

# **NOTES OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION, MS NOXOLO KIVIET ON THE OCCASION OF THE NSG MINEXCO MEETING OF 02 APRIL 2024**

Deputy Minister, Dr Chana Pilane Majake, MP

Principal of the National School of Government, Prof Busani Ngcaweni

Deputy Directors-General of the NSG

Chief Financial Officer

Senior Managers who have joined the meeting.

Good Afternoon

Although, this is the first meeting with the NSG convened under the name 'MINEXCO' since I arrived, I had several meetings with the NSG briefing me and the Deputy Minister on various matters relating to their areas of work.

Based on the agenda of today the NSG will brief us on five matters namely :

1. Concept Document on the Future Positioning of the NSG
2. Progress Report on the Skills Audit Project
3. Establishment of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Curriculum and Quality Assurance
4. Update on the Induction Programme for Members of the Executives
5. Pathways for Articulation: Transitioning of unit standard based courses to qualification, part-qualification, professional skills course.

## **Concept Document on the Future Positioning of the NSG:**

I understand that the NSG developed a Concept Document on the Future Positioning of the NSG. The NSG was established to build capacity among public servants and therefore it must be repositioned towards leading capacity building in the public sector and leading the state towards future thinking on the capabilities required for transforming society.

Last year (2023) marked ten years since the establishment of the NSG, and this milestone allowed all to assess the position and institutional performance. During these ten years, the NSG experienced high success through innovative design and delivery practices and brand positioning, which has resulted in remarkable achievements.

The NSG has been on a growth path that incorporates making public sector education, training, and development (ETD) more accessible, citizen-centric, and relevant to development and service delivery challenges. The mandate of the NSG has been expanding from public administration (national, provincial, and local government) to any organ of the state and to include members of the executives, traditional leaders, hence its repositioning is necessary. The NSG is repositioning itself because international benchmarking points to the changing scope and demands of schools of government globally.

### **Progress Report on the Skills Audit Project:**

In his reply to the debate on the 2023 SONA, the President of the Republic of South Africa directed all key infrastructure and frontline service departments to conduct skills audits within nine months. The aim of these skills audits is to help to accelerate the professionalisation of the public service and assist government to determine whether critical skills exist to effectively deliver economic infrastructure and frontline services.

This collaborative initiative between the National School of Government, the Human Sciences Research Council and the DPSA has been in progress since March 2023, involving the conceptualization of the skills audit project, completion of a proposal, and the development of a comprehensive project plan for implementation in the identified departments.

I was briefed on this project before and I requested that the NSG, DPSA and HSRC should work together on this project.

I am told the briefing today is more about what is emerging from the Skills Audit Situational Analysis that was conducted.

### **Establishment of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Curriculum and Quality Assurance:**

I received a submission few months ago about the establishment of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Curriculum and Quality Assurance. I thought I should get a briefing on this matter before a decision can be made.

Yes, of course, Chapter 7 of the Public Service Regulations (2016) provides for the Minister for Public Service and Administration to establish advisory bodies. I understand that this Ministerial Advisory Committee will provide strategic advice and guidance regarding all matters related to the NSG's curriculum design, provisioning, and quality assurance.

The Committee will amongst other functions, make recommendations to the Minister of Public Service and Administration to support the NSG to address the learning needs of the public sector and NSG staff. The Committee will also evaluate and monitor the effectiveness and performance of qualifications, programmes and courses.

I am happy that we will get a briefing on this matter today so that an informed decision can be made.

### **Update on the Induction Programme for Members of the Executives:**

On 29 November 2023, the NSG briefed Cabinet on progress on the implementation of its Executive Education Programmes. Cabinet welcomed this report and supported the recommendation to have Members of the Executive attend the Executive Education Programmes.

In line with the Professionalisation Framework, a range of programmes must be added to the list of compulsory offerings, including the Induction of the Members of the Executives.

As 2024 will usher in the seventh democratic administration new and existing Members of the Executives, there should be an intensive Induction Programme that will be facilitated and delivered in collaboration with The Presidency, Public Service Commission, Department of Public Service and Administration, Department of International Relations and Cooperation, and others.

### **Pathways for Articulation: Transitioning of unit standard based courses to qualification, part-qualification, professional skills course:**

I understand that the Minister of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation determined on 24 December 2020, through the Government Gazette no. 44031 that the registration end date for pre-2009 qualifications and unit standards is 30 June 2024.

I guess this will affect the NSG accredited courses with different iterations. I am happy that the NSG has started work to transition from the unit standard based courses to qualification or part qualification.

As this is our last interaction before the end of the current administration. Let me take this opportunity to thank you Principal for the hard work and good work the NSG has done, thank the entire team for all the work done. In the last Portfolio Committee, the committee also expressed the same. I hope you will continue with the good work in the coming administration. Special Thanks to you DM for your support all the time. Thank you and all the best.

Principal over to you.

Thank You