



higher education & training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SPEECH DELIVERED BY DEPUTY MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING, MR MDUDUZI MANANA, MP: DURING THE DECADE OF THE ARTISAN AT PORT ELIZABETH TVET COLLEGE 26 JULY 2016

PROGRAMME THEME: "IT'S COOL TO BE A 21ST CENTURY ARTISAN"

Programme Director

The Executive Mayor of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality, Cllr Danny Jordaan

Chairperson College Council of Port Elizabeth TVET College, Mr Duane Adams
Deputy Chairperson College Council of Port Elizabeth TVET College, Mr Ivor Baatjies

The Principal of Port Elizabeth TVET College, Mr Khaya Matiso

The Deputy Principal: Academic Port Elizabeth TVET College, Ms Jessie Figg

Services SETA CEO: Mr Andile Nongogo

Chief Director: National Artisan Development, Mr David Mabusela

Officials from DHET, Port Elizabeth TVET College, Mandela Metropolitan Municipality and Services SETA

Ladies and gentlemen

Our future leaders

Good morning

It is an honour to address the future leaders of this country today, during the 9th leg of the Decade of the Artisan at Port Elizabeth TVET College. The “Decade of the Artisan” advocacy programme is a continuation of 2013, Year of the Artisan programme that I am rolling out throughout the country as part of my nationwide campaign to promote artisanship as a career of choice for the learners to address the skills shortage in our country. We coined our theme to **“it’s cool to be a 21st century artisan”** to entice young people to have passion in artisanship. Artisan are produced at TVET College and further empowered at workplace. When I interacted with employers, they have assured me they heard the call and are willing to bring learners on board. We have brothers and sisters who are sitting at home, not employed because they were not given proper career guidance. You are very fortunate to be addressed by the Deputy Minister of Higher Education on the career path you have to follow to build a bright future.

You are here today; we are saying we don’t want you to join the ranks of unemployment graduate. We want you to have skills that are required by our economy. Majority of learners think university has more prestige than TVET College. The Germans advised us to encourage you to go to colleges because our economy required skills that are vocational.

A doctor cannot perform an operation without an engineer. We are here to change your mind-sets and perception that university is not the only choice for tertiary institution. We are doing this, because we have engaged the employers and told us go and produce engineers to be absorbed at our workplace. Medupi as a power station in Limpopo, we have about 1000 Thailand’s working there. We have imported skills because they were skilled and we could have employed the services of those unemployed graduate sitting at home. We couldn’t wait to developed skills on this massive infrastructure.

It really pains us as government because our brothers and sisters are loitering in the streets because they are unemployed. The honourable President, Mr Jacob Zuma in 2012 announced massive infrastructural projects of: ports, dams, and railway but of concerned to us as government, the people who are benefiting out of those projects are offshore youth. By so saying I don’t want to sound as xenophobic, reality

speaking most of our youth are unemployed and we cannot fold our arms and do nothing. The status quo must change; we would like to see a ratio of three TVET students to one university student. The reason why there is skills mismatch, most of unemployed youth did not get career counselling on time. It is no longer the case to have a university degree and have a job at the same time.

It is actually irresponsible for a great twelve learner, not knowing which career choice to choose. Visit those TVET colleges near you and be advised on career choices. We would like majority of you to be put through a TVET training system programme so that we will be able deal with the scourge of poverty and unemployment. I know majority of you sitting here today, would like to see them in the office one day. Wearing a suit is no longer fashionable.

You can wear your overall proudly as an artisan. A boilermaker can earn more than a Minister and Deputy Minister. We have more than 120 trades that are high in demand. To name a few: chef, electrician, boilermaker, rigger, bricklayer etcetera. In our country, most young people want to become HR specialist only. When you check the statistics at tertiary institutions HR classes are full to capacity. Why don't you pursue a career in maritime studies, where prospects of employment are huge?

You will hang your university degree regalia if you don't study a career that our economy need. It is a worrying state of affairs when your parents inject more money at tertiary whereby after you have graduated they erect a tent in celebration of your achievement academically but ended up being unemployed. Neighbours will ask what is happening to him/her while loitering on the streets. You will end up committing crime because of your disillusion and disgruntles.

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.

Germany is doing so well even in this global recession. Every young person in employment is in Germany, because its economy is build TVET system. The Minister of Education in Germany told me you need to change the picture of having more

university students to more TVET college students. Germany is a major player in the economy globally. Don't look down to those TVET colleges; we have developed them to become centre of academic excellent. The skills courses they are offering, like artisanal, technicians and other trades are what our economy needs. Furthermore they provide formal education qualifications for artisans in major industries in the country including: mining, construction, telecommunications and electric power

We are now happy to see more girls entering into the TVET system, because we have change the picture. It is no longer the case whereby artisan is confined to a man. Advantage of having a skilled artisan, is the fact that there are more opportunities of employment. Furthermore, when people require service, you will be able to service them on electrical or boiler making related matters. At the college we do not up skill young people to be jobseeker only; we also want them to become self-reliant.

We don't want certificate to gather dust. Young people emerging from poor family household earning below R120 000.00, qualify to be awarded NSFAS loans to study. If you study at the college, you don't pay even a cent, however university students pay after they got employed. We took a conscious decision that if you perform well at the university by obtaining 75% or more loans will be converted into a bursary. Our SETA are also offering bursary.

We however have challenge, "**The fees must fall campaign**" whereby majority university students staged a protest march last year. The President has appointed a commission of enquiry led by a retired Judge which would determine the feasibility and affordability of education. Wait for the outcome of the commission.

Our former late President Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela who is still my inspiration said" it is through education that the son of a doctor can become a doctor". He was referring to himself, he persevere for a very long time. He studied under the tree and under very difficult circumstances. He was born of a parent of a farm worker. But he rose to the occasion and become the first black lawyer during apartheid. His situation did not deter him from realising his potential. After he has departed, he is still celebrated. He grew up in a rural area of Mvezo. You must not look down on your current situation and say it is the end of the road. You must improve yourself through

education. Government will support you. You need to prioritised education more than anything.

Incidents that happened in Limpopo, at Vhuwane village we don't want to hear reports that students were involved. It is wrong to indulge yourself with violent behaviour. Counter- revolutionaries are destroying your future. Education is the powerful tool that can change the world, so said the late former President Nelson Mandela. If you burn down schools you will have a bleak future. Stand up as young people and say we are not going to see our future destroyed because of hooligans. Violence will never help this country progressed.

I thank you