

**1) Naledi Pandor hosts leaders of big business as part of Centres of Specialisation Programme**

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/captains-industry-8-mar-2018-0000>

The Minister on 9 March hosted leaders of big business to a lunch meeting event, where she introduced her Department's major training initiative to boost youth employment in South Africa.

Called, the Centres of Specialisation (COS) Programme, it aims to secure partnerships between the industry and 26 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges, countrywide, for the training of top artisans in thirteen priority trade areas, namely, bricklayers, electricians, boilermakers, plumbers, automotive and diesel mechanics, carpenters and joiners, welders, fitters and turners and riggers.

The Programme also seeks to build the capacity of these Colleges to deliver the theory and practical components of quality artisanal Programmes in order to meet industry expectations.

**2) 702 – Minister of Higher Education: Naledi Pandor: Is it a new dawn for Higher education or Nah!**

<https://omny.fm/shows/mid-morning-show-702/is-it-a-new-dawn-for-higher-education-or-nah>

Answered listeners questions on a number of issues including the importance of TVET colleges, quality of qualifications, issue of absorption of graduates in Industry, Articulation across the sub-frameworks

**3) Minimum admission requirements for higher certificate, diploma and bachelor degree programmes for holders of Senior Certificate and revocation of designated list subjects**

<https://www.gov.za/documents/higher-education-act-minimum-admission-requirements-higher-certificate-diploma-and-1>

**4) Higher Education Act: Language Policy for Higher Education: Comments Invited by 16 March 2018**

<https://www.gov.za/documents/higher-education-act-language-policy-higher-education-comments-invited-23-feb-2018-0000>

**5) National Education Policy Act, 1996 (ACT NO.27 OF 1996) Call for written submissions from stakeholder bodies and member of the Public to amend the promotion requirements for General Education and Training Band**

Policy pertaining to the Programme and Promotion Requirements of the National Curriculum Statement Grades R -12, promulgated as Government Notices No. 1115 and 1116 in Government Gazette No. 36042 of 28 December 2012.

<https://www.gov.za/documents/national-education-policy-act-national-policy-programme-and-promotion-requirements-1>

**6) Higher Education and Training on International Scholarship applications**

There are currently two scholarship opportunities with different deadlines, priorities and offerings that are currently open for applications in China and Russia.

The Chinese Government is offering 30 scholarships to study at recognised Chinese institutions. These are offered at Bachelor's, Master's and PhD level with an opportunity to do Chinese language studies.

All programmes at Bachelor's level are taught in Chinese, while many programmes at postgraduate level are taught in English.

#### **7) The Department of Higher Education and Training compliance inspection drive exposes fraudulent private colleges**

The campaign- conducted in partnership with local law enforcement authorities in seven cities - uncovered a prevalence of fraudulent transgressions by private college operators in major cities including Rustenburg, Johannesburg, Durban, Port Elizabeth, Nelspruit, Polokwane and Bloemfontein.

During the campaign, over 10 private colleges were cited for contravening the Continuing Education and Training Act of 2006 (as amended) and related legislative prescripts governing the sector.

Among the common findings was the illegal practise of registering just one qualification with the relevant quality council and fraudulently adding several other unaccredited programmes under that license.

#### **7) National Education Policy Act: Rural Education Policy: Comments Invited**

Basic Education National Education Policy Act, 1996 (Act No.27 of 1996) call for submissions from members of the Public and Stakeholder Bodies on the draft Rural Education Policy to be Published in the Government Gazette

<https://www.gov.za/documents/national-education-policy-act-rural-education-policy-comments-invited-26-jan-2018-0000>

#### **8) CHE Briefly Speaking # 3 – Curriculum Decolonisation**

[http://www.che.ac.za/media\\_and\\_publications/monitoring-and-evaluation/brieflyspeaking-3-curriculum-decolonisation](http://www.che.ac.za/media_and_publications/monitoring-and-evaluation/brieflyspeaking-3-curriculum-decolonisation)

"Provides a succinct overview of the current and diverse national debates on curriculum. It briefly traces the philosophical, political and cultural antecedents to particular lines of argument on the matter, and then raises a number of fundamental questions for discussion".

#### **9) CHE Briefly Speaking # 4 - History departments at South African Universities**

<http://www.che.ac.za/announcements/brieflyspeaking-4-history-departments>

"Provides an overview of History Departments across South Africa at a particular point in time. The brief does not attempt to interrogate the information provided in any depth, nor to assess the extent to which departments at specific institutions have transformed or decolonised their

curricula. It is purely a summary of the public information provided by these departments, compiled as a starting point for further analysis of curriculum transformation".

## 10) CHE Briefly Speaking #5 – Private Higher Education landscape

<http://www.che.ac.za/announcements/brieflyspeaking-5-private-higher-education-landscape>

With the entrance of many new players in the South Africa private higher education market, both local and international, the landscape in terms of size and shape is changing rapidly. The brief provides an overview of five current trends and suggests potential future developments in private higher education.

A number of points have been highlighted

- With the introduction of CHE regulations in 2002, the private higher education training provider numbers decreased from approximately 300 in 1999 to 120 currently.
- It is mentioned that both APPETD and SAPHE are voluntary associations that represent the privates
- Ownership changes in the sector.
  - AdvTech up until last year was the only JSE listed entity operating in the sector through the Independent Institute of Education (IIE), which runs a number of different brands (Rosebank College, Vega, Varsity College and others). It was joined by Stadio Holdings on 3 October 2017. They have now expanded from private primary and secondary schooling to include private tertiary institutions to include Embry Teacher Training College and AFDA. They also own Lisof and CA Connect and have also acquired a stake in SBS. Stadio reportedly has plans to offer higher education in a variety of fields in its so-called 'multiversity' strategy.
  - "...Public Investment Corporation (PIC), owned by the South African government, which invests public funds on behalf of public sector entities, has acquired Educor Property Holdings, the company that owns the buildings which house Damelin and other education brands of Educor. It has also invested R245 million in Eduloan (now known as Fundi), a loan scheme for students who do not receive NSFAS funding, and has ventured into investing in student accommodation. This may be indicative of a shift in government priorities to focus on education as a means to contribute to the economy and to decrease unemployment".
- There has been an increase in interest in tertiary education sector from international players, such as:
  - Laureate International Universities (a United States-based Public Benefit Corporation with, according to its website, over a million students at nearly 70 institutions around the world) – Monash joined their network in 2013
  - Pearson Education (a UK-based multinational education publishing company), which owns CTI Education Group and Midrand Graduate Institute (MGI), the latter being renamed Pearson Institute.
  - Apollo Global (a subsidiary of the Phoenix, Arizona-based Apollo Education Group, with a mission to have 225 million seats in private higher education worldwide by 2025) acquired an 81% share in Milpark Graduate School of Business in 2014, and Stadio in turn announced plans to acquire Milpark
  - Actis, a UK-based global investment firm with an investment arm for tertiary opportunities in Africa called Honoris United Universities – own Mancosa and Regent Business School
- The reasons for this interest in the Private higher education sector is believed to be as a result of:

- Demand
- the protests around the fees and the uncertainty that it generates around future stability and potential effects on the quality of public higher education
- “Given the high barriers to entry into the private higher education space, both in terms of regulation and the time it takes to establish a new institution, and considering the need for listed entities to show profits from inception, the strategy appears to have been to acquire existing profitable institutions rather than to start new ones”.
- Expansion into Africa
  - “Multinationals are not only acquiring investment footholds in the South African private higher education market, but are seeing this as a part of an expansion strategy into the rest of Africa. Stadio and AdvTech as local players have already begun such a strategy with the acquisitions of the Southern Business School of Namibia (Stadio) and the University of Africa in Zambia (AdvTech). Actis’ Honoris Universities has a specific mandate to continue its African expansion with a target of 100 000 students in Africa in three to five years
- Implications of the trends
  - the entrance of large, strongly profit-driven enterprises will undoubtedly affect the character of private higher education in South Africa.
  - The balance will surely shift in the landscape from the many small independent providers to a few larger competitive players.
  - the buying and selling of institutions may also lead to instability in the sector.

#### **11) CHE – International Conference: Improving University Teaching (IUT): June 27-29 2018**

It is the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual IUT Conference hosted by the Charles Sturt University in Port Macquarie, Australia. The 2018 theme will be **"New Spaces for Learning: Opportunities and Challenges for Innovative Teaching"**. The conference program over three days will include plenary sessions, interactive workshops, symposia, posters, and roundtables, as well as refereed papers

#### **12) The CHE has two social media accounts:**

**Facebook - @CHESouthAfrica** and **Twitter - @che\_SouthAfrica** respectively. They use these platforms to post and share information and interacting with institutions and individuals within the sector.