

16 April 2014 SABC News

Govt, Swiss companies aim to improve teaching and learning at FETs

Wednesday 16 April 2014 21:20

Nozintombi Miya



Local companies have been urged to come on board - to build confidence in the country's 50 FET colleges.(SABC)

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The Department of Higher Education is partnering with several Swiss companies to improve the quality of teaching and learning at FET colleges. This is aimed at assisting in improving the curriculum.

This student hopes a mechanical diploma will open the door to employment and opportunity. "My favourite part of working on a vehicle is fitting the components and making sure that it works properly," says one of the students.

But FET colleges face numerous problems. An aggressive government campaign is underway to make these colleges more attractive and efficient to ease the pressure on universities.

Local companies are reluctant to invest but foreign companies are now being roped in. Swisscham CEO Ken Duncan says, "It is clear that the industry really has to come along and help the training system to get its act up to scratch so they can provide the type of people needed in trust."

Key discrepancies between curricula and the industry standards are problematic. Higher Education and Training Minister Blade Nzimande says, "We are also taking additional measures for the colleges and universities and employers to look into the issue of curriculum design and its relevance. It is going to be a long journey but we believe we are making a mile."

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