



higher education
& training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Speech delivered by the Honourable Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Mduduzi Manana, MP during the Decade of the Artisan event in Limpopo, Mopani South East TVET College (Sir Val Duncan Campus)

02 June 2017

Programme Director

Cllr Mohlala SL, Baphalaborwa Municipality

The Principal of Mopani South East TVET College, Mr Levy Baloyi and his team

Construction Seta, Members of the Board

Officials from the Department of Higher Education and Training, Construction Seta and Mopani South East TVET College

Future leaders

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning

It gives me a great pleasure to address the future leaders on the occasion of the 12th Decade of the Artisan Programme at Mopani TVET College (Sir Val Duncan Campus). When the President split the department of education into two, we were mandated to drive skills development. Let me start by unpacking what the Decade of the Artisan Programme is all about, is a flagship programme championed by me that will run for the next coming ten years (2014 – 2024) hosted at TVET College. The aim of the programme is to create awareness of the importance of artisans among youth and highlight opportunities in the field of artisan. Furthermore to encourage employers to open up doors for experiential learning to the learners

To this end, we remain steadfast in our work of elevating the status and profile of artisans in the country, our conviction to see our TVET colleges become institutions of first choice. Yesterday when we engaged the employers we were unfazed, frank and robust in our engagements by requesting them to open up their workplaces for our artisan learners to gain workplace exposure. As the department we did skills audit to avoid skills mismatch with the industries. We then identified 125 trades in November 2013 and distributed them high schools around the country. Out of 125 trades, 47 are artisanal trades. They serve as a guide for you to choose your career correctly. It is a national scarce skills list. What does artisanship entails, you do theoretical component at TVET college and work exposure at workplace.

I know you would like to wear suit like the Deputy Minister. I want to urge you; there is no money with suits. Don't mind to get your hands dirty by wearing a dust coat.

One day when I visited Sasol, I happened to meet a lady working as an artisan. She told me, she earns R100 000 a month. There are good prospects in the field of artisan, and employment is guaranteed.

We are currently producing 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. The message we would like to convey to you is to go and study at the college. A doctor cannot operate a machine 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 experiential training. We must double our efforts and produce more artisans.

Don't look down to a plumber, welder, electrician and bricklayer. They play a very critical role in the country's economy. We are now enjoying these lights because of an electrician. An electrician in the area of his/her locality can render the service and earn more money. In Germany, when you say you are a doctor, they don't take you serious. But when you say you are a welder, boilermaker they take you serious. They have managed to halve unemployment with 4 per cent. Every young person in Germany is in employment, because their economy is built on 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.

We need more skills in innovation, research, engineering and hospitality. For us to be a true developmental state we need to invest more in the TVET system. What

pains us is the fact that during the construction of stadiums in 2010, we have imported skills from other countries. Furthermore we have deployed about 1000 Thailands rendering the services at Medupi Power Station in Limpopo. We were forced to import those skills because we have a shortage of coded electricians in the country. How long are we going to borrow skills? We are relying on you to go to go to TVET College to sustain the country's economy. In the field of artisan, there are no careers designed to men only. 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 where only men become artisans.

Government has mechanism to help you financially through NSFAS programme. I always stuck in traffic on N1 road, when I go to work because majority of the drivers have benefited from the NSFAS. Your situation at home must not determine your destination. Don't preoccupy yourself with where will I get money. Allow the caring government to take care of that situation. 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. You must visit those stalls to obtain more information on career choices.

It is wrong and counter-revolutionary to burn school. Most of our university were burned as a result of fees must fall campaign by the students. Little did the students know they were blocking you to get opportunity to access post school? Such horrible deeds have far reaching implications. We have made a clarion call, to the perpetrators to stop vandalising university structures. 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. You have a right to protest but do it in an orderly fashion. To ensure we are a caring and listening government, we have instructed NSFAS to inject more than 10 billion to fund disadvantage and missing middle students

At TVET College you don't you don't get a loan, you get full bursary. You won't pay fees. However if you want to go to the university, you will be expected to repay the loan. If you obtain 75%, while at university, it is converted into a bursary.

Scholarships are awarded on merit. Education is one solution that can remove abject poverty.

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 a mineworker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become president of a great nation said Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. He was referring to himself; he grew up in a 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 leave out of him

Consider taking career in artisanal career. It pains us when we see you loitering the streets after graduation ceremony. A year later, employment dololo (nothing). You neighbours will start to ask why is he/she not working. Your self-esteem will be low. What we are doing here is a career counselling to put you in the programmes that are more relevant to the industries. We don't want you to ask 2 rand from our parent. Your certificate must work for you.

In conclusion, you must learn and do nothing else. You must learn and acquire skills that will help your community and family. They can be relieved from their poverty stricken by you being educated.

I thank you