

The following matter forms part of the Environmental Scan for September 2018:

**Department of Higher Education (DHET)**

**1) Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education 2018 Lekgotla**

<http://www.dhet.gov.za/SiteAssets/Minister%20Speech%202018/Entrepreneurship%20Development%20in%20Higher%20Education%202018%20Lekgotla.pdf>

"In response to the high levels of unemployment in South Africa, the DHET has introduced measures to stimulate entrepreneurship development at universities. Higher Education Institutions are well-placed to catalyse entrepreneurship and innovation for the development of a new economy. A vibrant entrepreneurship ecosystem at universities in South Africa would, amongst others, encourage students to consider entrepreneurship as a career path. The DHET has formalised the Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) Programme, ....being implemented through a partnership with Universities South Africa (USAf), with the Department having an oversight role".

"A key project in the EDHE Programme was the second national EDHE Lekgotla which took place at UCT in June 2018".

"The first two days of this event were aimed primarily at academics and support professionals at universities, while the third day consisted of a tour of the Western Cape university entrepreneurship ecosystem in parallel with a Student Entrepreneurs Indaba for existing student entrepreneurs".

The focus was on "...sharing best practice aligned with the primary goals of the EDHE Programme and its Communities of Practice, i.e. • Development of Student Entrepreneurship; • Entrepreneurship Development in Academia; and • Development of Entrepreneurial Universities".

**2) Release of the Report of Commission of Inquiry into the Feasibility of making High Education and Training Fee-free in South Africa**

<http://www.dhet.gov.za/SiteAssets/Latest%20News/2017/October%202017/Release%20of%20the%20Report%20of%20Commission%20of%20Inquiry%20into%20the%20Feasibility%20of%20Making%20High%20Education%20and%20Training.pdf>

The report is still in process by the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Higher Education Funding and the Presidential Fiscal Committee processing but it has been released prior to its conclusion to allow the public the opportunity to study it.

The recommendations of the Commission can be summarised as follows:

- a) FUNDING THE POST SCHOOLING EDUCATION AND TRAINING SECTOR

- government to increase its expenditure on higher education and training to at least 1% of the GDP
  - government to pay particular attention to the Technical and Vocational Education and Training colleges as they cannot perform at their current funding levels.
- b) STUDENT ACCOMODATION
- government to adopt an affordable plan to develop more student accommodation and that Historically Disadvantaged Institutions be prioritised
  - a Public-Private Partnership approach to be introduced when responding to the student accommodation challenge.
- c) ONLINE AND BLENDED LEARNING
- Government must further investigate the viability of “online and blended learning” as an alternative in addressing the funding and capacity challenges facing the current higher education and training sector.
- d) FUNDING FOR TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET) STUDENTS
- all students at TVET Colleges should receive fully subsidized free education in the form of grants that cover their full cost of study and that no student should be partially funded.
- e) POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS
- NRF bursaries (based on merit, or other criteria as developed by the NRF) for postgraduate students to be retained and expanded when possible
  - Postgraduate students to have access to a cost-sharing model of government guaranteed Income-Contingency Loans sourced from commercial banks (ICL).
- f) HISTORIC DEBT
- students with debt, who have since graduated, to be offered income-contingent loans (ICL)
- g) NSFAS
- the participation of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) in the funding of university students to be replaced by the ICL system
  - NSFAS should be retained for the provision of the funding of all TVET students and TVET student support if such retention is considered necessary.
- h) FUNDING FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
- all undergraduate and postgraduate students studying at both public and private universities and colleges, regardless of their family background, to be funded through a cost-sharing model of government guaranteed Income-Contingency Loans sourced from commercial banks.
  - Should government be opposed to this model, the Commission recommends that government consider the “Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme”, an Income Contingency Loan Funding

Model proposed by the Ministerial Task Team on Funding for Poor, Working Class and Missing Middle Students.

- Using the ICL model, the key points are outlined in the report
- i) REGISTRATION FEES
- application and registration fees to be scrapped across the board.

**3) Statement of importance on NSFAS to the National Assembly by Minister Naledi Pandor**

<http://www.dhet.gov.za/SiteAssets/Media%20Release%20and%20Statements%202018/Statement%20of%20Importance%20on%20NSFAS%20to%20the%20National%20Assembly%20by%20Minister%20Naledi%20Pandor.pdf>

Minister Pandor provides a statement on what transpired with NSFAS that led to the appointment of an Administrator for 12 months and the way forward for the Fund.

**4) NSFAS applications for 2019 to open on Monday – 03 September 2018**

<http://www.dhet.gov.za/SiteAssets/Media%20Release%20and%20Statements%202018/Media%20Statement.pdf>

**5) National list of Occupations in high demand**

<http://www.dhet.gov.za/SiteAssets/Gazettes/National%20list%20of%20occupations%20in%20high%20demand%20%202018.pdf>

**6) Appointment of the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Reference Group**

<http://www.dhet.gov.za/SiteAssets/Gazettes/Government%20Gazette%20%2020%20July%202018.pdf>

This Minister announces the members of this reference group to implement phase 1 to the RPL Co-ordination policy

**Business Insider**

**1) Australia's biggest university, Monash, is pulling out of South Africa after 18 years**

<https://www.businessinsider.co.za/monash-university-pulling-out-of-south-africa-with-advtech-acquisition-2018-9>

After 18 years, Australia's Monash University will be pulling out of South Africa, selling out to JSE-listed education group Advtech in a R340 million deal.

**University World News**

1) President suspends vice-chancellor over Grace Mugabe PhD

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20180821064325193>

The matter is under investigation