No. 861   **24 June 2002**

HIGHER EDUCATION ACT, 1997 (ACT No. 101 OF 1997)

TO INVITE REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING THE PROPOSAL TO MERGE CERTAIN PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS OR SUBDIVISIONS OF PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

I, Professor Kader Asmal, MP, Minister of Education, hereby give notice in terms of the Higher Education Act, 1997 (Act No. 101 of 1997), of my proposal to merge the Mamelodi Campus of Vista University with the University of Pretoria.

The merger is part of the broader process for the restructuring and transformation of the higher education system to ensure the responsiveness of the higher education system to national human resource and research needs as outlined in the National Plan for Higher Education, which was gazetted on 9 March 2001 (Government Gazette No 22138, Notice number 230).

The reasons for the merger are as follows:

- Overcoming the apartheid-induced divide between a historically white and a historically black institution.
- Promoting staff and student equity.
- Ensuring the effective and efficient use of resources through reducing overlap and duplication in academic programmes.
- Consolidating existing academic programmes to enable a wider range of academic programmes to be offered in response to regional and national needs.

Interested persons are referred to the fact that a detailed analysis of the reasons is contained in my Ministry's document, Transformation and Restructuring: A New Institutional Landscape for Higher Education, which was gazetted on Friday 21 June 2002 (Government Gazette no 23549).

All interested persons are invited to make representations to the Minister of Education by Friday 4 October 2002. Please note that comments received after the closing date may be disregarded.

Further information concerning the proposal is available from the Department of Education. The contact person is:
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