

No. 865

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 establish a single higher education institution providing technikon programmes through the merger of Border Technikon, Eastern Cape Technikon and the University of the Transkei, excluding the Health Sciences Faculty of the University of the Transkei.

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 proposed merger is intended to establish a new technikon, with two main campuses, in East London and Umtata.

The reasons for the merger are as follows:

- Enhancing the development of technikon programmes in response to the human resource needs of the region.
- Ensuring the effective and efficient use of resources through reducing overlap and duplication in academic programmes.
- Consolidating existing technikon programmes to enable a wider range of programmes to be offered in response to regional and national needs.
- Building administrative, management, governance and academic capacity.
- Ensuring long-term viability and greater functionality.
- Mitigating the impact of unnecessary competition.

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