

## **Our Education Curriculum is killing the future of SA, especially in the neglected TVET sector**

By Baxolile Nodada MP - Shadow Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology

Hon. House Chairperson,  
Malungu Abekekileyo,  
Fellow South Africans,  
Ndiyanibulisa Ngale Ntsasa,  
Good Morning, Dumelang, Molweni,

Honourable members today I stand here on behalf of Fhulufedzani from deep rural Tzaneen who survived the poor basic education system being the first at home to access a University education;

On behalf of Courtney who commutes through sounds of bullets and gang violence daily in the northern areas of Port Elizabeth just to get her mechanical engineering qualification from PE TVET college to change the circumstances of her birth;

On behalf of Andries the aspirant robotics innovator who struggles to acquire skills through SETAs because there is no alignment with business to create jobs of the future and

On behalf of Qondovu from Bizana who is the first graduate at home but carries her heavy black gown without her certificate daily to the robots just to find a job.

Beyond the Presidential dreams, South Africa is short on skills and high on unemployed citizens. We can't import our way into a futuristic dream – South Africans must be empowered to make it real and education is an important tool for empowerment.

However, as I have lived through and seen some of the experiences of our brothers and sisters in our education system, I have realised the following:

The ANC government is deliberately failing to provide quality education and access to opportunities to our people as a means to perpetuate dependence and entrench control over their lives and future.

I want to remind us all that a country that does not invest in its youth has no future and there is no better investment than in quality education.

The reality is that our Institutions are inheriting a 10 and 12 year problem produced by basic education, but worse of all the department of Higher Education continues to worsen the problem through our 50 TVET colleges which enrolls over [700 000](#) students.

This is due to the old and outdated curriculum that seeks to teach agriculture of the [1950's](#), engineering of the [1970's](#) and skills not needed for the market today.

The department can't simply boast about giving massive access through NSFAS to students in TVETs when students register to study plumbing or electrical engineering but get to the classroom to a person holding a marketing diploma or religious studies degree with little to no clue of what they are teaching.

Or when students have no adequate support services for conducive learning such as proper infrastructure (classrooms, accommodation, Wi-Fi, labs, clinics, libraries etc).

The department can't boast about giving access when it keeps students at home because of late transport, food and book allowances and these allowances are less in comparison to those offered to university students as if TVET students eat and travel differently and it can't boast when they further entrench unemployment by holding back student's certificates.

If the ANC is serious about this imagined future, it needs to commit to growing our country's skills base – which means properly putting funds behind the desperately needed skills revolution.

The DA's proposal can strengthen our education system to teach quality and set up the future of SA for success especially in the TVET sector.

This budget must aim to build a quality education system that will break the chains of being dependent on this government.

Our proposals include:

- Reform the outdated curriculum to teach technical, artisanry and innovation skills needed for the market, promotes entrepreneurship and to achieve socio-economic prosperity. Now!
- Set up a learning outputs plan between basic education, higher education, science, technology and innovation to refine curricular that is inclusive of theory, technical skills and innovation;
- Invest in quality infrastructure to produce quality learning; i.e. Lecture rooms, Libraries, ICT, Residences. More so to ensure proper maintenance;
- Audit all lecturers in TVET colleges, up skill them and ensure that those that are employed are fully qualified for what they teach;
- Increase TVETs Budget to at least 15 billion for Student Funding and include Support Services i.e. Accommodation, Wi-Fi, etc;
- Allocate allowances on time;
- Ensure that certificates are handed out on time;
- Ensure workers are adequately looked after to avoid campus protests; and,

- Investigate all corrupt officials in our institutions especially those in the TVETs and previously disadvantaged institutions like WSU, UNI ZULU, UNIVEN and FORT HARE.

In conclusion,

This might not affect you or your children Minister, but it certainly does my brothers and sisters in our communities who could become our future innovators of those bullet trains you dream about. Be brave and act on these now in this budget!