

MEDIA RELEASE

RELEASED ON 29 AUGUST 2025

EMBARGO: NONE

NATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING COUNCIL – A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

The SAOU welcomes the appointment of the National Education and Training Council and we view this as a step in the right direction. Minister Siviwe Gwarube introduced the Council consisting of experts such as Penny Vinjevoold (Chair), Prof Kobus Mentz (AROS), Dr Gabrielle Wills (RESEP) and Marie-Louise Samuels, to name a few of the members who will bring a lifetime of experience, knowledge and skills to this project.

The SAOU has previously expressed concern over the lack of knowledge and experience which is needed to guide the system in terms of policy and systemic planning in the right direction. This Council will provide the necessary policy inputs to the activities of the DBE to ensure that in these times of critical austerity measures the choice of projects as well as the sustainable implementation thereof will lead to the best possible results.

Provision for the Council has existed in legislation for decades. The envisaged focus on the improvement of school resources, assessment, promotion requirements, administrative load of teachers and an improved focus on fundamental skills, are some of the key aspects which will be considered.

There are still concerns about the overload in the curriculum, especially for Grades 4 to 9 as well as the sustainability of new programmes introduced into the curriculum.

The SAOU wishes NETC success with their functioning and trust that the results of their deliberations will move the education system into a more sustainable and stable future.