

# Changes to Ministry of Education *By Chris Bathembu*

**Pretoria** - Education has been split into two separate ministries in the new government structure - basic education and higher education and training.

The President, Jacob Zuma, said changes to the structure of some government departments were necessary to speed up service delivery and efficiency.

Under the changes in education, South African Communist

Party Secretary General, Dr Blade Nzimande, will become Minister of Higher Education and Training while former Gauteng Education MEC Angie Motshekga will head the Ministry of Basic Education.

Political analysts say the changes could be an indication of how President Zuma plans to manage government in the next five years. – [www.buanews.gov.za](http://www.buanews.gov.za)

## R146 million earmarked for foundation programmes *By Gabi Khumalo*

**Cape Town** – The Department of Higher Education and Training has budgeted R146 million for this year's foundation programmes with qualifying institutions being allocated teaching development grants.

Tabling his department's Budget Vote on Tuesday, Minister Blade Nzimande said R1.462 billion was also earmarked for improving teaching, learning and residence infrastructure and academic efficiency, in this financial year.

"These funds are primarily directed at historically disadvantaged institutions and towards increasing the capacity of the system to produce graduates in scarce and critical skills such as teachers, engineers, medical doctors and plant and

animal health specialists," Dr Nzimande said.

He said the Department intended to convene a stakeholder summit early next year to discuss a range of issues facing higher education institutions, including the development of a transformation charter for the sector and the establishment of a permanent higher education stakeholder forum. Other critical issues to be discussed will include the matter of institutional autonomy, academic freedom, and public accountability as well as the need to strengthen multilingualism at universities.

"We will explore how indigenous African languages and Afrikaans as an academic language can be strengthened in ways that do not impact negatively on student access, especially in specialised study fields and scarce skills areas," the Minister said.

He noted that while the challenges were great, his Department will put in place the machinery, and work tirelessly to unlock the education and training sector to those previously deprived of such prospects and fulfil its mandate to create a better life for all. – [www.buanews.gov.za](http://www.buanews.gov.za)

## New body to deal with challenges in higher institutions *By Gabi Khumalo*

**Cape Town** – The Department of Higher Education and Training has accepted a proposal for the establishment of a monitoring and oversight body to deal with challenges of transformation in higher institutions.

Accepting the proposal at a Ministerial Committee in Cape Town, Departmental Minister Blade Nzimande said it was clear that the Department needed to give more attention to this particular matter.

"We call on higher education institutions and invite the public to engage the issues of racism and discuss ways and means to get rid of racism in our society," Minister Nzimande said.

He said the oversight body, which will be based in the Department's office will also complement the work of the Council on Higher Education (CHE).

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