

# Artisan conference discusses '7 steps to becoming a qualified artisan'

According to the *Government Communication and Information System (GCIS)*, Higher Education and Training minister, Dr Blade Nzimande warned that, unless the training of artisans is accelerated, the number of people in this profession will fall short of the demands of the industry.

Speaking at the two-day National Artisan Conference at the Eskom Academy of Learning, held under the theme "7 Steps to Becoming a Qualified Artisan", Nzimande said: "There are 24 000 young people entering the system. However, less than 13 000 managed to complete the artisan programme," according to the *GCIS*.

The seven steps platform for artisan-development seeks to rally young people, from around Grade 7, to consider career options and enrol in technical and vocational learning programmes that would help them to become qualified artisans.

"The learning that lays the foundation for any person who wants to [embark on] an engineering career," said Nzimande, adding that he was establishing a platform that would annually review the state of artisan development in the country, the *GCIS* reports.

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