

# Business and career guidance

## **MATRICULANTS ARE NOT GETTING THE GUIDANCE THEY NEED TO MAKE SOUND CAREER DECISIONS. BUSINESS CAN HELP THEM AND HELP THEMSELVES.**

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**(I)** Less than 20% of the 2009 school leavers qualified for university admission. Only 61% of the 552 073 learners who wrote matric last year actually passed. Of these, only 33% qualified for an entry into at least a bachelor's degree.

This means that about 20% of the people who wrote matric can be

accommodated in public tertiary institutions. What about the other 80%?

Recently I was approached for help by a young man with a Grade 12 certificate who wants to do a trade. As we tried to find out how he should go about it, I realised anew that the education and training system is dysfunctional and unco-ordinated. We found out that he could enroll for one of the National Vocational Certificate courses at an FET College, but that would mean that he needs to spend another three years doing institutional training and end up with the same level of qualification he already has (a Further Education and Training Certificate). He will still not have a trade and will need to get an employer to take him in as an apprentice.

He could perhaps get into a learnership at one of the SETAs, but here too he will need to start with the first level of training on NQF level 2 and end with a level 4 certificate (FETC). The learnerships are scarce and far between and mostly reserved for previously disadvantaged people. To date, he has still not found a way to do his trade, and I am afraid I have not been much help, despite the fact that I know my way around the system.

We could perhaps blame this situation on the many years of antagonism between the Departments of Education and Labour. Let us hope that the first priority will be to co-ordinate the system and take out the gaps, now that skills development and education resorts in the same department.

I was very glad to hear Dr Nzimande's encouraging words to matric drop-outs. He told them not to lose heart or hope as learning is a life-long-experience. He went on to say that the government will be placing more than 35 000 learners into various SETA learnerships while a further 2500 learners will receive skills training to empower them to create their own ventures.

According to Dr Nzimande, around R500 million will be set aside through the National Skills Fund for

**“The education and training system of our country is dysfunctional and unco-ordinated.”**

a special project to roll out learning programmes for those who did not meet university entrance requirements.

The problem is: how do the many school leavers access these opportunities. Where do they go for professional help to advise them on best options and their own aptitudes? If these programmes are available, let them be advertised widely and open up the gates to let in those who want to learn. They are certainly not helped by their teachers or their communities.

*(HR)*