

Thursday, August 25

Opening address

Good morning & welcome to the 10th staging of the Skills Development Summit. My name is Felleng Yende, the CEO of the Fibre Processing and Manufacturing SETA.

Thank you programme director, honoured guests, FP&M SETA board members, employer and labour organisation officials, SETA stakeholders and learners, as well as the media.

2016 is the second consecutive year that the FP&M SETA has partnered with Cape Media. It is indeed a privilege for me to stand here a year later and open the 2016 Skills Development Summit, which is a gathering that has become known as one of the major skills events in South Africa.

The primary objective of the Summit is to raise awareness for quality education and training standards, as well as to promote ongoing professional development within the FP&M SETA's organisations. It is because of this passion for skills development and upskilling our youth that we will continue our support for this worthy initiative.

Stakeholders who are passionate about skills development will be exposed to a number of expert speakers, and discussions on skills development issues, both from a national and international perspective, over the next two days. You will notice that we have a heavily loaded programme with a number of high profile speakers. We have also invited a number of organisations to exhibit, so I recommend that you please visit the various stands.

This year's Summit houses a new dimension that never existed before. It is now informed by the strategic goals of the Human Resources Development Council of South Africa (HRDC). This means that there will be a focus on elements that significantly and positively impact on the HRDC's economic performance as educational attainment, skills development, science and innovation, and labour market (employment) policies.

For the first time last year, schools and basic education groups were invited to the Summit, and approximately 500 learners were exposed to career exhibitions and future opportunities. And what's truly exciting this year is that we will be joined by double that amount and about a 1 000 learners will be with us. This exposure to the youth gives individuals the necessary confidence and self-esteem to make informed and wise career choices. This is a phenomenal start to a post school career.

The FP&M SETA concentrates on the continued and critical need for skills development in South Africa and continues to tap into the expertise of stakeholders. It is at this Summit that the creation of new ideas are revealed that accelerate skills development through novel and innovative approaches.

The next two days will not only be informative and worthwhile and you, as our special visitors, will depart tomorrow, wealthier with the increased knowledge and understanding that skills development in South Africa is a dedicated focus by both the public and private sectors.

Enjoy your time and thank you for joining us!