



Human Resource Development Council Summit 2016

A Resounding Success – Minister Nzimande

30 March 2016, Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand. Higher Education and Training Minister, Dr Blade Nzimande, has described the 2016 Summit of the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) that ended here today as a resounding success.

The Summit – which was opened by HRDC chairman, Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, yesterday – brought together more than 500 decision makers, including Cabinet Ministers, senior leaders from organised labour and business, community representatives and experts from the research and higher education sectors.

“The Human Resource Development Council Summit 2016 was a resounding success. It took stock of what has been achieved since the creation of the Council in 2010, and strengthened all the key partnerships among the country's social partners.

“This is as it should be because partnerships between private and public sector employers and government, for example, are a key component of getting South Africa on a different economic and social trajectory,” Minister Nzimande said.

Looking to the future, he said an important study on the state of Human Resource Development (HRD) in South Africa was under way and scheduled to be completed before the end of this year.

In addition, the country's HRD strategy was being reviewed, with five strategic goals being proposed, namely:

- Strengthening basic education and foundation programmes in Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths, Languages and Life Skills,
- Expanding access to quality post-schooling education and training,
- Production of appropriately skilled people for the economy,
- ensuring a developmental capable state with effective and efficient planning and implementation capabilities
- Improving research and technological innovation outcomes.

“There is arguably nothing more important to our future than the development and empowerment through skills and experience of our greatest resource – our people. That is why we have together created the Human Resources Development Council as a joint effort between government, the unions, business and civil society.

“It is also in that light that we must all ensure that there is a never-ending pipeline of capable people able to continue ensuring the productivity of our economy and that as Africa's most industrialised country we can remain at the forefront of innovation and the attraction of inward investment as we continue to build our future,” Minister Nzimande said.

Opening this second HRDC Summit yesterday – the first one was held in 2014 – Deputy President Ramaphosa said no country could achieve economic growth without paying attention to the skills development of its people.

“With a skilled citizenry we can be more resourceful, more inventive, more creative and achieve great things. Skills grow the economy. They create jobs.

“Skills raise standards of living and reduce inequality. Education and skills development are the most effective means we have at our disposal to end poverty and reduce inequality. That is why this Summit is so important,” he said.

Among the other key discussions deliberated at the summit were:

Foundational Learning – which looked at strengthening of Early Childhood development, teacher professionalism and districts capacitation. In future the Department of Basic Education and the Provincial Departments of Education(PEDs) will work closely and strengthen the implementation of all relevant policies, while partnerships must be encouraged with all key stakeholders.

Production of Professionals – The Summit undertook to ensure greater partnering and participation by implementing agencies including SETAs and NSFAS.

Strengthening of TVET Colleges – Agreement was reached for the development of a framework for partnerships and collaborations, especially for rural TVET Colleges.

The theme of the 2nd HRDC's 2016 Summit was: Partnerships for Skills – A call to Action.

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