

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 establish a single higher education institution through the merger of the University of the North-West, the Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education and the Sebokeng Campus of Vista University.

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 historically black institutions.
- Promoting a more equitable staff and student body.
- Enabling the development and provision of a wider and comprehensive range of vocational, in particular, technikon-type, professional and general programmes in line with regional and national needs.
- Building administrative, management, governance and academic capacity.
- Consolidating the deployment and use of academic personnel.
- Building research capacity.
- Enhancing sustainability through increased size.

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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