

Wednesday, 09 November 2011

NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE TO CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARINGS ON FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING COLLEGES AMENDMENT BILL

The North West Provincial Legislature's Portfolio Committee on Education, Sports Arts and Culture will be conducting a public hearing on Further Education and Training Colleges Amendment Bill, 2011. The public hearing will be held at North West Provincial Legislature Chamber in Mafikeng on Friday 11 November 2011 at 10h00.

The aim of the Bill is to amend the Further Education and Training Colleges Act, 2006, so as to remove all references to provincial authority; to assign functions previously assigned to the Members of the Executive Council to the Ministers; to remove all references to "Head of Department" and replace them with "Director-General"; to regulate the conduct of members of the council, members of a committee of the council and staff of a public further education and training college engaging in business with the relevant public college, to provide afresh for the appointment of staff; and to provide for transitional arrangements; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Bill will also clarify, amongst other things, that before a member of a council can assume office, he or she must declare any business, commercial or financial activities undertaken for financial gain that may raise a possible conflict of interest with the public college in question; and also

may place himself or herself under any financial or other obligation to any individual or organisation that might seek to influence the performance of any function of the council.

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Education and; Sports, Arts and Culture, Hon. Fenny Motladiile, said Clause 1 in the Bill will basically deal with the assignment of functions currently with the provincial authorities to be transferred to the national authorities of education because of the configuration of the department into two departments. Clause 8 deals with corporate governance on the Council Members in FET colleges.

“This clause seeks to inculcate a culture of integrity assured corporate governance on the part of Council Members in FET Colleges by requiring them to declare their personal interests that might have a bearing in the proper execution of their duties. It further provides as to how the process of declaration of interest should take route,” said Hon. Motladiile.

The Bill will also look into categorising employees working for Councils of FETs as civil servants as opposed to the current state of affairs, wherein they are not categorised as such.

Members of the media are invited to attend. Please contact Namhla on 079 527 0628 to RSVP.

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