

ARM TALK: Message from the Acting Regional Manager (NW&MP Region) May 2018



DHET LOSES AN EDUCATIONAL GIANT: The untimely passing away of Mr Firoz Patel, DDG: TVET, on 16 March was met with shock and sadness. The TVET sector has lost an extraordinary leader whose vision, intellect, boldness and integrity will be sorely missed. Mrs Gerda Magnus has been appointed to act as DDG.

BUDGET VOTE: The budget vote was delivered by Minister Pandor on 17 May 2018. “The budget for the PSET sector for 2018/19 is R89,9 billion and its major components are: university transfers R38,6 billion; NSFAS R20,5 billion; skills development R16,9 billion; TVET colleges R10,7 billion; and CET colleges R2,5 billion. For the first time we will have fully subsidised bursary funding for poor and working class students in public universities and colleges”.

MINISTER PANDOR PRAISES CET COLLEGES: CET Colleges were praised by Minister Pandor for the role they played in significantly reducing the percentage of illiteracy in over 20 year olds. “There has been significant progress between 1996, when 19% of the population were without education, and now, when fewer than 5% of adults are. The DHET is putting significant effort into developing a national policy for lecturer development and support for community colleges”.

DEPUTY MINISTER MANAMELA ANNOUNCES INCREASED COLLEGE FUNDING: “The bursary allocation for TVET Colleges has increased from R2.437 billion in 2017 to R5.164 billion in 2018 representing a 112% allocation increase. The additional funding will take the programme funding level of TVET colleges from the current 54% to 69% in 2018/19 with the target of 80% being reached in approximately four years.”

R1,3 BILLION MAINTENANCE GRANT FOR TVET COLLEGES: TVET colleges received a massive boost when it was announced that R1,3 billion will be provided during the 2018/19 year to maintain college infrastructure. Colleges were given an initial amount of R9,1 million each to be used specifically to maintain aging infrastructure. The main focus for the NW&MP region is to upgrade all staff and student toilets. Staff members are urged to make inputs into the campus maintenance plans that are being developed.

MANAGEMENT STAFFING NEWS: Ms Marais (formerly of ORBIT TVET) was appointed as the principal of Ehlanzeni on 1 May 2018 on a temporary basis while the DHET finalises an investigation at Ehlanzeni TVET College. Mr Tumisang Mosito is currently acting as the principal of ORBIT TVET College. Congratulations to Mr Dika Mokoena who has been appointed as Principal of ORBIT TVET College and will commence shortly.

TVET NCV TEST 1 RESULTS: After completion of NCV Test one, the average subject pass rate performances of the TVET colleges are as follows: ORBIT 72%, Taletso 75%, Vuselela 70%, Ehlanzeni 61%, Gert Sibande 77%, Nkangala 75%. Implementation of the teaching and learning plan with additional interventions will enhance student achievement.

HR Circular 20 of 2016: Government employees cannot conduct business with an organ of the state. Employees who wishes to conduct business with an organ of the state must resign as an employee of the state.

HR Circular 8 of 2016: All employees of the Department who earn remuneration additional to their salary each month, quarterly, or annually, are obligated to disclose details thereof to the Department, in writing.

Conflict Resolution: The NW&MP region wishes to empower supervisors and subordinates, at all levels, to resolve conflict and disputes amicably. Consequently, all conflicts and disputes must be settled at the lowest possible level – in most cases this will be between the employee and his/her immediate supervisor. All employees are urged to respect this protocol arrangement.

SUCCESSFUL DHET HR WORKSHOP: A successful HR workshop for inland colleges was held on 2-3 May at ORBIT TVET College. Important aspects including decentralising relevant HR functions from DHET to colleges, the draft HR strategic plan and the formation of a HR Forum were discussed. NW&MP region is in the process of finalising the regional HR Forum to be launched before 31 May 2018.

Gratitude and appreciation for your concerted efforts to improve our communities. *ARM: Nick Balkrishen*