

No. 869

7 November 2014

FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING COLLEGES ACT, 2006
(ACT NO. 16 OF 2006)

**CONSULTATION WITH CENTRE GOVERNING BODIES ON THE CONVERSION
AND MERGER OF PUBLIC ADULT LEARNING CENTRES INTO COMMUNITY
COLLEGES**

I, Bonginkosi Emmanuel Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education and Training, in terms of sections 41A (b) and 41C (a) (m) of the Further Education and Training Colleges, 2006 (Act No. 16 of 2006) intend consulting Centre Governing Bodies (CGBs) and informal governance structures fulfilling the function of Centre Governing Bodies on the conversion and merger of Public Adult Learning Centres (PALCs).

Provincial information has indicated that properly constituted Centre Governing Bodies in accordance with the Adult Education and Training Act, 2000 (Act No. 52 of 2000) have not been established.

The White Paper for Post-School Education and Training calls for the establishment of Community Colleges. Once the Further Education and Training Colleges Amendment Act, 2013 (Act No. 1 of 2013) commences, all existing Public Adult Learning Centres will be deemed to be Community Colleges.

The Community Colleges will absorb existing PALCs through a conversion and merger process. Before the commencement of the Further Education and Training Colleges Amendment Act, 2013 and in order to prepare for the merging of PALCs into Community Colleges, consultation with CGBs is required in terms of section 5 of the Adult Education and Training Act, 2000.

MERGER OF PALCs

REASONS FOR MERGER

The merger is part of a broader process of restructuring the Adult Education and Training sector as proposed in the Report of the Ministerial Task Team on Community Education and Training Centres. The Minister gazetted the *Report on Community Education and Training Centres for public comments in Gazette No. 36344 on 4 April 2013*, wherein the reasons for the merger are given as follows:

- a) Consolidation of governance capacity to enable proper and efficient functionality of institutions;
- b) Ensuring and elevating the institutional identity for the provision of programmes for out-of-school youth and adults;
- c) Ensuring the effective and efficient use of resources through reducing duplication in management and governance;
- d) Enabling the provision of a wide and comprehensive range of qualifications and part qualifications; and
- e) Ensuring the sustainability of institutions through increased enrolment linked to the provision of a comprehensive range of programmes.

PROCESS FOR THE MERGER

A Community College shall normally be a multi-centre institution and, subject to approval by the Minister, it may be expanded or rationalised through a process of Community College mergers or demergers.

As functions move from Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) to the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the current PALCs will be deemed to be Community Colleges. As soon as this is effected, all the Community Colleges will be merged into 9 Community Colleges, one per province.

Each merged College will have an established Council to govern the institution. A call for nominations for the establishment of the Council will be undertaken through a gazette by the Minister.

Members of the Centre Governing Bodies and informal governance structures fulfilling the function of Centre Governing Bodies and interested persons are advised to read this Notice together with the Notice calling for public comments on the draft National Policy on Community Colleges.

Members of CGBs and interested persons are given an opportunity to make representations in writing to the Minister within 90 calendar days after publication of this Notice and to direct their comments to:

The Director-General

Department of Higher Education and Training

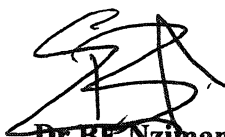
Private Bag X174

PRETORIA

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Attention: Mr D Diale, email: diale.d@dh.et.gov.za, Fax: 086 298 9707

Kindly provide the name, address, telephone number, fax number and email address of the person or organization when submitting comments.



Dr BE Nzimande, MP

Minister of Higher Education and Training

Date:

14/10/2014