

MEDIA STATEMENT

ADDRESSING THE SKILLS PILLAR OF SAAM 2035 IN THE EASTERN CAPE

A multi-stakeholder initiative has been undertaken to address the priority of relevant and value-adding technical skills available to manufacturers in the Eastern Cape.

Collaboration, was the key theme in a stakeholders workshop attended by TVET colleges, global agencies and manufacturing industry, including OEMS like VWSA and Isuzu, hosted by us at PE College on May 7, as we continue to pursue our Strategy 2022, to support the SA Automotive Masterplan - particularly in the area of Skills Development, Localisation and Transformation.

The AIDC EC has developed an approach to address the skills mismatch between demand and supply according to the demands of industry, facilitating stakeholder engagements, collaborations and partnerships to provide strategic linkages to support skills development and TVET Reform within the Region.

Direct engagements with stakeholders preceded the workshop, which has resulted in the formation of a formal stakeholders forum, under the facilitation of the AIDC EC, which will seek to improve the alignment between industry technical skills needs and those produced at academic institutions in the Eastern Cape.

A pipeline of value-adding and contemporary skills is key to the Eastern Cape supply chain's ability to become more globally competitive, generate employment and grow GDP, especially in the context of rapid technological advancement.

The Forum will collaborate to build on what is working well and develop what is not through shared learning, partnering and strategic linkages to support skills development and TVET Reform in the Eastern Cape.

We must develop and deliver programmes, which provide industry with a fit for purpose workforce. Aligning our colleges and their programmes to the world of work is no longer negotiable. Crucially, this means colleges and employers must collaborate.

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