



# higher education & training

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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 SEDIBENG TVET COLLEGE 14 OCTOBER 2016**

**PROGRAMME THEME: “IT’ S COOL TO BE A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY ARTISAN**

Programme Director

The Executive Mayor of Emfuleni Local Municipality, Cllr MS Mofokeng

College Council Chairperson of Sedibeng TVET College, Mr Tsietsi Maloma

Member of the Board for EW Seta Mr Olebogeng Besnaar

The Principal of Sedibeng TVET College, Dr Abe Mashele

The Deputy Principal Academic Sedibeng TVET College, Ms Jackey Mosesi

EW Seta CEO: Mr Errol Gradwell

Chief Director: National Artisan Development, Mr David Mabusela

Officials from DHET, Sedibeng TVET College, Emfuleni municipality and EW Seta

Ladies and gentlemen

Our future leaders

Good morning

It is my honour and pleasure this morning in the province of Gauteng to extend a warm welcome to you on the 10<sup>th</sup> Decade of the Artisan Programme, here at Sedibeng TVET College. I want to start by acknowledging young people who are in our midst for agreeing to be part of us on this profound programme. The year of the artisan, 2013 was a resounding success with the campaign having touched over 10 000 young people and creating a good sense of awareness for artisanal career choices. I then extend the programme for another 10 years in line with the National Development Plan.

There is a continuous need for suitable qualified artisans to sustain industries and support economic growth in our country. In a range of national strategies the need for artisans has been elevated and identified as a priority area for skills development. We are currently producing 13-14000 artisans per year. We have to dribble our efforts and reach the target of producing 30 000 artisans in 2030 as stipulated in the National Development Plan.

We have visited many schools in rural areas and interacted with learners, what pains us is the fact that most learners don't know what an artisan is all about. I hope most of you, whom have gathered here, know what an artisan is? An artisan is a person who has been certified as competent to perform a listed trade in accordance with the Skills Development Act. You too can be an artisan; only if you have passion.

As the executive authority of DHET, we then saw it fit to employ more personnel to spread the message. We decided to interact with employers to come on board. For us to win skills revolution, they have to partner with us as government. We have dedicated a full day to engage them, so that our learners can get a workplace exposure. Many employers have committed to heed our call.

We are working very hard to dispel the myth that post school is only a university. We are also mindful of the fact that you don't want to go the college as there is a stigma attached to college of offering substandard education. It is not the case. We are here to advise you to go to the college. Since the establishment of DHET, we have worked around the clock to change that perception. We have built state of the arts facilities for the college to be attractive to you. These colleges offered skills that are required by our country's economy. Don't underestimate them.

We need more skills in innovation, research, engineering and hospitality. What pains us is the fact that during the construction of stadiums in 2010, we have imported skills from other countries. Our young people never had an opportunity to render those services. We are currently busy with a large project at Medupi Power station in Limpopo, whereby we have employed 1000 Thailand nationals. We were forced to approach their government because their skills were needed for that project, while your siblings are loitering in the streets of Sebokeng without jobs. Shortage of artisans in the country is an obstacle to economic growth

We have 600 000 unemployed graduate in the country and if the number increase, it will cause chaos. When hunger strikes they will come to our home and steal. When crime rises we are in trouble. But as the caring government we cannot fold our arms and relax, we have invested more resources in higher institutions so that when you complete at tertiary school, you are able to enter the workplace

Artisans who work in the factory have more money. We are saying to you, there is no money in the office. I visited country like Germany, they managed to reduce unemployment rate at 5%. You need to take a career along artisanal. You will be employed and half poverty that bedevil our country's economy. Don't look down to a Boilermaker, Welder, Electrician, because majority of them are employed. We want you to hit our call and become the next generation of artisan

A Doctor cannot perform an operation without an Engineer. It is no longer fashionable to have matric; the key is to have employment. Even with a degree it must be a degree in a profession which is high in demand. We are engaging the employers on an on-going basis to assist our learners because they provide training. Artisans are produced at workplace. You need workplace exposure to become a qualified artisan.

As we are engaging you, the Life Orientation Educators are being trained to equip themselves with knowledge of artisans so that they will encourage you to consider taking up artisan as a career of choice. We have different Seta's and NSFAS in the country to assist poor learners who can't afford to go to school due to financial constraints. You must visit their stalls to get more information. The state has funded poor households of about 1, 5 million through NSFAS.

You too can become a beneficiary, don't sit back and say there is no hope. This caring government will assist you. Those students who are at the university, after completing their studies they must repay the loans, but those that are at the college are exempted. But for the university students if they pass with more than 75% upwards it is converted into a bursary.

"Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of mineworkers can become the head of the mines that a child of farm workers can become president of a great nation" said Dr Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela. He was referring to himself; he grew up in rural area of Mvezo but ended up opening a law firm in Gauteng. His poor background did not deter him from realizing his potential. He ended up becoming the first democratic elected President of South Africa in 1994. Let us not look at our current situation and lose hope. We need to take a leaf out of his

How many of you want to become engineer? Once you have skills, you can be self-reliant and start your own business. You don't have to wait for employment. Go to those stalls and ask more questions. We have capable officials whom will advise you which career path to consider taking after you have completed your matric. But I would like to urge you, to consider taking up career alongside artisanal because prospects of employment are high.

You must learn and do nothing else and learn. You must just learn and acquire skills that will help your community and families. They can be relieved from their poverty stricken by you being educated. In conclusion I would like to request you, please don't burn the school. Remember by burning down schools you are denying the next generation skills and knowledge. Government is aware that most university students are confronting financial constraints and take that challenge very seriously. Indeed, government remains firmly committed to progressively realise free post-school education for the poor and working class, as called for by our constitution and to assist the middle class families who are unable to pay

I thank you