



A PROFILE

Ms Brenda Ntombela: Head of the HRDC Secretariat, a woman who is making a difference



‘Without a doubt, women joining the workforce will increase the economic overall efficiency of a country, whether developed or developing’ ‘.... While the challenges of economic growth and human development rest side by side, we believe that women and women leaders will be critical in leading our continent into a new future’ Seshni Samuel, Africa People Leader: Ernst & Young and Ajen Sita, CEO: Ernst & Young in a report on Africa’s women and the role they play in the continent’s future.

This is especially true when we speak about Ms Brenda Ntombela; Head of the Human Resource Development Council Secretariat. Ntombela has a very tough task of ensuring that the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) functions effectively and optimally and most of all delivers on its mandate of ensuring adequate human resource development base for the country.

The Human Resource Development Council is a national multi-tiered stakeholder advisory body established in 2010 under the leadership of the Deputy President of South Africa. Its mandate is to build the human resource development base required to ensure a prosperous and inclusive South African society and economy.

The HRDC Secretariat is the knowledge hub of Council. It is the administrative, strategic and operational centre of Council and has to ensure that before information is presented to Council it is based on facts and backed by empirical evidence.

Her job is a very difficult one, that if not done smartly could turn Council into a talk shop or that can set critics of social partnerships talking and

ensuring that there is no buy in into the work of Council by the general public. But, she is a powerful woman and she has done many tough rounds in a world driven by men and is well armed to ensure an effective delivery by council.

Ntombela's current task is to ensure that the recently launched National Integrated Human Resource Development Plan is known and understood by all key stakeholders of Council both beneficiaries and implementers. Not a small task by a long shot. Since its launch in March 2014, she has received numerous invitations to present the plan and explain it to various forums and this, she has done diligently. It is early yet to infer success of her presentations to these forums but if word of mouth is anything to go by, then she is definitely on the right track. She has already presented to the SAQA Board of Directors, the Economic Cluster on Human Resource Development (ECHRDC) Forum and the dti Women's Forum. She still has to go to the various line departments, the provincial forums and other private and public entities that are interested in finding out how the plan affects them in their various roles.

In one of her recent presentations she explained that the plan is a pathway for global access to quality education. That, its aim is to provide an actionable, integrated and aligned National Human Resource Development Plan, seeking to achieve a responsive and demand-driven approach ; informed by South Africa's development policies and strategies to identify and remove key strategic and systematic blockages.

While the task ahead is enormous, it is our belief that Ntombela is well armed to tackle it. This energetic lady has a way with people that would bring even the most difficult characters to supporting her. So, from the communications desk of the HRDC Secretariat we believe you should watch this space!

For further information on Human Resource Development Council and its activities go to www.hrdcsa.org.za contact the HRDC Secretariat on 012 312 5075 / 082 573 3716 .