

No. 864

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 East London campus of Rhodes University and the Health Sciences Faculty of the University of the Transkei with the University of Fort Hare.

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:

- Increasing access to higher education in the East London area.
- Ensuring the effective and efficient use of resources through reducing overlap and duplication in academic programmes.
- Enabling the development of a more balanced academic programme profile.
- Ensuring the academic and financial sustainability of the Health Sciences Faculty
- Expanding health training in the East London area.
- Building research and postgraduate capacity.
- Mitigating the impact of unnecessary competition.
- Ensuring the sustainable development of the University of Fort Hare.

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:

Ms G S Mampane

Room 556

123 Schoeman Street

Pretoria

Private Bag X895

Pretoria

0001

e-mail: mampane.g@doe.gov.za

Tel: (012) 312 5256

Fax: (012) 323 7532