

NOTICE 579 OF 2010**MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY****MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION LANDSCAPE AND ITS READINESS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY**

I, Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor, MP, Minister of Science and Technology, in accordance with Treasury Regulation 20 [issued in terms of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No 1 of 1999)], hereby establish the committee set out in the schedule hereto to review the Science, Technology and Innovation landscape and its readiness to meet the needs of the Country; and in particular to report and advise the Minister on the extent to which the recommendations of the OECD review have been acted upon; the current performance of the science, technology and innovation system and to make appropriate recommendations on steps necessary to strengthen the science, technology and innovation system.



GNM PANDOR, MP
MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DATE: 1-06-2010

SCHEDULE

Terms of Reference for the Ministerial Committee to Review the Science, Technology and Innovation Landscape and its Readiness to Meet the Needs of the Country

1. Purpose of the Ministerial Committee

South Africa has one of the leading Systems of Science, Technology and Innovation in Africa and is moving towards reaching its target of 1% of gross expenditure on research and development, as a percentage of GDP. The System of Innovation has been governed, steered and managed in terms of the policy and strategy frameworks of the Department of Science and Technology, the most recent of being the Ten Year Innovation Plan. However, a comprehensive assessment of the Science, Technology and Innovation system is now needed to determine whether the country is making optimal use of its existing strengths and whether it is well positioned to respond rapidly to a changing global context and thus to meet the needs of the country in the coming ten to thirty years. The assessment should inform the Minister of Science and Technology of the measures required to ensure that the country has a sustainable and robust Science, Technology and Innovation system in both the public and private sectors.

The OECD Review of South Africa's Innovation Policy (2007), provides an important point of departure for the assessment of the system, which must also be informed by the increasing importance of knowledge based economic growth and the priorities of the Government, specifically with reference to job creation, quality education and a better quality of life for all its citizens.

2. Terms of Reference

The work of the Ministerial Committee will be undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1

In this Phase, the Committee is to conduct a desktop study and assessment of:

- the OECD Review and its recommendations;
- key policies, strategies and reports of the DST and its public entities including the Science Councils and the National facilities (particularly in the period 2004-2009); and
- the role of the private sector in Science, Technology and Innovation.

From this preliminary work, the Committee is to advise the Minister on the following:

1. The degree to which the recommendations of the OECD Review have been acted upon.
2. The extent to which data derived from the documents reviewed is able to sufficiently inform an assessment of the strengths, shortcomings and responsiveness of the system in addressing the purpose given above.
3. The scope of work for the second phase of the investigation.

Phase 2

The Ministerial Committee will implement the scope of work developed in Phase 1, as approved by the Minister.

Based on the analysis of Phase 1 and the further work undertaken in Phase 2, the Committee is to:

1. Report on the performance of the System of Science, Technology and Innovation, with particular reference to the following aspects of the system:
 - Size and shape;
 - Governance and structure;
 - Resourcing and financing (including the Human Resource development);
 - Capacity of the system to monitor and evaluate its impact on the growth of a knowledge based economy and in meeting the priorities of national development,
 - Readiness of the system to adapt to changing circumstances.
2. Make recommendations to the Minister on the steps which should be taken to strengthen the national System of Science, Technology and Innovation and to enhance the country's innovation capabilities, with particular reference to the:
 - Structure and governance of the System, including the roles and responsibilities of the different actors in the Science, Technology and Innovation system;
 - Roles and responsibilities of the DST, including its relationship with other government departments;
 - Human resource and infrastructural capacities;
 - Recaptalization and funding requirements.

3. Process

1. In addition to desktop studies, the Committee is expected to engage with key stakeholders within and outside of the national system of science, technology and innovation.
2. The Committee is accountable to the Minister. The first phase of the work is to be completed and submitted to the Minister within three months of commencement; and the final report is to be submitted to the Minister within six months of the commencement of Phase 2 of the investigation.
3. The Committee will be supported by a dedicated secretariat.

Members of the Ministerial Committee

Professor Loyiso Nongxa (Chairperson)
Professor Wieland Gevers (Deputy Chair)
Mr. Michael Spicer
Professor Brian Figaji
Dr. Mamokgethi Setati
Professor Cheryl de la Rey
Dr. Allyson Lawless
Dr. Michael Kahn
Professor Phuti Ngoepe