



MEDIA STATEMENT

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SKILLS DEVELOPMENT RECEIVE SIGNIFICANT BOOST THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION AND KZN PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENTAL COLLABORATION

The Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Mimmy Gondwe, together with the KwaZulu-Natal Public Works and Infrastructure MEC Martin Meyer have conducted successful oversight visits at Coastal TVET College in Hammersdale and at Elangeni TVET College in Kwa-Mashu, KwaZulu-Natal Province, in a joint effort to enhance artisan skills development.

Deputy Minister Gondwe supported, yesterday, by MEC Meyer highlighted the importance of TVET colleges describing them as crucial for youth skills development, especially artisan skills that are still in demand and cannot be replaced by AI skills advancements.

Part of the visit to Coastal TVET College was to assess the state of student training facilities. One such facility is the Hammarsdale Depot that is owned by the KZN government and leased at no cost to Coastal TVET College under a formal agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Following engagements, the MEC has committed to renewing the lease agreement with the TVETs, so that the college can invest more in skills training and development. Coastal TVET College is one of the largest in the KZN province with a student intake of about 15 000, offering a variety of technical and artisan skills.

With regards to Elangeni TVET college, in KwaMashu MEC Meyer revealed that the institution had been struggling to secure a title deed since 2018, following the KZN Public Works and Infrastructure's land disposal program, but through urgent intervention a title deed was released to the institution with a space of 2 weeks.

Furthermore, MEC Meyer has committed to working towards ensuring that artisan students from the TVET College are absorbed by some of the companies doing business with his department.

“I am grateful to the MEC for sharing my vision on the absorption of students from our sector into the economy and for recognising the importance of TVET Colleges. I’m passionate about absorption, I believe the success of our sector does not only lay in how many diplomas and degrees we can churn out but in whether our young people



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can be absorbed into the economy once they leave the sector.” said Deputy Minister Gondwe.

“Artisans play a vital role within KZN Public Works and Infrastructure as their mandate is the upkeep of all government properties. Unfortunately, there is currently a dire shortage of them. In some regions, it the province we've seen as much as a 74% artisans vacancy rate. This is why we have committed to working with TVET colleges such as Coastal College. For instance, we offered some of our buildings to them to use as training facilities”, said MEC Meyer.

The MEC says both his department and TVET colleges can enjoy a mutual beneficial relationship which would translate into added investments in the long term.

“The commitment would also see some of their students applying their practical training towards the upkeep of provincial government assets while, in turn, they get necessary industry exposure they require and hopefully absorbing them. Currently KZN Public Works and Infrastructure is paying a fortune to acquire these skills from outside, so there is a win-win situation through the working relationship with TVET colleges.” MEC Meyer said.

In the second leg of the oversight programme, the Deputy Minister visited Elangani TVET college, Kwa-Mashu Campus. The college's new campus site is currently under construction and is set to be ready by 2026.

In its current site Elangani TVET college, is currently sharing facilities with a local high school which is not an ideal setting for a TVET college.

Both the Deputy Minister and MEC committed to assist the TVET in its fund-raising efforts to fast track the building of the new campus site.

Issued by the Office of the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training Dr Mimmy Gondwe

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