

INFORMUS



FOR PSA MEMBERS: TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET)

27-04-2020

Feedback: Special Chamber Meeting

Social distancing and lack of 4IR tools of trade

Labour raised a concern with the lack of preparedness of colleges to open for students and the implementation of online learning. The employer reported that programs will be split into two classes and classes will be rotated on a six-day cycle. Programs will feature three days classes and the remaining three days will be self-study at home. The first three programs to open is Nated Engineering, Nated Business and National Certificates Vocational. Colleges engaged service providers to zero-rate websites that will assist students to access online material, including past exam papers.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

The employer reported that additional budgets have been made available for the procurement of PPE. The Department of Higher Education and other social partners will also assist to provide training on the correct use of PPE. The employer is looking into the feasibility to obtain thermal scanners to screen all staff and students before entering colleges. The disabling of biometric systems will be considered but the safety of staff, students and the safeguarding of equipment must also be considered prior to all access controls being removed.

Return to campus and management plan

Labour indicated that staff and students cannot return to campuses on the same day. The employer indicated that staff would report to work two days prior to students returning. This will give staff enough time to prepare campuses to accept the return of students. Labour requested that a state of readiness checklist be developed and be given to all colleges. This will ensure that all safety precautions have been implemented prior to the re-opening of campuses. The employer agreed to the proposal and this checklist will be circulated during the week of 27 April 2020.

Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER