



Education

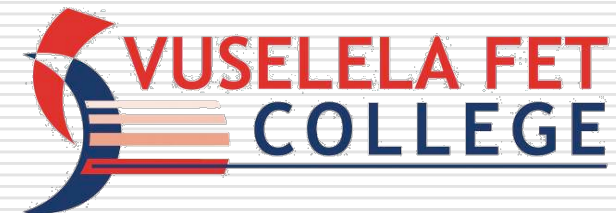
Lefapha la Thuto

Onderwys Departement

Department of Education

NORTH WEST PROVINCE

Purpose of the FET Colleges Lekgotla



Introduction

The bringing together of Higher Education Institutions, Further Education and Training (FET) Colleges, Adult Education and Training and the Skills Development Sector into a single Department of Higher Education and Training provides a powerful basis for addressing education and training in an integrated way.

As partners, the sub-systems of the DHE&T have the responsibility to develop the country's education and training institutional capacity and resources into a coherent but diverse and differentiated post school learning system, serving adults and youth within the framework of the Human Resource Development Strategy for South Africa

However, it is critical to note that despite FET Colleges becoming a National competence, colleges in the North West Province serve the communities of the North West Province and must therefore be included in all structures and plans that seek to grow economic opportunities in the Province

Introduction

- During the transitional phase of moving colleges to be a national competence, planning and target setting for Colleges is steered and monitored by the DHET and supported by the Provincial Department of Education through Protocol Agreements signed by the MEC and SG
- The above imply that all colleges have to adhere to a national strategic planning process where after the outputs would be closely monitored by DHET and the Provincial Department to ensure that colleges are supported to achieve the mandate of the sector

Introduction

In view of the above, FET Colleges should ensure that they are structured

- to meet the aspirations of **youth and adults** and
- to ensure that education, training and skills development initiatives respond to the requirements of
 - the economy,
 - our rural development challenges, and
 - the need to develop an informed and critical citizenry

Mandate for FET Colleges

- ❑ Form partnerships with Business, Industry, NGOs and Government Departments
- ❑ Become actively involved in realising the objectives of government by offering programmes that are relevant and responsive to National, Regional, Economic and Social needs
- ❑ Participate in the implementation of the National Skills Development Strategy III
- ❑ Massification of training of rural development beneficiaries
- ❑ Contribute towards the alleviation of poverty and reduction of the unemployment rate through the delivery of responsive programmes and Skills development initiatives

Mandate for FET Colleges

Based on expectations, the Ideal FET College will therefore

1. Place the College central to the skills debate of the country thus offering relevant and responsive programmes
 2. Boast Centres of Excellence in niche (specialisation) programmes
 3. Will implement a new Education & Training paradigm complemented by technological advancement
 4. Cater for the new Y-generation student
 5. Broaden access through various modes of delivery
 6. Have close relationships and partnerships with Business and Industry, government departments, local municipalities and NGOs to capitalise on opportunities through functional research and linkages units and will be recognised by Business, Industry and employers as an important partner in addressing the skills agenda of the country
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What needs to be done?

FET Colleges are public institutions with the mandate to be active catalysts in the education and training of the three million or so South Africans who are not in education, not in employment and not in training to produce a better workforce or create jobs that will grow the economy.

What are the challenges in the FET College sector that we seek to address?

- ❑ Marginalisation and economic disempowerment of the majority: low employment rates and large inequalities in incomes
- ❑ The low skills base of young people who face difficulty finding decent work and earning decent incomes
- ❑ The need for a more diversified and knowledge intensive economy
- ❑ Skills bottlenecks, especially in priority and scarce skills
- ❑ Low participation rates and distortions in shape, size and distribution of access to post-school education
- ❑ Quality and inefficiency challenges in the system and its subsystems and in institutions

What can colleges offer to assist the North West Province in empowering out of school youth and to contribute to job creation?

The Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr B Nzimande, has indicated that colleges should be regarded as “Institutions of Choice” and therefore there should be an increase in the enrolment in the College sector

Structures such as the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) need to work closely with FET Colleges

Challenge is that public institutions like FET Colleges are not always considered by all government departments, structures and local municipalities as institutions of first choice for training programmes

What can colleges offer to assist the North West Province in empowering out of school youth and to contribute to job creation?

During the Economic Recovery symposium on 21 and 22 January 2010 in Rustenburg with the theme “Working together towards the Economic Recovery for the North West province”, the MEC for Economic Development and Tourism, said that “My department, together with stakeholders will develop an integrated economic development strategy for the province, which will include key strategic economic and social development implementation plans of all departments and municipalities. This plan will be aligned to the five key focus areas of the ANC led government and these include job creation, rural development, **education**, health and crime”.

QUESTION IS: How will FET Colleges fit into this strategy and plans?

What can colleges offer to assist the North West Province in empowering out of school youth and to contribute to job creation?

As FET Colleges are public institutions with a mandate of being active catalysts in the education and training of the ±3m NEETs, all role-players and stakeholders who want to ensure that meaningful opportunities towards job creation and self-employment are created, should ensure that FET Colleges are central in the training agenda.

FET Colleges might still have gaps and challenges but by investing in these institutions we would be investing in the future of our nation

Conclusion

- Taking the changed environment and mandate of FET Colleges into consideration, it is clear that there are various expectations of what FET Colleges should be doing and that all stakeholders and role-players should be well-informed about the sector, else FET Colleges could find themselves in a battlefield of misconceptions and contradicting expectations.
- Furthermore there are many public perceptions of what FET Colleges are and what they are doing or should be doing which sometimes make it very difficult for the Managements of colleges to do what they are expected to do.
- It is also of the utmost importance that all stakeholders and role-players related to the sector are well-informed about the mandate and the latest developments of the sector.

Conclusion

- It is critical to ensure that information about the sector, future developments that will impact on the sector and the expectations of government for the sector is communicated in a coordinated manner.
- Based on the above, the North West Department of Education thought it appropriate to invite all relevant stakeholders and role-players to this Lekgotla so that experts can share information, make presentations and answer questions of clarity on topical issues.
- **We therefore invite all attendees to actively participate in panel discussions to ensure that when we leave tomorrow we are well-equipped with the necessary knowledge and understanding of how to support the FET Colleges in the North West Province to successfully occupy a critical space in the post-school education and training (PSET) landscape and play a key role in addressing the acute middle-level skills crisis.**