

- Minister Blade Nzimande launches the new SASCE
- The Minister welcomes the new SASCE BOARD
- The Ministers Speech
- SASCE Board Members
- SASCE Colloquium focuses on FET
- Colloquium Speakers
- SASCE establishes a full time Head Office
- Picture Gallery on Website www.sasce.co.za

Minister of Higher Education and Training Dr Blade Nzimande

- **Launches the new SASCE and welcomes new SASCE Board members**
- **Supports the move to professionalise Co-operative Education**



Minister Dr Nzimande was the key-note speaker at the Launch of the new SASCE.

The purpose of the Launch was to formalise that the governance of SASCE would reside with a board of key stakeholder representatives, including bodies such as SAQA, HESA, SETA's, BUSA, IPM, TELKOM including business and labour representatives from commerce and industry.

SASCE announced its intentions to move towards becoming a Professional Body that would formalize minimum standards, best practice and accreditation criteria for work based learning partnerships, placements and practice.

SASCE would have a permanent national office at the Central Johannesburg College Campus in Parktown Johannesburg to centralize operations and to co-ordinate regional branch activities

Dr Blade Nzimande Minister of Higher Education and Training

The following are some highlights of the Ministers speech.

The launch of SASCE is very important and is aligned to the plans of the Ministry to increase placements of students in industry for Work Integrated Learning purposes. He welcomed the intention of SASCE to become a professional body. He indicated that it is high time that SASCE becomes a prestigious body and the facilitator of Work Integrated Learning activities in South Africa. He highlighted the fact that SASCE is well positioned to take centre stage as the hub of bodies that have an interest in Co-operative Education. He encouraged participation by other bodies in SASCE activities.

The Minister pledged his support and committed that the Ministry will be walking hand in hand in developments leading to SASCE becoming a professional body and making the impact that is much needed around issues of Co-operative Education.

Minister Dr Blade Nzimande Speech

It is a great pleasure to be here with you today and speak at this occasion of launching of the Board of SASCE. Of course SASCE is not a new institution and I am pleased that it did not close shop when the transformation that led to the transforming of Technikons into Universities of Technology.

I presume the decision was influenced by the recognition that transformation does not take away the importance of integrated work place learning in higher and further education and training, which is the key area of focus for SASCE. Despite the fact that we do not have Technikons any more in the system, the need for work place learning exists even in the current institutions of learning.

Allow me to be nostalgic. I do not want to get into the pros and cons of the transformation that started in the late eighties which led to the Technikons shifting away and emulating the universities in their method of provision. But I want to reflect on a few things that I think were significant and made them different from universities, but also was critical in the production of skilled technicians and technologies, amongst others.

Technikons, amongst other things were good in building partnerships with industry because perhaps the nature of their programmes in the main had a work place learning component. But this partnership extended beyond this. There was an effort to ensure that the students, after completing the academic component had access to workplace training and could therefore complete their qualifications. It was very rare that there would be students who do not complete and acquire a qualification because they could not get work place training.

The partnerships extended beyond this as I indicated. My recollection is that professionals from industry were also an important component of teaching staff in the Technikons. Furthermore, there was flexibility and part time study was one of the characteristics of provision in the Technikons. This allowed most full time employed technicians to upgrade to technologists and to engineers through part time studies in the evenings.

We have lost most of these critical principles. Some of it still exists, but instead of building and strengthening what was there and up scaling it, we seem to have regressed and less of this is happening. This has had negative consequences and I would like to just touch on the resultant skills shortages challenges.

At the core of our skills shortages are the priority skills areas of engineers, technologists and technicians because of their vital role in supporting the massive infrastructure development programmes and large capital projects envisaged in South Africa.

The extent of these shortages is established in a number of research projects undertaken by various research bodies. But the shortage of technicians and technologists is broader than in the area of engineering. There are technicians and technologists who support accountants, in the health sector, in the security services, ICT, etc. in all the sectors, the concern is the same.

But we are not producing enough of these professionals, and the transformation and shift that has taken place in the higher education, in particular with regard to the focus drift and a shift in the method of provision of Technikons had contributed a lot to this.

One of the key areas of concern is that technicians do not graduate to technologists. Furthermore only half the engineering graduates go on to register with the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) as practicing professionals with a similar trend also noted with regard to technicians and technologists. This practice is also found in other sectors, whereby technologists and technicians in the health sector for example work as consultants for pharmaceutical companies.

The creation of the department of higher education and training presents an opportunity to integrate further and higher education and training with skills development and to take advantage of the available resources and effectively use them to ensure that we improve the outcomes in respect to producing a skilled and capable workforce for an inclusive growth path.

In January this year, we launched the NSDS III which is meant to ensure that we address the skills development challenges that face us as a country. One of the key principles of the NSDS III is that we want to make work integrated learning a critical component of education and training. But this is not only a focus brought about by NSDS III, it is a key principle that is part of the mandate of the department of higher education and training.

There are a number of reasons for this. Although we do not have accurate statistics, we know that there is a significant number of learners who have completed the academic programme from universities of technology and/or FET colleges, and due to lack of the work place component of the training, they are unable to qualify.

This represents a waste of resources for the individual but for society as a whole, as the 2 -3 years invested in academic programme is not turned into value.

To give greater effect to this principle and ensure greater employer participation, a PIVOTAL grant has been incorporated into NSDS III. 10% of the mandatory grant will be dedicated towards this initiative. Employers who provide workplace based opportunities can supplement the cost of the programme with the grant from the SETAs. The SETAs in turn are expected to ensure that 10% of the mandatory grants are ring fenced to fund workplace based training opportunities.

I presume SASCE will have a role to play in the implementation of this principle and will think of what kind of partnership to build in this area

Over and above the requirement for the qualification, work place training provides an opportunity for entry into the labour market and provides young people with the necessary experience that is critical for accessing future employment. It is for this reason that we also want to increase the participation in learnerships and internships. And I am positive that, in partnership with the SETAs, SASCE could play a critical role in this area.

Having said the above, I would like to commend SASCE for reviving itself. SASCE already have a relationship and partnerships with many institutions and this will go a long way in assisting us as the post-school community and ensure that we produce skilled and capable workforce for an inclusive growth path and social development.

The department of higher education and training is in a process of structuring itself to ensure that we build an integrated, articulate and success driven post school system. SASCE is in the process of restructuring itself to fit within the mandate of the department. As indicated, work integrated learning is a critical component of the mandate of the department. As the two institutions structure and restructure themselves, we both need to think about what partnerships do we build and what roles and responsibilities do we assign. This includes partnerships with institutions of learning, SETAs, other professional bodies, employers, and others.

Thank you
Dr Blade Nzimande

Minister Blade Nzimande welcomes the new SASCE BOARD members



Dr Ronel Blom (HESA), Higher Education SA; **Mr Kganki Matabane** (BUSA) Business Unity South Africa
Mr Andile Sipengane (W&RSETA) Wholesale and Retail SETA; **Ms Sharon Snell** (INSETA) Insurance SETA;
Professor van Wyk, Assistant Principal at UNISA; **Dr Blade Nzimande** Minister of Higher Education and Training
Rre Elijah Lithoko CEO of the Institute of People Management (IPM); **Mr Sam Isaacs** CEO of SAQA
Mrs Carole Hills, Group Training & Development Manager at Bell Equipment
Mr Brian Forbes Executive Officer of SASCE, **Mr Shakeel Ori** SASCE President, **Mr Alpheus Maphosa** SASCE Secretary

(The full list of confirmed Board Members follows below)

SASCE BOARD MEMBERS

	INSTITUTION	NAME	SURNAME	DESIGNATION
1	HESA	Ronel	Dr Blom	Research and Innovation
2	IPM	Elijah	Rre Litheko	Chief Executive Officer
3	SAQA	Samuel	Isaacs	Chief Executive Officer
4	NEHAWU	Joe	Mpisi	1 ST Deputy President
5	BELL Equipment	Carole	Hills	Group Training & Development Manager
6	W&RSeta	Andile	Sipengane	Chief Officer: Research W&R Seta
7	NSA	Thabo	Mashongoane	Name still to be officially confirmed
8	BUSA	Kganki	Matabane	Executive Director
9	SANLAM	Nasrat Edoo	Sirkissoon	Sanlam: Training Development Manager
10	SACCI	Alwyn	Prof Louw	SACCI Board Member
11	TELKOM	Thami	Msubo	Chief of Human Resources
12	HILTON HOTELS	Kosi	Reddy	Human Resource Manager
13	AVUSA MEDIA	Mary	Papayya	Name confirmation to follow

Including the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

	DESIGNATION	NAME	SURNAME	INSTITUTION
1	President	Shakeel	Ori	Durban University of Technology
2	Vice President	Prof Jane	Spowart	University of Johannesburg
3	Secretary	Carver	Pop	Polytechnic of Namibia
4	Treasurer	Thomas	Mafate	Central Johannesburg College
5	Past Vice-President	Brian	Forbes	SASCE
5	Additional Member	Esau	Motaung	Tshwane University of Technology
6	Additional Member	Paul	Tati	Nkoka Training Institution
7	Additional Member	Sam	Tsima	COMETSA
8	Additional Member	Alpheus	Maphosa	Vaal University of Technology
9	Additional Member	Mosima	Makola	University of South Africa
10	Additional Member	Bennette	Mokoma	Central University of Technology

COLLOQUIUM

WITH THE THEME

PARTNERSHIPS – PLACEMENTS - PRACTICE



SASCE President Mr Shakeel Ori initiated the proposal to host a Colloquium to coincide with the SASCE Launch.

The Colloquium focused primarily on FET Colleges to promote appreciation and understanding of current skills legislation. UoT's and other university staff and industry also attended. The Programme included topics covering;

- NSDS III
- The Role of SETA's in the new education and training landscape
- Impact on FET Colleges and UoTs
- QCTO: Its role and scope
- Workplace skills development initiatives
- Scarce & Critical Skills



Brian Forbes - part time Executive Officer of SASCE set the tone for the Colloquium by outlining the new SASCE trajectory in relation to the theme of the Colloquium:

Partnerships – Placement - Practice

Through meaningful partnerships and for SASCE to professionalize, co-operative education will enhance the status of service provision and will also positively impact on the objectives of NSDS 111

Minimum standards, best practice and workplace accreditation will underpin all aspects of workplace and work integrated learning implementation.



Adrienne Bird Acting CEO of the QCTO clarified that the core mandate of the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations was the design and quality assurance of Occupational Qualifications. She said she was excited about the launch of the new SASCE and saw SASCE as an important partner/player in the roll-out of the QCTO



Andile Sipengane of the W&RSETA outlined the goals of NSDS III in the relation to the new SETAs landscape. He also clarified the guidelines and opportunities of Discretionary Grants, Pivotal Grants and Catalytic Grants and the specific benefit for work-integrated learning, scarce & critical skills as part of Co-operative Education



Mr Motsumi Makhene Principal of CJC explained that the Centre for Employment and Entrepreneurship Development (CEED) renders services to students in the form of enterprise development and career support. These entail internships, setting up and supporting student business incubations and job seeking skills



Mr Boni Gantile Telkom HR Executive outlined Telkom's vision is to be a leading customer and employee ICT solutions service provider. The main role of Telkom Centre for Learning is to ensure that the Telkom personnel have the requisite skills to enable delivery in line with Telkom's Human Resources strategy.



SASCE HEAD OFFICE



The Central Johannesburg College has kindly offered to allow SASCE to set up a full time National Office at their Parktown Campus. The address is

No 5 Ubla Avenue
off Princess of Wales Terrace
Parktown
Gauteng
South Africa

This building also houses the College's School of Employment and Entrepreneurship Development.



Members of SASCE Executive outside the CJC Campus to visit the Centre for Employment and Enterprise Development where the SASCE Head Office will be located

(Left to Right)

Mr Thomas Mafate

Mr Sam Tsima

Mr Alpheus Maphosa

Mr Motsumi Makhene

CJC Finance and ICT Head

SASCE Executive Member

SASCE Secretary

Principal of CJC