
GOVERNMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

No. 717

15 September 2014

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

CALL FOR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT POLICY FRAMEWORK ON DIFFERENTIATION IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN POST-SCHOOL SYSTEM

I, Dr Bonginkosi Emmanuel Nzimande, MP, Minister of Higher Education and Training, hereby publish the *Draft Policy Framework on Differentiation in the South African Post-School System* for public comment. The Policy Framework is published in terms of section 3, read with section 69 of the Higher Education Act, 101 of 1997, that the Minister, after consultation with the Council on Higher Education (CHE) must determine policy on higher education and publish such policy by notice in the Gazette; and, that the Minister may make regulations consistent with this act on any policy matter as contemplated in section 3.

The *Draft Policy Framework on Differentiation in the South African Post-School System* was produced after it became apparent that a clear policy framework on differentiation is necessary. The purpose of the document is to provide a framework on differentiation for the South African post-school education system with government steering in terms of planning, quality assurance and funding.

The post-school sector should be viewed as a continuum – ranging from further education colleges and training institutions, to largely under-graduate teaching and learning institutions, some with acceptable and appropriate research and postgraduate niches to specialized research-intensive or research-led institutions. It is paramount to link this development to adequate funding, especially for under-capitalised institutions; relating to regional and local economic agreements and needs; and, enabling portability of students, academics and knowledge across the sector.

The framework is situated within the context of taking into account geographical location and institutional strategies linked to applicable mission statements; social or community expectations and pressures; internal dynamics, legacies and the capacities of the institutions. The framework for differentiation aims to be national, integrative and linked to the wider post-secondary education system, and provides a basis for ‘negotiated’ determinations of individual institutional trajectories - taking into account their local and regional contexts, legacy challenges, current capacities and realistic prospects.

It clearly states the Department’s position in relation to differentiation; principles that should be used to guide the process in planning and funding. The full document is available at the Department of Higher Education and Training’s website (www.dhet.gov.za).

All interested institutions, persons and organisations are invited to comment on the draft Policy Framework. Comments should reach the Department not later than 31 days after the publication of this gazette. Comments should be directed to the Dr EL Van Staden (email: vanstaden.e@dhet.gov.za).

The name, address, telephone number and fax number of the person, governing body or organization responsible for submitting comments must also be provided.



Dr BE Nzimande, MP

Minister of Higher Education and Training

Date: 07/09/2014

Printed by and obtainable from the Government Printer, Bosman Street, Private Bag X85, Pretoria, 0001

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Gedruk deur en verkrygbaar by die Staatsdrukker, Bosmanstraat, Privaatsak X85, Pretoria, 0001

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