

**PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE MEETING: NORTHLINK AND LETABA TVET COLLEGES**

**ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL: MS. T FUTSHANE FOR THE STUDY GROUP ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**Opening Remarks**

**Wednesday, 7 June 2023**

* Hon. Chairperson
* Hon. Members
* Special Advisors to the Minister
* CFO
* Senior Managers of DHET
* NSFAS representatives
* Chairpersons of Letaba and Northlink
* Principal and Senior Managers of Northlink and Letaba
* SRC both colleges
* Labour both colleges
* Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Chairperson and members of the Portfolio Committee, it gives me pleasure to brief the Portfolio Committee on the state of governance in our Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges.

**JUNE 2023 – YOUTH MONTH**

1. The year 2023, marks 47 years since the 1976 Student Uprising. In 1994, June 16 was declared as the commemoration of **National Youth Day in South Africa**. This is the day the country reflects on the massacre of school children during the Soweto Uprising of 1976.

1. Each year, June 16 is, therefore, a day to recognize the struggles of the youth of 76 and celebrate the impact they brought to the liberation of our country.

1. The NYDA under the stewardship of the Department of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities will in partnership with the Department of Sports, Arts, and Culture (DSAC) host the Youth Month 2023 activities. This year’s Youth Month activities seek to present opportunities available to young people through showcasing, dialogues, and celebrating young change makers.

1. The 2023 Youth Month will be celebrated under the theme: “**Accelerating youth economic emancipation for a sustainable future”**.

**YOUTH MONTH ACTIVITIES**

1. The government is bringing together multi-sectoral government, private sector, and civil society partners to present real-time opportunities to young people and engage in a dialogue to address the barriers they face.

**WELKOM EVENT – FRIDAY 09 JUNE 2023**

1. **Matjhabeng Parliamentary Outreach Programme for the Advancement of Youth Opportunities**

PSET Institutions will participate.

* **Venue:** Freddy Meyer Hall in Welkom
* ***Theme:*** *Promoting Economic Opportunities and Sustainable Livelihood for the Youth*.

* **Programme Directors:**

**Hon. Mr S J Mohai, MP**

Chief Whip of the NCOP

**Cllr Mrs M L Setabela**

Chief Whip of the Matjhabeng Local Municipality

**MANGAUNG EVENT – 16 AND 17 JUNE 2023**

1. **The** commemoration is scheduled to take place over 2-days; 16th and 17th of June 2023 in Mangaung. The former will include a career expo with the formal Youth Day officiation by the Sate President, while the latter will focus on the career expo.

DHET has invited relevant entities to exhibit, so far, the following have confirmed **(33):**

* SETAs
* 2 Universities
* 5 TVETs
* Free State CET College
* DHET: Khetha
* DHET: Indlela/WSZA (Try-A-Skill)
* NSFAS
* SAQA

**TVET COLLEGES GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT MATTERS**

1. There are 50 public technical and vocational education and training (TVET) colleges with 366 campus and central offices in South Africa.  These 50 colleges have evolved since the merger process in 2003 into a very diverse sector with an unevenness in their functionality and ability to serve their students.

1. The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), specifically the TVET branch, has an oversight role in relation to these colleges.  The responsibility of the TVET branch is to plan, develop, monitor, maintain and evaluate national policy, programmes, assessment practices and systems for vocational and continuing education and training (VCET).

1. It further provides the framework, coordination, and support to the TVET colleges for the efficient and effective management, governance, and delivery of vocational and occupational programmes.  In addition, the TVET branch manages the subsidies and transfers to the colleges. A high workload is placed on the department (with national and regional office components) in respect of the above roles and responsibilities in order to perform monitoring functions and provide related support services to colleges.

1. Governance at TVET Colleges is at the developmental phase when compared to universities. All fifty colleges except the two colleges under administration have councils fully functioning. Each college has a total of sixteen council members. Ten are external and six are internal members.
2. Out of the ten external members five are Ministerially appointed. Four are appointed by the council with the concurrence of the Minister. One is donor. Internally, the council comprises the Principal of the College, two members of the Student Representative Council, one support staff members, one lecturing staff member and one member of the academic board.  Although governance is firmly institutionalized, the system is at an early stage and still in the learning phase, particularly after the migration of TVET Colleges to the Department of Higher Education and Training on 1 April 2015.

**CURRENT STATUS AND PROFILE**

1. There are 695 council members in the forty-eight colleges. Two colleges are under administration and thus without councils. In these colleges the administrators have been appointed and are responsible for governance.

1. In terms of the demographics, eighty seven percent (87%) of current council members are African. There are 48 council members from the Coloured community, 37 council members are White and 19 members are Indian.  Thirty six percent (36%) of council members are female and five council members are people with disabilities.

**GOVERNANCE FUNCTIONS**

1. As per the CET Act No. 16 of 2006, as amended, all councils meet at least quarterly.  All councils are involved in approving policies, the budget, the annual financial statements as well as the strategic plans, amongst other things. Governance functions are steadily getting institutionalised and there is improvement particularly as it relates to strengthening the accountability functions of the college and the TVET sector.

1. **TVET COLLEGES - ACHIEVEMENTS**

* Completion of 9 new rural campuses.
* Establishment of 26 Centres of Specialisation in 13 priority trades.
* Review and update of close to 50 subject curricula.
* Introduction of NCV Robotics programme.
* Roll out of five 4IR centres in 2022 with 4 to be established in 2023.
* 26 Colleges offering entrepreneurship through entrepreneurship hubs.
* Maturity model piloted and ready for full roll out to categorise colleges according to functionality and efficiency.
* Online student registration system implemented in most colleges.
* Learner Management System implemented in almost all colleges.
* Work integrated learning and partnerships intensified with over 10 600 placements achieved in 2022.
* Lecturer development scaled up through digital skills training and partnerships with HEIs, SETAs and public and private stakeholders.
* The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) is currently funding 1.1 million students for the 2023 academic year, following an unprecedented surge in the number of applications received. This is a significant growth from 7000 funded students when the scheme was initiated in 1991. However, in respect of TVET colleges, 12,283 students benefitted when TVET colleges became part of the scheme in 2007 with the initial allocation of R100 million.  The  NSFAS allocation for TVET college students is R7,2 billion for the 2023 academic year.

**The presentation from the Department will outline in detail the challenges and experiences of governance to date.**

I look forward to a fruitful engagement.

 Thank you!