

**DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING
DEPARTEMENT VAN HOËR ONDERWYS EN OPLEIDING**

No. 999**12 December 2014**

**APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE TO
DEVELOP A STRATEGIC POLICY FRAMEWORK ON DISABILITY FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

I, Bonginkosi Emmanuel Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education and Training, in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No.1 of 1999) and Regulation 20 thereof and read with the Further Education and Training Act, 2006 (Act No. 16 of 2006), the Adult Education and Training Act (Act No. 52 of 2000), the Higher Education Act, 1997 (Act No. 101 of 1997) and the White Paper on Post -School Education and Training (2012) hereby announces the appointment of a Ministerial Committee that will develop a Strategic Policy Framework for Disability in the Post-School Education and Training System.

The purpose of the Ministerial Committee will be:

- (a) To develop a Strategic Policy Framework on Disability for Colleges, Technical and Vocational Education and Training Colleges, Community Colleges and Higher Education Institutions of all types;
- (b) To ensure that the diverse field of disability is catered for in the Post-School Education and Training System as articulated in the White Paper on Post –School Education and Training.

The main tasks of the Ministerial Committee will be:

- 1. Conduct an overview of available disability policies at departmental and institutional levels and identify gaps in the provision of services for persons with disabilities in PSET system;
- 2. Consult published government commissioned reports , national plans and strategic plans that address issues of Disability both in the country as well as in the higher education and training system;
- 3. To identify areas that require targeted research in order to determine the extent or prevalence of disability in order to inform departmental strategic responses;

4. Identify the key challenges in transforming Post -School Education and Training institutions to universally accessible sites that are disability friendly and recommend solutions to these;
5. To identify areas that require collaboration between the Department of Basic Education and Higher Education and Training in order to fast-track effective and appropriate placement in post school institutions of youth with disabilities across the country, including career development services and reviewing the admission requirements to PSET institutions (taking into account that people with disabilities cannot be subjected to the same admission requirements for students without disabilities).
6. Investigate current institutional funding allocations, norms, standards and mechanisms and assess their impact on the provision of education and training for people with disabilities. In this regard, the Ministerial Committee must also take into account the work to be undertaken by **the Ministerial Committee to review of funding frameworks for Further Education and Training Colleges and Adult Learning Centres, Government Gazette No. 38053, Notice No. 772, 3 October 2014** (copy of the said Gazette available on DHET intranet);
7. To closely follow developments related to the **Draft Social Inclusion Policy Framework of the Department of Higher Education and Training (Government Gazette No. 37928, Notice No. 681 of 21 August 2014)** as the draft social inclusion policy framework also makes reference to the inclusion of students with disabilities in the PSET system (copy of the said Gazette available on DHET intranet).
8. To **study the implementation of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme Bursary** for students with disabilities and establish its effectiveness in supporting students from low socio –economic backgrounds;
9. To study the responsiveness of the skills development strategies of the DHET to issues related to training of persons with disabilities for various occupations;
10. To address the need to expand the categories of students with disabilities in the post-school education and training system with the aim of improving levels of access and diversity in participation.
11. Consider gradual approaches in terms of qualification types, institutional programme qualifications mix, clustering of provision in high costs qualifications to selected TVET Colleges and Universities of all types taking into account geographical inequalities in the country;
12. To identify areas that require inter-departmental collaboration for curriculum development purposes and specifically identify the role of sister departments in the realisation of the priorities articulated in the Strategic Policy Framework on Disability.
13. To identify and develop benchmarks for the provision of basic IT packages, (both hardware and software) to facilitate access to information for academic development for institutions in the 21st Century;

14. To propose benchmarks for sports development and participation for students with disabilities in post -school education and training institutions.
15. To address the professionalisation of Disability Support Service in public Universities of all types and public Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges and propose norms and standards for Disability Support Services units.
16. To develop a strategic implementation plan to support the framework.

The **Strategic Policy Framework on Disability** must take into account all aspects of access, equity, success and provisioning of post-school education and training and any other resource requirements.

SUPPORT STRUCTURE FOR THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

17. The Department of Higher Education and Training will select officials who will serve as a Secretariat to the Members of the Ministerial Committee and also provide budget, co-ordinate the organization of meetings and manage related logistical issues.
18. A Departmental Reference Group will be appointed by the Director-General to consider the first draft of the Strategic Disability Framework before it can be finalised and submitted to the Minister for approval.

DELIVERABLES FOR THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

19. The Ministerial Committee will provide the DHET with a process map (project plan) indicating timeframes on activities related to their work, within two weeks of the commencement of the project.
20. Submit draft report within 4 months after the date of appointment of the Ministerial Committee.
21. Submit to the Minister of Higher Education and Training its final report, **The Strategic Policy Framework on Disability** one month following submission of comments by the DHET. The Minister will be briefed timeously by the Ministerial Committee on the progress made.
22. The product of the work of the Ministerial Committee will become the property of the Department of Higher Education and Training.

COMPOSITION OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

The members of the Committee are:

1. Dr Anlia Pretorius Chairperson)
2. Mr Ari Seirlis
3. Mr Jace Nair
4. Dr Moses Simelane
5. Ms Christine Koudstal
6. Ms Mercy Mhlophe
7. Ms Marina Clarke
8. Member to be designated by the Department of Social Development.

MEETINGS

Meetings of the Ministerial Committee will be held in Pretoria on dates to be published after the first meeting of the Committee and the Secretariat.

TIMELINES

The Committee will complete its work within 6 months after its appointment by the Minister.

The Committee can work with other key role players such as the Human Resource Development Council of South Africa (HRDC-SA), the Department of Social Development as well as the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation in the Presidency. It will have to take into account its timeframes, resources and budget allocated to it.

ENQUIRIES

Ms SP Mahlobogoane Mahlobogoane.S@dhet.gov.za



Dr BE Nzimande, MP

Minister of Higher Education and Training

Date: 25/11/2014