



higher education
& training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Draft Closing Address for the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Mduduzi Manana, MP for the occasion of the Closing Ceremony of the Second World Skills South Africa Competition, in KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre

17 February 2017

Programme Director

WSSA Technical Delegate, Mr Andre Vermeulen

Competition Skills Areas Experts and Judges

Competitors from all Provinces

Organised Business Representatives

Organised Labour Representatives

SETA Board Members and CEOs

Universities and Universities of Technology Representatives

Principals of TVET Colleges

TVET Colleges Management and Lecturers

Higher Education and Training Officials

Families and Friends of Competitors

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

GOOD EVENING

It gives me great pleasure tonight to stand before you and proclaim that the Second World Skills South Africa Second National Skills Competition event, the last three days, has been a success. It is a success in the sense that 122 competitors together with their respective coaches/experts from all Provinces were able to converge to the ICC venue full of confidence and passion for victory in their knowledge and skills, yet naturally, also full of competition anxiety based on not knowing of who may be their opponents. The competition anxiety is over now and all competitors and their respective experts/coaches have emerged as victors or champions albeit at different levels.

Let us all rise and give applause to all the competitors and their respective experts/coaches.

It is always not an easy affair to be a judge of any competition because this task requires one to be free from prejudice and subjectivity but must display high levels of ethical conduct.

Indeed the Judges of this competition deserve applause.

One of the key strategic priorities of the Higher Education and Training Ministry since its establishment in 2009 has been to strengthen the skills and human resource base of the country in order to grow the economy as envisaged in the National Development Plan (NDP).

This is in line with the Human Resource Development Plan of the country, the National Development Plan and other related government strategies and programmes. These government plans, strategies and programmes are indeed in line with the global trends, agenda and focus on skills revolution wherein new technologies promise to drive national economies beyond their normal, stagnated or declining growth paths.

The global education and training comparative studies and research, some conducted by International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (UNEVOC) show that education and training systems which have a strong technical, vocational and occupational component in the

curricula have tended to survive the worst economic recessions and have constantly displayed quite low levels of unemployment rates.

They also tend to recover more quickly from negative impact arising from unpredictable global economic downturns as a result of the forever present volatility in the international market and the international political stage. Statistics South Africa confirms these international economic growth hypotheses which cannot be disputed that there always is a link between economic growth and the type and nature of an education and training system a country chooses.

These useful international studies and other national socio-economic dynamics have convinced us as government generally, and Higher Education and Training Department specifically, that the expansion and resourcing of the TVET Colleges sector is a critical priority for midlevel skills massification.

The present learner enrolment swell, substantially evident at the top of our education and training system (the Universities), at the moment, does not serve the country well in terms of its very urgent need for the delivery of critical and scarce skills as required by the economy. This anomaly cannot be left to continue.

The hosting of the World Skills South Africa National Competition, as you have witnessed is not only skills competitions but it has included elements of exhibitions, expos and try-a-skill chances so that the learners from Basic Education (Primary and Secondary Schools) visiting the National Competition event may, as early as possible, select technical, vocational and occupational learning pathway offered at TVET Colleges.

As a united people and a developing country in our various communities across all provinces, we need therefore to jointly inculcate a new culture of “**artisan skills recognition, respect and active participation**”.

Furthermore as we have experienced during the last three days, central artisanal skills were displayed across 5 major occupational fields in 22 skills areas, being Civil Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Information and Communication Technology, Mechanical Engineering, Production and Manufacturing and Leisure, Travel and Tourism. These occupations and many others must dominate our TVET Colleges Curricula.

The UNESCO – UNEVOC has listed 12 major occupational fields from which occupational education and training is entrenched. Back home the QCTO has published a myriad of new occupations, both professional and occupational, and the list is growing.

World Skills South Africa is about being part of this new global movement on skills development, education and training. Surely this new way of doing things assists us in mapping a new reformed South African education and training system which promises to improve the supply of requisite skills for industrialisation and digitalisation for a better economic growth path, democratised social cohesion and good citizenry.

I congratulate and salute all those who would be the recipients of excellence in their various competition skills areas this evening, and believe that they will certainly represent South Africa well in the next International Competitions in the United Arab Emirate, Abu Dhabi in October 2017.

I DECLARE THE WSSA SECOND NATIONAL SKILLS COMPETITION 2017 OFFICIALLY CLOSED.

I THANK YOU