance and advice

The current administration, under the leadership of President Jacob Zuma, took a decision that technical and vocational education and training (TVET) must lie at the heart of the skills and economic development of our country. Many learners wondered why they should studied at TVET College, they provide training for the mid-level skills required to develop the South African economy, and tend to concentrate on occupations in the engineering and construction industries. The skills courses offered by our TVET colleges such as artisanal, technicians and other trades are what our economy needs.

Programme Director, the DHET's high priority is to strengthen and expand the public TVET colleges so that they become institutions of choice for the young people. Key objectives in strengthening, colleges include: improving access, throughput rates, management capacity, student support services, and student accommodation, developing management information systems and building partnerships with employers. Government expects that TVET colleges will become the cornerstone of the country's acute skills shortage.

The lack of artisans in our country could have a devastating impact on our economy down the line as artisans play a crucial role in the delivery of services, especially in engineering trades. At present, the average age of artisans is 55 years old. This means that within the decade, artisanship will become a really scarce skill. If we do not have enough artisans to meet the demands of business, business will go elsewhere. That is why artisans has been elevated and identified as a priority area for skills development

Programme Director, truth be told we need more qualified artisans to sustain industries and support economic growth within South Africa. The National Development Plan indicates that by 2030 the country should be producing 30 000 qualified artisans per year. To achieve such a significant growth not only needs considerable investment and commitment by all artisan development role players with a special focus on workplaces in South Africa, but will also require sustained, committed and high profile political leadership. The year 2013, was declared as the year of the artisan by the Ministry of Higher Education, Dr. Blade Nzimande.

I then deem it fit to continue with a long term advocacy programme that will be known as "the Decade of the Artisan". This programme was officially launched on the 4th February 2014 at Ekurhuleni East TVET College (Gauteng) under the theme, "**it's cool be a 21st artisan century**". All provinces where visited and over 13 000 young people from schools were involved in a process to encourage young people in Grade 9 to 12 to consider artisan development as the preferred option for a career and not only a university qualification. After the launch the DoA programme started to raise the profile of artisans in selected areas of the country

Through this programme we aim to:

- To create a pipeline of qualified artisans who can play a crucial role in growing the emerging sectors of our economy such as engineering, hospitality, etcetra
- Encourage employers opened up workplaces for artisan learners;

- To expose learners from academic schools to technical and vocational; learning from as early as a Grade 09 – 12 level through a “try a skill” programme
- Provide training for life orientation teachers, community development workers, ward councillors and the Colleges career guidance advisors on artisanal careers

Of paramount importance, this programme also gives young people the necessary information they need on how to become a qualified artisan. We have dedicated 10 years for this particular programme, and we are hoping that by the time this programme ends in 2024, we would have reached our target or gone beyond.

Programme Director, it is important to note that we are now beginning to see a glimpse of hope on this particular programme (DoA). Here are some interesting statistics on how artisan development is evolving in the country: We have a total number of:

- 28 303 of learners registered in artisan programs during the period of 2014-15 nationally
- 14389 learners have completed artisan learning programs
- 81% of learners that registered in artisan learning programs in the same period (2014-15) are youth (persons under the 35 years of age)
- Gauteng had the highest number of learners registering on artisan learning programs, with a total number of 9158 learners respectively, followed by KwaZulu Natal with 2851

Programme Director, one major challenge we are confronted with, there are a lot of these young people studying at TVET College, but less number of employers are willing to open up their doors and take these learners through experiential training at the workplace. Another challenge, many aspirant artisans remain unemployed due to the lack of opportunities at host companies to complete the required in-service training, this in particular our girls who want to become artisans, who are still unfortunately being discriminated against by the system.

The DHET firmly believe that, workplace training and work-integrated learning must be a central part of our training system. For much education and training, a combination of both theoretical knowledge and practical experience is important for the learners. This means that training systems, including curricula, need to be designed around close cooperation between employers and education and training providers-especially in those programmes providing

vocational training. As the Executive Authority of DHET, we would like to appeal to the employers to open up doors for learning for these young people. In addition, as we go through tour of the workshops, I would like to request employers to sign the pledge as a form of commitment to assist young people and the college. They can pledge to assist the college with equipment, monetary value or take the learners through experiential training. As government, together with both private and public entities, we can do more and developed these young people to become future artisans.

Programme Director, the SETAs play a vital role in facilitating workplace learning partnerships between employers and educational institutions. The SETAs are beginning to help establish partnerships between these educational institutions and employers. The colleges are expanding their enrolments, partly enabled by SETAs funded skills programme

To this end our government has significantly increased the funds available for student loans and bursaries, particularly through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS). Since 2011, poor students in TVET colleges have not had to pay tuition fees, and have been assisted with accommodation or transport cost

A number of the Department's strategic goals and objectives cannot be achieved without enabling funding from NFS (National Skills Fund). Therefore, the NSF must continue to be responsible for skills development aligned to national development strategies and priorities. It's funding should enable the linkages between the skills system and the other post-schooling

As the DHET we are aware that, opportunities in rural areas are far more limited than those in urban areas and informal settlement, but we believe programmes such as the Decade of the Artisan will be used as a vehicle to get those rural youth on board, so that they see the value and important of artisan development. With this kind of intervention, we hope to reach our targets of producing 30 000 qualified artisans per year by 2030.

In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to thank all the people whom have gathered here, particularly our future leaders (learners) to have come and grace this occasion. To the organisers, of the event, you have gone beyond the call of duty. Thanks for putting it all together.

I thank you