



PRESS RELEASE

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Motheo TVET College collaborates with Free State Provincial Government to build a long lasting strategic partnership

The Free State Provincial Government led by the Premier Ms Sefora Ntombela accompanied by all MEC’s and HOD’s visited Motheo TVET College to strengthen the consensus on new areas of collaboration. Motheo TVET College Council, Broad Management and SRC were in attendance. The College is collaborating with the Free State Provincial Government with the intention of working hand in glove to build a long lasting strategic partnership that will respond to prevailing socio-economic challenges that continue to plague our communities, particularly the youth, foster development, innovation and also leverage on a pool of available skills offered by the College.

The College will continue to solidify joint collaborative engagements that will establish collaborative partnership that would foster and facilitate the advancement of knowledge. Not only have Motheo TVET College and the Free State Provincial Government shared cordial working relations but they have also supported the activities of each other positively.

Highlighting the critical importance of industry partnerships with the TVET sector, College Council Chairperson Adv Xolile Xuma urged employers, be the public or private, to ramp up their partnership with Motheo TVET College to re-build a strong and vibrant TVET System. “This is something which we must do together if you are to get the skills you need, and we are to assist students to acquire the skills needed by the economy,” he concluded.

During her presentation about the College, Principal Prof Dipiloane Phutsisi said “the College aims to be an entity responsible to initiate and implement economic



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development projects within the Ocean Economy in the Free State Province. The College further aims at addressing skills shortage, this is in line with the continuation of the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation’s mandate of expanding on our training programmes”. The College has introduced Maritime Studies Programmes in the 2020 academic year. Furthermore, the College aims to establish a Maritime Academy, the building thereof is in the shape of a Jumbo ship and placed at Thaba Nchu Campus.

Furthermore, the College also has the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Rapid Incubator (CfE and RI) funded by the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA). The Centre provides the opportunity to qualified students of the College, unemployed youth graduates and women between the ages of 18 – 35, aspiring business owners, NGO’s aiming to become entrepreneurs, to set up their own businesses and start contributing to the economy of South Africa, thus to be their own job creators and not job seekers.

The Principal noted that “TVET colleges are vital national assets which empower the next generations with very practical skills and knowledge. They make a crucial contribution to the ability of our economy to be competitive.” Prof Phutsisi also stated that for the College to sign an MoU will be a continuation of broader objectives, such as creating diverse avenues that would assist streamline skills to directly respond to the current and future economic demands in line with the potential strength of the Free State economy. The end goal will be to advance the College and Free State Government’s respective mandate.

Free State Premier Hon Ntombela said: “We are delighted to be here; we should have long held this meeting. As the Provincial Government we remain committed and eager to always engage with the College, as we believe it constitutes a critical interphase between our young people in addressing youth unemployment, “said Premier Ntombela. She also lauded the incredible progress made by the College Principal Prof. Phutsisi, saying she is an exceptional woman leader who has completely turned around the fortunes of the College and elevated it to one of the top performing public college institutions in the country.

MEC for Education Mr Tate Makgoe said that “I have been at this College many times, even during Artisan Academy Launch and Presidential visit. All along I thought I knew



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the College until I saw the College’s presentation done by Prof Phutsisi and I realized that I only know 30% about it”. We have seen the impact Motheo has had in terms of improving the livelihoods of our people, we appreciate this initiative”. From the programme deliveries that you have already, such as introducing a robotics programme in the coming year”.

A task team will be established and will be led by Director General Mr Kupong Ralikontsane. There are a few initiatives that will be persuaded through the MoU. The signing of the MoU will only be the beginning of greater things to come from this partnership.



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