



MINISTER
HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X893, PRETORIA, 0001, South Africa • 123 Schoeman Street, PRETORIA, 0002 • Tel: +27 12 312 5555 • Fax: +27 12 323 5618
Private Bag X9192, CAPE TOWN, 8000, South Africa • 120 Plain Street, CAPE TOWN, 8000 • Tel: +27 21 469 5150 • Fax: +27 21 465 7956

Prof. MS Makhanya
Vice-Chancellor
University of South Africa
PO Box 392
PRETORIA
0003

By email: makhams@unisa.ac.za
polloja@unisa.ac.za
By fax: 012-4292565

Cc: Prof. Dzvimbo
Dean: Faculty of Education

By email: dzvimkp@unisa.ac.za

Dear Professor Makhanya

Development of post-school education and training as a focus area within education

The role that universities continue to play in the education and development of teachers and in education research is gratefully acknowledged.

Universities have been very responsive to the need to improve the quality and quantity of teachers being produced and have collaborated positively with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and the Department of Basic Education (DBE) to ensure that the supply of new school teacher graduates better meets the need for new teachers in schools. This has allowed us to grow the number of new teacher graduates from 5 939 in 2008 to 10 370 in 2011, an increase of 75% over the four year period. Quality research has also contributed to more informed education programmes and policies being put in place. We look forward to continued collaboration and growth as we strive to produce the amount of school teachers needed annually by the system, estimated to be 18 000 to 20 000 new teachers.

Recognition that the development of post-school education and training has not been given the attention it needs has led to the creation of the Department of Higher Education and Training with the specific

mandate to develop a strengthened, integrated, viable and productive post-school education and training system.

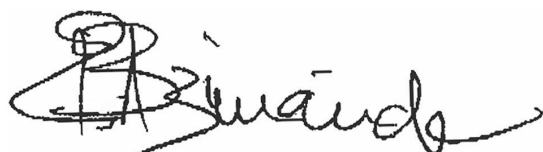
The success of this task rests heavily on research and knowledge development within the sector and on the development of lecturers and educators who will be able to teach well in the sector, particularly FET college lecturers and adult educators. Lack of attention in the past to qualification programmes for FET college lecturers and adult educators has severely compromised the availability and quality of teachers for these sectors. The DHET is currently in the process of finalizing qualification policies for FET college lecturers and adult educators, and it is hoped that these qualifications will be taken up by universities across the system. The qualifications will be fully funded as Programme Qualification Mix (PQM)-recognised qualifications. It is also envisaged that a viable bursary programme will be put in place to support lecturers and educators to enroll for the qualifications.

The Department therefore invites the university to consider the role that it can play in assisting with the work to strengthen the post-school education and training sector, and to engage with the Department in this regard.

For example, it is recognized that some universities have existing centres that have a clear focus on post-school education and training. These should be mainstreamed and strengthened. Where this kind of focus does not exist at all, the university could consider introducing it, in line with the vision and mission of the institution, and with the contribution it strives to make to the development of the country.

The DHET looks forward to continued and improved collaboration with universities to strengthen post-school education and training.

Kind Regards



Dr B E N kande, MP
Minister of Higher Education and Training

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