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CATHSSETA Board Chairperson
26 January 2012

TCATHSSETA/ Radisson Blu partnership launch

Greetings-

The new CATHSSETA board is an active one that will no longer accept Workplace Skills Plan and Annual Training Report submission that don't make sense and don't address the skills needs of the country from the various employers within the CATHSSETA scope.

Following the numerous disappointing past experiences where companies would simply submit their Workplace Skills Plans and Annual Training Reports for the return on investment and not necessarily being passionate about and committed to skills development and training. This board has taken the approach to be active and very pedantic, we will do inspections.

Judging from this morning's newspaper headlines which alluded to the SETAs finances being in shambles, we are right to take this approach. There is a serious lack of holding each other accountable and the citizens are in uproar, rightfully so. When SETA's collect levies, the levy payers have a right to know where and how their money is used; in the same way that the SETAs have a responsibility to hold companies accountable for the WSPs and Annual Training Reports that are submitted and do not add any value to dealing with the issue of skills shortage in the country.

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This partnership launch with Carlson Rezidor happens on the backdrop of the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos where world's economic policies are under discussions and debates. As a country, for us to have students in internship programmes we must ensure that this economy is working. Government must make sure that the economy is growing enough to create jobs. However, as citizens we have a responsibility to assume a meaningful role within job creation and not just wait for government to do things for us.

Last year the Skills Accord was signed between government, business, civil society and organized labour agreeing on a number of things. Symbolically the signing of this MOU is to give life to the Skills Accord. Through this partnership we must ensure that there is adequate support for FET colleges and that educators in these institutions receive experiential learning so that an educator teaching tourism has firsthand experience of what happens in the hotel environment unlike is currently the case. Moreover, we must ensure that there are adequate resources made available by not only the two partners here today. Our youth deserves to live in a country that provides hope and opportunities. This starts with such little steps through the provision of these much needed learnerships. However, more can still be done.

In closing I would like to emphasize that both partners understand their roles and responsibilities and how those in turn will contribute positively to ensuring that this country works.

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